

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

May 17, 2016

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Present

Rhys Burchill, Parent

Jyusse Corey, RCOE Consumer Advocate

Sam Durbin, Consumer

Daniel Harrington, Consumer

Tim Jin, Consumer

Larry Landauer, RCOE Executive Director

Cristina Mercado, RCOE Training and Organizational Specialist

Jacqueline Miller, Clients' Rights Advocate

Michael Rillera, Parent

Scarlett vonThenen, 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 as did audience members attending the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes from April 4, 2016 Meeting

An amendment to the April 4, 2016 meeting minutes was requested by Ms. Harrington, a parent who attended and made comments during that meeting. By consensus, the committee agreed to amend the April 4th meeting minutes. The original minutes will have an addendum attached as follows: "Can SDP funding be made available to those consumers who choose day program setting which may not be 'inclusive' according to the yet to be determined SDP guidelines."

M/S/C to approve the minutes with changes noted above

III. Status of Outreach to Community Organizations:

a. Latino Outreach:

Mr. Larry Landauer reported that he recently met with the local leaders of the Catholic Church to discuss outreach to the Latino community both as it relates to Self-Determination and RCOC's disparity findings. He also hopes to set up time with representatives from Fiesta Educativa to discuss SDP, provide them with Spanish references for frequently used RCOC terminology, and identify policies and information that still needs to be translated.

b. Vietnamese Outreach:

Mr. Larry Landauer reported that RCOC is reaching out to the Vietnamese community via radio public service announcements on Vietnamese radio stations, local newspapers, outreach to local churches, representation at monthly community meetings, and outreach through local school districts. They are hoping to identify policies and information that needs to be translated while also providing the community with references for frequently used Regional Center terminology.

c. Korea Outreach:

Mr. Larry Landauer reported that RCOC staff are reaching out to Korean churches and identifying what policies need to be translated.

IV. Financial/Fiscal Management Services (FMS) Requirements: Guest Speaker – April Stewart, 24Hr HomeCare

Ms. April Stewart presented information on the FMS requirements that will be mandatory for anyone participating in the Self-Determination Program. DDS mandates that all self-determination programs be reimbursed through an FMS vendor either directly to parent in an employer agency model or in a co-employer model where the FMS agency will handle all payroll responsibilities for hired staff. Ms. Stewart explained that an FMS agency will be a third party that ensures that families remain on budget, that all financial exchanges are well documented, and that administrative tasks are minimized for families. Ms. Stewart stressed that the FMS is not responsible for creating the Self-Determination budget nor can they determine how a consumer's budget will be used. The FMS rather ensures that families follow all payment rules set by the Self-Determination program and remain on a projected budget to ensure that all funding lasts for the full year.

V. Presentation for Vendor Advisory Committee

Ms. Scarlett vonThenen reported that she was unable to attend the most recent Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) meeting, but she will reach out to the chair of the VAC to determine if they are interested in receiving an informational presentation on SDP.

VI. Person Centered Planning Presentation

Ms. vonThenen announced that Joe Donofrio of CHOICESS will be giving a presentation on June 15th at the Orange County Office of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. The presentation is open to the public and Ms. vonThenen suggested the committee members attend to determine if Mr. Donofrio would be appropriate to invite to speak at a future SDP meeting. Mr. Landauer provided committee members with a handout entitled “Building Partnerships and Supporting Choices.” Ms. Burchill asked how the person centered model will be maintained by service coordinators with continued increases in case loads. Mr. Landauer stated that RCOC’s Board of Directors would be holding a public forum to discuss the issue on June 2, 2016.

VII. Suggestions or Requests Received via RCOC’s Website

Ms. Mercado updated that all emails and contacts that being submitted via RCOC’s website are now being routed to her. Ms. Mercado continues to update the SDP database which currently contains approximately 40 individuals who have expressed interest in Self-Determination. The task force agreed that more outreach is needed to increase the number of people interested in exploring Self-Determination. Mr. Landauer noted that he has reached out approximately 7 times to the entire RCOC population but that RCOC will honor any requests made by families to be removed from the mailing list. Ms. vonThenen asked how an interested family should inform their service coordinator if they are interested in the program. Mr. Landauer explained that service coordinators should be directing families to submit their interests, inquiries, and contact information to the Self-Determination portion of RCOC’s website.

VIII. Agenda Items for Next Local SD Advisory Committee Meeting

a. Person Centered Thinking Training from Joe Donofrio

Mr. Landauer will contact Joe Donofrio to see if he would be available to provide training on Person Centered Thinking to members of the SDP committee and the public.

b. Contacting Other Independent Facilitators

Ms. vonThenen suggested inviting an independent facilitator to an upcoming SDP informational meeting, and she volunteered to contact facilitators that are currently being used in the Los Angeles area. Mr. Landauer noted that each Regional Center may have a different certification process for independent facilitators and therefore a facilitator who is certified to work in Los Angeles may not be certified to work in Orange County. Mr. Landauer suggested this presentation include a caveat about this certification policy.

IX. Public Comments

Several parents expressed frustration that the meeting notice was only received the previous evening. Ms. Burchill apologized and stated that meeting notices must comply with the 10 day notice provisions. Ms. Mercado stated that she would email all people signed up on the SDP email list with sufficient advanced notice in the future.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.