

**Regional Center of Orange County**  
**Self-Determination Program Task Force Meeting**

**January 25, 2016**

**6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Present**

Rhys Burchill, Parent

Nicole Barrios, RCOC Training and Organizational Specialist

Jyusse Corey, RCOC Consumer Advocate

Daniel Harrington, Consumer

Tim Jin, Consumer

Andrea Kumetz-Coleman, Parent

April Lopez, Parent

Jacqueline Miller, Clients' Rights Advocate

Michael Rillera, Parent

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

**I. Welcome and Introduction**

Ms. Rhys Burchill called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Ms. Burchill welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program (SDP) Task Force Meeting. Each attendee then introduced him/herself.

**II. Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2015 Meeting**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 17, 2015 meeting. No changes to the minutes were suggested.

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

### **III. Public Forum: Training on Self-Determination**

Ms. Judy Mark, Government Relations Chair, Autism Society of Los Angeles, presented on the Self-Determination Program (SDP). SDP provides regional consumers and their families with more control and flexibility over the services and supports they need. SDP is a voluntary program.

A three-year phase-in period will begin after federal funding is approved. Phase-in participants must reflect the diversity of their regional centers. DDS will randomly select participants from among interested consumers based ethnicity, disability, geography, gender and age. To be eligible for the random selection process, an individual must attend a pre-enrollment informational session at his/her regional center.

Services available through SDP will include services that are currently funded by regional centers as well as unique supports to fulfill Individual Program Plan (IPP) and life goals. Services need not be vendored with a regional center. Individuals may gain access to some services that were previously suspended or limited by the California legislature for budget reasons, such as social and recreational programs. Services and supports funded through self-determination must qualify for federal matching funds and must follow the new Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) setting rules from the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS).

An Individual Budget is the amount of funding available to an individual in SDP to purchase the services and supports needed to implement the person's IPP. For a current regional center consumer, the budget will equal the total expenditures made by the regional center on his/her services during the past 12 months. This amount can be changed by the IPP team if there is a change in circumstances or there are prior needs that were unaddressed in the IPP. The Individual Budget will not be increased to include additional funds for an Independent Facilitator (IF) or Financial Management Services (FMS). A participant in SDP can hire an Independent Facilitator to assist him/her with the person-centered planning and IPP processes. FMS is required for all participants in SDP to manage funds in the individual budget and pay for services and supports. FMS provides a monthly accounting of expenditures, advises on the hiring of service and support workers and ensures employment laws are being followed.

### **IV. Bagley-Keene Act: Requirement Regarding Public Participation During Meetings**

Ms. Jacqueline Miller stated that the Bagley-Keene Act grants people present at public meetings the ability to speak at any time during the meeting. Copies of *A Handy Guide to The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act 2004*, published by the California Attorney General's Office, were provided to committee members and members of the public.

**V. Outreach to Public**

**a. Prioritize outreach to non-English speaking populations**

The committee discussed outreach efforts to Chinese Parents Association for the Disabled (CPAD) and Fiesta Educativa as well as various Vietnamese community groups. Committee members requested a list of existing parent groups and their meeting days/times. This list will be provided at the next SDP Local Advisory Meeting. Committee members suggested that information on SDP be placed in the *Dialogue*, RCOC's quarterly newsletter. Ms. April Lopez suggested that information about SDP should be mailed as not everyone has access to the Internet.

**b. Create a list of community organizations**

Ms. Barrios maintains an Excel spreadsheet to track outreach efforts to various community organizations. Members will continue to advise Ms. Barrios of when they present on SDP to community members in order that presentations may be coordinated.

**VI. Alternating Meeting Start Times**

Mr. Tim Jin stated that the committee could reach a larger audience by alternating meeting start times. Committee members agreed to reach out to various community groups, such as CPAD and Fiesta Educativa, and ask group members to inform us of their preferred meeting days and times.

**VII. DDS Definition of Random Selection Process for the Self-Determination Program**

Mr. Larry Landauer shared about SDP Enrollment. During the first three years of SDP, enrollment is limited to 2,500 people. To be considered for enrollment, an individual must participate in an informational meeting at his/her regional center. After participating in the informational meeting, the individual must let the regional center know that he/she is interested in enrolling in SDP. Regional centers will send names of those interested in SDP to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). DDS will randomly select the first 2,500 enrollees from among those who have attended an informational meeting. The selection takes into consideration the following factors to ensure those selected are representative of the statewide regional center population: regional center; ethnicity; age; gender and disability diagnosis.

**VIII. Agenda Items for the Next Local Advisory Committee Meeting**

**a. Plans for a presentation by a consumer who has participated in the Self-Determination Program**

Ms. Barrios shared that she is in contact with Ms. Elizabeth Harrell, at Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC). Ms. Harrell has agreed to help identify a consumer who would be interested in presenting at a future SDP Local Advisory Committee Meeting. The committee shared that they would like for the presenter to talk about his/her experience in SDP and to be available to answer questions.

**b. Future agenda items**

Committee members suggested the following agenda items for the next meeting: feedback on the Autism Society of Los Angeles conference on Self-Determination; report from Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee; update on a consumer presentation; outreach efforts to CPAD and Fiesta Educativa; and update on the creation of a general RCOC SDP e-mail address that will allow members of the public to make suggestions and comments to and ask questions of the SDP Local Advisory Committee.

**IX. Public Comments**

Ms. Mark shared that the Autism Society of Los Angeles has published a manual entitled *Self-Determination: Think Outside the Box*. The manuals are available for purchase for \$20.00.

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.