



## Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) Meeting Agenda

March 4, 2024

5:00 PM to 7:00PM

### Teleconference via Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87481900522?pwd=WGpEVnRUZ283UlhqGtPSlJLaE9Udz09>

Passcode: 062916

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

Webinar ID: 874 8190 0522

Passcode: 062916

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87481900522?pwd=WGpEVnRUZ283UlhqGtPSlJLaE9Udz09>

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# **AGENDA**

## 1) Call to Order

## 2) Establish of Quorum:

- This means at one more than half of the committee members needs to be present for votes to occur. That means three committee members need to be present to vote, but the committee can discuss and solve problems without voting on anything.
- There are seven members of this committee:
  - Rick Wood, chair (SCDD appointee)
  - Kelly Kulzer-Reyes (KRC appointee)
  - Nico Snyder (KRC appointee)
  - Sandra Van Scotter (SCDD appointee)
  - Adeyinka Glover (OCRA representative, required by statute),
  - Norma Tuiasopo (Family Resource Center representative- Exceptional Families Center, required by statute)
  - Abigail Teasdale (SCDD appointee)
- If you are interested in serving, please contact KRC's Enrique Roman or SCDD's Yolanda Cruz to volunteer.

## 3) Additional Items: Discussion items can be added. Items added here cannot be voted on today. You can also mention things you would like focused on at a future meeting.

4) Public Comment: Comments about items not on the agenda are welcome! If your concern/topic is on the agenda, please join the discussion and add your thoughts there, too.

5) Approval of Minutes for SDLVAC Meeting February 5, 2024

**Action**

6) Status of SDP (Wood/Kulzer-Reyes)

- Updates on SDP at KRC and statewide

**Discussion**

- a. Celebrations (Kulzer-Reyes)
- b. Obstacles (Kulzer-Reyes)
- c. Directives (Wood/Kulzer-Reyes)
- d. Statewide Committee updates (Wood)
- e. Election of Committee Chair
- f. Review Draft of RFP
- g. Review NLACRC Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Recommendations on 099, Attachment 1 (Wood)

7) KRC Updates

**Discussion**

- a) Self-Determination Program Enrollment
- b) General Updates on the Self-Determination Program
- c) *Data request: Presentation and Discussion of the obstacles in the transition to SDP -*
  - a. SDP Enrollment summary (Participant Choice Specialists)
  - b. Orientation completions (demographic data: ethnicity, location, and language group)

## 8) Topics for Next Meeting

## Discussion

- **Members of the public – suggestions welcome!**

Upcoming meetings,

2024 SDPLVAC meeting Schedule;

- April 8, 2024
- May 6, 2024
- June 3, 2024
- July 1, 2024
- August 5, 2024
- September 9, 2024
- October 7, 2024
- November 4, 2024
- December 2, 2024

## 9) Adjournment

ATTACHEMENT 1

February 1, 2024

**To: Nancy Bargmann, Director of the Department of Developmental Services**

**Cc: Vicki L. Smith, Suzy Requarth, Katie Dempsey, - Department of Developmental Services**

**Cc: Katie Hornberger, Office of SDP Ombudsperson**

**Cc: Aaron Carruthers, Chris Arroyo, State Council on Developmental Disabilities**

**Cc: Ana Quiles: North Los Angeles County Regional Center Board of Trustees**

**Cc: Cristina Pruess, Evelyn McOmbie, NLACRC Senior Staff**

**From: North Los Angeles County Regional Center - Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee - NLACRCSDLAC@gmail.com**

**Re: Recommendation to Revise the Self-Determination Program Directive: Updated Initial Person-Centered Plan and Pre-Enrollment Transition Supports Guidance of 12/22/23.**

Dear Ms. Bargmann,

**The North Los Angeles County Regional Center Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee has authorized this communication as a recommendation to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the SDP Ombudsperson, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), the North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC) Board of Trustees, and the NLACRC Interim Executive Director. The topic is the concerns and questions still surrounding the issues related to the Self-Determination Program Directive: Updated Initial Person-Centered Plan and Pre-Enrollment Transition Supports Guidance (December 22, 2023).**

**After careful review of the DDS Directive, and our SDLAC members' attendance at the DDS training on this Directive on January 16, 19, and 20, 2024, and other community forums on SDP, our committee has several areas of concern, and two specific recommendations to propose as SDP Best Practices.** This Directive intends to offer essential transition support to persons who are eligible to become participants in the Self-Determination Program. This vital assistance must be available due to the complexity of the process and mechanics of entering the SDP, which still reasonably requires resources and assistance to make the transition into SDP with its new concepts and paradigm of Budgets and Spending Plans.

**During that transition into SDP, it is universally agreed that potential SDP Participants need coaching and advocacy in navigating the processes and mechanics of the various regional centers, with NLACRC.** It is known that many RC representatives, including CSCs, are so new to SDP that the principles, mechanics, and rights of Self-Determination participants may be unfamiliar, misunderstood, and changing on a regular basis. Yet we also know that SDP works, even with some sand still in the mechanism that slows enrollment and increases frustration.



**Please know that our committee takes our responsibility as an affirmative duty. WIC 4685.8**  
***“The committee shall review the development and ongoing progress of the self-determination program, including whether the program advances the principles of self-determination and is operating consistent with the requirements of this section, and may make ongoing recommendations for improvement to the regional center and to the department.”***

**Our primary concern and recommendations are that the recently issued Directive (12/22/23) only increases the potential SDP participants’ dependency on finding a Vendor, and it does not seem that there will be enough 099 vendors to meet the need.** Our SDLAC has previously expressed concern on how the differing requirements among the RCs for liability insurance for vendors functions as a barrier, especially for the small starting transition professionals that may be just what our system needs to fill those gaps that account for disparities and frustration.

**NLACRC SDLAC also joins the voices of our community that are concerned that the function of “Advocacy” is not included in the functions listed in the Directive. Although the exclusion of “Advocacy” might be an oversight, “Advocacy” is essential to advance the principles of SDP and the rights of the SDP participants.** Therefore, we recommend including “Advocacy” as a duty of all SDP transition professionals. If we expect SDP to be the flexible solution to the problems of unaddressed needs and the cultural disparities that are evident in many studies and reports, we will need well-informed advocacy, at least until NLACRC has the current staff vacancies filled with CSCs that are well-trained in the principles, mechanics, and the rights of the SDP participants.

**As part of our review of this Directive, we have studied the “DDS Directive Brief” dated Jan 16, 2024, developed by Disabilities Voices United, which is endorsed by us in its entirety and is attached to this NLACRC SDLAC recommendation to revise this Directive.** We agree that this DVU proposal resolves many of the issues and concerns our NLACRC SDLAC identified in our review.

**We agree that making this transition support available as non-vendored Self-Directed Supports under Participant Directed Services would allow those costs to be federally reimbursable and allow this essential service to be self-sustaining.** This would also address the concerns expressed by DVU that are shared with our committee, including avoiding conflicts of interest and the inclusion of advocacy as a transitional SDP service. We also make these recommendations to avoid the anticipated shortage of SDP transition support if the current Directive is not revised. We believe this will increase participant choice and address the increasing disparity that would occur with insufficient professional transition support to serve everyone who might benefit from those supports.

So, after our review of the development and ongoing progress of the Self-Determination Program, NLACRC SDLAC makes the following recommendations both as a Best Practice and to advance the principles, mechanics, and rights of the SDP participants. These recommendations are the same as those recommended by DVU.

**Recommendation from NLACRC SDLAC to DDS: (from DVU 1/16/24)**

***“Provide non-vendored Self-Directed Supports under Participant Directed Services. This is federally reimbursable, maintains participant choice, and eliminates conflict of interest.***

**-AND**

***Update the Service Definition for General SD Supports to include the WIC code definition of independent facilitator role and services to include advocacy.”***

We recognize that the current Directive has a deadline of 2/29/24, so we submit this with urgency and a request for action and notice to our community.

**Yours in Freedom, Authority, Responsibility, Confirmation and Support,**

**Lori Walker and Richard Dier, Co-Chairs of the NLACRC SDLAC**

NLACRCSDLAC@gmail.com

Attachment: DVU 1/16/24 DDS Directive Brief

Distribute to all NLACRC SDLAC members and NLACRC SDP Best Practice Committee

Approved for sharing.





## DDS Directive Brief

Jan 16, 2024

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### RE: Self-Determination Program: Updated Initial Person-Centered Plan and Pre-Enrollment Transition Supports Guidance - December 2023

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Currently, Disability Voices United advises independent facilitators against seeking Regional Center 099 vendorization. We believe it is not in the best interest of Self-Determination Program participants, and here is why:

- Conflict of Interest:
  - Regional Centers can examine the records of vendors who provide services to participants. If a Self-Directed Support (099) vendor is serving a participant involved in a fair hearing or 4731 complaint, the regional center may demand access to their files. This situation represents a significant conflict of interest.
- Participant Access to Advocacy not included in the Service Definition:
  - The Service Definition - General SD Supports (099) does not include advocacy. Participants utilizing independent facilitators under 024 followed the legal definition which includes "...advocating on behalf of the participant in the person-centered planning process and development of the IPP, and obtaining identified services and supports."
- Limits Participant Access to Supports:
  - The infrastructure does not exist to mandate the use of 099 vendors and removal of Option A. DVU recently put in a Public Records Act requesting names of all 099 vendors statewide. Only eight names were on the PRA Response (including two financial management services). Many Regional Centers have no vendors in place.
- Limits Participant Choice:
  - Participants will be limited to 099 vendors for support. Regional Centers can selectively provide 099 vendor options to the participant.
- Increases potential for disparity:
  - With limited infrastructure, non-vendored independent facilitators may offer private pay transition supports. Only participants who can afford to pay out-of-pocket will be able to access transition supports.

#### **Recommended Resolution:**

Provide non-vendored Self-Directed Supports under Participant Directed Services. This is federally reimbursable, maintains participant choice, and eliminates conflict of interest.

**-AND-**

Update the Service Definition for General SD Supports to include the WIC code definition of independent facilitator role and services to include advocacy.

## KRC SDP Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2024

1. Called to order 5:03 p.m.
2. Establishment of Quorum: Members Present:  
Rick Wood, Kelly Kulzer-Reyes, Nico Snyder, Sandra Van Scotter, Adeyinka Glover.
3. Additional Items to Agenda: None.
4. Public Comment. None.
5. Approval of Minutes of 01-08-24 Meeting: Motion by Kelly, seconded by Sandra, approved unanimously.
6. Status of SDP:
  - a. Celebrations: Sandra reported that the community is forming to help one other in implementing and participating in the SDP; people are “getting” how SD works; her son is going to conferences through SDP.
  - b. Obstacles: Kelly reported that FMS’s are not making timely payments. Sandra reported fears of issues--how can we build increases into budgets and know of them in advance; Rick reported negative experience with GTI. Many submissions in the chat re: overdue IF payments for 024 services and others. Cindy Cox, Dusty Beavers, Katie Ramirez all spoke. Discussion included advice to KRC staff re: procedures for timely payments to IFs.
  - c. Directives: DDS conducted a webinar in which 2023 recent directives were discussed/explained.
  - d. SSDAC updates: Next meeting in March, 2024. Next meeting of DDS SDP Advisory Committee to be held in late February.
  - e. Election of KRC SDP LVAC Chair: Introductory discussion about members interested in becoming chair. No decision.
7. KRC Updates:
  - a. SDP Enrollment. Robust discussion of development of RFP for expenditure of SDP implementation funds on outreach. See attached bullet points developed by subcommittee Attachment 1. The RFP comes from the committee. Discussion re: need for clarity in performance terms, broad enough language to foster and promote creative approaches to outreach, flexibility. Melanie Waters to develop RFP for approval of committee at March meeting, with participation by committee members in negotiation of terms of contracts. Adeyinka suggested more collaboration among KRC staff, committee members and IFs. Also, discussion of amendment to existing implementation contracts to define 1-to-1 coaching,

outreach efforts. Comments by Dusty Beavers, Katie Ramirez, including suggestion by Dusty that committee members join in discussion among IFs and KRC staff. Motion to approve proposed contract amendment was made by Rick, seconded by Kelly, and passed with 4 votes and Adeyinka abstaining. Finally, Adeyinka offered appreciation for recent KRC Q & A sessions.

b. General Updates. due to shortage of time, deferred to March meeting.

c. Presentation and Discussion of Obstacles: See 6.b above. Data presentation: due to shortage of time, deferred to March meeting.

8. Topics for Next Meeting:

Standard topics. Main focus is to review draft RFP for expenditure of SDP implementation funds.

9. Adjournment: At 7:03 p.m., to next meeting March 4, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

ATTACHEMENT 1

## KRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting

February 5, 2024

### Discussion Points for Discussion of SDP Implementation Funds

At community events, families are happy to receive information.

Effective approach at resource fair(s) is to provide information, explain SDP, get contact information, then outreach.

Joint RC resource fairs are OK, i.e., outside catchment area. Conferences, resource events, target vendors for outreach.

KRC has a pamphlet. Needs to be user-friendly.

Q & A's are effective, then participate in orientation. Include participants. User-friendly orientations

Target vendors; train vendors on SDP.

Contract with KRC should be open-ended with line-item activities specific to efforts including joint efforts. Need collaboration with KRC staff. Coordinated planning. Contract should include hourly rate for outreach efforts.

Mailings, emails, flyers, Constant Contact for outreach. SCs to send out emails to reinforce efforts by providers. Materials could be developed by providers. Designated email address for SDP? Need buy-in from SCs to distribute outreach materials.

Develop promo video: "This is my experience in SDP." Post on social media (tik tok, you tube, create hashtag for messaging).

Develop understandable flow chart for SDP enrollment process.

KRC to publish orientation schedule.

KRC to develop an internal and public SDP implementation flowchart.

Request KRC to share its materials with providers, i.e., build on what has been developed (handouts and pamphlets). Request KRC to invite providers, connect with resource centers without red tape, i.e., collaboration.

IFs need standing monthly meetings with KRC staff.