

Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC)

Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

February 1, 2021

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

Virtual Public Meeting

Present

Jyusse Corey, Self-Advocate

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Training and Organizational Specialist

Bruce Hall, Parent

Tim Jin, Self-Advocate

Andrea Kumetz-Coleman, Parent

Larry Landauer, RCOC Executive Director

April Lopez, Parent

Keli Radford, RCOC Director of Services and Supports

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. April Lopez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee (SDPLAC) Meeting. Each committee member introduced him/herself.

II. Approval of Minutes from November 30, 2020 Meeting

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 30, 2020 meeting. Mr. Jyusse Corey made a motion to approve the minutes. 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 the implementation of SDP. There are currently 147 people who are in the program and 26 people who chose to opt out of the program. To date, 57 people have received a certified Individual Budget, 7 Individuals Budgets are in process, and 20 Spending Plans have been completed. Nineteen (19) people are actively receiving services and supports through SDP.

Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen asked RCOC for updates regarding the Department of Development Services (DDS) Directive to temporarily waive the FMS fees from a person's budget. Ms. Keli Radford said there is still no guidance from DDS on how to operationalize this directive. Several families in SDP have asked for the FMS fee to be waived. RCOC came up with a plan and proposed it to DDS. RCOC will add the amount of monthly FMS fees to the Individual Budget until August 31, 2021. If the DDS directive does not continue until August 31, 2021, RCOC will look into removing the added amount of the FMS fees for any unused months from the budget.

Ms. Karen Millender asked when SCs will be informed of this update because she and other families were denied the request to waive the FMS fee. Ms. Radford stated that each request for the FMS fee to be waived will be reviewed on an individual basis. Ms. Judy Mark commented that the directive applies for everyone in SDP and families should not have to ask for the FMS fee to be waived.

A member of the public asked how people interested in SDP will be informed about future Orientations. Ms. Furukawa stated that RCOC will reach out by mail and email to the people who expressed interested in SDP but were not selected for the initial group. RCOC will need to evaluate how to best present the lengthy Orientation virtually. Ms. Mark agreed that the current Orientation is too long. A small workgroup has formed to revise the current Orientation into shorter modules of 1-2 hours. Ms. Mark stated the idea is to have people complete the module as they move along with the program as opposed to completing it all at once.

IV. Community Input and Barriers to Completing the SDP Process

A member of the public stated that she is currently on the list of persons not selected for the initial roll-out of SDP. She wants to start SDP as soon as possible and asked what she can do now to prepare. She also asked if the funding PCPs will be available to her and

when can she sign up for the Orientation. Ms. Furukawa stated that people on the interest list will be contacted by RCOC once Orientations are scheduled. At this time, DDS has not indicated if initial PCP funding will be available once SDP is available for everyone.

Ms. Lopez shared that Mr. Tim Jin was featured on the evening news. Mr. Jin confirmed that he was interviewed by the local news about the COVID-19 vaccine and how it pertains to people with developmental disabilities.

Ms. Judy Mark stated that Disability Voices United (DVU) will hold a virtual SDP conference from April 16-18, 2021. There are scholarships available. Ms. Mark also asked people to reach out to the governor in regards to prioritizing people with developmental disabilities for vaccine distribution. DVU will be hosting a webinar in regard to this topic on Thursday from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

A member of the public stated that she has a child in SDP. She shared that when Spending Plan items are submitted to RCOC, goals needs to be attached to the items in the Spending Plan. She asked if Service Coordinators and Supervisors have received training in regards to these goals. Ms. Radford stated that RCOC staff is trained and everything that is in the Spending Plan needs to be in the Individual Program Plan (IPP).

Ms. Von Thenen announced that the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Central Coast is hosting a monthly virtual meeting the second Monday of every months. During this meeting, Self-Advocates discuss topics pertaining to Self-Determination. Interested persons can email David Grady at david.grady@scdd.ca.gov for more information

V. Review Request for Proposals (RFP) Submissions

The committee members reviewed and discussed the RFP submissions for both Project #1 - *Coaching of Self-Determination Program participants to support them in transitioning to SDP* and Project #2 - *Building the capacity of self-advocates (persons with developmental disabilities) to be Independent Facilitators within SDP*. The RFP Submissions can be accessed [by clicking here](#).

Committee members first reviewed submissions for Project #1 - *Coaching of Self-Determination Program participants to support them in transitioning to SDP*.

- 1) Aveanna, previously known as Premier, submitted an application. Aveanna is currently vendored as an FMS provider for SDP so there are concerns about potential conflicts of interests. Ms. Von Thenen commented that they have a strong application. She would like to see safeguards in place to make sure that people who receive coaching services from them are given choice for FMS providers and are not automatically directed to Aveanna for FMS services. Ms. Jacqueline Miller expressed

concern over the lack of diversity on their board in terms of ethnicity and people with disabilities. Ms. Lopez shared that this applicant is very knowledgeable about SDP and one of their managers sits on the task force with DDS. She has interacted with Aveanna both on the state level and in regards to services for her daughter. They are responsive to changes in timely and helpful over the phone. Ms. Mark stated if there are concerns regarding conflict of interest, it is critical to address this any potential contracts. Mr. Larry Landauer commented that many RCOC vendors get small grants as long as families are not forced to use that vendor. A member of the public commented that as a mother, she has seen Aveanna involved in various SDP committees and provide training to the community.

- 2) PRAGNYA submitted an application. Ms. Miller noted that the board is comprised of all people who are South Asian. Ms. Von Thenen expressed concern that this applicant said they are able to serve 25 people when the RFP requested for 75 people to be served. Ms. Miller asked if it is possible to split this grant with two applicants. Mr. Hall noted that the timeline for implementation is well laid out and detailed. A committee member expressed concern the applicant will charge for coaching time beyond what is allocated in their plan. Mr. Rillera expressed support for this applicant because of the people involved in the organization. There is a parent of a child with a disability and they are active in the community. He does have concerns because the applicant is not locally based in Orange County and there may be issues in regards to availability.
- 3) Transitions submitted an application. The board is small but they are all comprised of people with disabilities. Ms. Von Thenen is concerned because the proposal is for training small groups with two facilitators and 15 people. In addition, there is only one hour of one-on-one coaching for participants. She thinks this is not the best model since everything in SDP is individualized and unique. Mr. Hall and Mr. Corey agreed with this concern.
- 4) Abound submitted an application. Information regarding a Board of Directors was not provided and a team of experts in SDP was not identified.

Ms. Miller and Ms. Von Thenen expressed concern regarding diversity and number of people with disabilities on the board of each organization that applied. Ms. Lopez suggested that perhaps a stipulation is that the chosen applicant has diverse board members.

Ms. Mark noted that at Westside Regional Center they interviewed applicants at an open meeting and asked these types of questions.

Ms. Lopez stated that both Aveanna and PRAGNYA have experience in the community and both have training from SDP experts. She suggested that both these applicants be interviewed in an open forum at the next meeting. All committee members are in agreement.

Committee members next reviewed submissions for Project #2 - *Building the capacity of self-advocates (persons with developmental disabilities) to be Independent Facilitators within SDP*

- 1) I CAN submitted an application. Mr. Hall noted they had an excellent application. It is detailed and written in plain language. The organization is also locally based and they have someone on their team who has completed the SDP process. Ms. Lopez noted that various persons affiliated with I CAN are known and have a presence in the community.
- 2) OCA submitted an application. Ms. Von Thenen noted that there is no diversity on the organization's board and there is no indication regarding experience with SDP. The applicant does not identify staff trained in Independent Facilitation or Person Centered Planning and does not identify a methodology to fulfill the grant requirements.
- 3) PRAGNYA submitted an application.

All members of the committee agreed to invite I CAN to the next meeting to be interviewed in an open forum. Ms. Miller asked if the projects are just for one applicant or can it be split between applicants? Ms. Lopez noted that it is up to the willingness of the applicant to split the grant.

Applicants will be asked the following questions at the next meeting:

- How will the applicant address issues regarding diversity of its board?
- Is the applicant willing to accept a partial amount of the grant if the Advisory Committee decides to award it to multiple applicants?
- If applicable, how will you handle potential conflict of interests (i.e. as a vendor with RCOC)?
- What is the applicant's schedule of availability to work with participants targeted by RFP?

- What are the language capabilities of those on your team? How many languages and how many people who speak these languages?
- If your agency is based outside of Orange County, how will you be able to connect with and work with those within Orange County?

VI. Nomination of Committee Chair

Ms. Lopez asked if the committee has considered having a Vice Chair in addition to a Chair. Mr. Hall nominated Ms. Lopez for Committee Chair. All committee members voted in favor of Ms. Lopez for Committee Chair.

Ms. Lopez nominated Mr. Jin as Vice Chair. During the discussion, Mr. Jin declined the nomination due to his commitments serving on the board of four other organizations.

Mr. Hall nominated Mr. Rillera for Vice Chair. During the discussion, Mr. Rillera declined the nomination due scheduling conflicts.

Ms. Lopez suggested revisiting nominations for Vice-Chair in the future.

VII. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting

The committee agreed to meet within the next few weeks with RFP applicants to obtain more information. The date of the next meeting will be determined once committee members are given options on possible dates and times. Agenda item to include questions and answers with RFP applicants Aveanna, PRAGNYA, and I CAN.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.