

**Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC)**

**Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

**June 8, 2020**

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

**Virtual Public Meeting**

**Present**

Rhys Burchill, Parent

Jyusse Corey, Person Served

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Training and Organizational Specialist

Tim Jin, Person Served

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. Rhys Burchill called the meeting to order at 6:33 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 RCOE employee contact them at a later date.

## **II. Approval of Minutes from February 24, 2020 Meeting**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the February 24, 2020 meeting. Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen gave a motion to approve the minutes. All committee members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

## **III. RCOE Self-Determination Program (SDP) Updates**

Ms. Cathy Furukawa provided updates in regards to the implementation of SDP. Ms. Furukawa shared the number of participants active in SDP and the number of people who are in the process of completing their spending plans. A new Financial Management Services (FMS) agency has been vendored to provide services and two more agencies are in the process of becoming vendors. The newest FMS agency, GT Independence, can provide services to reimburse participants for the cost of the initial Person Centered Plans (PCP). RCOE hosted a virtual Independent Facilitator training on April 20, 2020 and another one is scheduled for July 7, 2020.

## **IV. Discussion: Impact of Governor's FY 2020-2021 Proposed Budget on Self Determination**

Mr. Larry Landauer provided an update in regards to the proposed budget. At this time, the Legislature, Senate and Assembly, proposed changes to the budget, not implementing trigger cuts until October 1, 2020. The proposed budget that was presented by the governor does not have any prescribed cuts to the Self-Determination Program. There will be more information regarding the state budget in coming weeks.

## **V. Discussion: DDS Directive Regarding Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program**

There was a discussion on how to utilize funding to support implementation of the Self-Determination Program. Ms. Von Thenen suggested holding a roundtable discussion with Independent Facilitators and PCP providers to figure out barriers and learn how to address them.

A member of the public shared that San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center plans on using funds to provide one-on-one help and Independent Facilitators to participants who have

challenges with moving forward with the program. She also shared that Lanterman Regional Center will create a training video.

Mr. Tim Jin suggested a mentoring service so that people who are selected for SDP do not revert back to the traditional model of services.

#### **VI. Discussion: DDS Response to Concerns from State SD Meetings**

This agenda item was not discussed.

#### **VII. Discussion: “Top 10 Barriers to Implementation of the Self-Determination Program” Report prepared by Statewide Advisory Committee**

This portion of the meeting was intended for committee members to review the report prepared by the Statewide Advisory Committee. It was suggested that participants who are actively participating in SDP provide information on barriers they encountered throughout the process. Ms. Keli Radford shared that the spending plan has been difficult for participants to complete because people need to understand what services can and cannot be funded in SDP. Ms. Von Thenen shared that another barrier is the process of how the budget is determined and how the budget is adjusted to address unmet needs. Ms. Von Thenen also shared that Service Coordinators are unable to answer questions regarding SDP.

Ms. Judy Mark suggested that committee members review the report and highlight items the committee is responsible for completing and items the regional center is responsible for completing. Ms. Mark shared there is varying levels of knowledge between Service Coordinators so participants need more support and coaching to complete the process.

Ms. Karen Millender shared that another barrier is how unmet needs and new services impact the individual budget. Ms. Millender asked for a follow-up in regards to a written statement on the disencumbrance factor. The committee requested that RCOC provide an explanation regarding the disencumbrance factor in the next 30 days.

#### **VIII. Share your Self-Determination Program Experience and Ask Questions**

Ms. Mark shared that Disability Voices United (DVU) will do a weekly “technical assistance” call on Wednesdays from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM. During this time, a short presentation will be give and questions will be answered. Ms. Mark also suggested that the FMS is paid to assist with the development of the spending plan. She also stated that more FMS agencies need to be vendored.

A member of the public shared her experience as an Independent Facilitator. She shared that staff did not show an understanding of how the budget is determined. She stated that the last 12 months of expenditures is a starting point for the budget and that adjustments needs to be made to address unmet needs. She also shared that it takes too long to get a response in regards to the budget.

A member of the public shared that she has delayed the start of SDP for her sister because she wanted her sister to be able to maximize her budget with 12 months' worth of expenditures or a new service.

A member of the public who acts as an Independent Facilitator shared that parents are receiving conflicting information from Service Coordinators.

## **IX. Agenda Items for the next meeting**

Local Advisory Committee members held a discussion regarding when to next meeting. It was agreed that committee members will complete a poll to decide when to next meet. Agenda items to include the discussion on the "Top 10 Barriers to Implementation of the Self-Determination Program" report prepared by Statewide Advisory Committee. In preparation for this discussion, all committee members are to review the document created by the Statewide Advisory Committee. Other agenda items include: each committee member to come up with a suggestion on how to utilize funds to support implementation of SDP and add review of RCOC written statement on the disencumbrance factor.

Ms. April Lopez made a motion that RCOC provide information on how much it would cost to have mentoring services for families to transition to SDP. All committee members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.