

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Self Determination Local Volunteer Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2017

Present: Victoria Berrey, Ellen Jannol, Debra Newman, Bebo Saab – Committee Members
Ruth Janka, Evelyn Chamorro – NLACRC Staff

Absent: Sandra Baker, Nicole Carter, Mercedes Del Cid, Richard Dier, Allison Cameron Gray,
Michelle Heid – Committee Members
Julie Eby-McKenzie – State Council on Developmental Disabilities

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Debra Newman at 7:15p.m. Introductions from the Committee and guests were made. We did not have a quorum so we could not take actions at this meeting.

2. Public Input & Comments

There was no public input.

3. Questions and Comments

Because we did not have a quorum, we opted to have a question and answer session, and hear comments from our guests.

The questions consisted of:

Q. What are the main differences between the current system and Self Determination?

A. Bebo described that participants can choose their own staff (not use vendors) and use a financial management service.

Q. Does DDS feel consumers can make their own decisions under Self Determination?

A. Debra described that under the Pilot Program, many consumers were successful with Self Determination by using an independent facilitator to help them with their person centered plan and selecting service providers.

Q. How will emergencies or special indigents be handled?

A. DDS has proposed that Regional Centers are responsible for monitoring special incidents under Self Determination, but this has not been finalized. Also, providers must have a Department of Justice clearance to make sure they do not have a criminal record.

Q. How will the background check work? Who will pay for it?

A. We believe it will come out of the DDS department budget, not the individual's budget. The provider will go to a site that does LIVESCAN clearances.

Q. My son has not had adult services for 12 months. How will his budget be determined?

A. Ruth described the process of basing the budget on the last 12 months, or via an assessment through the IPP process. If unmet needs are present, or if there is a change in circumstances such as place of residence, then additional funds may be approved.

Q. My son currently gets transportation through NLACRC. Is that still possible under Self Determination?

A. Yes, if it is purchased through your Regional Center budget but you would have to enter into an agreement with the transportation agency. His budget can include a category for transportation. If his new location is further, the budget may need to be increased.

Q. Can you tell us about the lottery?

A. Ruth described the lottery process and NLACRC's 174 spots. Bebo described the selection criteria (location, disability, race/ethnicity, age and gender) and that DDS will make the final selection. He also described the outreach that NLACRC and the Committee are doing, especially in underserved communities.

Q. Is the program geared toward individuals who do not need a great amount of support?

A. No. The program is for all consumers. Ruth said that the goal is to provide a greater amount of choice, flexibility and control for the consumer. To the extent that it allows greater flexibility and choice, it may be a good choice for consumers who need a lot of support.

Q. What are the 'settings rule'?

A. Bebo described some of the settings rules with regard to employment and housing. For example, in a group home, the individual has the right to have a locked door and to choose a roommate.

Q. How will agencies like Desert Haven operate under the new HCBS rules?

A. Ruth said that under WIOA, an individual under the age of 24 must be given the opportunity to work competitively for a competitive wage, and undergo an assessment with the Department of Rehabilitation to see if they can work in 3 settings. If the individual is not yet ready to work competitively, they may be able to work at a subminimum wage and be reassessed to see if they are ready for competitive employment. So, agencies like Desert Haven will still have a role. They also have services funded by the Department of Rehabilitation. Regional Center is developing a paid internship program, and an incentive program. The paid internship program provides funding to interns at a max of \$10,400 per year so that they can work at a private company at a competitive wage, and the employer gets a free employee.

Bebo said DRC is providing seminars in Antelope Valley on May 25 (English) and June 1 (Spanish) about these issues.

Q. Could you use the funds under Self Determination for vocational training?

A. Ruth described that the original SDP application included tuition, but CMS eliminated it. There are a number of budget categories. Services are funded under these budget categories.

Q. Under Self Determination, can a consumer go to a work or educational training?

A. Ruth explained that it could, but the requirement to pursue generic funding also exists under Self Determination.

Q. Have you let high schools know about Self Determination?

A. We have not partnered with high schools because not all students are Regional Center consumers. However, we are promoting Self Determination via email, a newsletter, and mailed with IPPs.

4. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

No action taken.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 16, 2017 Meeting:

No action taken.

5. Committee Reports

A. Chair's Report – None

B. Board Actions –None

6. NLACRC/DDS/Update

a. None

7. Old Business

A. None

8. New Business

A. None

B. Future agenda planning – At our next meeting on June 15, we will review our PowerPoint and outreach materials because we did not do so tonight.

9. Public Comment

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Debra at 8:35pm.

Submitted by Victoria Berrey, Secretary.