



Independent Facilitators Listing for Los Angeles County

Below is a list of individuals and companies who have notified the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Los Angeles Office that they provide independent facilitation services in Los Angeles County. We cannot guarantee the quality of their work, the training they have received, or your satisfaction with their services. This listing is provided as a public service only and is not an endorsement of any person or company listed below.

An individual who serves as an independent facilitator is required to receive training in the principles of self-determination, the person-centered planning process and other responsibilities and roles of the independent facilitator. The independent facilitator shall meet standards and certification requirements established by the department [pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code §4685.8 (c)(2)]. **Participants should verify that the prospective independent facilitator has met the training requirements. Your regional center may also choose to verify this information.**

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
Acuna, Luana		909-843-6590	luana@linksrvs.org		
Alvarado, Danielle	Special Needs Advocacy www.DanielleAlvarado.org	562-805-7820	Det4kds@aol.com	Educational Advocate for 29+ years, all generic services, Independent Facilitator. Member of NASET, COPAA and SEAT certified.	
Amster, Melissa (Meira)	Amster Law Firm www.amsterlawfirm.com	213-444-6028	melissa@amsterlawfirm.com		
Ardon, Melissa	www.MelissaArdon.com	310-654-2750	melissalifeprotection@gmail.com		Spanish
Arellano, Violet	All Hats Administrative Assistant https://allhatsadmin.com/	760-883-0953	ahvirtualassistance@outlook.com		Spanish
Askew, Octavia	Excellence Community Rehabilitation Program www.excellencecrp.com	424-789-0439	excellencecrp@gmail.com		

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
Baca, Catherine	My Living Specialist	213-590-2273	MyLivingSpecialist@gmail.com	Independent Specialist since 1996, Aging Advocate, Conservator/Trust Administrator, Rehabilitation Services, and LGBTQ	
Barker, Iris		310-874-9861	irisbarkersd@gmail.com	Parent of an SDP participant, Community Liaison at Club 21 Pasadena, Care Navigator/IF for Undivided	English Spanish
Barry, Cindy		661-645-7726	CBarryMBA@gmail.com	Medical services/supports, Autism spectrum School care Contracts Community integration Sports	
Beavers, Dustlyne	First Choice Solutions www.gofcsolutions.com	760-201-5121	dbeavers@gofcsolutions.com	All ages served. Specialize in complex planning needs & extensive budget development, IEP support Former Service Coordinator and SD Pilot Coordinator.	
Bell, Louise		626-676-7949	lauren717@sbcglobal.net		

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
Bernstein, Diane		818-943-8159	desianer@gmail.com	Parent of SD Participant Employment Financial Resource Educator Art teacher/owner Desianer Studios Special Education	
Carter, Charmaine	PACE	805-827-3687	paceconsultant91326@gmail.com		
Cha-McGrath, Jamie	Life Enrichment Project LLC	818-357-1705	jmcgrath@lifeenrichmentproject.com	Worked as Service Coordinator and Family Support Specialist at Regional center, PCP Vendor # PD4135.	Korean bilingual
Charness, Sonni	Guidelight Group www.guidelightgroup.org	310-883-8343	hello@guidelightgroup.org	Person-centered planning Facilitation for teens and adults	English
Cisneros, Steven	Ally Comprehensive Services LLC	310-878-8485	scisneros@allycs.org	All ages served. Strength-based goals Person centered planning.	English Spanish
Cuevas, Elizabeth		626-354-8685	Elizabethcuevassdp@gmail.com cuevasmom@mac.com		Spanish

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
David-Nicolas, Vivian	B&D Assessment and Consulting Services	310-341-9729 209-287-1907	info@bdassessmentservices.com	Over 30 years of collective experience serving individuals with disabilities. Serves all ages and disabilities. Works with all California state regional centers. Experts in working with autism spectrum disorders, educational and clinical services. Family members of regional center consumers. Specialized in understanding and developing individualized programs and understanding complex planning needs. Person Centered Planning, Transition Supports and Independent Facilitation in addition to consultation services related to areas of expertise.	Spanish Arabic Assyrian Farsi English
Frack, Gigi	www.goldenmonkeyyoga.com	323-813-5862	gfrack@me.com		Spanish
Francis, Jon	FXD Alliance www.fxdalliance.com	818-275-0372	support@fxdalliance.com		
Faulkner, Renee		323-447-2231	Laderahomes1@yahoo.com		

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
Garcia, Jocabed	Tools for Legacy www.toolsforlegacy.com	323-592-0233	jocabed@toolsforlegacy.com		Spanish
Gomez-Kulnapermisiri, Janet	Ideal Program Services	310-701-3889	jgomez@idealprogramsservices.org		
Gordon, Gayle	Empower Training Institute Inc. www.empowertraining.org	323-684-7558 424-291-2774	empowertraining3@gmail.com		
Grajeda, Martha	Ally Comprehensive Services LLC https://www.allycs.org/	310-878-8485	mgrajeda@allycs.org	All ages serviced. 10+ years' experience providing Regional Center Services and advocacy.	English Spanish
Grant, DeLawrence	Understanding Needed Integration, LLC.	424-292-3726 Office	dg@unisupportservices.com	Person-Centered Planning Employment Service/Individual Support	Spanish English

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
Grubbs, Kristina	B&D Assessment and Consulting Services	310-341-9729 209-287-1907	info@bdassessmentservices.com	Over 30 years of collective experience serving individuals with disabilities. Serves all ages and disabilities. Works with all California state regional centers. Experts in working with autism spectrum disorders, educational and clinical services. Family members of regional center consumers. Specialized in understanding and developing individualized programs and understanding complex planning needs. Person Centered Planning, Transition Supports and Independent Facilitation in addition to consultation services related to areas of expertise.	Spanish Arabic Assyrian Farsi English
Hagel, Naomi	Phoenix Facilitation of California LLC	310-863-7977	info@gophoenix.org		English Spanish

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
Hunter, Alison	Facilitate4You	619-739-1422	alisonhunter55@yahoo.com	Person-Centered Plan (detailed and thorough) Budget, goals, IPP meetings, spending plans (former Director of Finance and CPA) Post-enrollment support (as needed): fiscal controls, documentation, education and support. Experienced parent advocate.	English
Iñiguez, Laura		818-462-3248	leis0323@yahoo.com		
Jinzo, Elizabeth	Exceptional Services for Independence www.desiserve.org	323-303-4292	lizjinzo@outlook.com		
Jones, Melissa		714-329 3554	selfdeterminationwithmj@gmail.com		
Jordan Jones, Shelia	JJA: Impact Solutions, LLC	310-528-9351	Jja.impactolutions@gmail.com	Person Centered Plans Certified Person-Centered Trainer 39 yrs. Transition Specialist, Special Education, Work Incentive, Practitioner.	

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
Kantor, Christine	SDP Bridging Gaps www.sdpbridginggaps.com	628-867-3807	christine@sdpbridginggaps.com	Over 20 years of experience serving individuals with disabilities. Serves all ages and disabilities. Works with all California regional centers. Specialized in understanding and developing individualized programs and understanding complex planning needs. Person Centered Planning, Transition Support and Independent Facilitation.	English Korean
Karakunnel, Ben	Home Instead	818-235-3849	Ben.karakunnel@homeinstead.com		Spanish
Khatchadourian, Taleen	Guidelight Group www.guidelightgroup.org	cell 626-838-3568 office 310-883-8343	taleen@guidelightgroup.org	Person-Centered Planning, Transition Assistance into SDP and Independent Facilitator for ongoing support on transition age teens and adults.	English Armenian
LaRose, Julie	Path Forward Facilitation	747-217-3088	julielarose@pathforwardllc.com		

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
Lehman, Carla	Exceptional Connections www.exceptionalconnections.co	310-425-4485	www.exceptionalconnections.co	Working as an Independent Facilitator since 2019 Certified in Person Centered Thinking Services: Person Center Planning, Independent Facilitator, Parent Coaching, and Training. Parent Support Groups, Help Accessing Generic Resources and Services in the Community. IPP, and IEP Advocacy.	English Spanish
Liu, Cathay			ckliu3@gmail.com		Mandarin
Longmire, Doris	Empowered Life Planning	818-671-7846	empowered.lifeplan@gmail.com	Licensed Marriage/Family Therapist, Former regional center self-determination manager and service coordinator.	Spanish
Lopez, Griselda		323-928-0442	Griselda.lopez48@yahoo.com		
Lee, Soo	SERAC (Special Education Research, Advocacy and Consulting)	925-335-6431	serac@sooleephd.com	Ph.D. Candidate / Researcher at UCLA Center for Autism Research and Treatment; Special Education Consultant at SERAC; Over 10 years of experience collaborating with autism researchers, agencies, and families across the country.	English Korean

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
McElwee, Sandra	Empower Person Centered Planning	949-433-1702	Empowerpcp@gmail.com	Adults Setting up micro-business	
Maranon, Carola Camacho	Resilience Facilitation Services	562-688-5579	carolcmaranon@gmail.com	Person-Centered Planning, including all necessary services to transition to SDP. Independent Facilitator after transition to SDP.	Spanish English
Marhaba, Jonathon		818-368-2600	jonathanm@martecconstruction.com	Children through age 22	
Marhaba, Raja (Amy)		818-368-2600	amym@martecconstruction.com	Children through age 22 Specialize in IEPs	Arabic
Marmolejo, Rita		323-682-2440	Rmarmolejo.sis1@gmail.com		
Martinez, Joe	Moving Closer Together	747-224-1185	joe@movingclosertogether.com		Spanish
McBurnie, Michelle		323-236-2939	michelleofthebay@yahoo.com		
Melgar, Karla	Ideal Program Services	310-701-1995	Kmelgar@idealprogramsservices.org		
Meraz, Jose	LiNk	626-408-5847 562-447-6545	jose@dtwgroups.com		
Mercado, Cecilia	Conexiones Educativas www.conexioneducativasOC.org	714-398-4710	Ceci.mercado@yahoo.com		Spanish

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
Moralls, Kristianna	Autism Support Community	818-850-2372	www.autismsupportcommunity.org info@autismsupportcommunity.org	21+ years' experience special education/ regional advocate, Person-centered planning, Parent of SDP participant Specialize in transition-age youth and adults, Los Angeles Area.	Spanish & Korean with interpreter
Moser, Veronica		213-841-9236	Msromosr@yahoo.com		
Myles, Laneishae	laneishae1982.wixsite.com/mysite	562-233-6067	Laneishae1982@yahoo.com		
Nelson-Mitchell, Tara	Ideal Program Services	310-701-9665	Tmitchell@idealprogramsservices.org		
Newman, Debra		323-304-3776	dlbnewman@gmail.com		
Neurodiversity Inc.	Neurodiversity, Inc		neurodiversityco@gmail.com		
Nieves, Josefina	NestDan	323-213-3883 323-742-1674	Nestdan2017@gmail.com		Spanish
Nishitani, Osamu	CHOICESS www.choicess.org	714-348-6428	onishitani@choicess.org		Japanese
Ochoa, Armida	Ochoa's Consulting LLC www.ochoasconsultingllc.business.site	323-490-7062	info@ochoasconsultingllc.com	Person-centered planning Special education In-Home Support Services Social Security (SSI) CA Children's Services (CCS) Dept. of Rehabilitation Medi-Cal	Spanish

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
Okunubi, Lara	Ideal Program Services	310-701-8704	lokunubi@idealprogramsservices.org		
Pauly, Tamra	Person Centered Projects www.personcenteredprojects.com	310-489-9883 484-248-5608	tamra@personcenteredprojects.com	Person-centered projects Serves ages 5 and up, Vendor of multiple regional centers.	
Peters-Vernier, Janne		310-989-9760	jannezac@yahoo.com		
Ramirez, Katie	Ally Comprehensive Services LLC	310-933-5112	kramirez@allycs.org	All ages served. Strength-based goals Person centered planning.	English Spanish
Ramirez, Stella	Stella Ramirez Independent Facilitator stellaramirez.org	818-534-6070	stella@girasolhive.org	-10+ years regional center professional experience as a service coordinator -10+ years advocate for families at IEPs - Person Centered Planning certified - Independent Facilitator training certificates with Claudia Cares and ASLA - Self Determination Program certificate with SCDD	Español English
Reese, Helen		310-892-8726	helenwreese@protonmail.com	Person-Centered Plan and Independent Facilitator for all ages.	English Mandarin

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
Rios, Elvia	Latinx Special Needs Advocacy Network	323-804-3336	latinxsnanetwork@gmail.com	All Ages Service Areas: Los Angeles County, specifically San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center, Frank Laternman Regional Center, North Los Angeles Regional Center, West Los Angeles Regional Center.	Spanish
Rockwell, Christina	Dignified Independent Facilitators, LLC www.dignifiedif.com	760-258-1106	clientcare@dignifiedif.com		
Rodriguez, Evelyn	Exceptional Connections https://exceptionalconnections.co/	657-342-9194	evelynrodriguezsd@gmail.com	Parent of SDP participant / Advocate 8+ years' experience IHSS / Special Education/ Regional Center Person-centered planning.	Spanish
Ruiz-Merroth, Maria E., M.Ed, ABA Paralegal	SOS Paralegal, LLC http://www.sosparalegal.com Yo Domino Mi IEP http://www.yodominomiiep.com	949-326-6612 949-394-9746	info@sosparalegal.com	Special education teacher. ABA Paralegal. Advocate. CA Mediator. Department of Rehabilitation. Certified interpreter /Document translator. Person-Centered-Planner and independent facilitator.	Spanish - Native Read, Write, Speak

Name	Business Name/website	Phone Number	Email	Other information/specialties	Language(s)
Sanchez, Kyra LCSW	Person First LA www.personfirstla.com	323-621-0188	kyras@personfirstla.com	Licensed Social Worker (LCSW), experienced case manager, experience working with regional center participants, training from the Guidelight Group.	
Scott, Natachia		323-788-1015	natachia74@gmail.com		
Shoef, Wendy	Autism Society of Los Angeles www.autismla.org		wendy@autismla.us pcp@autismla.us	Specialize in identifying unmet needs, resolving budget issues, creating spending plans.	
Umeda, Reiko		310-483-5633	reiko_u@nasscaus.com		Japanese English
Ustaris, Susan		323-363-3450	susanustaris@yahoo.com		Tagalog
Walters, Tracey	Self Determination Independent Facilitator www.selfdeterminationindependentfacilitator.com	310-970-0499	selfdeterminationfacilitator@gmail.com		
Watts, Monica		626-298-3622	Mwatts6@me.com mwatts@patienthealthadvocacy.org		

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Wenger, Claudia	Claudia Cares Consulting, Inc. www.claudiacares.com	530-426-8056	Welcome@ClaudiaCares.com	Providing support to enter SDP and ongoing services since 2019.	Spanish Hebrew
Whitford, Linda	Wings of Wisdom https://www.facebook.com/Wings-of-Wisdom-Consulting-117619852976834/?view_public_for=117619852976834	310-850-5407	winwisdomof@gmail.com		
Wu, Jing	Jing Wu, Independent Facilitator	626-612-6710	sdpjingapple@gmail.com	Parent of minor SDP participant, California Licensed Landscape Architect, Investment Advisor Representative	Mandarin Cantonese