

## Self Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2023

### **Introductions:**

- Carla Lehmann- Committee Chair
- Committee Members
- **Regional Center**
  - Cesar Garcia, Client Services Director
  - Alex Marquez, SDP program Manager
  - Sanaz Nasiri, Participant Choice Specialist
  - Randall Smith, Participant Choice Specialist

### **Quorum Established:**

1. Felicia Ford
2. Carla Lehmann
3. Joseph Juarez
4. Nathalie Lichtenthaeler
5. Nilo Choudry
6. Harvey Lapin
7. David Wyles
8. Elizabeth Gomez
9. Madeline Schneider
10. Ereida Galda
11. Fran Goldfarb
12. Matt Alivio
13. Lulu Cheong

***Brett Gordon is no longer a member of the committee***

### **Discussion / Approval of Minutes**

-Motion to approve minutes by Carla Lehmann. There were no objections to approving the last meeting's minutes. Motion was passed to approve minutes.

### **Public Comments:**

**Chris Arroyo:** Introduced supportive decision-making technical assistant program by SCDD. There will be community meetings to discuss barriers and other related topics. The next meeting will be held on October 23, 2023.

**Committee Chair updates:**

Carla Lehmann announced that she is going to resign from her position as community chair. She is unable to dedicate her time to the committee. The committee now needs to find a new chair person. Everyone who is interested in becoming the new committee chair can express their interest to Cesar or Carla. The individuals who are interested can present their interest to the committee at the next LVAC meeting. The committee members will then vote on a new committee chair.

Committee members thanked Carla and expressed their appreciation for Carla's hard work as committee chair.

**Committee Chair Person Report**

-Carla discussed rate increases and how other regional centers give rate increases automatically on the budget tool. Caral asked if WRC can do the same.

-Cesar: WRC follows DDS guidelines regarding rate increases. Cesar Explained DDS guidelines and also expressed that WRC also reviews each individual need.

**Public comment:**

T.A: We don't get the rate increase even when we request the rate increase and provide the justifications.

**Committee Chair comments:**

-Carla asked if WRC can put a policy in place to allow for automatic rate increases on the budget tool.

-Cesar: We still look at DDS policy and individual circumstances.

**Public comment:**

-T.A.: feels that they are being discriminated against, Hispanics are not getting rate increases as much as others.

-Cesar recommend scheduling a time with him to discuss her case

**Committee member comments:**

-Carla expressed that WRC provides rate increase inconsistently and Hispanics may be discriminated against and wants to put forth a motion to make rate increases automatic

-Felicia: There's disparity in other communities as well such as LGBT and individuals with different disabilities.

-Lulu: SDP is individualized and rate increases should be given consistently

**Public Comment:**

Chris Arroyo: If rate increase is a systematic issue and there are barriers for families to receive rate increases, then there should be equity for all. The committee should vote to recommend for WRC to put a policy in place for automatic increases.

**Motion for automatic rate increase:** Committee voted on a motion to recommend for WRC to put a policy in place for automatic rate increase.

-Motion to Approve – Carla Lehmann

-Second: Elizabeth Gomez

Motion passed Unanimously

-Joseph Juarez- Yes

-Lulu Cheong- yes

-Felicia Ford-yes

Matt Alivio-yes

Erieda Galda-Yes

Madeline- yes

Harvey Lapin-yes

David Wyles-Yes

**Committee member comments:**

-Carla: Requested for Cesar to provide updates about clarifying the requirements for clinical services

-Elizabeth: commented that the committee has not been given the guidelines clarifying the requirements for clinical services

-Cesar recommended putting together a work group to discuss clinical services

-Carla: explained that WRC is not consistent with approving skiing lessons. She has been told that Skiing is considered a luxury activity.

**Public comment:**

Chris Arroyo: recommends putting forth a motion to consider skiing as social recreational service and for WRC to demonstrate competency and humility and not deny services on spending plans. WRC should review spending plans but should not be in a position to approve/deny spending plans.

**Motion to recommend for WRC to have restrictions when it comes to approving or denying services on spending plans. Spending plans should be reviewed but not put through an “approval” process.**

-Motion to Approve – Carla Lehmann

-Second: Elizabeth Gomez

Motion passed Unanimously

-Joseph Juarez- Yes

-Lulu Cheong- yes

-Felicia Ford-yes

Matt Alivio-yes

Erieda Galda-Yes

Madeline- yes

Harvey Lapin-yes

David Wyles-Yes

Cesar will discuss this request with WRC team and discuss this at the next LVAC meeting

**WRC Updates:**

- For the month of October, WRC has Transitioned 14 new individuals into SDP
- 9 individuals have completed SDP orientation in the past month
- WRC continues to focus on vendoring independent facilitators under 099.
- WRC hosted an info session this moth to discuss 099 vendorization process
- WRC continues hosting Independent Facilitator round table every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month
- WRC Participant Choice specialist will facilitate spending plan workshops for families and self advocates every first Friday of the month starting 10/27/23.
- WRC continues working on creating the SDP unit
- WRC will also work on development and implementation of RFP funds

Cesar: We should prioritize figuring out how to use RFP funds before time runs out.

**Committee member Comments:**

-Caral: asked if Cesar can clarify the new DDS directive regarding Independent Facilitator certification requirements

-Cesar: DDS is developing standards for Independent Facilitators and FMS agencies. WRC does not have exact details. More information will be coming from DDS .

-Carla: shared that a group of Independent Facilitators are meeting with DDS regarding the new standards.

-Elizabeth: Requested if WRC can track data points on how many people are transitioning late into their next year. There are delays due to WRC not approving spending plans on time

-Cesar: WRC can track that information and include that in the data.

-Carla: requested for WRC to track the items/services that are asked to be removed from spending plans and how many denials of services.

-Lulu: shared information about the SDP Local advisory committee member collaborative hosted by DVU. DVU goes over best practice ideas and how to do things collectively as committee members.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm. Total Time, 1 Hour and 57 minutes.