

Members in Attendance:

Joyce Clark (FA), Debra Jorgensen (A), Bertha Taylor (A), Tracey Flourie (FA), Chris Lubinski, (FA), Reva Subra (FA)

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance:

Mary Ellen Stives SCDD, Gabriella Ohmstede, SDRC

Members / Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Horacio Correa (FA), Jr, Kim Rucker (on leave) Tania Schloss (on leave), Alexandria Acosta (CRA), My Dinh (FA)

This meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom video conferencing and was called to order by Joyce Clark at 10:06 am.

1. Welcome / Introductions. Joyce explained the rule of the LAC and the rules of the meeting. Committee members introduced themselves as did DDS staff Suzy Requarth, Katie Dempsey, Vickie Smith, Diana Sandoval, and Nancy Bargman. Ex-officio members Mary Ellen Stives and Gabby Ohmstede introduced themselves. It was noted that Kate Kinnamont Associate Executive Director of SDRC was also present.
2. Public Input:
 - i) Feedback from a dad's perspective: Benefits of SDP included son being more social and involved with friends. The major concern identified was a lack of response and/or very delayed response from Service Coordinators. It was requested the committee document this concern and return with a response on this issue as a future meeting.
 - ii) Another parent discussed the benefit of having an advocate or an Independent Facilitator involved in formal meetings to move things forward at a more reasonable pace. This parent noted that having someone in a position of authority present makes a difference, resulting in decreased frustration.
 - iii) A suggestion was made that efficiencies across the system, particularly with FMS, might be improved with technology.
3. Motion made by Chris Lubinski, seconded by Tracie Flourie to approve the April minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. San Diego Regional Center Report:

Gabriella Ohmstede reported the following:

- a. Local efforts: SDRC is approaching the 300th enrollment in the SDP. Gabby acknowledged the barriers to entering SDP including the lack of FMS agencies. Gabby mentioned the DDS directive that went into effect May 1st that details the rate increases to FMS agencies. These changes should assist in increases in the number of service providers.
- b. Rob Grijalva was hired as the Program Manager who will oversee the Participant Choice Specialists and the Consumer Information Specialist. David Webb-Rex was hired as the Program Manager for a new case management unit specifically for participants in self-determination. David is recruiting existing Service Coordinators to join the unit, it is hoped the new unit will be operational by the start of the new fiscal year. Gabby noted that SDRC is focused on accelerated training for all Service Coordinators on SDP. Gabby introduced the Participant Choice Specialists.
- c. A question was asked on data related vendorization of agencies under the 099 category. SDRC will bring this information to the next meeting.
- d. The role of the Participant Choice Specialists (PCS) was discussed once the new unit is up and running. The majority of participants will be handled within the new unit, with a few exceptions. It was explained that the PCS are not Service Coordinators but are hired to provide support and direction on SDP implementation. PCS will now have more time to address higher level issues including training and outreach. As the new unit evolves, the roles will become clearer. A request was made for further information on what the roles of each of the SDP units will be.
- e. A question was asked how Option B was going to be implemented. Gabby responded that the process will be individualized and should be discussed and decided among participant, service coordinator, FMS, to identify the amount and scope of pre-enrollment hours and support.
- f. A comment and question was made regarding the 099 vendorization process and the need for greater transparency. It was noted that there is a great need that exists for pre-enrollment supports but no information on the number of agencies vendorized to provide these services, which are due to be in effect on July 1. Gabby recommended reaching out to Gwen Nolls in Community Services for current information and status of 099 vendorization. Kate Kinnamont also mentioned that she has regular communication with Community Services about vendorization. There are currently 4 FMS agencies in progress, and two 099 vendorizations that are in process.
- g. The new rates for the FMS agencies, can be found on the DDS website <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/sdp/program-directives/>

5. DDS Staff Introductions.

Vickie Smith introduced Nancy Bargmann – the Director of DDS, who thanked the LAC for their work and thanked the attendees for their candid feedback.

Vickie also thanked the attendees for their candid input, mentioning that DDS is a community driven program. Vickie acknowledged the need for LACs to see data on effectiveness of the SDPs in San Diego and across the state. Vickie introduced Diana Sandoval, Suzy Requarth and Katie Dempsey. Suzy and Katie presented current information on the status of SDP in California and in San Diego / Imperial Counties. (The presentation is attached to these minutes.)

6. Presentation: Stephanie Mendoza & Sarah Yerelian, The Institute for Effective Education
Stephanie and Sarah presented success stories on two participants living self-determined lives.

7. Date(s) of next meeting(s):

June 15th @ 5:30 pm (In person and video conference options.) Three questions asked in the zoom chat should be responded to at this meeting:

- Will Option B start on July 1?
- What are the percentages of SDP services to rural / poor communities and individuals?
- What is the current data specifically for Imperial Valley?

8. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Attachment: DDS Update for SDRC Local Volunteer Advisory Committee

Minutes submitted by: David Drazenovich