



Valley Mountain Regional Center  
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Stockton, CA 95202  
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**VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting**



**DATE:** Thursday, November 21, 2024



**TIME:** 3:30pm-5:00pm

**WHERE:** Online through Zoom

**Zoom Meeting:**

**Join on your computer or mobile app:**

*Join Zoom Meeting*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89836693761?pwd=ubE5BS8mp3VZ7dGoOdv87u0Gle0WLp.1>

Meeting ID: 898 3669 3761

Passcode: 253854

**Or call in (audio only):** 1-669-900-6833

Phone Conference ID: 898 3669 3761

Passcode: 253854

**For security reasons you must be signed into your Zoom account to access the meeting. Please ensure you are signed into Zoom before clicking the link above or entering the ID & passcode.**

*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 the meeting, should contact Dena Hernandez at the SCDD North Valley Hills Office, 2529 W. March Lane Suite 105 or by phone: 209-473-6930 or Email: [northvalleyhills@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:northvalleyhills@scdd.ca.gov). Requests must be received by 5pm, on Thursday, November 14, 2024. Spanish Interpretation is at all meetings and doesn't require a special request.*



**Valley Mountain Regional Center  
Self Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)**

**REMINDER from the Self Determination Law  
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE Section 4685.8**

**Role of this Committee**

Each regional center shall establish a local volunteer advisory committee to provide oversight of the Self-Determination Program.

The regional center and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities shall each appoint one-half of the membership of the committee.

The committee shall consist of the regional center clients' rights advocate, consumers, family members, and other advocates, and community leaders.

A majority of the committee shall be consumers and their family members.

The committee shall reflect the multicultural diversity and geographic profile of the catchment area.

**The committee shall review the development and ongoing progress of the Self-Determination Program, including whether the program advances the principles of self-determination and is operating consistent with the requirements, and may make ongoing recommendations for improvement to the regional center and the department.**

These are PUBLIC Meetings-so everyone is welcome.

The focus of this committee is to discuss the

**Self Determination Program**

This is not the meeting for individual concerns/issues about traditional VMRC services and supports. Please contact your service coordinator for help on individual concerns.

# The 5 Principles of Self-Determination



## Freedom

You plan your own life and make your own decisions, just like people without disabilities are able to do.

## Authority

You decide how money is spent for your services and supports.

## Support

You pick the people and supports that help you live, work and play in your community.

## Responsibility

To make decisions in your life, to be accountable for using public money and to accept your valued role in the community.

## Confirmation

You are the most important person when making plans for your life. You are the decision maker about your services.



Valley Mountain Regional Center  
Self Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)  
Thursday, November 21, 2024  
3:30pm-5:00pm

### **AGENDA**

**Item 1: Call Meeting to Order-** Vivian Nicolas -Chair

**Item 2: Introductions-** Committee members can introduce themselves. Public guests are welcome to put their name in chat.

**Item 3: Establish Quorum-** Vivian Nicolas- Chair

**Item 4: Approval of the agenda-****ACTION-**Vivian Nicolas- Chair

**Item 5: Approval of the minutes from September 19, 2024 & October 17, 2024-****ACTION-**Vivian Nicolas-Chair

**Item 6: Chair Report-****Information-**Vivian Nicolas-Chair

- Binders-Mary is compiling binders, and all information is at the translator.
- RFP process-SDAC leadership team received information on the process by email. Next step is to meet on the process with VMRC, in December. VMRC has set up an SDP email to receive any RFP's going forward.
- SDAC Leadership team will review bylaws and suggest any needed updates regarding attendance, conflicts of interest, and other.
- Chris Arroyo is available for our 12/19/24 meeting to do a presentation on LVAC Best Practices and the role of the committee.

**Item 7: Replace vacant leadership position-****Assistant Secretary-Vivian-**take nominations to vote at December meeting.

**Item 8: ICC Self Determination Support Project Proposal-****ACTION-Vivian-**summarize clarifications & vote on proposal in packet that was presented at the August meeting. Please see attached proposal summary for additional details.

**Item 9: Public Comment-** *This item is for members of the public to comment and/or present information to the VMRC SDAC. Each person will be afforded up to three minutes to speak, but if need an interpreter up to six minutes. Written requests, if any, will be considered first.*

*The VMRC SDAC will also allow public comment, not to exceed a total of seven minutes, for public comment prior to action on each agenda item.*

**Item 10: Update on the Self Determination Program-*Information***-VMRC Staff to provide updates to the committee, including Fiscal Report for funding balances for our LVAC

How is GT Independence interfacing with VMRC SDP clients? Vendor status?

What is the plan for structuring the VMRC SDP unit to keep continuity and minimize delays in service provision?

**Item 11: Event Workgroup-*Information/Action***-Dena & Vivian-Updates from October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting and update on IF training opportunity.

**Item 12: Membership-*Information***-Dena

**Item 13: Self Determination Issues-*Discussion-Advisory Committee & VMRC Staff***-Time for committee members or VMRC staff to share any issues, questions or success stories regarding Self Determination, or announcements of upcoming training or opportunities for participants.

- We would like to know which FMS's our committee wants to hear from so we can reach out to maybe be a guest speaker at one of our events and be open to a Q&A-we want to be mindful of this not being open to personal client experiences as we want to protect privacy but how best to work through barriers, in general, and work together to problem solve. Please have this information to discuss at the November meeting.

**Join the VMRC SDAC on Facebook:**

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/401810838352575/?ref=share&mibextid=DcJ9fc>

**SCDD SDP Orientation:** <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/?fbclid=IwAR3BNnHWCWlv4gwgXdXgYxfcHubPZnVuJ4KF6hyrpV5bREdsl-8lxZFJdSY>

**Item 14: Next Meeting-** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2024, from 3:30-5pm.

The VMRC SDAC meetings are held monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday-from 3:30pm-5:00pm. Meetings can be attended virtually on Zoom. For meetings, the Zoom link is the same each month.

**Item 15:** Meeting adjourned.



**Date:** September 09, 2024

**To:** LVAC, VMRC & Proposal Screening Committee Members

Dear Committee Members,

We are pleased to submit our attached SDP proposal for your review and consideration. We recognize the critical importance of the Self-Determination Program (SDP) for all participants and their support systems, and we are eager to be continuing to be part of the solution that helps our community effectively engage with and thrive within SDP. We understand the complexities and challenges involved in launching and expanding such an initiative. ICC has devoted significant time and effort to understanding these challenges, with many of our members already active participants in SDP.

As an organization that has been deeply engaged with SDP since 2013, we have developed a comprehensive understanding of the steps and elements required to transition families from the traditional service system to SDP. Our strength lies in our perspective as part of the very community SDP is designed to serve. We prioritize Person-Centered Thinking in all our planning and ensure that our strategies remain truly person-centered. We believe that sustainable results are achieved through building relationships, providing continuous support, and guiding families through peers who not only relate to them but also understand how to navigate these new opportunities. Furthermore, as we help families transition to SDP, we make sure to address potential disparities by identifying and mitigating barriers and roadblocks, thus creating a more efficient and equitable navigation process and outcome.

### **Demographic Data and Relevance to VMRC Catchment Area:**

The Latino community within the VMRC catchment area represents the largest ethnic group served by the regional center and is the most impacted by service disparities. According to the 2020 census, Stockton is composed of **over 45%** Hispanic/Latino. Of the approximately 21,700 individuals served by VMRC 39% are Hispanic/Latino and the next highest group served is White (non-Hispanic) at 29%. Most individuals served by VMRC identify as Hispanic/Latino, yet this group is the least represented in SDP and remains the largest group expressing interest in participating in SDP. This highlights a critical need for targeted outreach and support to ensure equitable access to the program. Our proposal focuses on engaging the Latino community, ensuring that our coaching, training, and support services are culturally relevant, linguistically appropriate, and specifically designed to address the unique challenges faced by our families.



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**COMMUNITY OUTREACH PEER-TO-PEER**

My Son is now entering his 4<sup>th</sup> year in SDP and I have had the privilege of serving as a delegated member of the SDP Committee at WRC since its inception. One of our ICC staff members, who is also a Self-Advocate, has been appointed to the State SDP Committee. As IF trainers, we ensure that our staff stays up to date on all new directives and developments. We are working closely with DDS on the new soon-to-be-released IF Certification program, allowing us to stay abreast of rapid developments and ensure that the families we support benefit from our advocacy and up-to-date information. In addition, SB 1281 (Menjivar), the SDP Bill, which we co-sponsored with our sister organization DVU, has passed unanimously through the legislative process and is now awaiting Governor Newsom's signature. Furthermore, three members of our ICC leadership have been appointed to the CalHSS Master Plan on Developmental Disabilities.

For the initial ICC SDP 1:1 Coaching grant we overdelivered. We had committed to impact up to 48 individuals and Coached 73. We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with you once again on this critical and timely effort to help families transition to SDP.

Please find our proposal based on our previous 1:1 SDP Coaching as well as our new Project Expressway where we are looking to collaborate with your Committee and VMRC in creating a case study that can be scalable and implemented statewide.

We request the flexibility to revise our proposal as needed, subject to mutual agreement by both parties. Additionally, ICC offers SDP Independent Facilitator services, including Person-Centered Plan (PCP) creation, and reserves the right to provide such support to families who request it. We understand that the choice will always lie with the families, and they will be presented with various options to choose from.

In this collaboration, we also look forward to working closely again with VMRC and the LVAC SDP Committee to introduce families to this project and promote our partnership as effectively as possible.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to collaborate on this initiative. We are eager to work with you to make a meaningful impact through this project.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth  
Elizabeth Barrios Gomez  
Executive Director / Co-Founder  
[elizabeth@iccintegradora.org](mailto:elizabeth@iccintegradora.org) 310.871.5080

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## ICC VMRC LVAC 1:1 SDP Coaching Proposal 2024

### Organization Overview:

- **Name:** Integrated Community Collaborative (ICC)
- **Structure:** ICC is a 501(c)(3) organization in good standing with the state, including liability insurance. We are home to the Community Integradoras, composed of Parents and Self-Advocates who engage with families on a peer-to-peer basis. Our objective is to help individuals navigate systems of support with cultural humility, empathy, and validation through lived experiences and extensive training.
- **Team:** Currently, we have 22 staff members.
- **Reach:** We assist approximately 6,000 families in navigating systems of support within 21 regional center catchment areas
- **Dedicated Team:** A dedicated team will be assigned specifically for this project.
- **Project Focus:** Empowerment Community Group Thematic Trainings & 1:1 Implementation Coaching based on the Integradora outreach model, which emphasizes building relationships with families and guiding them step-by-step to access systems of support equitably.

### Experience and Qualifications:

- **Addressing Disparities:** ICC was founded six years ago to address disparities within the regional center system in California. For the past five years, we have partnered with VMRC to identify barriers and roadblocks experienced by families to achieve equity and equality.
- **Lived Experience and Training:** Every ICC member is a Parent or Self-Advocate with lived experience and extensive training to help families effectively navigate complex systems. Our efforts are relationship-based and designed to integrate seamlessly into the system of support.
- **Over-Delivering on DDS Grants:** As participants in the DDS Service Access & Equity (SAE) Grant, we have consistently exceeded established measures and metrics and are continuing the project for a fifth year, which includes our collaboration with VMRC.
- **Deep Understanding of SDP:** Many of our Integradoras are currently in the Self-Determination Program, and all have undergone extensive training, including as





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### COMMUNITY OUTREACH PEER-TO-PEER

Independent Facilitators. Additionally, ICC provides IF training and is working closely with DDS on SDP-focused efforts, including the upcoming IF Certification program.

- **Preparing for the Future Today:** To help SDP grow and succeed, we are introducing **Project Expressway**. Project Expressway is designed to engage with all stakeholders (Families, Regional Centers, FMS & DDS) to expedite the transition process to SDP. Our goal is to help families enter SDP within 60 days of starting the process. To support the growing need for Independent Facilitators, we are also introducing **CALIF - The California Association of Latino Independent Facilitators**. CALIF will be a hub for support, mentorship, training, and resources for individuals providing Independent Facilitator services.

### Person-Centered Planning Experience:

- **Person-Centered Plan Development:** Currently assisting over 125 families with creating their Person-Centered Plans (PCPs); 50 of these plans are ready to transition into SDP. We have helped several hundred participants migrate to SDP and many are already several years in.
- **Training and Resources:** Conducted numerous trainings in both English and Spanish, focusing on person-centered planning from a family/client perspective. In addition, we have created a system of communication where we can efficiently and effectively share and train with participants new directives, guidelines and policy as it is introduced.
- **Network and Recruitment:** We have established a statewide network of community organizations and entities interested in providing SDP services. ICC by design has established a collaborative network that we engage with includes our sister organization DVU and other key stakeholders to include Disability Rights California (DRC) which this year we Co-Sponsored AB 1876 (Jackson) the remote access bill, State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS), Public Counsel and CalHSS.

### Proposed Scope of Work

#### 1:1 Coaching

- **Objective:** Provide 1:1 coaching up to 63 Spanish-speaking SDP participants.
- **Approach:** An average of 4 one-on-one (1-hour) interactions per participant, supported by community Zoom meetings and smaller training sessions.
- **Rate:** \$100 per hour per coaching session.



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**COMMUNITY OUTREACH PEER-TO-PEER**

- **Projected Hours:** 250
- **Coaches:** 4 coaches, each serving 20 families.
- **Projected Cost:** \$25,000

### **SDP Empowerment Community Group (ECG) Thematic Training/Meetings**

- **Format:** Up to 15 bi-weekly (2-hour) sessions via Zoom, emphasizing interactive dialogue. These sessions provide a platform for participants and individuals interested in SDP to ask questions and learn from each other in a community setting.
- **Participation:** Average of 25 individuals per session.
- **Total Sessions:** 15
- **Projected Participants:** 375
- **Projected Hours:** 30 hours at \$200 per hour (\$400 per session).
- **Projected Cost:** \$6,000

### **Key Areas of Coaching and Training:**

1. SDP Initial Meeting & Assessment
2. Choosing the Right Independent Facilitator
3. Understanding Your PCP Experience
4. PCP Document Creation and Revisions
5. Budget Development and Certification
6. Addressing Unmet Needs and Changing Circumstances
7. Navigating Regional Center Roles
8. Choosing the Right FMS
9. Implementing and Managing Your SDP Plan
10. Recruiting and Hiring Employees
11. Backup Staffing Plans
12. Accessing Resources and Support Networks
13. Conflict Resolution Strategies

### **Project Implementation: Outreach / Data Collection**

- **Tasks:** Coordination, Data Collection, Outreach.
- **Hours Projected:** 80
- **Rate:** \$50 per hour
- **Total Cost:** \$4,000



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH PEER-TO-PEER

## 1:1 ICC SDP Coaching Proposal Summary

- **1:1 Coaching:**
  - Projected Impact: 63 Families
  - Targeted Sessions: 250
  - Projected Cost: \$25,000
- **SDP Empowerment Community Group Thematic Training/Meetings**
  - Projected Impact: 375 participants
  - Projected Sessions: 15
  - Projected Hours: 40 Hours
  - Projected Cost: \$6,000
- **Project Implementation:**
  - Targeted Hours: 80
  - Projected Cost: \$4,000
- **Total Amount Proposed: \$35,000**

Thank you for the time and consideration.

“Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.” Cesar Chavez



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH PEER-TO-PEER

## **Project Expressway** Expediting the SDP Process

ICC is committed to helping VMRC families access the Self-Determination Program (SDP) as quickly and efficiently as possible, recognizing the significant number of families still waiting to receive essential services. The "Expressway" initiative is our solution to streamline the process, enabling families to **complete the entire SDP journey—from onboarding to transition—within 60 days.**

### **Project Expressway offers several key benefits through collaborative efforts:**

- 1. Established Community:** An established database of families who have attended presentations, community interactions and access to resources and are ready to migrate onto SDP.
- 2. Advanced CRM and Data Collection:** Our state-of-the-art CRM system enables efficient data collection and analysis, allowing us to track key metrics, monitor progress, and tailor our services to better meet the needs of the community.
- 3. Accelerated SDP Onboarding:** By fostering collaboration between all stakeholders, Project Expressway speeds up the Self-Determination Program (SDP) onboarding process, reducing waiting times and enabling families to access essential services more quickly.
- 4. Streamlined Navigation:** Through a collaborative approach, the project provides a simplified platform that makes it easier for families to navigate the complex service systems. This ensures that they can efficiently find and utilize the resources they need.
- 5. Enhanced Efficiency:** With the integration of technology and cooperation among stakeholders, Project Expressway reduces manual efforts and operational overhead, allowing staff to focus more on directly supporting families rather than administrative tasks.
- 6. Increased Access:** By broadening community outreach through joint efforts, the project enables more families to participate in SDP and receive the support they require.
- 7. Empowered Families:** Collaboration ensures that families receive faster access to services and clearer guidance, making them feel more supported and empowered in their journey, leading to better outcomes for their loved ones.



**Scalability:** The collaborative nature of Project Expressway allows for its approach to be scaled effectively, accommodating a large number of new participants and making it a sustainable solution for long-term growth and impact.

We are requesting the VMRC SDP LVAC to allocate \$50,000 to as a key collaborating Regional Center in the rollout and implementation of Project Expressway. This strategic partnership offers a unique opportunity for ICC, LVAC and VMRC to develop a comprehensive best practices case study that can be replicated across other catchment areas, setting a new standard for SDP transitions.

1. **Expedited SDP Transition:**
  - **Accelerated Onboarding:** By integrating VMRC into Project Expressway, we can significantly reduce the time it takes for families to transition into SDP.
  - **Streamlined Processes:** Project Expressway introduces automated and efficient procedures that simplify the complexities of SDP enrollment.
2. **Enhanced Family Experience:**
  - **Personalized Support:** Our 1:1 coaching model ensures that each family receives individualized guidance tailored to their specific needs and circumstances.
  - **Reduced Stress and Anxiety:** With a dedicated coach guiding them through each step, families will experience less stress and anxiety during the transition.
3. **Development of Best Practices:**
  - **Innovative Case Study:** The collaboration between ICC and VMRC will result in the creation of an innovative best practices case study. This document will serve as a valuable resource for other Regional Centers.
  - **Scalable Solutions:** The insights gained from this project will enable us to develop scalable solutions.
4. **Culturally Relevant Support:**
  - **Inclusive Services:** Our program is designed with a strong emphasis on cultural and linguistic relevance.
  - **Community Engagement:** By actively engaging with the diverse communities within the VMRC catchment area, we can better address the unique needs and concerns of these families.
5. **Scalability and Impact:**
  - **Statewide Model:** The successful implementation of Project Expressway within VMRC will provide a blueprint for other Regional Centers to follow.



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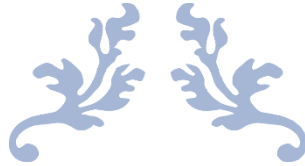
## INTEGRADORAS

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH PEER-TO-PEER

- **Long-Term Benefits:** The improvements made through this project will have lasting effects.
- 6. **Increased Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing:**
  - **Strengthened Partnerships:** This initiative will foster stronger collaboration between ICC, VMRC, and other stakeholders, creating a more cohesive and coordinated approach to SDP implementation.
  - **Knowledge Exchange:** The project will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices between Regional Centers, service providers, and families.
- 7. **Improved Outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities:**
  - **Empowered Individuals:** By making self-determination the core of the DD system, this project will empower individuals with disabilities to have greater control over their lives and the services they receive.
  - **Equity in Service Delivery:** The focus on ensuring equity of access and options within VMRC services will help to address and reduce disparities.

**Requesting Amount:** \$50,000

“To make a great dream come true, the first requirement is a great capacity to dream; the second is persistence.” César Chávez



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## Valley Mountain Regional Center Proposal

SDP TRAINING

November 1, 2024

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Phoenix Facilitation of California LLC  
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## **Table of Contents**

SUMMARY OF PROJECT	2
SCOPE OF SERVICES	2
Recruitment	2
Training	3
Delivery	3
Total Cost & Timing	3
ASLA SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS	4
FEEDBACK FROM TRAINEES	6



## SUMMARY OF PROJECT

The Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA) & Phoenix Facilitation of California LLC propose to combine forces to support the implementation of the Self-Determination Program (SDP) at Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC). With a combined total of well over 100 years of experience with people with developmental disabilities throughout the lifespan, both lived and career-based, the team assembled for this project has the ability and desire to meet the needs of the diverse community of VMRC. ASLA & Phoenix Facilitation's teams are made up of subject matter experts and parent advocates who aim to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate training via Zoom to further the overall reach of SDP and Person-Centered Regional Center services at VMRC.

The outreach and training initiatives will be provided in a variety of modalities and two languages in order to ensure access to the broader community and to decrease roadblocks and hindrances to engagement that could be caused by factors such as limited technology access, geographic location, need for multilingual services, and/or time and schedule constraints.

ASLA and Phoenix Facilitation recommend this training as a way for trainees to gain SDP foundational knowledge.

## SCOPE OF SERVICES

### Recruitment

ASLA & Phoenix Facilitation will seek out trainees from diverse backgrounds who reside within VMRC's catchment area, through social media advertising, VMRC parent and vendor groups, and other creative avenues to ensure widespread knowledge. VMRC and the LVAC will be an active partner in recruitment. Focus will be on the recruitment and training of self-advocates and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities, with a particular emphasis on community members from historically underrepresented groups. Participants who self-identify as non-White and/or as speaking a language other than English will be prioritized.

ASLA & Phoenix Facilitation will provide training to this cohort, with training and materials available in English and Spanish (with a minimum of 5 participants required for services to be provided in Spanish).

ASLA & Phoenix Facilitation can support a maximum of **50 trainees in English, as well as 50 trainees in Spanish**, with a minimum of 5 participants required for services to be provided in Spanish. Additional non-minority/English-speaking trainees will be considered only if there is not sufficient interest from underserved communities. There will be a maximum of 100 participants accepted into the training, with the understanding that natural attrition is anticipated.

Please note, ASLA heard the VMRC community at the LVAC who requested the training provide many spots, but we caution that this will mean that not all participants' questions will be addressed due to volume of attendees.

## Training

Training will be provided in lecture format via Zoom. Due to the one-day format no hands-on workshops will be included. There will be no homework. Pre- and post-tests will be administered along with course evaluation. NOTE: Time will not permit workshops.

The training will be provided in 1 day.

Training topics and modules will include, but not necessarily be limited to the following.

- **SDP Fundamentals**, This will include sessions on:
  - a. Principles of SDP
  - b. Fundamentals of Person-Centered Planning
  - c. Basic overview of the budget
  - d. Basic overview of the spending plan
  
- **Understanding VMRC SDP Processes**, introducing the VMRC process flowchart identifying roles throughout the SDP lifecycle and the VMRC team. This customized module is created in partnership with VMRC leaders and staff, and will include a VMRC Resource reference page.

## Delivery

Live Zoom delivery in core English and core Spanish , across 1 day for each language. Materials are delivered in core language, not using translation, to assist with knowledge acquisition. ASLA believes delivering live in core language is critical for knowledge acquisition and sharing.

Content Material will be provided in English and Spanish.

## Total Cost & Timing

\$13,000 with recruitment of trainees occurring in Winter 2024. Training will be implemented in 2025 (based on the timeframe of the award and stipulations of when funding must be exhausted by).

## ASLA SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

### ASLA Experience with:

- Languages, flexibility and ability to engage underrepresented communities**  
 56% of the ASLA staff is bilingual with Spanish and English or Korean and English. Only 33% of the ASLA team is Caucasian. The Community Moderator role within ASLA is to bridge the language/cultural gap and represent underrepresented communities.
- Person-Centered Planning**  
 More than 50% of the ASLA staff are Person-Centered Thinking trained through the Learning Community for Person-Centered Practices. Phoenix Facilitation is a credentialed PCT Trainer.
- Self-Determination**  
 ASLA was a co-sponsor on the Self-Determination Law and has been providing instruction since 2015. 44% of the ASLA team have one or two family members in SDP. See portfolio of projects below.
- Use of plain language/universal design practices**  
 ASLA has been providing plain language content and universally designed practices in their delivery and deliverables to help break down barriers and improve access for all.
- Community resources, Regional Center system, and other agencies who have a role in supporting people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities**  
 67% of the ASLA team have a regional center family member, so are familiar with navigating community resources and systems. In addition, ASLA provides a free Resource Warm Line to help the community navigate systems of support.
- Data Collection and Analysis**  
 33% of ASLA team is a MBA (Masters in Business Administration) or Engineer so they have a strong competency in data and analysis, also demonstrated through projects listed below which have all included data collection, analysis and reporting.

ASLA has the expertise, both lived and technical, to balance existing training commitments across California. ASLA has a proven track record implementing SDP projects since 2015, most recently:

Year awarded	Project title	Grant/contract number	Languages supported
2024	Inland Regional Center (IRC)	IF recruitment, training & testing	English, Spanish
2024	Harbor Regional Center (HRC)	IF Training	English, Spanish
2024	South Central Los Angeles County Regional Center (SCLARC)	IF Training	English, Spanish
2023	DDS SAE - Cross-Cultural Independent Facilitator Advanced Training Program	22-c27	English, Spanish, Korean

2022	DDS - Cross-Cultural Independent Facilitator Mentor Training Program for the Self-Determination Program	21-c27	English, Spanish, Korean
2022	Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC)	ASLA/0352 2021/2022	English, Spanish, Cantonese
2022-2023	North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC)	If Training & Support Group Facilitation	English, Spanish
2021	DDS SAE - Cross-Cultural Independent Facilitator Mentor Training Program for the Self-Determination Program	20-c27	English, Spanish, Korean
2019-2020	DDS SAE - Cross-Cultural Independent Facilitator Trainings and Ongoing Support for the Self-Determination Program	18-c27	English, Spanish

The primary members include Carola Camacho Maranon (Project Lead & IF), Kim Sinclair (Executive Director), Naomi Hagel (IF), and Jane Sakurai (Program Coordinator).

**SEE PRIMARY RESUMES**

## Carola Camacho Maranon M.Sc.

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### EXPERIENCE

#### Autism Society of Los Angeles — Program Leader

5/2023 - present  
Develop Cross Cultural Advanced IF Training Program for state-wide participation. Ensure operations and materials support diverse cultural needs of participants. Develop and support collaborative relationships to support ASLA program goals.

#### Autism Society of Los Angeles — Hispanic Community Moderator

9/2022 - 5/2023  
Provided cultural leadership for Spanish-speaking participants in ASLA's Cross-Cultural IF Mentor Training Program. Led in the development of curriculum for program, with emphasis on needs of diverse groups. Created unique climate for workgroups, optimizing cultural interaction and support.

#### Ongoing Consulting and IF work

6/2022 - present  
IF and Founder at Resilience Facilitation Services LLC  
3/2023 - present  
SDP Coach at Phoenix Facilitation and HRC project  
4/2021 - 6/2022  
IF at Exceptional Connections

### EDUCATION

Independent Facilitator Certificate, Guidelight Group (March 2022)

Person Center Thinking Training, ELARC U, March 15 th and 16 th 2022.

Self-Determination Independent Facilitator Certificate, DVU and ASLA, October 2020.

Fundamentals of Facilitation Certificate, State Council of Developmental Disabilities, (March 2019)

IFP French Institute of Petroleum, Paris, France — Master of Science in Refining, Engineering, Construction and Gas 2005 -2007

San Simon University, Cochabamba, Bolivia — Bachelors in Chemical Engineering 2004.

### OTHER

ELARC SDP Local Advisory Committee — Co-chair

9/2023 - Present. Appointed by SDCC.

HRC SDP Local Advisory Committee — Member

2/2015 - 9/2017 - Appointed by SDCC.

Lanterman Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)

Advisory Committee — Member

8/2023 - Present.

### SKILLS

Reliable, responsible, organized  
Goal oriented  
Good team player  
Able to learn quickly  
Works well under pressure  
60 WPM

### LANGUAGES

Trilingual English, Spanish, French



## Naomi Hagel, M.S.

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### EXPERIENCE

#### Phoenix Facilitation of California LLC — Founder

2022 - Present  
Serving as an Independent Facilitator, Person-Centered Planner, and advocate to ensure individuals and families receive the services they are entitled to through the Regional Center, school districts, and generic resources. Training and supporting other Independent Facilitators, Person-Centered Planners, and traditional service vendors while working in concert with up to seventeen Regional Centers statewide. Providing coaching and consultative services to participants, families, Regional Center staff, and other stakeholders via Request for Proposal (RFP) funds awarded by Local Volunteer Advisory Committees (LVACs) at multiple Regional Centers. Ability to work closely with a training team to support diverse and monolingual/multilingual populations.

#### South Central Los Angeles Regional Center, CA — Program Manager (II)

2017-2022  
Led the implementation of the Self-Determination Program, enrolling 48 participants, working closely with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Responsible for overall supervision of service provision for up to 1000 Persons Served, including the hiring, management, disciplinary action, and daily support of up to 14 Service Coordinators (SCs), support staff, and Team Leader. Credentialed by the Learning Community for Person-Centered Planning as a Person-Centered Thinking Trainer; trained staff, provider partners/vendors, and other stakeholders on Person-Centered Thinking and Planning.

#### Dungarvin, Long Beach, CA - Program Director

2015-2017  
Monitored and ensured quality of all aspects of a day program for up to 60 adults with developmental disabilities, including the recruitment, hiring, and supervision of up to 25 staff at a time from pre-hiring to post-termination.

### EDUCATION

City University of New York, Hunter College, New York, NY

2012 - Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling

Mercy University (formerly Mercy College), Dobbs Ferry, NY

2010 - Bachelor of Science in Psychology

### SKILLS

Person-Centered Thinking  
Independent Facilitation  
Training  
Management  
Grant Writing  
Lanterman Act & Medicaid  
Waiver Requirements



## FEEDBACK FROM TRAINEES

- “Gracias a estas capacitaciones pude entender mejor el proceso de autodeterminación de una forma clara y bien explicada, con estas capacitaciones no solo se beneficiará mi hijo que pronto será un participante de este programa si no también otras personas que podré apoyar en este proceso, gracias por proveer estos talleres totalmente en español, esto ayudó mucho a que pudiera entender mejor la información presentada.”

(Translation)

“Thanks to these trainings I was able to better understand the self-determination process in a clear and well-explained way. With these trainings, not only will my son who will soon be a participant in this program benefit, but also other people who I will be able to support in this process, thank you for providing these workshops entirely in Spanish, this helped a lot to better understand the information presented.”

- “Yo recomiendo 100 % sus capacitaciones porque en ningun lugar o organizacion las proporcionan en mi idioma Español eso es una gran desigualda pero gracias a

ASLA pude tener estas capacitaciones en Espanol , me ayudo a tener mas conocimiento y comprension del programa de autodeterminacion y poder ser un facilitador Independiente con amplio conocimiento y preparacion para desempeñar un buen trabajo para mis clientes y mi hijo. Tambien recordemos que muchas familias vivimos en area rural y es muy dificil atender en persona asi que una vez mas gracias ASLA por tener estas capacitaciones por zoom . solo me resta decir que recomiendo 100% las capacitaciones de ASLA . Gracias.”

(Translation)

“I 100% recommend their training because no place or organization provides them in my Spanish language, that is a great inequality but thanks to ASLA I was able to have these trainings in Spanish, it helped me to have more knowledge and understanding of the self-determination program and to be able to be a facilitator Independent with extensive knowledge and preparation to do a good job for my clients and my son. Let's also remember that many families live in rural areas and it is very difficult to attend in person so once again thank you ASLA for having these trainings via zoom. It only remains for me to say that I 100% recommend ASLA training. Thank you.”

- Agradezo a ASLA por estar compartiendo todo este conocimiento con nosotros para empoderar a la comunidad, espero estar en muchos más entrenamientos ofrecidos por Carola, es un honor compartir con personas con gran humanidad como usted, necesitamos más personas como usted para poder ayudar a tanta familia tan necesitada. Estoy hambrienta de aprender y poder aportar un granito de arena a la comunidad y poder sentir que estoy viviendo para servir y sirviendo para vivir! 💕💕

(Translation).

I thank ASLA for sharing all this knowledge with us to empower the community. I hope to attend many more of the training offered by Carola. It is an honor to share with people of such great humanity like you. We need more people like you to help so many families in need. I am eager to learn and to contribute to the community, to feel that I am living to serve and serving to live! 💕💕”

- “... ASLA strives to make sure there is simplicity and inclusion in their training

sessions. The trainers/staff are very accommodating and willing to answer any questions you may have.”

- “... It has been a fabulous year of training for me!! I have learned so much about SDP and many things that are involved with it. Now, I can proudly say I know what SDP is! With my trainings, I would like to help my community (Korean) and to advocate SDP! Without ASLA’s trainings, I wouldn’t have dreamed of helping others! Thank you for your great work and trainings! Hope you can continue to offer more trainings for various levels of learners!”
- “I just wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for the training provided by ASLA. It truly stands out as one of the best out there! The depth of information and the wealth of resources available are invaluable for anyone...”.
- (From recent chats)
  - “Thanks for the great information in this training tonight. It was loaded with information.”
  - “Thank you – so helpful and informative 🙏 grateful to learn from you.”
  - “These sessions are extremely helpful. Thank you.”
  - “Thank you I learned a lot today.”
  - “Gracias Carola and Naomi - saben lo que estan haciendo.” (Translated: “Thank you Carola and Naomi - they know what they are doing.”)