

Regional Center of Orange County
Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting
October 24, 2022
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Virtual Public Meeting

Present

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Self-Determination Program Coordinator

Tim Jin, Self-Advocate

Karen Millender, Parent

Keli Radford, RCOC Director of Services and Supports

Tina Stang, Parent

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

Dr. April Lopez, Parent

Crystal Chavez, RCOC Participant Choice Specialist

Kathleen McFarlin, Manager of Comfort Connection Family Resource Center

Chad Escallier- Client's Rights Advocate

Nidya Paredes – Client's Rights Advocate

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. April Lopez, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee (SDPLAC) Meeting. Each committee member introduced themselves.

II. Approval of August 8, 2022 and September 12, 2022 Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the minutes from the August 8, 2022 and September 12, 2022 meeting. Ms. Kathleen McFarlin made a motion to approve the minutes. All committee members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

III. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program for Fiscal Year 2021-22

a. Subcommittee to Create Request for Proposals (RFP)

Ms. Cathy Furukawa reviewed the DDS directive in regards to funding available to implement SDP for 2022 – 2023. The website for the DDS directive was provided: https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/FY_22_23_SDP_RC_Participant_Supports_Letter_and_Enclosure_1.pdf

DDS directive was reviewed, including the priority areas. Base funding provided to RCOC \$109,576.59 must be expended by March 2025.

Mr. Tim Jin suggested there be a training course for Service Code 099 to assist Independent Facilitators (IF) with vendorization process. Ms. Furukawa informed Mr. Jin there is a Program Design check-list that was sent to a couple of IFs to assist them with this process. RCOC has received a program design for 099 and are in the process of review. Ms. Furukawa provided link with how to become vendored through RCOC for Service Code 099: <https://www.rcocdd.com/services-provided-by-regional-center-of-orange-county/rcoc-self-determination-program-local-advisory-committee/>

Aveanna is noted to have been able to complete the vendorization process with their home regional center. They will need to complete courtesy vendorization with RCOC.

An Independent Facilitator shared that two other SDP Local Advisory Committees are using their implementation funds to pay for IF training through the Guidelight Group.

Ms. Tina Stang inquired if the implementation funds are available to train additional individuals to become IFs or is it only available to develop current IFs through I CAN. Dr. Lopez and Ms. Furukawa confirmed the funds are available beyond the IFs with I CAN.

Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen provided thoughts and ideas as to how to utilize available funds. Disability Voices United (DVU) is hosting a conference called “Breaking Through Barriers: Advancing Self-Determination” and a portion of the funds can be allocated to fund for persons served and their families to attend the conference (\$75 per person). Ms. Keli Radford noted RCOC will fund for the conference but through Purchase Reimbursement, as DVU does not have the required insurance coverage to be vendored with RCOC. Ms. Von Thenen inquired if DVU would need the required insurance coverage if registrations were paid through SDP Local Advisory Implementation Funds.

A member of the public stated he was a former chair from LARC. He stated RCOC is the only regional center that is not vendored with DVU. He inquired if the conference can be paid through the Spending Plan. It was confirmed if the person is in SDP, they can fund for conference through the Spending Plan.

Mr. Jin noted that families should not have to pay upfront for the SDP Conference and be reimbursed by RCOC.

Ms. Von Thenen made motion for the committee to allocate a portion of the funds for the DVU conference in December to cover the individual and their family member served by RCOC.

There was a discussion on how the allocation will be made. Ms. McFarlin noted the funding for the SDP Conference should be for one person per household, for a total of 250 individuals at the rate of \$75.00 per person. Ms. Von Thenen second Ms. McFarlin's motion and amended her motion to allocate funding for 250 people to attend the conference to attend the SDP conference in December. All committee members voted in favor of funding for 250 people to attend the conference at \$75.00 per person for a total \$18,750.00.

A member of the public suggested the implementation funds be used to hold a resource fair that include IFs and Financial Management Services (FMS). Mr. Jin shared LARC is hosting a resource fair, where the LAC is funding for DVU to run the event.

Another suggestion from Ms. Von Thenen was to be able to provide training to Bi-Lingual and Bi-Cultural IFs through the Guidelight Group.

Ms. Kathleen McFarlin provided a suggestion of being able to update the online SDP Orientation on RCOC's Learning Management System (LMS) and to complete the Orientation in Vietnamese.

A member of the public suggested an evaluation of the SDP process to identify where people are experiencing delays to move forward with SDP.

Ms. Von Thenen suggested a support group comprised of families and parents in SDP to assist those who are looking to transition into SDP. Ms. McFarlin noted that the Comfort Connection Family Resource Center (CCFRC) has provided parent-to-parent support, but offered to assist with creating a listing of parents already in SDP that would be willing to help incoming SDP parents.

Ms. Von Thenen suggested that sub-committee be formed to be able in assisting allocating the funds.

Ms. Von Thenen made a motion for subcommittee to be formed. Ms. McFarlin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All committee members voted in favor of the formation of a subcommittee.

Ms Von Thenen confirmed the committee cannot be more than two people. The committee decided that the subcommittee will be composed of Ms. Von Thenen and Ms. McFarlin.

It was unclear if Mr. Chad Escallier will be a voting member as a Client's Rights Advocate. Mr. Escallier will confirm for the next meeting.

A member of the public inquired if the subcommittee meeting could be open so members of the public can provide input. It was unclear if this subcommittee meeting would be in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act if the meeting consisted of more than two committee members. Ms. Von Thenen will confirm this information.

Members of the public were invited to provide input at today's meeting. Members of the public asked for more time to provide input. Ms. McFarlin provided her e-mail for community members

to be able to provide suggestions for implementation and costs associated with it - kmcfarlin@rcocdd.com .

IV. RCOC Self-Determination Program (SDP) Update

Ms. Cathy Furukawa provided an update on the status of SDP participants. RCOC has certified 216 individual budgets, with 72 of these budgets for participants from the initial group. There are currently 91 people actively receiving services through SDP, with 32 people from the initial group. Out of the 91 people active in SDP, 62 people received Person Centered Planning (PCP) and/or Independent Facilitator (IF) services.

In regards to the demographics of the 91 people active in SDP, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (12), Black/African-America (4), Hispanic (17), Other (11), and White (47). Of the 91 people who are active in SDP, 33 people are from the West Area Office while 58 are from the Central Area Office.

In regards to the demographics of the 216 people who received a certified budget, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (41), Black/African-America (7), Hispanic (54), Other (31), and White (83). Of the 216 people who received a budget, 90 people are from the West Area Office while 126 are from the Central Area Office.

Ms. Crystal Chavez provided an update on Outreach and Barriers to SDP Enrollment. As Ms. Chavez conducted outreach to those who have received an individual budget, the feedback she received from families included the need for a refresher on information from SDP, unknown next steps, and request for resources to acquire SDP services.

Per the request of the committee, Ms. Furukawa review a flow chart of the SDP Enrollment Process (attached at end of minutes).

A member of the public inquired as to how long the process is to have certified budget. Ms. Furukawa noted the receipt of the budget is quick, but determining unmet needs is required to go Individual Program Plan (IPP) process.

V. Self Determination Conference in December and allocating Committee Funds

This agenda item was discussed under agenda item three.

VI. Committee Center Planning

Due to time constraints, this item is deferred to the next meeting.

VII. Community Input and Barriers to Completing the SDP Process

This item was discussed throughout the meeting.

VIII. Recruitment of Advisory Committee Members

Due to time constraints, this item is deferred to the next meeting.

IX. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting

Dr. Lopez requested that a poll be sent to committee members to confirm the next meeting date.

Agenda items to include: Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program for Fiscal Year 2022-23, Agenda items not discussed today, and How Providers can be vendored for Service Code 099.

X. Adjourn

Adjourned at 8:29pm.

Self-Determination Program Flow Chart

