

**Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 28, 2023 - 4:00pm-5:30pm**

MEETING NOTICE

DRAFT AGENDA

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

[Zoom Link for September Meeting](#)

**SDLAC Members:**

Jennifer Walsh (Chair/Self-Advocate) - present

Sascha Bittner (Self-Advocate) – present

Elizabeth Grigsby (GGRC Consumer Rights Advocate/Self-Advocate) - absent

Courtney Mangus (OCRA-Attorney/Clients’ Rights Advocate) – present

Connie Johnson (Parent Advocate) - present

Alyson Sinclair (Parent Advocate) - present

Christine Kantor (Parent Advocate) - absent

Gaby Choy (Parent Advocate) - absent

David Nguyen (Parent Advocate) - present

Ken Parekh (Parent Advocate) – absent

**SCDD Advisor:**

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

**GGRC Advisors:**

Eric Zigman (Executive Director) - present

Lisa Rosene – present

Juliet Sousa (SDP Supervising Social Worker) – extended leave

Meghan Reynard (Acting SDP Supervisor) – absent/sick

Kori Mason (Participant Choice Specialist) – present

Janika Jamarillo (Participant Choice Specialist) - present

Anh Nguyen (Recording Secretary)

**Guests:**

Jane Sakurai, Autism Society of Los Angeles

Michelle Suwabe, parent, new from Bakersfield

Ana Davaa – representing an SDP client

Tanya Hernandez, GTI

Sophia Agafonow, DDS

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

According to Lop, \$65,000 needs to be spent by March 2024, some of it will go to NeuroNav, some will go to contracts. The committee needs more ideas on how to spend the funds. There is the Strategic Plan that needs to be revisited and see areas where we can fund projects.

**David sent the August 31, 2023 spreadsheet to Anh/SDP. She will forward this budget report to the committee members for their review and information.**

**Lisa would like to propose hiring a contractor to compile all of the information on SDP in one location for all staff to access.** Questions could be answered sooner, needed a fiscal form, all of this will streamline the onboarding process because regional center staff will know what's needed and expected and there won't be hangups between case management, accounting and the FMS. Lisa needs a person to put it all together; there's a case management manual that would be available to all social workers if they have questions about SDP.

Alyson: it's a lot of information out there. For the social workers to use all of the information, how will it be organized? If it's too unruly for them to find quick answers, the concern is whether social workers would seek out the information. Love the idea and it's needed, but what's the vision.

Lisa: There's a case management manual in place. It starts with a welcome from Eric, includes a general overview with 19 chapters and covers everything from residential, POS guidelines, how to request respite, out-of-home respite, gives social workers the step-by-step on how to implement their job. The SDP section will be along those lines, it'll have a table of contents in that chapter. If they're looking at details of the program, there'll be samples and examples of what to do including templates from FMSs and detailed information and how to send the proper forms and information to accounting and the FMS. All details and steps will be spelled out. The vision is a one-stop visit for all SDP needs and has all of the forms and how to access necessary and needed forms.

EZ: Jennifer mentioned that the committee just needs a proposal, so Lisa and Meghan can work on it and Jennifer can present it to the committee for funding.

Can happen pretty quickly once the committee receives the proposal since there's funding and the capacity to complete the task.

**Lisa requested deadline/timeline and Jennifer responded that it needed to come back as soon as possible.**

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.

Jane Sakurai, ASLA: Registration has begun for a new training program, cross-cultural advanced IF training program, opened last week and still open. Will be closed soon, advanced IF training has been developed because past participants expressed need for more higher-level information. The training is for experienced IFs, so not a basic program. Staff and partners will be informed, moderators and translators will be providing culturally sensitive information and training. Spanish, English and Korean will be available, curriculum will be provided in core languages. Workshops will help deidentify real-life situations, try to contain them within culturally sensitive spaces. Sixteen hours of PCT, 8 hours on SDP legislation, advanced level training on budgets and spending plans, setting up IFs as a business with ongoing mentorship and support. ASLA has a two-year contract with DDS to conduct this training. Jane provided a link in the chat <https://www.autismla.org/1/ifmentortraining/>

IV. SCDD Update (Nicholau)

Sheraden shared slides from the statewide SDP meeting. Best/Promising practices discussion. SCDD report to the committee last 14 months, SCDD has conducted 156 orientation sessions for about 3,000 people in multiple languages. Statewide report to the legislature is available on the website. All of the PowerPoint presentations are available on the SCDD website. DDS Office of Ombudsperson shared a report on the contacts that were made to their office.

V. DDS Update on SDP – this item will be removed from future agendas

VI. 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 Updates (Zigman)

- b. GGRC's SDP Orientation post-participation "packet" of information
- c. Update on putting together the GGRC Social Worker SDP resources file  
Lisa: Attended the SCDD RAC meeting, GGRC has added ten new participants fully enrolled in September alone. 94 participants totally fully enrolled in SDP, 26 in Marin, 27 in SF, 41 in San Mateo. All participants primary language has been English, even though they're multi-ethnic and have a secondary language, primary language is English. **Kori is putting together the ethnic breakdown of participants and prospective participants and hopefully have it available next meeting. Juliet is scheduled to return at the end of October.** Currently working on creating dedicated caseloads per staff request, three new positions and working with SM and will update on that next meeting. The SDP team is working with Community Services Unit, as of January 1, 2024, service code 099 will be used to help people with onboarding support. They will need to develop an hourly rate and a statewide form that needs to be filled out by whoever is assisting the participant. Case manager reviews and forwards to accounting and person-centered plan can be reimbursed up to \$1,000. Up to 40 hours available for budget development and spending plan development, identifying FMS and possible onboarding.

**DDS Ombudsperson's office is available to present to the committee and Lisa can make the connection.**

Conference sponsored by Stanford University on autism at the end of the month, Val Montague, the mom of our first participant, also an IF and presenting on pros and cons of the program.

VII. GGRC Updates (Zigman)

GGRC has 1:95-100 caseloads, GGRC has hired 85 people in the past year, almost 300 staff now. Expansion positions came at reasonable budgets, but the others are lower (half about what it costs for a social worker in the Bay Area). DDS will be measuring ratios in October.

Specialized caseloads look promising, but due to complexities of the program, it makes it more challenging to add an SDP case to an existing caseload. Six months ago, about 1,300 people didn't have an assigned social worker, now 2/3 of those people have a social worker due to new hires.

Sascha asked about the possible impact of the federal government shutdown, EZ reassured that it historically hasn't had an impact.

VIII. Disability Rights California Update (OCRA)

This will be Courtney's last meeting. Another CRA will be starting on October 9<sup>th</sup> to represent GGRC. **Courtney will share this information when it becomes available.** We'll continue to send the notices to Courtney and she'll pass it along. It does take

about a month for new CRAs to onboard and get trained for taking on cases.

- IX. SDLAC Workgroups (Walsh/Nicholau)
  - a. Committee composition
  - b. Committee expectations
  - c. Committee notes/next steps

**Sheraden will share copies of the committee composition with Anh and Jennifer to forward to other committee members.**

In between monthly meetings, staff and advisors are here for the workgroups to reach out to for consult, templates or other work. Sometimes there'll be information that is needed from the committee, we just have to keep the numbers low so we don't violate public meeting rules.

Lisa: Does GGRC have open nominations to the committee?

Sheraden: Currently, we have ten members, one is the OCRA, five appointed by GGRC, four appointed by SCDD. About 3-4 applicants waiting to be interviewed and there's been conversation about expanding the committee. It's advised to have an odd number of members. We do have opportunities for other appointments, with one person tentatively slated to be approved by the SCDD Nominating Committee, which is scheduled to meet in November.

**Lisa: There's a self-advocate in SDP that could be a dynamic committee member.**

Sheraden: the process is all the same, online form and the information is forwarded along. The application is reviewed and applicants are interviewed.

Online application:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeU3zu0qt2l9Xg48JPx6sJKTGil6RO0LJALHoDy6q8u3KAqSA/viewform>

- X. Adjourn: Next Meeting: **Thursday, October 26th – 4:00PM – 5:30PM**