

Regional Center of Orange County

Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting

June 28, 2021

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Public Meeting

Present

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Training and Organizational Specialist

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 6:34 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 June 14, 2021 Meeting

The committee reviewed the minutes from the June 14, 2021 meeting. Mr. Michael Rillera 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. To date, 72 Individual Budgets have been certified or are in the process of being certified by RCOC; 36 spending plans have been submitted for review; and 26 people are actively receiving services and supports through SDP. In addition, 19 PCPs have been funded. Information regarding the online SDP Orientation is available on RCOC's website in English and Spanish.

<https://www.rcocdd.com/services-provided-by-regional-center-of-orange-county/rcoc-self-determination-program-local-advisory-committee/>

[Click Here to view the Orientation Training Flyer in English and Information on How to Register](#)

[Click Here to view the Orientation Training Flyer in Spanish and Information on How to Register](#)

IV. Discussion: Benchmarks for Aveanna and I CAN

Ms. Sandra Ames with I CAN provided the committee with an update on the work I CAN has done so far with training self-advocates toward employment as an Independent Facilitator (IF). I CAN held seven (7) informational meetings to recruit candidates. They also held their first meeting where they laid the ground-work for the training program. Sixteen (16) self-advocates and five (5) peer partners were in attendance. Ms. Ames shared that the participants reflected diversity in abilities and ethnicities. Since I CAN is short of their required benchmark for participants, Ms. Ames asked if RCOC and the committee can identify key candidates to participate in the program. Even though the program has started, the last training session was recorded and new candidates can view the training. Ms. Ames shared that current participants are excited to participate in the program.

Ms. Ames shared the benchmarks (refer to attached benchmarks end of meeting notes) I CAN will meet in fulfilling the Request for Proposal (RFP). Ms. Ames asked to bill quarterly and the agency IRI will help I CAN with billing.

Mr. Rillera asked what type of barriers has I CAN encountered in meeting benchmarks. Ms. Ames shared that a barrier is getting the participants involved. It was also a challenge to explain that the purpose of the program was not to help get participants into SDP. Another barrier is that some participants may not feel confident that they have the skill

set to be an IF. I CAN has created a team approach to help people develop skills so that their skills complement those of their peer partners. A final barrier is marketing so they are asking for help with identifying candidates to participate in the program.

Mr. Scarlett Von Thenen made a motion to approve I CAN's proposed benchmarks for Self-Advocate Capacity Building toward employment as an Independent Facilitator and quarterly billing of \$7,410.80. All committee members voted in favor of approving the proposed benchmarks and quarterly billing.

A member of the public asked if I CAN has any Spanish-speaking or Latino participants and if they plan on outreaching to this group. Ms. Ames stated that the program flyer was translated into Spanish for distribution and a make-up meeting was offered to those interested however there was no follow-up. Ms. Ames stated there is a participant and parent who speak Spanish. In addition, there are to 2-3 Vietnamese-speaking participants and a participant and family member who are of South Asian descent. Ms. Ames is open to reaching out to more participants if this member of the public has specific people in mind she would like to refer.

A member of the public inquired about Independent Facilitator (IF) training for parents. Ms. Von Thenen that shared that the State Council on Developmental Disabilities has created an online IF training but provided a disclaimer that the training is not comprehensive. She encouraged interested persons to also attend RCOC's two day Person Center Thinking training as a supplement.

Ms. Kumetz-Coleman asked how I CAN will continue to check in on participant's skills and how they are doing in their role as IF. Ms. Ames stated I CAN will offer referrals for IF teams who are ready to do the work effectively. I CAN will also complete self-evaluations through the process and will complete a one year follow-up to see where participants are at with their IF services.

In regards to the RFP for SDP coaching services to be provided by Premier (doing business as Aveanna), Ms. Furukawa shared that Aveanna asked to bill for services by the hour for each SDP participant they coach. This RFP is for SDP coaching for up to \$78,929.60 and for 75 participants, of those, half (37 individuals) have a preferred language other than English. SDP coaching shall include all aspects of SDP, including, but not limited to transitioning into the program, person centered planning (acquisition of), budget and spending plan coaching.

Ms. Alma Morales with Aveanna shared that Aveanna is keeping notes of the people they have provided coaching services. She asked for clarification on how to bill for time spent on emails and text messages since some people prefer this as a method of communication. In addition, she asked for guidance on what to do for those people who are not responding to Aveanna's outreach for coaching services. The biggest barrier Aveanna is experiencing at this time is a person's understanding of SDP since most people attended the Orientation a while ago. Aveanna's outreach includes gauging a participant's understanding of the program and reviewing the program with participants.

Another barrier is that participants are not satisfied with the budget once they receive it. Ms. Morales noted that Aveanna received 43 referrals for coaching services. Of these referrals: Aveanna has not been able to connect with 10 people after multiple attempts, three (3) people shared they are not ready to start now, five (5) people are unsure if they want to participate, four (4) people are looking for a person to complete the Person Centered Plan (PCP), and six (6) people are not interested. Ms. Lopez shared that during this COVID-19 period, it is difficult for her as a parent to feel safe enough to get started with SDP. Ms. Morales confirmed that some families experiencing death or other difficulties and asked to put this process on SDP.

A member of the public asked if Aveanna give referrals for IF and people to complete PCPs. Ms. Morales confirmed they do make these referrals but she has received feedback that some providers are not immediately available.

A member of the public shared that Korean-speaking families have been waiting to start SDP but they do not know how to start. She thinks coaching services will be beneficial to them.

Mr. Karen Millender made a motion to approve Aveanna's proposed benchmarks for SDP coaching billing by hours of service provide for each person. This is to include date of service, location of service, units of service, and UCI (Unique Client Identifier) of the person. This is for up to \$78,929.60 and for 75 participants, of those, half (37 individuals) have a preferred language other than English.

There was discussion on how details of the time spent are to be included in billing. Ms. Morales asked for clarification on how to bill for texts and emails. In the past, Aveanna has billed in 15 minute intervals. Ms. Von Thenen asked if there is a way to break down billing time to five minute intervals. The committee agreed to revisit the details of how to bill. All committee members voted in favor of Aveanna's benchmark for billing coaching services.

V. Discussion: Funds for Technology Consultation

Ms. Von Thenen stated that the committee allocated some of the SDP Implementation funds towards Technology Consultation. She noted that the SDP Implementation funds need to be encumbered by June 30, 2021 or else these funds cannot be accessed. The committee needs to decide how to use these funds.

A member of the public asked for help with mentorship and help with SDP.

It was noted that The SDP Network (<https://www.thecasdpnetwork.org/>) manages a comprehensive website where interested persons can find IFs, people who provide PCP services, and service providers. Members of the committee shared their experiences with locating an IF and PCP provider. A member of the public stated spoke in support of I CAN supporting people to become IFs.

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Ms. Von Thenen made a motion to approve that the funds which were allocated to Technology Consultation be allocated to I CAN for year two follow-up of Self-Advocates training to become IFs. All committee members voted in favor of allocating the remaining SDP implementation funds of \$8,282 to I CAN to support the year two follow-up of self-advocates to see how they are doing in their business as an IF.

VI. Discussion: DDS SDP Implementation Funds for the FY 2020-21, pursuant to the DDS directive dated 9/18/2020. This amount was \$123,216 to RCOC and funds must be encumbered by 6/30/21 and spent by March 2023.

DDS directive 3/2/2020 for SDP implementation money for FY 2019-20 in the amount of \$90,153 to be encumbered by 6/30/20 and expended by March 2022.

Ms. Furukawa shared that the funds from the DDS directive dated 3/2/2020 had to be encumbered by 06/30/2020. Since these funds were not encumbered by that date, they can no longer be accessed

VII. Discussion: Service Codes in SDP

Due to time limitations, the committee agreed to move this agenda item to the next meeting.

VIII. Discussion: SDP Opening in June 2021

Mr. Larry Landauer shared that the state governor will sign the budget on June 30, 2021 and the budget will include Trailer Bill Language (TBL) that informs SDP. Once the budget is signed, RCOC will move forward with SDP for all interested persons. A member of the public stated that individual budgets need to be provided as soon as possible so interested persons can submit their spending plan. She stated that she has staff she needs to hire to provide services in SDP.

Another member of the public asked if RCOC can guarantee they can start on July 1, 2021 because other regional centers are allowing people to start SDP based on birth month. It was confirmed that RCOC will not start SDP by birth month but based on requests from interested persons.

IX. Discussion: By-laws and Appointing a Vice-Chair

Due to time limitations, the committee agreed to move this agenda item to the next meeting.

X. Community Input and Barriers to Completing the SDP Process.

A member of the public asked how they can become a member of the Local Advisory Committee. Ms. Von Thenen shared that the committee is currently at capacity. Ms. Lopez encouraged interested persons to reach out to SCDD in the event a vacancy opens (www.scdd.ca.gov). In addition, RCOC nominates people to the committee. Ms. Von Thenen stated vacancies open when people step down or if there are attendance issues. There are no term limits at this time so it may be helpful to discuss term limits in the future.

XI. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting

The committee asked RCOC to provide available dates and times for the next meeting via an online poll and to allow committee members to select the best date. The committee agreed to move the unaddressed agenda items to the next meeting. Agenda items will be solicited at that time as well

XII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

I CAN Independent Facilitator Project Benchmarks

April – May - June Billing Period:

Benchmarks:

Participant Support –

- Marketing to adult programs/transition programs/community agencies/disability groups
- Hold minimum of 3 informational meetings
- Distribute applications to interested participants
- Secure participation – minimum 18 RCOG consumers – sign participant agreement
- Make contact with participant adult programs to ensure awareness and support of

participant activities

Data Bases –

- Develop IF Tool Box
- Develop Service Delivery Data Base

Training -

- Secure locations
- Develop curriculum necessary for Core training #1
- Hold Core training #1- June 19th
- Secure required meeting logistics and media for pairing with virtual
- Prepare virtual and hard copy materials for participants
- Evaluate participant acquisition of knowledge
- Provide additional training resources for independent study
- Determine schedule for six (6) additional soft skill trainings passed on participants

schedules

July – August –September Billing Period:

Benchmarks:

Participant Support -

- Weekly check in with participants
- Provide initial evaluation of participant skills - continue to observe/review participant

skill development/need

- Monitor participation completion of community program webinars/trainings
- Check in with participant support/adult programs to ensure participant support in

activities

Data Bases –

- Continue to develop IF Tool Box
- Continue to develop Service Delivery Data Base

Training -

- Develop required curriculum for Core training #2 and soft skill #1

2nd Core Training – August 14th

1st Soft Skill – date TBD – held in September

Prepare virtual and hard copy materials for participants

Evaluate participant acquisition of knowledge

Provide additional training resources for independent study

October – November –December Billing Period:

Benchmarks:

Participant Support -

Weekly check in with participants

Continue to observe/review participant skill development/need - Evaluate participant need for more training

Monitor participation completion of community program webinars/trainings

Check in with participant support/adult programs/DOR to ensure ability to continue business development

Data Bases –

Continue to develop IF Tool Box

Continue to develop Service Delivery Data Base

Training -

Develop required curriculum for soft skill #2 and #3

2nd Soft Skill – date TBD – held in October

3rd Soft Skill – date TBD – held in November

Prepare virtual and hard copy materials for participants

Provide additional training resources for independent study

PCP teams to facilitate PCP process with 2 RC consumers

January – February –March Billing Period:

Benchmarks:

Participant Support -

Weekly check in with participants

Continue to observe/review participant skill development/need

Monitor participation completion of community program webinars/trainings

Check in with participant support/adult programs

Provide final participant evaluations

Meet with participant and adult program/DOR as needed to transition business plan development

Data Bases –

Continue to develop IF Tool Box

Continue to develop Service Delivery Data Base

Training -

Develop required curriculum for soft skill #2 and #3

4nd Soft Skill – date TBD – held in January

5rd Soft Skill – date TBD – held in February

6th Soft Skill – date TBD – held in March

Prepare virtual and hard copy materials for participants

Evaluate participant acquisition of knowledge

Provide additional training resources for independent study

PCP teams to facilitate PCP process with 2 RC consumers