

Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC)

Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

September 21, 2020

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

Virtual Public Meeting

Present

Rhys Burchill, Parent

Jyusse Corey, Self-Advocate

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. 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.

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 August 3, 2020 Meeting

The committee reviewed the minutes from the August 3, 2020 meeting. Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen gave a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Jacqueline Miller asked that the minutes include more detailed summary of what was discussed. Ms. Burchill noted that a draft copy of the minutes is sent for review and comments can be made at that time.

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 144 people who are still in the program and 26 people who chose to opt out of the program. To date, 54 people have received an Individual budget and 12 people are actively receiving services and supports through SDP. Eight (8) people have chosen to have RCOC fund for a separate Person-Centered Plan (PCP). There are currently four (4) agencies vendored to provide Financial Management Services (FMS).

For the next meeting, Mr. Tim Jin asked RCOC to share what type of services active participants were receiving in traditional services and what services are they receiving in SDP.

Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen shared that State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) has a self-paced Independent Facilitator training available in English and Spanish.

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

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

IV. Public participation: Time limitation

Ms. Burchill shared the importance of time limitation when members of the public are making comments during the meeting. Ms. Karen Millender made a motion to limit public comments to three minutes. There was concern expressed regarding limiting when members of the public may speak as they may provide input and information before committee members make any decisions. Ms. Burchill provided clarification that members of the public may make comments but their comments should be limited to three minutes to ensure the meeting runs efficiently. All committee members voted in favor of limiting public comments to three minutes.

V. Adoption of Sub-committee Recommendations for Expenditure of Self-Determination Money Available

Ms. Burchill created a sub-committee to determine the funding allocation due to the lack of consensus during the previous committee meetings. A sub-committee consisting of Ms. Millender, Ms. Von Thenen, and member of the public met on September 2, 2020 to discuss expenditure of funds available to help implement SDP. The sub-committee made a recommendation to allocate the funds in the following manner: 60 percent for mentoring and coaching to help people along the SDP process, 20 percent for training of Self-Advocates to become Independent Facilitators (IF), 15 percent to hire a Technology Consultant to create a portal where all SDP resources are accessible in one place, 2.5 percent towards printing of materials (i.e. the SDP workbook created by Tri-Counties Regional Center), and 2.5 percent to support the Statewide Advisory Committee.

A committee member requested clarification on what the role of Technology Consultant. This person would compile all the information and resources in a “one-stop shop” so it can be accessible to everyone. This will help current and future participants transition into SDP. The information portal can also be interactive where the people can click to indicate where they are in the process of Self-Determination and it will direct the person of the next steps they need to complete.

A member of the public asked if the Tri-Counties Regional Center workbook is only available in English or will it be available in other languages. At this time the workbook is only available in English and Spanish but a RFP can be created for the translation of this into other languages.

Ms. Tina Stang suggested an Instagram account that provides information and updates regarding SDP.

A member of the public suggested making the SDP Orientation available in Spanish.

Ms. Von Thenen made a motion to approve the above allocation of SDP funds as recommended by the subcommittee. Mr. Jyusse Corey seconded the motion. All committee members voted in favor the recommended allocation of SDP funds.

Committee members discussed the RFP review process - who would review the RFPs and make a recommendation, the subcommittee or the SDP Local Advisory Committee. Ms. Miller recommended that that the subcommittee can review the RFPs and pick the top two from each category to be reviewed by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC). The LAC can then make the selection. Ms. Miller made a motion that the subcommittee

review the RFPs and bring their recommendations for review and vote by the full Local Advisory Committee. Ms. April Lopez seconded the motion.

During the discussion, Mr. Tim Jin commented that it takes a long time to review RFPs and Ms. Millender echoed this comment. Ms. Millender made a motion to withdraw the previous motion which gives the subcommittee authority to make decisions, due to the time commitment required to review RFPs. Mr. Michael Rillera seconded this motion. This motion passes with seven committee members voting in favor and two committee members voting not in favors.

Ms. Miller requests review of the section in The Bagley Keene Act that allows for a subcommittee to meet. Ms. Burchill will follow-up. Ms. Miller and Ms. Lopez stated that the process of a subcommittee meeting is not transparent to members of the public. Ms. Judy Mark expressed concern with how SDP is moving forward at RCOC. She stated that families are discouraged due to barriers at RCOC, lack of training for Service Coordinators, and misinformation provided to families. In addition, she stated that the meetings to discuss the Individual Budget are intimidating. Ms. Von Thenen expressed agreement with Ms. Mark's comments.

Ms. Millender asked Ms. Mark to clarify where in the process people have difficulty moving forward in SDP. Ms. Von Thenen stated that a survey was sent to families and participants asking where in the process they need more assistance and results were shared at the last committee meeting. Ms. Mark stated that the Individual Budget is a significant problem and that families from communities of color are intimidated by the process, cannot move forward, and are not getting the services needed.

A member of the public commented that Service Coordinators lack information and are taking a long time to respond and unmet needs are not included in the budget. Families still do not know what SDP is and the committee needs to advertise this program.

Ms. Von Thenen asked Ms. Keli Radford to address the issues regarding RCOC. Ms. Radford noted that Service Coordinators have completed Person Centered Planning training, Orientation training, and a Budget and Spending Plan training. Ms. Millender asked how long was the Budget and Spending Plan training and what topics were covered. Ms. Radford shared the training was one and half hours and the training covered the Individual Budget, Unmet Needs and the Spending Plan. If there are specific concerns, it is recommended that participants and family members contact the Area Supervisor. Ms. Burchill noted that mentoring support will help with these issues.

VI. Share your Self-Determination Program experience and ask Questions

A member of the public shared a story of how life for her client has improved once the client started SDP. This person was able to hire a professional chef to help with menu planning and to learn how to cook. Another person was hired to help with socializing.

Another member of the public shared that during this period of COVID-19, she was able to get the budget reassessed and adjusted.

VII. Agenda Items for the next meeting

The committee agreed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Agenda items to include the status of RFP from the subcommittee and review of The Bagley Keene Act to see if a subcommittee is allowed.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.