



Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) Meeting Agenda

September 9, 2024

5:00 PM to 7:00PM

Teleconference via Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87481900522?pwd=WGpEVnRUZ283UlhqdGtPSiJLaE9Udz09>

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=WGpEVnRUZ283UlhqdGtPSiJLaE9Udz09>

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f), individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternatives formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in the meeting should contact Isis Rasmussen at (661) 873-4575 or email at isis.rasmussen@kernrc.org

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 five members of this committee:
 - Sandra Van Scotter, chair (SCDD appointee)
 - Rick Wood, co-chair (SCDD appointee)
 - Eva Casas- Sarmiento (OCRA interim representative, required by statute),
 - Norma Tuiasosopo (Family Resource Center representative- Exceptional Families Center, required by statute)
 - Lorie Stewart (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 August 5, 2024, (Attachment 1).

Action

6) Status of SDP (Wood/all)

- Updates on SDP at KRC and statewide

Discussion

a. Celebrations (all)

i. SDP LVAC related public comment made August 27, 2024, at KRC Board Meeting (Attachment 2) (Van Scotter)

- b. Obstacles (all)
- c. Directives (Wood/all)
- d. Statewide Committee updates (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 –*
 - I. Clarification of SDP-specific data points requested from KRC (Van Scotter)
 - II. SDP Enrollment summary (Participant Choice Specialists)
 - III. 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;

- October 7, 2024
- November 4, 2024
- December 2, 2024

9) Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 1

ATTACHMENT 1

KERN REGIONAL CENTER SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

August 5, 2024

1. Meeting called to order by Rick Wood at 5:02 p.m.
2. Quorum Established. Present were Rick Wood, Kelly-Kulzer Reyes, Sandra Van Scotter, Lorie Stewart, and Eva Casas-Sarmiento. Also present was Yolandas Cruz, SCDD.
3. Additional Items. None.
4. Public Comment. Christina Rockwell asked for an update of the SDP unit moving forward. Celia Pinal presented a response including that an emergency meeting was held to address an emergent issue. Yolanda Cruz presented information on DDS orientation data, including dates of orientation to measure progress, orientation certificates, and scanning information/data to DDS by RCs. Announcement of Michi Gates appointment to DDS, her last day at KRC to be August 16, 2024, Enrique Roman to serve as interim executive director of KRC, and Nancy Bargmann's retirement.
5. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on July 1, 2024 by Rick, Sandra and Norma, with Lorie and Eva abstaining.
6. a. and b. Celia reported that 2 lead SDP Unit Service Coordinators (Sandy and Julio) have been hired and are in place. Rick gave kudos to former KRC Executive Director Mike Clark for his leadership in establishing the KRC SD Pilot more than 20 years ago, and praised Michi Gates for her SDP leadership.
 - c. Sandra reported on directives, use of participant directed services to pay for independent facilitators for transition services, and the annual RC report on LVAC membership makeup, ethnicity, and geographic location. Note that we need to recruit for a representative makeup on our committee. Finally, it was reported that Enrique and _____ are the KRC staff liaisons for the SDP.
 - d. SSDAC. Rick reported that the SSDAC training and outreach feedback has been presented to DDS; that Qlarent is developing an independent facilitator certification course with feedback from various stakeholders; that DDS presented an update of data which Rick will send to all committee members and staff; that SSDAC FMS recommendations have been sent to DDS; SSDAC's best practices platform has been updated; the next SSDAC meeting on September 10 will feature a grant showcase from DVU; and the final SSDAC meeting of the year will be a Townhall on a subject to be determined by the members of SSDAC. Yolanda opined that LVACs should be required to report how they spend implementation funds, especially for disparities. Rick replied that they are doing so. Kelly stated that it is difficult to find funding for disparities in rural communities.
7. a.-c. Melanie Waters reported that the current implementation of funds contracts have been signed. Tomas Cobias reported that the video contract is being finalized,

and that members will be contacted for a meeting to provide suggestions next week. Celia, Chloe, Adriana provided data details on SDP orientation, enrollment, ethnicity, language, geography, etc. The SDP unit team includes Jordan from Bishop, Rebecca from Ridgecrest, Chloe Hayes and Adriana Antonio, as well as Celia and Enrique. Goal is for the team to include 8-10 people. Still searching for a SDP unit program manager. Report also on enrollment equal to 1% of the KRC population; and on Q&A sessions. Kelly announced that the Down Syndrome Network walk will occur on October 5, 2024. Sandra reported that an in-person conference will take place in October.

8. Topics. Committee is open to suggestions. Next meeting will be on September 9, 2024.

9. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 2

ATTACHMENT 2

My name is Sandra Van Scotter. I am a parent to an Adult person served by Kern Regional Center (KRC) in the Self-Determination Program (SDP). I am a Direct Service Provider (DSP) to several other SDP participants and I am honored to serve as a Co-Chairperson of the Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (LVAC) to Kern Regional Center. I have been serving on the LVAC as a committee member since March of 2023.

I need to make clear: The observations, opinions and requests stated in this public comment are mine only. I DO NOT speak for and I AM NOT speaking for the whole Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committee to Kern Regional Center (LVAC). No other LVAC members collaborated with or contributed to the drafting this public comment.

The purpose of this public comment is to humbly and respectfully request that the Board of Directors of Kern Regional Center (KRC) amend and restate their Bylaws, related to and specifically Article 5, section 5.2 to read:

(Begin quote)

“Number of Directors

The Board shall consist of at least ten (10) but not more than fifteen (15) directors plus a director from the Provider Advisory Committee (start added part) and the Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (end added part), the exact number to be determined by resolution of the Board from time to time.”

(End Quote)

I also ask that the Kern Regional Center Board of Directors amend and restate their Bylaws to designate the Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committee to Kern Regional Center be a “Board Committee” as described in Article 5 and Article 7 of the Kern Regional Center Bylaws AND allow the Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committee to continue to be “established” as described in the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 4685.8 (x)(1).

In addition, I respectfully ask that the KRC Board of Directors call a Special Board Meeting to be held on and no later than September 10, 2024, prior to the scheduled September 24, 2024 Board Meeting, in compliance with Article 10, Section 10.7 of the Bylaws, to consider, discuss and decide on these very important and specific requested amendments and restatements of the Kern Regional Center Bylaws.

On October 09, 2013, when SB 468 (Senate Bill 468) was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown, the Statewide Self-Determination Program (SDP) became law and part of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) as Section 4685.8.

Paragraph (x)(1) of WIC 4685.8 establishes the Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committee as follows: (read for emphasis the blue section below)

(1) Each regional center shall establish a local volunteer advisory committee to provide oversight of the Self-Determination Program. The regional center and the area board shall each appoint one-half of the membership of the committee. The committee shall consist of the regional center clients' rights advocate, consumers, family members, and other advocates, and community leaders. A majority of the committee shall be consumers and their family members. The committee shall reflect the multicultural diversity and geographic profile of the catchment area. 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 the department."

The Family Resource Center Representative and the Regional Center Employee Liaisons were added as required participants on and to the LVAC (respectively) with Trailer Bill Language amended on October 19, 2021.

There are 5 Principles of Self-Determination:

Freedom, Authority, Support, Responsibility and Confirmation.

These principles are written into the Welfare and Institutions Code, section 4685.8, and defined in paragraph z, section 2, subsections A through E.

In the interest of time, we are going to focus on the definitions of the Principles of “Authority” and “Responsibility”

(B) Authority, which includes the ability of a person with a disability, or family, to control a certain sum of dollars in order to purchase services and supports of their choosing

(D) Responsibility (partial quote) , which includes the ability of participants to take responsibility for decisions in their own lives and to be accountable for the use of public dollars...

As Directives are issued, policies are implemented and the number of people served in the Self-Determination Program continues to grow, many, many SDP participants served by Kern Regional Center are experiencing significant delays in getting anything done in a timely fashion, which is causing a bottle-neck in the processes to keep their programs running smoothly without service interruptions from Spending Plan year to Spending Plan year.

The explanations for the delays appear to try to control the Principles of “Authority” and “Responsibility”, specifically, not allowing each SDP participant the “Freedom” to exercise the Principle of “Responsibility” “to be accountable for the use of public dollars”. The Self-Determination Program Principles of Freedom, Authority, Support, Responsibility and Confirmation are all being taken from each SDP participant at Kern Regional Center the longer and more frequent the delays and service interruptions occur and continue.

As much as the LVAC appreciates our assigned Kern Regional Center Employee Liaisons, it has been made glaringly obvious that the SDP LVAC has no ABILITY to have any meaningful contribution to the “implementation” of the Self-Determination Program at Kern Regional Center, as the LVAC is required to by the Welfare and Institutions Code section 4685.8, with the way the LVAC is currently represented to the Board of Directors.

The information generated by the LVAC needs to be shared with and reported to the Board of Directors directly from representation of the LVAC and not through the assigned Kern Regional Center Employee Liaisons, to continue to encourage and improve transparency in this process.

The Kern Regional Center Board of Directors and Kern Regional Center have an opportunity to trail-blaze, and to be a Pilot again, this time by increasing the legitimacy and stability of the Self-Determination Program moving into the future, and ensuring the life-long services promised to the all the people the Regional Center serves by the Lanterman Act by designating the Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committee to Kern Regional Center as a “Board Committee” as described in the Kern Regional Center Bylaws.

By giving the Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committee to Kern Regional Center a permanent seat of representation on the Kern Regional Center Board of Directors, Kern Regional Center and all the people Kern Regional Center serves will be guided toward a more successful, continued implementation and promotion of the Self-Determination Program at Kern Regional Center, as the SDP LVAC is mandated to do by the Welfare and Institutions Code section 4685.8.

Thank you for your time and for the Kern Regional Center Board of Director’s attention to these very urgent requests.