

Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC)

Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

November 18, 2019

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

Present

Rhys Burchill, Parent

Jyusse Corey, Person Served

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Training and Organizational Specialist

Tim Jin, Person Served

Andrea Kumetz-Coleman, Parent

Keli Radford , RCOC Director of Services and Supports

April Lopez, Parent

Karen Millender, Parent

Jacqueline Miller, Clients' Rights Advocate

Michael Rillera, Parent

Tina Stang, 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 6:34 p.m. She welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee (SDPLAC) Meeting. Each committee member introduced him/herself. She also welcomed community members and asked them to introduce themselves.

Ms. Burchill noted that meeting participants with issues outside of the scope of the SDPLAC can complete a comment card and have an RCOC employee contact them at a later date.

II. Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2019 Meeting

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 9, 2019 meeting. Ms. Andrea Kumetz-Coleman gave a motion to approve the minutes. With the exception of Ms. April Lopez who abstained from the vote, all committee members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

III. RCOC Self-Determination Program (SDP) Updates

Ms. Cathy Furukawa provided updates in regards to participants selected for SDP. Out of the original 151 participants selected for SDP, there are 120 participants who continue to have interest in SDP and 31 participants who requested to opt out of the program. RCOC held an Orientation training on October 2, 2019. Participants who did not yet attend an Orientation were contacted by their Service Coordinator and received a letter from RCOC informing them of the need to attend an Orientation by December 6, 2019 in order to continue with the Self-Determination Program. RCOC held another Orientation training on November 4, 2019 for interested participants who have not had an opportunity to attend an Orientation. In preparation for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) selection of additional participants for SDP, RCOC submitted the information of individuals who are siblings of selected participants and individuals or family members of individuals serving on the Local Advisory Committee. Once additional participants are selected, RCOC will schedule more Orientations.

IV. State Self-Determination Meetings: October 18th in Sacramento

Mr. Tim Jin provided a report on the October statewide meeting. Mr. Jin noted that since meeting attendees are not able to contribute to the agenda items, the meetings are not as productive as they can be. It is hard to get things accomplished during the meetings and the same questions are asked at each meeting. During this meeting, attendees decided to break into small groups to come up with a plan to increase DDS involvement in the state meetings. Group members identified barriers to program implementation and provided recommendations to address these barriers. These recommendations were summarized in a memorandum and provided to committee members. Mr. Jin reported that the upcoming draw will prioritize individuals over the age of 42 and individuals who serve on or who are family members of the Local Advisory Committee. Due to the potential of more people opting out of the program, DDS will overdraw names to ensure the seamless participant replacement in the future.

V. Volunteers for future State Self-Determination Meetings

Committee members were provided with a list of State Self-Determination meetings scheduled for 2020. Ms. Burchill asked if there were any committee members who would

like to volunteer to attend these meetings. Ms. Burchill also asked if there are suggestions on how to improve the state meetings. Mr. April Lopez shared that she previously attended these state meetings and acknowledged that attendees do not get to contribute to the agenda. She suggested that all participants need to come together to be heard. Ms. Lopez recommended that the list of barriers and solutions that were proposed at the last meeting be submitted to the SDP task force as areas of concern.

Mr. Jin shared that attendees of the October state meeting made a recommendation that regional centers provide certified trainers to train Independent Facilitators to address the lack of knowledgeable people who can provide person centered plans. Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen commented that regional centers and State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) should not certify Independent Facilitators because it takes more than one training for a person to become a “certified” Independent Facilitator. In addition, it is not the responsibility of SCDD to certify individuals in order to help them create their own business as an Independent Facilitator.

A member of the public noted that the Independent Facilitator plays an important role in the Self-Determination Program and that Independent Facilitators will have varying levels of ability and expertise.

Ms. Karen Millender commented that Independent Facilitator training needs to be certified in order to protect program participants.

Ms. Von Thenen commented that participants should interview and vet the person they choose as their Independent Facilitator.

A member of the public shared her experience as a mother who worked with an Independent Facilitator during her child’s person centered plan. She shared that the Independent Facilitator should be a trained and capable person because the facilitator she worked with was able to see things about her son that she, as a mother, was not able to see on her own. She stated that the Independent Facilitator does not necessarily need a certification but should be trained and have the capacity to understand the process and the child’s natural environment.

Ms. Lopez recommends that the committee write a letter to the state in support of the concerns and recommendations from the state meeting held on October 18, 2019. Ms. Burchill offered to draft a letter to the state chair and to send a copy of the letter to the DDS.

Mr. Jin asked how many spending plans have been reviewed by RCOC. Ms. Keli Radford noted that approximately 20 spending plans have been reviewed, three spending plans have been approved, and there are two participants active in the program.

A member of the public asked how long does it take to become active in the Self-Determination Program and what are the guidelines. She noted that she does not understand the process and that the steps need to be clearer. Ms. Radford explained that the first step is to attend an Orientation. Participants would then hold the Person Centered Planning (PCP) meeting where goals are identified. A budget which includes RCOC expenditures from the previous 12 months is provided to the participant along with a packet with additional information.

Ms. Von Thenen commented that a step-by-step guide, in family-friendly language, is needed to help participants understand the process. Ms. Von Thenen suggested that RCOC send a personalized letter to everyone who attended an Orientation with information on where that person is in the SDP process and what that person needs to do next to proceed with SDP. Committee members were in agreement with the suggestion. RCOC will share a draft of this letter at the next committee meeting.

VI. Report November 15-16 Self- Determination Conference

Ms. Karen Millender provided a report to the committee regarding her attendance to the Self-Determination Conference. She attended different panels and shared there were a lot of questions regarding unmet needs. She then shared the process for the PCP and how the initial PCP can be funded by RCOC.

There were questions from members of the public regarding how to access funds for the initial PCP and the amount of money allowed. Ms. Furukawa provided clarification on the difference between funding for a person to conduct the initial PCP before a person starts SDP and funding for an Independent Facilitator once a person is already active in SDP.

VII. Local SDAC Report to the SSDAC

There was no discussion regarding this item since a local report has already been submitted to SSDAC.

VIII. Discussion: How shall the Committee respond to Self-Determination Participants Issues?

Ms. Burchill commented that the committee would like to hear from SDP participants so committee members can help with any issues. Committee members agreed to allow time for members of the public to share their experiences with SDP at the next local advisory meeting.

IX. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time since the public provided comments throughout the meeting.

X. Agenda Items for the next meeting

Local Advisory Committee members agreed to hold the next meeting on Monday, December 16, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. The following agenda items were submitted: review draft letter from SDPLAC to DDS regarding program recommendations, review draft of RCOC personalized letter to SDP participants regarding next steps to start program, and status update regarding newly selected SDP participants. The remaining time on the agenda will allow members of the public to share their experiences regarding SDP and to ask any questions. Ms. Burchill agreed to create a flyer to invite program participants to the upcoming meeting.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.