

**Regional Center of Orange County**  
**Self-Determination Program Task Force Meeting**  
**March 30, 2017**  
**6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Present**

Rhys Burchill, Parent

Jyusse Corey, RCOC Peer Advocate

Tim Jin, Consumer

Andrea Kumetz-Coleman, Parent

Larry Landauer, RCOC Executive Director

Cristina Mercado, RCOC Training and Organizational Specialist

Jacqueline Miller, Clients' Rights Advocate

Michael Rillera, Parent

Scarlett von Thenen, Orange County Office of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Rhys Burchill called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program (SDP) Task Force Meeting. Each task force member introduced him/herself.

**II. Approval of Minutes from September 27, 2016 Meeting**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 27, 2016 meeting, and no changes were suggested. Mr. Michael Rillera gave a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Jyusse Corey seconded the motion.

*M/S/C to approve the minutes as presented*

### **III. Status of Outreach to Community Organizations**

Mr. Larry Landauer reported that the Family Resource Center housed within the RCOC has had upwards of 40 community outreach opportunities throughout Orange County in both large and small, multilingual community groups.

### **IV. Update on DDS Informal Waiver Submission**

Mr. Landauer reported that DDS had their informal submissions reviewed and returned by the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) and will be preparing to formally submit California's state waiver within the next few weeks. Once the waiver is submitted DDS may begin choosing participants as soon as late summer or early fall of 2017. Mr. Landauer reminded the committee that RCOC will have a pre-determined, limited amount of spaces for participants (somewhere around 150) who will be chosen via lottery. Only these participants will be able to participate in the self-determination program for the first three years. In order to be considered for the lottery, interested parties must register for a pre-enrollment session and must participate in mandatory training. The dates for the pre-enrollment session and trainings have yet to be determined as the state has not yet provided training materials to any of the regional centers. Mr. Landauer reiterated that as soon as a date has been established for the pre-enrollment session, information will be released to the SDP email list and to all RCOC individuals and families.

### **V. Person Centered Thinking at RCOC**

Mr. Larry Landauer reported that RCOC has made a commitment to incorporate Person Centered Thinking practices into RCOC's daily practices. He noted that while RCOC has been incorporated a person centered approach to the IPP process for many years, the agency will be training all of its employees, the Board of Directors, and several vendors in a two day Person Centered Thinking course being presented by Michael Smull of Support Development Associates. Through this training staff will learn how to create a one page description, which will be incorporated into the existing IPP document. This one page description will highlight what is important to the individual and how family and support staff can assist the individual to realize their full potential.

Ms. Andrea Kumetz-Coleman noted that she has found Person Centered Thinking tools very useful in assist her son in making decisions.

## **VI. Discussion:**

Mr. Tim Jin expressed concerns and frustration at the pace of SDP meetings and the lack of information being presented both to the committee and to members of the audience. Mr. Jin noted his concern that when the self-determination program is rolled out by the state members of the community will not be sufficiently educated on topics related to self-determination. Mr. Jin also wondered what other regional centers are doing to educate those they serve. He expressed concerns over what he termed “the dysfunctional nature of the current meetings” and wondered how members of the committee could add items to the meeting agenda to ensure that meetings are more focused. Similar concerns were presented via a letter read on behalf of Ms. April Lopez, who was not present during the meeting. Both Mr. Jin and Ms. Lopez suggested the group meet monthly and should develop a better strategy for outreach and training. Mr. Landauer and Ms. Burchill noted that other regional centers are feeling similar frustrations, and that there is not sufficient information being provided by DDS to warrant having monthly meetings. Both noted that it would not be fair to community members to have them attend monthly meetings only to walk away with no concrete information. Ms. Burchill also reminded the group that during each meeting there is an opportunity for members of the committee to suggest future agenda items. Ms. von Thenen suggested a more engaging flyer that can be used to invite members of the community to attend future meetings.

## **VII. Agenda Items for the Next Local Advisory Committee Meeting**

The following agenda items were suggested by committee members: update on the waiver submission, status of DDS distributed training materials, Ms. Kumetz-Coleman to lead a discussion of PCT tools to use with individuals who do not communicate verbally, discussion of flyer designs for community outreach (the group to send all samples designs to Ms. Cristina Mercado).

## **VIII. Public Comments**

A member of the public commented that while they were frustrated with the pace of material not being released to the public, they also understood that the committee was not to blame for the lack of material being presented at prior SDP meetings.

A member of the public commented that community members should be aware of the limited space available for this program, such that even people who have regularly attended these meetings may end up not being selected via the lottery process.

A member of the public asked if DDS will take into account race, age, and gender when randomly selecting program participants for the self-determination program. Mr. Landauer responded that DDS would most likely take these demographic factors into account.

A member of the public suggested that meetings be held quarterly to provide regular updates to the community. Ms. Burchill noted that meetings are held when there is concrete information to share with the public. This is an attempt to respect the time of those community members who choose to attend.

A member of the public asked how RCOC will know what members of the community are interested in participating in the program. Mr. Landauer reiterated that all interested parties should sign up for the email list found on RCOC's SDP information page. RCOC will additionally send out a mass mailing to all RCOC individuals and families informing them of the mandatory informational session which has yet to be scheduled.

A member of the public suggested RCOC provide information on the self-determination program in the quarterly RCOC Dialogue magazine.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.