

Regional Center of Orange County
Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting
February 27, 2023
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Virtual Public Meeting

Present

Crystal Chavez, RCOC Participant Choice Specialist

Chad Escallier- Client's Rights Advocate Disability Rights California

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Self-Determination Program Coordinator

Dr. April Lopez, Parent

Kathleen McFarlin, Manager of Comfort Connection Family Resource Center

Karen Millender, Parent

Keli Radford, RCOC Director of Services and Supports

Scarlett Von Thenen, Orange County Office of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Tierney Cameron, Self-Advocate

Tim Jin, Self-Advocate

Tina Stang, Parent

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. April Lopez, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. She welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee (SDPLAC) Meeting. Each committee member introduced themselves.

II. Approval of December 12, 2022 Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 12, 2022 meeting. Mr. Chad Escallier made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Kathleen McFarlin second the motion. All committee members voted in favor of approving the minutes. Ms. Tierney Cameron abstained from voting as she was not present during the previous meeting.

III. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program for Fiscal Year 2021-22 (https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/DDS_Guidance_SDP_RCParticipantSupports_02112022.pdf)

a. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination

Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen shared and reviewed the Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Self-Determination Program (SDP) Resource Fair. The end date of the RFP would be March 2023, in order for the fair to be held by July 2023. Ms. Cathy Furukawa explained what an RFP is. Ms. Cathy Furukawa shared the DDS Directive reviewing Implementation Funds: www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/FY_22_23_SDP_RC_Participant_Supports_Letter_and_Enclosure_1.pdf

A community member requested for the Project Date to be modified from July 2022 to July 2023. Ms Furukawa stated the RFP will be posted to the RCOC website by the end of the week of 2/27/23. Ms. Von Thenen made a motion to approve the RFP, Ms McFarlin second the motion. Ms. VonThenen noted the RFP will be placed on the RCOC website, where all interested organizations will be able to review and place their bid for the RFP. All committee members voted in favor. There was no additional discussion.

Ms. McFarlin noted there is a budget of \$109,000 for the Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program and the committee does not have to discuss expenditure for the entire funds all at once.

b. Survey of Current and Potential SDP Participants Delineation of Barriers and Obstacles in SDP

Ms. McFarlin discussed the request for the Survey of Current and Potential SDP Participants Delineation of Barriers and Obstacles in SDP. Ms. McFarlin shared Thompson Policy Institute (TPI) is a possible agency to complete the survey with an estimated cost of \$22,000.00 to survey everyone who is currently enrolled or interested in SDP. The survey would be available in the individuals preferred language. Ms. McFarlin inquired if this would be of value to complete, as there are already several known obstacles. Ms. Von Thenen inquired if utilizing TPI would be a conflict of interest due to RCOC already being vendored with them. Ms. Keli Radford noted TPI is not a vendor, but they are a resource to assist with educational resources. A community member noted the high cost of the survey.

Ms. VonThenen noted if funds are not allocated for the survey, there would need to be additional ways of utilizing the funds that are available. Ms. McFarlin reviewed previously noted items that were discussed at the previous SDP Local Advisory Committee (SDPLAC) meeting that could utilize SDP Implementation funds.

A community member noted the experience with Service Coordination and the request to increase Service Coordinators (SC) training in SDP. Ms. McFarlin noted the SDP Implementation Funds would not be appropriate to spend on SC training.

A community member inquired about funding for a monthly training for individuals who are in or interested in SDP. The community member noted the training would address areas such as: how to make an invoice, where to find staff, building relationships with community vendors to be more open about receiving SDP funds. Ms. McFarlin inquired as to who would be the trainer. The community member noted DVU does trainings, as well as Autism Society of Los Angeles.

Ms. Furukawa stated the approved minutes from the meeting would be made available through the RCOC website in order for the community to be able to review the list of ideas listed at the previous SDPLAC meeting

c. Payment Approval of Self-Paced Independent Facilitator Training in Vietnamese

Ms. VonThenen reviewed the SDPLAC approval of the Independent Facilitator (IF) self-paced training and recording available in Vietnamese. Ms. VonThenen noted the parent, of an adult Person Served who is in SDP, translated all of the content from the training and recorded all of the slides in Vietnamese. Ms. VonThenen requested for State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) to be removed as the recipient of payment for the translation services and add parent as the recipient. Ms. VonThenen made a motion to pay the contractor directly for funding of the IF training translation. Ms. Tina Stang second the motion. Ms. McFarlin commented the contractor, parent, needing to have an Independent Contractor agreement, where the person would need to provide insurance and additional documentation, for receipt of payment from RCOC. Ms. McFarlin recommended for the funds to continue with SCDD and for SCDD to pay the contractor. Ms. Furukawa posted the website to the IF Webinar: www.rcocdd.com/wp-content/uploads/SDPnewsletter/IFWebinarFlyer.pdf. Ms. VonThenen noted the training is open to the public in English and Spanish, and will be available in Vietnamese once the payment is released. All committee members voted and motion did not pass.

IV. RCOC Self-Determination Program (SDP) Activities

a. Current listing of all the Regional Center's Self-Determination Participation Status

Ms. Furukawa provided an update on the status of SDP participants. RCOC has certified 254 individual budgets, with 72 of these budgets for participants from the initial group. There are currently 112 people actively receiving services through SDP, with 32 people from the initial group. Out of the 112 people active in SDP, 76 people received Person Centered Planning (PCP) and/or Independent Facilitator (IF) services. In regards to the demographics of the 112 people active in SDP, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (18), Black/African-America (5), Hispanic (25), Other or Unknown (16), and White (48). Of the 112 people who are active in SDP, 40 people are from the West Area Office while 72 are from the Central Area Office. In regards to the demographics of the 254 people who received a certified budget, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (51), Black/African-America (8), Hispanic (65), Other or Unknown (38), and White (92). Of the 254 people who received a budget, 110 people are from the West Area Office while 144 are from the Central Area Office.

A member of the public noted the discrepancy between the West and Central Area office in number of participants active and participants who received a certified budget.

Ms. Furukawa shared that RCOC is in the process of vendoring with a new FMS agency for Orange County. Mr. Jin inquired if there was a budget cap for new FMS. Ms. Furukawa will follow-up on their budget cap, the models they will provide and employer burden costs.

b. Update on Outreach and Barriers to SDP Enrollment

Ms. Furukawa noted continued attempt to outreach with families. Ms. Furukawa noted the community's ability to reach out to DDS and Ombudsman to note their concerns with FMS enrollment delays. Ms. Furukawa stated SequioaSD, Inc. is in the process of submitting vendorization paperwork with RCOC. The FMS has a capacity of accepting Individual Budgets that are under \$200,000 and their employer burden is 25%. Ms. Furukawa stated RCOC is in the process of courtesy vendorization with an additional FMS from the Westside Regional Center and has asked if Ritz FMS Agency would like to as well. Ms. Furukawa noted if individuals in the community have a connection with an FMS provider, they are encouraged to reach out to RCOC and FMS Provider, as RCOC is able to courtesy vendor with FMS Agencies that are already vendored with another Regional Center.

c. FMS Fee Payment Timeline

Ms. Furukawa noted FMS is able to invoice weekly and paid out weekly. Accounting will let the FMS know directly if something is wrong or needs corrections. FMS agencies also reach out to Ms. Furukawa inquiring as to the reason for the inability to pay an invoice in order to troubleshoot the payment.

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

Mr. Escallier inquired if when individuals are new to RCOC if they are told about both programs. Ms. Furukawa reviewed that both programs are discussed the SC's and they are proactive in noting SDP as an option with traditional services.

A community member inquired about application status for individuals who applied for committee members. Ms. Furukawa noted the newest member is Ms. Tierney Cameron, who is a Self-Advocate appointed by SCDD. Ms. Furukawa stated RCOC continues to review applications submitted. Ms. Von Thenen noted SCDD appoints half of the committee members and RCOC appoints the other half. Review of balance of demographics (ie parent advocate, self advocates). SCDD noted that they wanted to ensure that they were able to choose an individual who is currently undergoing SDP.

A community member inquired as to who can assist with communication with GT Independence FMS Agency as there are issues with communication, especially when there are needed changes to the Spending Plan.

A community member inquired if all SCs are trained to request the updated budget request. Ms. Furukawa noted the community members are able to reach out to Ms. Furukawa or Ms. Crystal Chavez to provide support. Alejandra Calderon from GT Independence noting the increase in

calls and wait times, along with a shift in staff. A community member noted the request to be able to meet with RCOC, GT Independence and IFs to be able to note barriers and share the concerns families are experiencing. Alejandra noted the best representative to assist with specific inquiries, for the family to reach out to the assigned Field Specialist/Representative for the Person Served.

A community member requested for the RCOC SDP team to be able to send out the same day reminders of SDPLAC meetings. Ms. Furukawa noted the ability to ensure that occurs.

Mr. Escallier noted he attended a webinar on Coordinated Family Support Services and inquired as to what RCOC is doing about being able to support families in OC with this service. Ms. Furukawa provided the link: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/coordinated-family-support-service/>. Ms. Radford noted being able to complete the same webinar and there continues to be pending information to be provided from DDS. RCOC has been able to submit an outreach plan and an RFP will be placed on the RCOC website for potential vendors. Ms. Radford noted that the service is not available yet, but it will be available to individuals in traditional and SDP system. Ms. Furukawa noted the service is for individuals 18+ living in the family home and there are no known vendors at this time.

Ms. VonThenen stated the CalSavers program mandates all employers offer a retirement plan, where employees have the option to opt in or out of receiving this benefit. In relation to SDP, individuals are using the FMS, the FMS may add additional employer burden for the implementation of the CalSavers program. Ms. VonThenen inquired as to how to implement that cost into SDP. Ms. Furukawa noted this was the first of hearing about this program and is unsure of the impact. Alejandra Calderon from GT Independence, stated she had not heard of this as well and would review at the next GT Independence staff meeting. Ms. VonThenen provided the links to the CalSavers Program:

https://www.calsavers.com/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAxbefBhDfARIsAL4XLRoYYJ4Oe_bj08C0k208XW8rVFBV3HLVOomy-Ymq_015hKLf43GS-O8aAjmrEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds and https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=&title=21.&part=&chapter=&article.

A community member inquired about the FMS agencies that work with RCOC and their language capability. Ms. Furukawa noted being able to work on this and update the FMS Provider list.

A community member inquired as to the status of 099. Ms. Furukawa stated there has not been an update and will reach out to SDP DDS for further information.

A community member inquired if Coordinated Family Support Services pilot program is accepting names for the interested list. Ms. Furukawa noted families are able to note their interest to their Service Coordinators.

VI. Committee Center Planning

There was a discussion regarding Committee Center Planning services. It was noted that Disability Voices United (DVU) has worked with other Local Advisory Committees to complete

a Committee Center Plan. Ms. Furukawa reviewed the minutes from August 8, 2022, noting DVU being able to provide a Committee training. Link to the August meeting provided: www.rcocdd.com/wp-content/uploads/SDPnewsletter/SDPMinutes08082022.pdf. Ms. VonThenen noted that if the committee votes to move forward with Committee Center Planning, that an RFP is created to allow interested parties to apply.

Ms. Tierney Cameron inquired as to how often the committee meets. Dr. Lopez noted that the committee meets once a month or every other month, depending on the committee availability and notice to the public.

A community member inquired if services change with the new Coordinated Family Support Service. Ms. Furukawa noted this service is in addition to all services currently received.

VII. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting

Dr. Lopez requested for dates to be sent out for the next meeting. Ms. Furukawa confirmed being able to send out a poll for dates.

VIII. Adjourn

Adjourned at 8:30pm.