

Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 24, 2023 - 4:00pm-5:30pm

MINUTES

Meeting is open to the public – all are welcome to attend

[Zoom Link for August Meeting](#)

SDLAC Members:

Jennifer Walsh (Chair/Self-Advocate) - present
Sascha Bittner (Self-Advocate) – present
Elizabeth Grigsby (GGRC Consumer Rights Advocate/Self-Advocate)
Vacant (OCRA-Attorney/Clients’ Rights Advocate) – Courtney Mangus
Connie Johnson (Parent Advocate) – present
Alyson Sinclair (Parent Advocate)
Christine Kantor (Parent Advocate) - present
Gaby Choy (Parent Advocate)
David Nguyen (Parent Advocate) – absent
Ken Parekh (Parent Advocate) – present

SCDD Advisor:

Sheraden Nicholau (SCDD-Regional Manager, Bay Area Office)

GGRC Advisors:

Eric Zigman (Executive Director)
Lisa Rosene
Juliet Sousa (SDP Supervising Social Worker) – extended leave
Meghan Reynard (Acting SDP Supervisor)
Kori Mason (Participant Choice Specialist)
Janika Jamarillo (Participant Choice Specialist)
Anh Nguyen (Recording Secretary)

Guests:

Diane Poole, parent of son served by GGRC
Marissa Howai, parent
Tanya Hernandez, GT Independent
Sophia Afoganow, DDS
Brenda Bachechi, parent advocate
Terrasel Jones, GT Independent
Geoffrey Wan, Barefoot Services

- I. Welcome/Call to order (Walsh)
 - a. Roll call (Nguyen)
 - b. Approval of Agenda (Walsh) - m/s, Sascha, Connie
 - c. Approval of Minutes (Walsh/All) – m/s, Ken, Sascha

- II. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program for Fiscal Year 2021-22 - (Walsh)
 - a. GGRC's SDLAC spending plan (D. Nguyen)

- III. Participant/Family/Public Feedback on SDP (All)

a. Comments are limited to FOUR minutes per speaker on items not on the agenda, 20 minutes total.

b. We welcome critiques and feedback but ask speakers refrain from personal attacks on individuals or the committee.

c. The committee will not be responding to comments but may address them further down in the agenda or in future agenda items.

Diane Poole: parent of person served joining us to see what this committee is about, she's having problems with SDP. She's been having problems just getting services. She started the process in September 2022 and up for recertification and not one person has been paid yet. She sees several people she's connected with in the meeting but not sure what to do, how to resolve the problems and how to get providers paid. Should she leave the FMS she's with or try and stay and work things out? Should she leave SDP altogether?

Christine Kantor: Diane started with interest in being an IF, started with Emlyn, she then chose Aveanna. Some of the delays have occurred there with delays in provider payment. The providers haven't been fully enrolled in Aveanna, things were moving with IEPs, so scheduling shifted and they weren't able to progress with the programming with SDP. Christine asked to schedule a meeting to see if she could transition back into traditional services for Keith and maybe reenroll back into SDP to help get unstuck.

Lisa Rosene: Offering to connect with Christine and Diane.

Diane: Originally started as bill payer and now is a co-employer. They now have her down as bill payer and not a co-employer.

Christine: Caregivers are not going through vendored service providers. They're just caregivers she's hiring as direct employees, so originally chose coemployer option, then went to different FMSs. She wants to stay with co-employer model.

Lisa: will schedule time to get together.

Diane: Also a PCP and trying to figure out the process.

Marissa: Her son is in SDP program and it's been amazing. Trying to move funds from one category to another and five months of trying to get it done, the budget is expiring the end of October but have funds they can't use that they're not being moved over. Trying to work with SDP team and social worker, but slow to get responses. Looking to see what else she can do.

Lisa: Please contact Lisa on these issues. LRosene@ggrc.org

Marissa: Do funds roll over or do we lose the funds?

Lisa: Different for each situation. Depends on if funds have been encumbered. New budgets reflect no loss of funds that are from the previous year if you can't use them. It's not a roll over, per se, but when the new budget is a Table Two, for things that weren't paid out so they're included in the next year's budget.

Marissa: If I'm having problems using the funds because not using the same vendors, will

Geoffrey Wan: Represents Barefoot, his company provides unconventional occupational therapy, using private-pay, nature-based occupational therapy. Just here to learn more about the SDP, not sure who to contact.

IV. SCDD Update (Nicholau)

Five days for September SCDD orientations – English, Spanish, Armenian. Language selection per month is based on needs, so if you hear anything, please let Sheraden know.

Statewide SDP is looking for submissions for best practices for the SCDD Best Practices Platform. Any RC staff and anyone connected to SDP SDLAC can share information. If the committee wants to have a subcommittee or agendaize this issue, Sheraden can support that.

Technical assistance has shifted since last year. Now reflecting back the past couple of months, it's mostly people who have been in SDP. More timeliness of payments to vendors or where the holdup is or if it's something they or the RCs need to do or FMS' responsibility. Let's continue keeping communication open and streamlining all of the processes and making sure we can close the loops.

No upcoming meetings scheduled with statewide committee.

Jennifer would like to start a working group with Sheraden for best/promising practices. Jennifer will email Sheraden a group of committee members who are interested.

Jennifer will ask members about FAQs working group as well.

V. GGRC SDP Team Update (Reynard)

- a. Participant data points: number of persons currently enrolled, number of participants in the process, how long participants have been enrolled GGRC
- b. Updates (Rosene)
84 participants

One family that is entering year four of SDP, but need to do a count for the rest of the families to see who is where.

Lisa will work on getting this information in template form for future meetings.

VI. GGRC Updates (Zigman)

Unprecedented time of adding staff at GGRC. Core staffing formula problem remains to be addressed, but GGRC received funds to hire 30 SW and SW Supervisors and funded at a decent level. Previously hired SW are funded at 50% based off Core Staffing.

Hired 70 people in seven months. GGRC will exceed 300 staff soon and working on finding people who want to work for us, with the challenge in a high cost area. Moving people off caseloads and reassigning people, Lisa and team have created SW Bootcamp for training and lots of aspects of regional centers to learn, including SDP.

FMS rates were insufficient in 2018 when they were set, 2023 increased rates with more information and knowledge for implementation. SDP law thought every FMS needs to be available to every person in the state, good idea, but not really... RCs have a history of having their own vendors, you have local interaction and local control. Thought they could use courtesy vendorization under certain circumstances, but this vendorization process was used in cases of neighboring centers had services or transitions until services could be developed locally. With SDP, courtesy vendorization became an issue and overburdened. Lots of frustration with FMSs but it takes awhile to ramp up and work through the backlog of cases regardless of hiring.

VII. Disability Rights California Update (OCRA)

No updates, large number of people from GGRC about SDP concerns mostly recertification and having delays with budget and spending plans with gaps in getting payments. Issues with sometimes getting an FMS or getting what they need from FMS, getting onboarded fully to SDP. Not many people with OCRA have been working long enough with SDP so there aren't common solutions.

Lisa: One of the thing for people onboarding as new participants is to set the expectation about how long it takes. A lot of problems where we run out of time or it takes a long time to get people on-boarded. What Kori and Lisa have found out this week is working together with social workers and supervisors to sort out initial budgets and completed four budgets. Also telling people on GGRC side to submit budget and submit signed IPP as a package to Accounting and immediately begin processing so hopefully that begins to help. For renewed budget, start at least two months ahead.

Sheraden: It's been awhile since GGRC has updated the SDP flow chart, but perhaps updating the flow chart with timelines would be helpful. Putting it out there as another project for the committee to consider.

Build out timelines for what the project will look like and put it on next month's agenda for discussion. Create it as a workgroup. Getting all committee members assigned to work groups based on the strategic plan.

Jennifer or Anh send out goal areas to the committee members so they'll come prepared ready to commit to which work groups they want to be involved in.

VIII. SDLAC Strategic Planning Subcommittee (Walsh/Nicholau)

Agenda item changes to updates/reports from each of the new respective workgroups and their timelines.

First email will be about best/promising practices for SDP

Second email will be about FAQs work group

Third email will be about goals and objectives for next couple of years

IX. Outreach to the community – Communication/Correspondence (All)

Ken regularly moderates a parents group sponsored by Stanford (virtual), SDP is recurring theme.

Upcoming conference the Stanford has two conferences on Adult Autism and usually breakouts around SDP and the whole process. If we don't have coordination and representation.

Sheraden shared two links for Stanford hosted conferences.

Anh will talk to Lisa about an SDP flyer.

X. Adjourn: Next Meeting: **Thursday, September 28 – 4:00PM – 5:30PM**