

Self Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2023

Introductions:

- David Wyles- 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. David Wyles
2. Joseph Juarez
3. Nilo Choudry
4. Harvey Lapin
5. Felicia Ford
6. Elizabeth Gomez
7. Fran Goldfarb
8. Ereida Galda
9. Matt Alivio
10. Lulu Cheong

Discussion / Approval of Minutes

-Motion to approve November minutes by David Wyles. Harvey Lapin second the motion. Fran requested to correct the spelling of her last name. There were no other objections. Motion was passed to approve minutes.

Public Comments:

-Chris Arroyo: Made a suggestion that the Independent Facilitators across the state should get together and ask DDS to extend the deadline for the 099 vendorization. There should also be a new policy in place that allows IF's to do courtesy vendorship for all regional centers. These are some of the issues that has been hindering the ability of Independent Facilitators to become vendors.

-David Wyles: Agreed with Chris's comments. He feels that this is a good idea since IFs wouldn't need to fill out multiple applications.

-Harvey Lapin: put forth a motion for committee members to send a letter to DDS asking to allow Independent Facilitators to become vendors statewide

-Joseph Juarez: second the motion

-Elizabeth Gomez: agreed with what Chris suggested about asking DDS to extend the 099 deadline.

-Claudia from Claudia Cares: getting vendored originally is taking a long time as well.

-Vanessa Gomez: understand that Independent facilitators need to be become vendor and the safe guards but the requirements to become 099 vendors is too much, especially when it comes to insurance requirements. Maybe loosen up the restriction on becoming a vendor.

-Harvey Lapin: If an Independent Facilitator becomes a vendor of one regional center, then they should automatically become vendors of all regional centers.

-Alex Marquez: Here at WRC we have about a dozen who are going through the process of becoming vendors.

Motion for independent Facilitators to become vendors statewide:

-Harvey Lapin: Restated the motion to send letter to DDS asking for Independent Facilitators to become vendors statewide once they become a vendor of their home regional center.

Committee votes and motion passes unanimously.

Motion for DDS to extend the 099 deadline:

-Elizabeth Gomez: put forth a motion to write a letter to DDS requesting to extend the 099 deadline.

-Harvey Lapin: Second the motion

-Judy Mark: 099 update: She met with DSS along with Kristianna and discussed using 099 under Participant Directed Services. This way Independent Facilitators can bill for the Person Centered Plan and other pre-transition supports under Participant Directed Services. DDS seemed to like this idea and understands that it can be disastrous after January 1st since there's enough IF's vendored under 099. Judy recommended sending an email to DDS combining all motions in one email.

-Cesar Garcia: We share the same concerns. DDS did let WRC know that they are going to provide guidance to regional centers about 099 and there may be another extension. DDS does not want to stall people from transitioning into SDP.

-Fran Goldfarb: There is no downside to sending a letter to DDS about the motions that we just discussed.

-David Wyles: asked the committee to vote on Elizabeth's motion, seconded by Harvey.

Committee members vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

-Kristianna M: commented that it would be important to know how many of the 12 Independent Facilitators who are in the process of vrending with WRC will actually be working in WRC catchment area.

-Alex: We can connect with HCBS manager to see how many vendored Independent Facilitators will be working in WRC catchment area.

Motion to request to use 099 under Participant Directed Services:

-Judy Mark: 099 update: She met with DDS along with Kristianna and discussed using 099 under Participant Directed Services. This way Independent Facilitators can bill for the Person Centered Plan and other pre-transition supports under Participant Directed Services. DDS seemed to like this idea and understands that it can be disastrous after January 1st since there's enough IF's vendored under 099. Judy recommended sending an email to DDS combining all motions in one email.

-Cesar: clarified/explained Participant Directed Supports and how no vendorization/liability insurance is required.

-Fran Goldfarb Made the motion to ask DDS to use 099 under Participant Directed Services. Havery Seconds the motion.

Committee votes. Motion passed unanimously.

Cesar: recommended drafting a letter to DDS with all of the passed motions

Fran Goldfarb: stated she will draft the letter. Judy Mark, Kristianna M. and Lulu Cheong will assist as well.

Felica Ford: suggested to have a meeting to discuss letter

The committee members are not available to meet but will continue to work on putting letter together for DDS.

WRC updates:

Cesar: took part in statewide meeting and has the current statewide averages for SDP participants

-113 participants transitioning per month

- 3512 total participants in SDP
- 2352 participant on SDP waiver, 67%.
- as of October 2023, the average budget size is \$83,500.00.
- \$62,000 is being spent on average.
- SDP budgets are 39% higher than the traditional system
- DDS will be discussing with FMS agencies regarding increase of employer burden fees.

Alex:

- WRC continues to hold 2-part orientations at WRC. For November, 18 individual completed part 1 in English and 1 in Spanish. For December 5 completed part 1 in English and 1 in Spanish. For part 2, a total of 7 individuals' complete part 2 for November and December.
- For November WRC has transitioned 8 individuals into SDP, and 9 individuals for December. A total of 293 participants year to date.
- DDS directive: Remote services can be provided in pre-transition services
- Coordinated family support services is available to SDP participants, outside of SDP.
- 099- we continue to support IFs in the vendorization process and continue to have monthly IF roundtable.
- 12 independent facilitators to be vendored by January with WRC

Committee Comments:

Joseph Juarez: Asked if all committee members can sign the letter to DDS

Fran Goldfarb: will try to send a Docusign or include everyone's name once everyone gives their consent. Fran reminded everyone that the letter being drafted will include the 3 motions discussed and will try to complete it by tomorrow afternoon.

Public Comments:

Judy Marks: regarding 67% of SDP participants being part of the SDP waiver, the state requires SDP cases to be on the waiver unless they do not qualify. She will follow up with DDS regarding wavier percentages.

Cesar: Some families are choosing to be on different wavier and some families do not have or choose not to have Medi-cal.

Felicia Ford: commented that if it's a law to be on the waiver, then participant should automatically be put on the waiver.

Judy Marks: replied that it is not automatic, some families are choosing not to be institutionally deemed.

Discussion of last meetings motions:

Cesar: 2 motions were put forward during last meeting:

-automatic rate increases: WRC will continue to address needs for rate increases based on DDS directive and considering participant's needs.

-Clinical services: WRC's position is that clinical services/dollars provided in SDP should continue to be used toward clinical services and a progress report to be provided to WRC every 6 months to measure the effectiveness of the service. WRC/clinical team has met with committee members to explain our clinical process and requirements. WRC can discuss alternative services/needs if clinical services are not appropriate. Some SDP services are still governed by the Lanterman Act.

-Elizabeth Gomez: discussed that she had made a motion for WRC to discontinue the practice of asking for reports until we get direction from DDS. Also, Dr. Tom Kelly was going to come back to the LVAC meeting to answer more questions, but he never came back. Elizabeth feels that the progress report requirement is not friendly reporting and it is more controlled.

-Cesar: Clinical services was discussed with DDS and WRC did not get feedback. Many regional centers are also asking for progress reports. DDS is aware of this issue and understands some regional centers have different expectations.

-Elizabeth Gomez: Feels that there is disparity and it is effecting some families. This issue should be addressed with the board of directors. The clients have the right to choose their procedures but now it is more controlled.

Committee Chair Report/updates:

-David Wyles: RFP implementation funds and to discuss how the funds will be used.

-Lulu Cheong - Requested for WRC to go over committee-centered plan

-Alex Marguez went over WRC committee-centered plan template

-Fran Goldfarb: the committee has not come up with what the action steps are going to be. The committee did not get to this stage.

Alex: encouraged the committee to engage in conversation to see how they want to use the RFP funds.

Cesar: This discussion can be added to next month's agenda and it is important for the committee to work on actions items.

David Wyles had to leave the meeting. Joshep Juarez will be taking over the meeting.

Public Comment:

-Tammy: Her son is currently in SDP. She thanked Cesar and the team for being supportive. Her son was able to buy his mobile home. He has his needed staff to support him. Her son is very happy with this transition.

-Judy Marks: regarding rate increases, DDS directive does not mention need. SDP is strength based and person centered. It limits the participants' choice by not making rate increases automatic. Also, it would be good for WRC to take the person-centered approach and review the PCP instead of asking for progress reports for clinical services. DDS is not getting back to WRC because they don't agree with this. She urges WRC to think creatively.

-Cendy P: rate increases should be automatic. Some families get the increases, and some do not.

-Ada S: WRC did not approve some service requests made in SDP and was told to access generic resources. She has not had an SC to help her with this process.

-Felicia Ford: asked to meet one more time to discuss clinical services and RFP.

-Cesar: will ask the clinical team if we can have another meeting. We will support our families regardless. We will continue to discuss this issue in January.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm. Total Time, 2 Hour and 12 minutes.

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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 in 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 not have restrictions when it comes to services on spending plans and spending plans should be reviewed but not be 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 vrending independent facilitators under 099.
- WRC hosted an info session this moth to discuss 099 vendorization process
- WRC continues hosting Independent Facilitator round table every 1st 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 service/Notice of Action is being sent to families.

-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.

