

D R A F T

Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2016

At Westside Regional Center, 5901 Green Valley Cir., Culver City, CA 90230

Members Present and Regional Center SDAC represented

Ronnie Allan (CVRC)
Rhys Burchill (RCOC)
Michele Carbone (TCRC)
Joyce Clark (SDRC, on phone)
Ronda Denver (FNRC)
Richard Dier (NLACRC)
Vi Ibarra (RCEB)
Martha Johanson (SARC)
Sherry Johnson (SCLARC)
Sonia Jones (NBRC)
Miriam Kang (HRC)
Cindy Lemas (RCRC)
April Lopez (SCDD Chair)
Judy Mark (WRC)
Joyce McNair (ACRC)
Peter Mendoza (GGRC)
Virgilio Orlina (ELARC)
Maia Pawooskar (IRC)
Cheri Pettiford (SGPRC)
Lisa Utsey (VMRC)
Michelle Wolf (FDLRC)
Rick Wood (KRC)

Members Absent None

Others Attending In-Person

Chris Arroyo (SCDD staff)
Catherine Blakemore (DRC)
Aaron Carruthers (SCDD staff)
Evelyn Chamorro (NLACRC)
Linda Chan Rapp (HRC SDAC)
Cindy Chiu (SCDD staff)
Nilo Choudry (WRC)
Ana DaSilva (SCLARC)
Teri DeBell (CASH PCR)
Ivy Diaz (USC UCEDD)
Alnita Dunn (SCDD LA RAC and SCLARC)
Tamika Foots Rachal (SCDD staff)
Tom Fambro (FDLRC)
Rosalinda Garcia (HRC)
Fran Goldfarb (WRC)
Raeheiu Gomez (North Valley)
Melody Goodman (SCDD staff)
Mary Hernandez (HRC)
Diana Hernandez (24 Hour Homecare)
Lisa Hooks (SCDD staff)
Ruth Janka (NLACRC)
Sidney Jackson (CVRC)

Others Attending In-Person (continued)

Esther Kelsey (WRC Self-Advocacy)
Roseangela Kenney (HRC)
Darlene Kilmartin
Ronda Kopito (ASLA)
Pierre Landry (SCDD LA RAC and FDLRC)
Connie Lapin (ASLA)
Harvey Lapin (ASLA)
Laura Larsen (FNRC)
Cathay Liu (Independent Facilitator)
Debra Newman (NLACRC)
Sonia Ojeda (24 Hour Homecare)
Terrence Payne (SCLARC)
Kathryn Platnick (HRC)
Mark Polit (parent)
Michelle Resnick (Jewish Federation of Los Angeles)
Gabriel Rogin (SCDD staff)
Christine Sheppard (Community Interface Svc)
Kim Sinclair (ASLA)
Vicki Smith (SCDD staff)
Melinda Sullivan (FDLRC)
April Stewart (24 Hour Homecare)
Christine Tolbert (SCDD staff)
Diana Ugalde (SCLARC)
Willie West (RCRC)
Amy Westling (ARCA)

Call to Order

Chairperson April Lopez called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

1. **Establishment of Quorum**

A quorum was present.

2. **Welcome**

Chairperson Lopez welcomed everyone, and explained the role/meeting objectives of the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC). Executive Director Aaron Carruthers explained the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Rules which govern this body, as well as Robert's Rules of Order.

3. **Introductions/Updates from Local Self-Determination Advisory Committees**

SSDAC members introduced themselves and described the following: one thing that has worked well in their Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) and one thing that could use more support in their region.

Rhys Burchill (RCOC SDAC) – Each member participates and gives input into the agenda. They need more training on Person-Centered Planning, using a train-the-trainer model, and utilizing people who are independent of the regional center.

Martha Johanson (SARC SDAC) – There is good collaboration among parents, providers, staff and SCDD. They need more clarification on the direction the SDAC should be taking.

Peter Mendoza (GGRC SDAC) – They had large attendance at the first 2 SDAC meetings. Now they are losing people. There is no direction from the regional center on their role. Not all information from the Department of Developmental Services' Statewide Self-Determination Group is getting to the regional centers. Regional center staff need to be trained. Mr. Mendoza also asked that more breaks be built into the agenda for future meetings of this Committee.

Virgilio Orlina (ELARC SDAC) – They have had 5 meetings every other month since June, 2015. One of their SDAC members has a daughter in the pilot. The motto of the Committee is "Let's learn together." They are spreading the word about their meetings with flyers in multiple languages to reach underserved groups. They would like more guidance on how to outreach to more adults, not just parents.

Sonia Jones (NBRC SDAC) – They have had 3 very positive meetings with good turnout and good feedback. Ms. Jones has not had good communication or services with the regional center.

Michelle Carbone (TCRC SDAC) – They have had good presentations on Self-Determination and good attendance and feedback. They need help with outreach to and participation from people who live in rural areas.

Judy Mark (WRC SDAC) – They have been meeting monthly since December, 2014, with 15 meetings so far. Their meetings are open and inclusive to anyone interested including Committee members, parents, consumers, staff, and the public who all sit around the table together. They do aggressive outreach in 4 languages to all parent groups and all service coordinators. They are becoming experts on various aspects of the Self-Determination law. They have sub-committees for outreach, consumer/family training, staff training, and for provider training. They would like more plain-language materials.

Cindy Lemas (RCRC SDAC) – This regional center was part of the pilot. Self-Determination works and has made a huge difference. The SDAC has met 3 times. They are anxious to spread the word. The area is very rural. They would like to see more training for all regional center staff.

Richard Dier (NLACRC SDAC) – Their committee of 11 has met 6 or 7 times. They have had good training on person-centered planning by Jay Nolan Center and Tierra del Sol. The regional center has assigned one full-time person to self-determination. They need more training. He wonders what the committee and the system will be doing in 5 years when Self-Determination is open to everyone.

Rick Wood (KRC SDAC) – This regional center was part of the pilot. The committee is very enthusiastic. Their vast geography makes it challenging to get people to meetings. They do not have sufficient staff support, attention or direction.

Maia Pawooskar (IRC SDAC) – While IRC remains closed to the public, the committee has met at the local State Council office and has had great support from SCDD. It is hard to get minority communities to attend. As the largest regional center in the state, they will have 242 slots for Self-Determination in the first 3 years. So far, only 180 have expressed interest. Many don't understand self-determination, are fearful, and IRC staff are not well-trained.

Sherry Johnson (SCLARC SDAC) – They use flyers and have created a short video to help with outreach. They still aren't getting lots of interest from the public. They need more training for consumers and staff as well as training on unmet needs, person-centered planning, and Fiscal Management Services. More clarity on the role of the Committee is also needed.

Ronnie Allan (CVRC SDAC) – They are doing trainings and are working on a skit about Self-Determination.

Lisa Utsey (VMRC SDAC) – They meet quarterly and they need more training materials.

Miriam Kang (HRC SDAC) – They meet monthly, focusing on a different topic each month. They have good collaboration with the regional center and there is good information on HRC's website. They need outreach to get more people to the meetings, beyond the autism community which has done an excellent job of creating awareness.

Michelle Wolf (FDLRC SDAC) – They have been meeting for a year and have had good leadership from the regional center staff. The challenge is to reach diverse communities. They want to make sure a representative sample fills the 72 slots they will have, not just the active people. They plan to make more use of existing parent support groups. There are lots of questions and misunderstanding, such as: Will I lose my service coordinator? Will I get less money? How can we do a person-centered plan if we don't know the hopes and dreams of our child?

Ronda Denver (FNRC SDAC) – This regional center covers 30,000 square miles and 9 counties. They have had 2 meetings with a good mix of providers, consumers and families. They are working with Claudia Bolton on person-centered planning. Four supervisors are being trained as trainers. They have developed a new IPP form.

Vi Ibarra (RCEB SDAC) – They have done a good job of connecting with 2 Family Resource Centers and the DD Councils from each county. They have a strong relationship with the regional center and State Council. Due to staff changes, they will have new people and are concerned about a break in continuity.

Joyce McNair (ACRC SDAC) – She is representing Lisa Cooley today. They have met monthly since June. They have 2 sub-committees, one for outreach and one on independent facilitation. They have had 3 trainings – one on FMS, one on the pilot, and 1 by Judy Mark on independent facilitation and person-centered planning. Because of the geography, they don't get many people from the public at the meetings. They have done a good job of outreach to the CAC's in the schools. Regional center service coordinators have been instructed to sign up anyone who expresses interest. They already have 500 to 1000 on the list.

Joyce Clark (SDRC SDAC, on the phone) – They have been proactive with community trainings and do an annual conference. They need materials and fact sheets translated into other languages. She suggests DDS communicate with regional centers statewide about the process and next steps.

4. **Self-Determination Program Expectations**

Chairperson Lopez introduced Catherine Blakemore, Executive Director of Disability Rights California, who gave an overview of self-determination, and discussed legal requirements and roles and responsibilities. She explained that self-determination is a system transformation offering choice and an opportunity to think differently. She listed and defined the principles of self-determination: Freedom, Authority, Support, Responsibility, and Confirmation.

Ms. Blakemore further discussed outreach and training. The law says each regional center must provide training about self-determination and must contract with local consumer and family groups to reach diverse groups. The state is required to develop informational materials and make sure regional center staff are trained. DDS has developed a training video.

Among other things, SDAC's can be used to: help translate the video and other materials, make sure each regional center's pre-enrollment informational meetings are meaningful, partner with the regional centers to train service coordinators, and make sure Independent Facilitators are trained.

It is important to understand how the Person-Centered Planning process differs from the IPP, and to keep in mind the outcomes an individual wishes in order to achieve the life he or she envisions.

She also discussed budget development in self-determination, which is based on what was spent on an individual in the past 12 months. Unmet needs or changes in circumstances might justify a change in that budget. The Fiscal Management

Service will be a key player in managing an individual's funds, paying for services in the Person-Centered plan, and helping individuals stay within their budget. They are the only service that must be vendored.

Potential roles for this *Statewide* Self-Determination Advisory Committee are: to identify best practices, list creative innovative things and share them around the state; make efforts to get the waiver approved a priority; evaluate people's satisfaction with self-determination and identify barriers that need to be fixed; and give advice to DDS and the regional centers for the report they must submit to the Legislature in 3 years.

Keep in mind that participants in Self-Determination still must use generic services if they exist. Services purchased must be eligible under the HCBS waiver and services don't have to be vendored. Programs cut in 2009 can be purchased with Self-Determination. The waiver must comply with the state's transition plan implementing the new HCBS rules.

5. **Panel Presentation**

Chairperson Lopez introduced Rick Wood and Willie West who spoke about their experiences with the Self-Determination pilot project. Mr. Wood stressed that Self-Determination is not complicated. Thirty-six people were in the pilot project at Kern Regional Center and 33 remain. In his family member's case, he ended up using 1/3 of his budget, still satisfying all identified needs. People used their budget for creative things such as: car repairs, home renovations, equestrian therapy, cell phones, adaptive skiing, health club memberships, and microbusiness development. He said person-centered planning gets easier and easier each year. It gives a real opportunity to evaluate quality of life – what is going well and what needs to be improved. Freedom is a very powerful concept. He shared some of the differences between traditional services and Self-Determination. One of the most remarkable differences is that there were no fair hearings in the pilot.

Willie West has been in Self-Determination since 2000, picked by a lottery to be in the pilot. He is happy to be living independently and says it is working great. With Self-Determination, it is cheaper to buy medical supplies or wheelchair parts. He wishes Self-Determination was implemented statewide 15 years ago without the need to wait for the waiver.

6. **Person-Centered Planning Exercise**

Chairperson Lopez introduced Judy Mark and Diana Ugalde. Judy Mark explained person-centered planning in more detail. She introduced Diana Ugalde who shared her story of identifying her dreams in the person-centered planning process, including having a successful translation business, getting a wheelchair lift for a car, and moving into her own place. She is excited about the opportunities Self-Determination will provide for her.

7. **Lunch Break**

Refer to PowerPoint in the meeting packet for the lunchtime presentation on Self-Determination by Judy Mark (WRC).

8. **Update on Self-Determination Waiver**

Jim Knight (DDS) provided a detailed status of the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver for Self-Determination. DDS received a response about the Waiver from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) in December 2015 with about 180 questions/points of clarification for DDS. Many of the 180 questions are similar in nature such as how services are defined, duplication of services, service provider oversight (qualifications of service providers and frequency of oversight).

Jim Knight (DDS) explained the current system functions through vendors of the regional centers, but the new system will not have a layer of vendors and the subsequent requirements of a vendor. Concerns from CMS were special incident reporting such as which entity will have the responsibility of SIR reporting. Also, CMS rejected college tuition and related expenses such as books.

Jim Knight (DDS) summarized that the DDS must clarify in the Waiver what each service is/does and clarify how it does not overlap with other services. Each time a waiver application is submitted for federal funding, there are always questions from the feds. Working with the advisory group who is providing good suggestions and “encouragement” is helpful. DDS will also be working with the federal government to work through the questions in a form of technical assistance. DDS goal is to respond to the questions by the end of March 2016. There will likely be further questions from CMS and DDS will make every effort to respond to the future questions as quickly as possible. This will include working with the advisory group as DDS wants input throughout this process from stakeholders.

Outreach and Training: DDS is working with the advisory group to get the information out to consumers/families. Jim Knight (DDS) referred to DDS

website, posted outreach video on the DDS website, and explained that DDS will be finalizing training materials for the regional centers to use over the next few months. He solicited the input from any and all stakeholders for this task.

The 2500 consumer rollout lottery is based on regional center, age, ethnicity, gender, and disability. There will be a pre-enrollment informational meeting, which is mandatory and will explain the difference from the traditional regional center vendor model of services. There will be a random selection from those names who have completed the pre-enrollment informational meeting. If the 2500 consumers are not met initially, then there will be increased outreach to the “missing” spots.

Jim Knight (DDS) elaborated a bit about CMS concerns about the Fiscal Management Services and Independent Facilitator portion of the waiver, specifically if they would be capable of handling the 2500 rollout consumers and future enrollees. He concluded his time by indicating training materials can be adapted to best reach family-run organizations, support groups and local advisory committees. He also reiterated the option to sign-up for DDS email updates.

Questions/Concerns:

Peter Mendoza (GGRC) – Their SDAC is having difficulties with regional center staff support, Bagley-Keene violations (posting requirements). They need direction from DDS to ensure they are able to get their local committee back on track.

Cindy Lemas (RCRC) – She agrees that direction from DDS to all regional centers would be helpful.

Martha Johanson (SARC) – Shared that she is working to translate the outreach video in Spanish as well as the SD Waiver into Spanish for the Autism Society of San Francisco. She also wondered how much geography was considered in the selection process.

Jim Knight (DDS) responded that the selection process does not go down to the county level, only by regional center catchment area.

Judy Mark (WRC) - Responded to Martha Johanson about her work for the Autism Society of San Francisco citing there may be difficulties in the translation of the Waiver. She commented that the geography

consideration was very time-consuming for the workgroup and it would help to focus beyond the phase-in when it will be open to all consumers.

Michelle Wolf (FDLRC) - Suggested far more involvement with social media/marketing such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook as a grassroots way of spreading the word.

Virgilio Orlina (ELARC) - Requested closed-captioning of the outreach video in other threshold languages.

Sonia Jones (NBRC) - Needs help from translators during their local meetings because currently members of the public have been assisting with translations.

Ronald Allan (CVRC) - Suggested going to colleges to have students help with translation.

Richard Dier (NLACRC) - Questioned the “technical assistance” portion of the DDS response to the SD Waiver and wondered if the answers/responses need to go back through public posting (which may further delay the process).

Jim Knight (DDS) indicated that DDS is using the technical assistance provided by CMS, which is called the Quality Meeting Strategy where data and measurements are needed. It is not a requirement for the responses to be set out for public comment so there will be no delay for that reason.

Miriam Kang (HRC) - Asked how families with dual-diagnosed consumers will know how they are categorized for purposes of the phase-in.

Jim Knight (DDS) responded to check with the regional center to determine which diagnosis qualifies them for regional center services.

Chairperson Lopez suggested that people continue to provide information and suggestions to Jim/DDS and offered to add a breakdown to the letter.

Judy Mark (WRC) – Suggested that everyone be as supportive as possible to DDS in an effort to help facilitate the process.

Maia Pawooskar (IRC) – Wondered if demographic information could be requested of the regional centers so they know who needs increased outreach.

Judy Mark (WRC) – Responded to Maia Pawooskar (IRC) that yes demographic information is available.

9. Overview of Financial Management Services

Victor Lira from Premier Healthcare provided a presentation about the role of Financial Management Services (FMS) in Self-Determination. He expanded on the different types of FMS from which to choose and the positive/negative balance to both. See PowerPoint included in packet for details related to this presentation.

Public Comment: Pierre Landry asked about the concept of hostile work environment and who would be responsible for legal aspect if there were problems. Victor Lira (Premier) responded that the Fiscal Management Services provider would need to train the consumer to understand the law. He also explained the benefit to using skilled/trained staff for this reason.

Richard Dier (NLACRC) shared that he is in the business of protecting his clients from liability, so with the different FMS models, who bears the responsibility? Victor responded with the FMS Agent model, the participant is responsible and with the Co-Employer model the FMS is the first line of defense.

Sonia Jones (NBRC) thinks it is imperative that consumer's understand the budget, which may be difficult for some. This would be a good use of the independent facilitator.

Peter Mendoza (GGRC) received a loan from his regional center to help him get started in Supported Living, which he satisfied over the course of a year. It worked well for him, but he had to get used to viewing things from a "workplace" perspective.

Ronald Allen (CVRC) expressed concerns of the cost of the Financial Management Services. Victor shared that it would be ideal for the FMS providers to have the same rate structure, but there is a suggested cap of \$150 per month/per consumer.

Victor Lira (Premier) added that it would help if the FMS is required to have a meaningful credit line which could carry up to three months of services (for all their signed consumers). This would help protect consumers from less reputable FMS companies. Also CPA oversight is imperative to ensure adherence to tax laws.

Judy Mark (WRC) thinks information about the FMS needs to be in consumer-friendly language.

Chairperson Lopez has owned her own business for 17 years and has done it herself after the initial setup when she hired someone to help with QuickBooks.

Cindy Lemas (RCRC) asked if Self-Determination funds can go directly to the consumer. Victor confirmed that the FMS manages all funds.

Michelle Carbone (TCRC) asked if the FMS would be able to manage car insurance and pull driving records. Victor stated they may be able to do that.

Chairperson Lopez briefly commented about workers comp and auto insurance costs.

Michelle Wolf (FDLRC) asked if FMS provides 1099 tax forms as with income. Victor responded that the Self-Determination funds are not considered income, so 1099s will not be provided.

Virgilio Orlina (ELARC) asked if the consumer needs to keep all receipts, such as for groceries. Victor confirmed that the FMS keeps invoices but does not require receipts since groceries are not a service under Self-Determination.

10. **Roundtable Discussion**

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers facilitated this portion of the meeting. He summarized the needs expressed earlier from each of the local SDAC representatives: “training, train the trainer, FMS, SD program itself, RC staff needing training, and outreach.” The goal of this discussion is to determine best practices and construct a training toolbox, which the local committees can use.

Training:

Judy Mark (WRC) offered her training, but with the caveat that changes are occurring regularly and to take that into consideration with all materials constructed. She also volunteered the materials from the Autism Society of Los Angeles.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers volunteered the SCDD materials for use by everyone.

Chairperson Lopez will be pulling all the potential materials together so they can be accessed via the web. Also, please verify before distributing that the information is correct at the time of use.

Rick Wood (KRC) has concerns that posting resources/training materials prior to waiver approval could lead to more problems as the information could be incorrect.

Judy Mark (WRC) replied that this entire program is a work-in-progress.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers shared “by the time you know everything, it is too late.”

Michelle Wolf (FDLRC) requested a roster with everyone’s (SSDAC) information so they may keep in contact with each other.

Maia Pawooskar (IRC) would appreciate if local SDAC committee members could be reimbursed for mileage due to distance traveled for some. Also, she volunteered a Facebook group “Self-Determination SB468” is open for people to join.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers clarified that the state will pay for the SSDAC meetings and the regional center pays for the local SDAC meetings.

Public comment: Pierre Landry shared that trainings help the trainers to learn as they train, which still benefits everyone in spite of changes to curriculum.

Peter Mendoza (GGRC) thinks it is nice to have material in a centralized place and would like to have access to the trainings, as needed.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers clarified the need to keep to Bagley-Keene for communications among advisory members.

Outreach:

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers solicited comments/suggestions regarding outreach (with preference to rural areas, if possible).

Joyce McNair (ACRC) shared a one-page letter constructed by Alta Regional Center about Self-Determination, which has been widely distributed thus far and seems to be well-received by consumers.

Judy Mark (WRC) has been working with WRC to add a check box to their IPP document, to guarantee that the individual Service Coordinators have presented this at each IPP. Also Family Resource Centers, support groups, and care providers.

Miriam Kang (HRC) shared that she believes that the regional center Service Coordinator's need training first.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers shared the authority of the SSDAC was to develop best practices.

Chairperson Lopez thought using YouTube videos for training and outreach purposes would be well-received by consumers. She volunteered Judy Mark (WRC) for one.

Martha Johanson (SARC) shared that it is important to speak their language, listen, offer options/materials for other threshold languages, and not to overwhelm people with too much detail.

Ronald Allan (CVRC) is concerned about low attendance at the local SDAC meetings in spite of exhaustive outreach.

Public comment: Sidney Jackson (CVRC) is a program manager for the Self-Determination unit at Central Valley Regional Center. They have been travelling to present on Self-Determination to the very small towns in their geographic catchment area. They have gone to libraries in rural communities, colleges, and advisory meetings to provide information. So far they have 169 people interested in their 141 slots for the phase-in.

Joyce McNair (ACRC) asked where we find the information being presented for informational purposes.

Public comment: Sidney Jackson (CVRC) offered their CVRC website and the Family Resource Center. During their outreach, they have been able to communicate in Spanish (Yolanda Cruz, SCDD Manager), English, and Hmong.

Chairperson Lopez agreed with the need for positive outreach to the small towns so that enough people are reached.

Martha Johanson (SARC) shared that schools have been allowing them to use and present for Spanish-speaking consumers/families in her area.

Rhys Burchill (RCOC) stated RCOC local SDAC has been identifying organizations (Down Syndrome and Prader Willi) as well as special education schools to approach for training.

Virgilio Orlina (ELARC) offered their Consumer Advisory Committee, Family Resource Center and ELARC website.

Public Comment: Tom Fambro offered to consider the disabled student groups at local colleges (specifically in Pasadena).

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers asked if anyone had any plain-language materials.

Judy Mark (WRC) agreed that plain-language materials were needed and there should be "testing" with the materials to ensure they are understood by consumers.

Public Comment: Rosalinda Garcia (HRC SDAC) offered to help modify materials into a plain-language format. Miriam Kang (HRC) will work with her to support her in determining which material to begin with.

Public comment: Connie Lapin shared the DDS website has great plain-language materials to use.

Richard Dier (NLACRC) suggested using specific examples when outreaching to rural communities, in an effort to better relate.

Michelle Carbone (TCRC) agreed that vignettes/success stories are needed to help people understand it can work for many different levels of need. Chairperson Lopez suggested using media (YouTube) to better reach others.

Public comment: Melody Goodman (SCDD) offered the Los Angeles office's plain-language Self-Determination material for use by all.

Judy Mark (WRC) stressed the need to make the outreach upbeat to gain more interest in the program. She suggested that Rick Wood (KRC) share his story.

Rick Wood (KRC) shared that opening outreach for Self-Determination with responsibilities is very confusing and off-putting – start with simple cases as opposed to “selling” it to the most complex cases. Also he made the point that the Service Coordinators need to be on board and properly trained so they can help to generate interest.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers clarified the different roles of DDS vs. SDAC. The local SDACs are to influence their regional center.

Martha Johanson (SARC) wants a sub-committee workgroup led by SCDD staff.

Judy Mark (WRC) and Cindy Lemas (RCRC) discussed the issue of the RCRC preventing their SDAC from meeting as frequently as they agreed to.

Peter Mendoza (GGRC) said it was very important to bring issues forward at the local SDAC meetings.

Chairperson Lopez stated that SCDD will work with DDS and ARCA on a letter to the regional centers to clarify roles and responsibilities.

Peter Mendoza (GGRC) agreed that the letter should be sent to the regional centers (and their boards).

11. **Next Steps**

See handout included in packet “What Local Advisory Committees Can Do March 2016.”

Judy Mark (WRC) introduced a new campaign Self-Determination Now, which can be found on Facebook. She encouraged support of this campaign.

Public comment: Connie Lapin provided words of encouragement about the program.

Chairperson Lopez surveyed the members and it was agreed to have monthly phone meetings. The date will be determined via email to the members.

Public comment: Connie Lapin shared a personal story and reiterated that this will be a work-in-progress, although it feels like it's behind it's important to keep forging ahead. She suggested involving the Consumer Advisory Committees at each regional center.

Harvey Lapin urged prompt training of the Independent Facilitators.

Mark Polit thanked everyone for their meaningful work so far and reminded members that this program is designed to help consumers and their families have a Self-Determined life.

Rosalinda Garcia (HRC) shared that as she works to create plain-language materials for outreach, she will bring her daughter (who wants to be an author) into the process to develop her skills relating to her dream career.

Meeting adjourned at 4:23 PM