

Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC)

Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

August 3, 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 (joined at 8:08 P.M.)

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 should contact their RCOC Service Coordinator for assistance.

II. Approval of Minutes from July 6, 2020 Meeting

The committee reviewed the minutes from the July 6, 2020 meeting. Ms. Andrea Kumetz-Coleman gave 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. RCOC hosted a virtual Independent Facilitator training on July 7, 2020. There were 17 attendees and a Spanish interpreter was available throughout the training. Ms. Furukawa shared the number of participants active in SDP and the number of people who have received a budget.

IV. Presentation on the Person- Centered Plan

Ms. Kumetz-Coleman presented on the Person- Centered Plan.

V. Follow-up with DDS regarding the Disencumbrance Policy

Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen reported that she had emailed the Department of Development Services (DDS) to ask how other regional centers determine the budget and to ask for guidance. She will follow-up with a mailed letter.

Upon request, Ms. Keli Radford provided the disencumbrance factor for the most commonly used services. Ms. Von Thenen expressed concerned that this is not an individualized process and it disincentives people to participate in Self-Determination.

VI. Discussion: Outcome Survey

Ms. Rhys Burchill created a survey which asked participants who received an Individual Budget what type of assistance they needed to move forward with the Self-Determination Program. Ms. Furukawa shared the information that was provided by respondents. The online survey was sent to 50 people who received an Individual Budget from RCOC. Twenty-three (23) responses were received. Thirteen (13) people indicated they need support to develop a Spending Plan; ten (10) people indicated they need help understanding how the Individual Budget was developed; eleven (11) people indicated they need help and support to understand what type of services and supports they can use

in Self-Determination; nine (9) people indicated they need help on how to develop a Person-Centered Plan; and seven (7) people indicated they need help to understand the program. Four people stated they need materials in Spanish and one person needs materials in Vietnamese.

VII. Discussion: Committee member to decide how to use Self-Determination Funds

The committee discussed how the funds can be used with input from members of the public. There was a suggestion to use funds for parent mentors with different language capabilities to provide support for participants in Self-Determination. In addition, it was suggested that funds be used for “capacity building” and to train self-advocates to become Independent Facilitators. There was also a suggestion to provide funds to help support the Statewide Self-Determination Committee and to purchase books, resources, and materials for participants in Self-Determination.

A member of the public shared support for the use of parent mentors since parents trust working with other parents of children with special needs. She also supports the idea of training self-advocates.

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

There were no public comments at this time.

IX. Agenda Items for the next meeting

Agenda items to include a discussion regarding an informal group for families to talk about Self-Determination. The committee will also make recommendations on how to utilize funds to support implementation of SDP

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Results of an online survey sent to 50 people who have received a budget from RCOC.

23 responses were received.



I need support in the area of (respondents can type in response):

- *Services that I can use for my brother*
- *The only thing I can say it was so impossible to understand the process. If it was not for my independent facilitator that basically took care of everything releasing me from all the stress this was causing me I would of given up on it. I really disagree on the fact that we are unable to pay the facilitator until the budget gets approved. That is ridiculous, you guys need some type of group that can take these parents that need so much support and guide them step by step. I do not know how many times I would get email's telling me what they needed me to do. No consideration that I did not have a clue on what they needed it was a sink or swim deal. The communication was horrendous as I called many times and asked for a call back, that never happened. I can truly say if it was not for my cousin that never gave hope and put so many hours figuring it for herself I can honestly say I would of given up months ago. I have so much to stress about I do not need a program to add more to it. I am happy too say after a long three if not four month we are finally starting services through the program Self Determination. I urge you to hire a team of people that can guide and help the parents step by step on the process. I highly recommend _____ to be part of that group as she has now learn the process and can help others, she has a gift and a passion for this community. Thank you*

- *Starting the process*
- *I'm using the SD program and it's going really well. The biggest issue was a glitch with MediCal when we transitioned.*
- *Questions regarding direct support during Covid-19? Safety is important. Can approved family members provide the support?*
- *Getting the independent facilitator paid for the hours she worked getting the plan setup. \$1500.00, right*
- *Almost ready to make the switch to SPD. Sorting out some budget issues with the caseworker. It may be another 2 to 3 months.*
- *I have received paperwork with what was spent on my daughters case and then receive what is supposed to be her budget which isn't explained and is equal to only about 40% of what was spent in the past.*
- *wanted to add to the confusion that have been given 2 budgets when we are still creating our PCP. We are behind due to two major surgeries this year, then covid demands. I don't need help but I think if you made the process simpler for people who don't understand it and connect them with facilitators.*
- *Implementing the program. The different entities involved don't coordinate.*
- *Not sure this is going to get you the info you need. Parents need mentors. Another parent that they can reach out to. NOBODY knows what self determination is. Parents don't know and neither do local resources - day programs, speech therapists, etc. This program is great but no one knows what it is. Yes...we need to help the current people that were selected but we need to get the word out to new people.*
- *getting started with actual process and for those involved to know at least a bit more than i do*
- *completing the SDP packet*
- *Find a company to help me hire employees.*
- *Develop my Spending Plan*
- *Unmet Needs*

I need materials to be translated (indicate language below)

Vietnamese (1)

Spanish (4)