



North Bay Regional Center

Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting

March 13, 2023

12:30 pm - 2 pm

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER A. Introductions and welcome B. Establish Quorum	<p>Introductions:</p> <p><u>Committee</u></p> <p>Ross Long, Self-Advocate Yulahlia Hernandez, DRC Debby Hight, Parent, Co-Chair Christian Nava, President at Equality Foundation New Member Ileim Moss New Committee Member</p> <p><u>Community</u></p> <p>Beth DeWitt, Dir. Client Svs. Gabriel Rogin, ED NBRC Paula Garcia, PCC NBRC Shonetrice Smith, PCC NBRC Stephany Chavez, PCC NBRC Jesus Rosales, PCC NBRC Katie Gallagher, SDP Supervisor NBRC Naomi Hagel, Phoenix Facilitation Julie LaRose, Path-Forward Facilitation Santiago Villalobos, Education Spectrum Lisa Hooks, SCDD Ileim Moss, Self-Advocate Jessica Mercado- Field Services REP Lila V Trinity Lopez Interpreter Huyen Tran Aveanna Theresa Scripps, Parent Corinne Sixkiller DDS Suzanne Sandberg Trinidad's Iphone Spanish Inter Lili ASL Interpreter Ileim Moss Colin Cheer</p>
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	A quorum was established at 12:44PM
CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA: Additions or Modifications	Beth DeWitt mentions bringing up a Self-Determination Program (SDP) team announcement. Debby Height asks if it is located under “Reports” category, to which then Beth confirms it was not but requested to add the announcement under reports.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 13, 2023	<p>Katie Gallagher presents overview of the Self-Determined Advisory Committee (SDAC) Minutes for the month of January of 2023. Debby sets and confirms approvals of motions with committee members.</p> <p>Katie presents an overview of SDAC Minutes for the month of February of 2023, which was considered a “Special SDAC Meeting”. Debby confirms she was not at the meeting but sets the motion to approve. Ross Long and Yulahlia Hernandez approve and ileim moss abstains because ileim was not present at the meeting.</p> <p>Debby asked Katie to upload SDAC Minutes onto the North Bay Regional Center (NBRC) website and Katie agreed. Debby proceeds to ask if the recording of SDAC meeting is okay to be posted on the website, as well. Katie and Beth both confirm yes.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENTS: <i>Each person will be afforded up to three minutes to speak.</i>	No public comments.
REPORTS <p>A. Chair Report: Debby Hight</p> <p>B. NBRC Updates: NBRC SDP team</p> <p> a. Enrollment Report/update on numbers, process for enrollment</p> <p> b. Review of approved SDAC Funds allocation/amounts</p>	<p>A. Debby was not present at the last statewide meeting and asked if anyone was able to attend. Theresa Scripps confirmed she attended and mentions her takeaway was to try to get more Financial Management Services (FMS) onboard, discussion around diversity, and more Independent Facilitators. Debby asks if they resolved the issue surrounding FMS, to which Theresa replied that they did not and are working on it.</p> <p>Lisa Hooks mentions that at the statewide meeting, they gave guidance that FMS would get paid weekly, which expired in January but there is a new notice from California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) that extended this throughout September 2023. The reason being is that payments were not being received in a timely manner. Payment was the biggest topic in regard to how individuals are paid and which types of services they offer, as well as how to make sure FMS are available statewide.</p> <p>Debby asked Lisa if they talked about the ability to get more FMS. Debby mentions people try to get into an FMS but are</p>

<p>and services, plans to start roll-out.</p> <p>C. SCDD Report: Lisa Hooks D. Phoenix Facilitation update</p>	<p>either waiting for too long or are turned down; Debby has seen posts from the SDP Facebook site. Lisa answers that FMS are looking for more to fill the need and gap for services, which is a barrier to folks accessing services as there are not enough FMS to service the state. Lisa continues to say that some of the FMS talked about pay being an issue. The one component that is required, which is being with an FMS, does not meet the demand.</p> <p>Debby says she remembered there was some confusion before on how service providers would be paid and originally, parents or a self-determined representative would pay. Then, the decision was made to where it is better to go through an FMS. Debby asked if it could go backwards. Lisa clarifies that this is a program that involves fiscal responsibility for dollars and do not want to put the dollars out there for anyone and to see if they will be responsible for taxpayer dollars.</p> <p>Gabriel Rogin steps in and mentions that the workload for FMS now is greater than what they anticipated in the beginning and the rates they are being paid, according to the FMS, are not sufficient to address their workload. In terms of process, the FMS requirement is in statute, along with the rest of the Self-Determination structure. Gabriel mentions he doesn't think DDS can step in and change the law.</p> <p>Debby thanks Theresa for attending the statewide meeting. The issue with the FMS is a top priority and for her stepdaughter, who is enrolled in the Self-Determination Program, it was the biggest source of frustration and biggest roadblock accessing to. Independent Facilitators was also another area difficult to access. Theresa asks Julie La Rose and Naomi Hagel at Phoenix Facilitation if they heard anything more from the groups they work with. Naomi speaks and mentions they had the FMS Roundtable a week ago and it was mentioned that Cambrian is looking at a May 1st start date, GT Independence is looking at May/June 1st, Aveanna is looking at September 1st, Mains'l is looking at September 1st with a very specific way to get on their waitlist, and Acumen does not have any waitlists but they typically take 60 days for the set up. Naomi recommends that clients/families do not need to contact FMS until they have a certified Individual Budget or Spending Plan. Doing this step beforehand can cause frustration since some FMS require a consultation until the clients/families have that documentation. Naomi inserted links to find Independent Facilitators in English and Spanish via Zoom chat.</p>
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	<p>Lisa mentions that historically, clients/families were encouraged to contact the FMS early on to ask what they offer.</p> <p>B. Debby introduces Part B. Beth asks if she can speak in her announcement and introduces Katie as the new Self-Determination Supervisor at NBRC!</p> <p>After the announcement, Katie presents NBRC Self-Determination data. Introduces Participant Choice Coordinators and their roles/responsibilities. Katie presents data from March. There are 27 officially enrolled Self-Determination clients. In September 2022, the enrollment number was at 15 clients. Katie presented the Self-Determination flow chart and its use for Service Coordinators. Katie continued to present enrollment over time, from 2019 up to March 2023. Katie predicts the enrollment number to rise to 31 clients by April 2023. Data shows that Autism has the highest amount of eligibility diagnoses per Self-Determination enrollments. Katie presents ethnicity enrollments currently listed in Self-Determination with White clients being the highest number. With the hope of SDAC funds, the Self-Determination team can increase diversity inclusion. Regarding age, many enrolled clients are under the age of 18, then followed by clients 25-34 years old. There is one client in the 55-64 age bracket. For gender, majority of Self-Determination clients are male and eight female clients. For language, there are two clients that speak Hindi, one that speaks Russian, and the remaining speak English. Katie presents data on enrollments per month to give more insight on heavier month enrollments, especially since the SDP team will be working on staff training, fairs, etc. Katie mentions re-enrollment and now that there is a SDP Team, contact will be made two to three months before their re-enrollment date to kickstart progress.</p> <p>Lilia Valitov asked Katie about re-enrollment and Katie clarified that SDP is year to year for the purpose of allowing room if needs are changed. Lilia asked since her son's Spending Plan was certified in June of 2022, and their FMS of choice opens in March 2023. Katie clarifies that since the paperwork was done early, they will still look at the re-enrollment year which is when they officially being Self-Determination.</p> <p>Lisa asked if Katie could include the number of clients who decided to not re-enroll. Katie states there are only two clients who decided to not re-enroll due to health issues in the family. Since things have calmed down, they have reached out to the SDP Team about their interest again.</p>
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	<p>Katie answered iliem's question ileim asked in the Zoom chat. Katie explains how the information is gathered through intake and through the NBRC database, SANDIS.</p> <p>Ross Long asked if the majority of Self-Determination clients live with their parents. Katie answered that since many SDP participants are under the age of 18, they still live with their parents. However, clients that are in the 25–34-year-old age bracket are utilizing ILS/SLS services. Ross then asked if SDP would do more outreach towards communities who do not live with their parents/guardians. Katie responded that because of the newly formed SDP department, there is more support with enrollment, therefore, will give a better reputation to spread the word more about the program.</p> <p>ilieim asked in the zoom chat regarding a question about diversity. Katie answered that SDP works closely with the diversity unit within NBRC and brainstorm ideas together. Katie touched on how there are three Participant Choice Coordinators that speak Spanish and there is more support in that aspect.</p> <p>Lilia asked if there is going to be Russian translation for Russian-speaking families. Katie answered that SDP will ensure that translators are present during meetings if there is a need. Beth stepped in and mentioned NBRC contracted with a new translation and interpreting organization to provide a wider range of languages.</p> <p>Katie moves to the next subject in regards of what was agreed upon at the February SDAC meeting. What was agreed: 1) Extension of services provided by Education Spectrum through June 30th 2023, which is now through Phoenix Facilitation. Second, NBRC request for proposals to develop a network of Independent Facilitators – a great benefit to help recruit more in the North Bay region that are knowledgeable of the generic resources and what accessible supports are there so when they are in SDP, they can offer great help for clients/families. Beth added that NBRC will complete a process for the request for proposals and will post information seeking applicants for the purpose of being an Independent Facilitator. NBRC will hold sessions for anyone who is interested and will set a deadline for applications. This process will start within the next few weeks before the end of the current fiscal year. Third, NBRC's request to increase diversity and outreach to local communities. SDP Team is working closely with diversity team and brainstorming ideas on how to support those in underserved communities. Fourth, Katie added that meetings will also need to be more accessible and ensure translation for SDAC meetings are funded.</p>
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	<p>Fifth, \$1,000 to be counted towards miscellaneous administrative supplies to create flyers, gift cards, incentives, etc. Sixth, SDP resource fairs will benefit not only clients, but staff and vendors as well. The rough estimate of SDAC funds \$53,000 agreed upon in the February SDAC meeting. Katie mentioned one of the goals that was not added was SDP training for staff, as it is more of an internal need.</p> <p>Debby asked who will take over Phoenix Facilitation by the end of June. Katie answered that the team is working on a transition plan to offer support with transitioning clients/families. The Participant Choice Coordinator's will help the clients with issues Phoenix Facilitation has been helping them with.</p> <p>Lilia asked what a Participant Choice Coordinator is and what their role is. Katie explained that each of them are assigned to units and specific case management units and handle the SDP clients while supporting the Service Coordinators.</p> <p>C. Lisa presented that the State Council of Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) has more SDP orientations that are available in additional languages. The more requests they receive, they will add more languages to their roster. Lisa mentioned that if there is anyone that is not able to attend an orientation through their regional center, they can attend one through the State Council of Developmental Disabilities website. Over a 6-month period, the SCDD was able to give 105 training sessions between July 2022 to January 2023. They are hoping to see an increase in their numbers, especially after adding in more languages. The SCDD Orange County office now has Independent Facilitator trainings available in Vietnamese and are online, as well as English and Spanish. Lisa brings up the two potential members and introduces them: Theresa Scripps and Lilia Valitov. Lisa proposes to set up a breakout room to set a vote. Debby states to have Phoenix Facilitation give their presentation first before the vote.</p> <p>D. Naomi Hagel introduces Phoenix Facilitation, which is a similar organization to Education Spectrum. Cathy Gotts of Education Spectrum is not able to be present day to day due to her own schedule, which is why the contract was moved over to Phoenix Facilitation. They will be accepting new referrals through April 15th, 2023. Current coaching clients in the middle of transitioning to SDP are ongoing. Naomi reported she views NBRC as a place where coaching is no longer necessary. Naomi re-stated she will send out links directly to their website as well as their coaching links. Debby asks if their coaching services come out of their SDP funds, to which Naomi replies with no and they are paid through voluntary advisory committee funds while</p>
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	<p>being completely free to the participant. Naomi further explains that Phoenix Facilitation do not currently accept NBRC participants for ongoing independent facilitation and/or person-centered planning services for it being a conflict of interest since they offer coaching services to NBRC participants that are interested in SDP.</p> <p>Debby moves to the next subject and asks Theresa and Lilia to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Theresa is a stepmother for a NBRC participant that is now a SDP participant. They became aware of the SDP program through the Executive Director through one of their vendors. Katie was previously assigned as the Service Coordinator for this participant and Theresa stated how beneficial it was to have Katie assist and support them through the process. Theresa was involved with the early training at NBRC, as well as the training for how to become an independent facilitator to learn more about the program. Theresa acted as Sara's Independent Facilitator up until Theresa wanted another independent perspective and hired an Independent Facilitator. Throughout Theresa's experience, she has an educated and extensive approach regarding SDP. Theresa mentioned the roadblocks they encountered throughout the process and its difficulties, as well as how it can be difficult for participants to interpret.</p> <p>Lilia introduces herself and comes from a Russian background with Russian as her first language, as well as her son who is enrolled in SDP. Lilia received information about SDP through NBRC and mentioned that while it was difficult to understand the complexity behind SDP, Lilia saw SDP as a great decision. Lilia explained she saw the program help her son encounter greater opportunities to help him be able to express himself, engage further in social/recreational activities, and securing a job. Lilia brought up the importance of having translation about SDP in different languages as it can be difficult to navigate. Lilia attended independent facilitation training through the Los Angeles Autism Society and can be certified fully in April.</p> <p>Debby and Lisa facilitate the voting process and Katie creates the breakout room for Lilia and Theresa. Debby shares that they are both great candidates with a knowledgeable background about SDP and independent facilitation. Ross comments that they will both be really helpful to the committee. ileim adds that they would be good additions, but there is a need to support translation for languages other than Spanish. Yuhlahlia speaks that she thinks it is good they have experience with the program and with independent facilitation and shares the same concern</p>
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	<p>about including more diversity and translation. Lisa adds that Ana, a spanish speaking staff member from Matrix, stated she wanted to reactive and her application which ended up being approved for reactivation. She will come back on behalf of the Spanish speaking community. She was a member of the committee but was on a long hiatus.</p> <p>Katie adds back Lilia and Theresa from their breakout rooms and Debby commences the voting process. Debby motions to vote for Lilia and Theresa to be appointed by NBRC. ileim seconds and agrees. Debby asks for a vote on bringing Lilia and Theresa to the sub committee and asks for all those in favor. Motion passes and Lilia and Theresa are now a part of the committee.</p>
OLD BUSINESS	Debby suggests for those who are looking for outreach to find independent facilitators to try Parents Can located in Napa. They have many advocates that could help with outreach.
NEW BUSINESS New member applications-Lisa Hooks/NBRC	Two new committee members.
PUBLIC COMMENT: <i>Each person will be afforded up to three minutes to speak.</i>	N/A
AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS	N/A
NEXT MEETING: <i>May 8, 2023</i>	
ADJOURNMENT	2:00PM

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f), individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in this meeting should contact the SDP email address at sdp@nbrc.net. The Self-Determination Advisory Committee Agenda is posted on nbrc.net and scdd.ca.gov. *The Self Determination Advisory Committee members may hold a closed meeting to discuss potential members.*