

**Regional Center of Orange County**  
**Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**December 12, 2022**  
**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual Public Meeting**

**Present**

Crystal Chavez, RCOC Participant Choice Specialist

Chad Escallier- Client's Rights Advocate

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Self-Determination Program Coordinator

Tim Jin, Self-Advocate

Dr. April Lopez, Parent

Kathleen McFarlin, Manager of Comfort Connection Family Resource Center

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  
(SCDD)

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. April Lopez, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. She welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee (SDPLAC) Meeting. Each committee member introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of October 24, 2022 Meeting Summary**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 24, 2022 meeting. Ms. Kathleen McFarlin made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Chad Escallier second the motion. 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 expenditure recommendation - Ms. Kathleen McFarlin & Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen**

Ms. Kathleen McFarlin and Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen met to review requests for expenditures and the funding available; \$109,576. Ms. McFarlin and Ms. Von Thenen summarized suggestions for use of funding received from the previous meetings and community e-mails.

Ms. McFarlin noted there were 250 available registrations for the Disability Voices United (DVU) Conference that were able to be funded by the SDPLAC Implementation Funds. A total of 82 registrations were utilized, totaling \$6,150.00 worth of expenditures. This amount is pending confirmation from RCOC SDP team.

Ms. McFarlin reviewed the request for an SDP resource fair to be organized. A cost estimate for the use of the Delhi Center for a capacity of 300 people was quoted to cost \$500 for 3 hours of use. Ms. McFarlin noted the estimated cost for the entire event is \$3000.00.

Ms. McFarlin reviewed an Independent Facilitator training is available for \$1500 per person which is provided by the Guidelight Group. An estimate for 30 people to receive this training would total \$60,000. Ms. Von Thenen noted there is a SCDD self-paced Independent Facilitator (IF) webinar available online and funds could be utilized to fund for the program to be translated into Vietnamese for \$1,000.00.

Ms. McFarlin reviewed the request for an Annual Survey to be completed in order to review obstacles and process delays for Self-Determination (SDP) to be provided in three languages for an estimate of \$20,000. Chapman Thompson Policy Institute (TPI) was contacted in order to confirm price and availability of being able to render support with this survey.

Ms. McFarlin reviewed the request for Person Centered Planning (PCP) training and noted the estimated cost being \$6,000. Mr. Jin shared that DVU is an additional resource for PCP training. Mr. Jin noted he is employed through DVU and would not be able to vote towards items having to do with DVU.

Ms. McFarlin provided a summary on the remaining past suggestions provided by the community and advisory committee:

- Additional funding for FMS agencies
- Support groups
- Develop a checklist/survey to provide to families to inquire if SDP was particularly helpful for families
- Analysis of SDP appeals
- Analysis of SDP to evaluate areas of difficulty
- RCOC SDP Online Orientation to be translated into Vietnamese and Korean
- Training for RCOC Service Coordinators and staff in SDP
- Refer to how other Local Advisory Committee are utilizing their funds
- Financial Management Service (FMS) monetary incentive to assist families to transition within a certain amount of days
- Program to assist families transition, such as the previous assistance from Aveanna

- Independent Facilitator (IF) list
- Scholarships for IF

A member of the public shared North Los Angeles Regional Center was able to hold a Resource Fair at their local Regional Center Office in order to avoid the additional expenditure. In addition, vendors were encouraged to donate prizes to raffle off prizes. Ms. McFarlin noted RCOE Central Office was not open to the public for meetings at this time. An IF noted her support for a resource fair and requested that DVU be hired as an agency to organize the event, as they are familiar of different community needs.

A member of the public suggested there be education provided to current RCOE vendors about SDP and what SDP is in order to encourage these vendors to continue to provide services in SDP.

A member of the public requested for the Local Advisory Committee members to receive Person Centered Thinking (PCT) training.

A review of the process for Request For Proposals (RFP) was reviewed by Ms. Cathy Furukawa. Ms. Furukawa noted these funds were available until March 2025. Mr. Escallier inquired if there are going to be additional funds available after this amount received. Ms. Furukawa noted that Department of Developmental Services (DDS) provides updates via directives when these funds are available. Ms. Von Thenen cautioned against only considering one Organization for the RFPs and suggested to open to other Organizations for a competitive fee. Ms. Furukawa provided a link to the previous RFP for example: <https://www.rcocdd.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf/rfp/RFPSDPLAC.pdf>

Ms. McFarlin inquired as to the cost for DVU Resource Fair package. Ms. Judy Mark from DVU noted the cost for the NLARC was \$15,000, which she noted included logistics, promotion, vendor connections and support for the SDP Orientation. Ms. Mark stated the Resource Fair was held at NLARC offices in order to save on costs of location. There was no cost for Vendors to participate in, however they did encourage for Vendors to donate a prize valued at \$20. Ms. Mark noted additional services from DVU included training for the community, interpretation in Spanish, and PCP planning with the Local Advisory Committee. The PCP planning for the committee will result in an Action Plan, then is presented to the community. The committee can then vote to execute the plan.

Ms. Von Thenen noted the need for a consensus of amount to spend on the Resource Fair in order to create an RFP. Ms. Von Thenen made a motion to create an RFP for a Resource Fair for up to \$15,000. Dr. Lopez second the motion. All committee members voted in agreement. Ms. Von Thenen will draft RFP, while Dr. Lopez and Ms. Tina Stang noted the ability to review the draft RFP.

Ms. McFarlin motioned for the translation of the Self-Guided IF training module into Vietnamese translated by SCDD at a rate of \$1,000. Dr. Lopez second the motion. There was no discussion. All committee members voted in agreement, with Ms. Von Thenen abstaining from the vote. Ms. Von Thenen will work with SCDD for translation.

#### **IV. RCOC Self-Determination Program (SDP) Activities**

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

Ms. Cathy Furukawa provided an update on the status of SDP participants. RCOC has certified 228 individual budgets, with 71 of these budgets for participants from the initial group. There are currently 102 people actively receiving services through SDP, with 32 people from the initial group. Out of the 102 people active in SDP, 65 people received Person Centered Planning (PCP) and/or Independent Facilitator (IF) services. In regards to the demographics of the 102 people active in SDP, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (14), Black/African-America (4), Hispanic (21), Other (14), and White (49). Of the 102 people who are active in SDP, 35 people are from the West Area Office while 67 are from the Central Area Office. In regards to the demographics of the 228 people who received a certified budget, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (41), Black/African-America (8), Hispanic (59), Other (35), and White (85). Of the 228 people who received a budget, 98 people are from the West Area Office while 130 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 vrending with a new FMS agency. 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. Crystal Chavez provided an update on Outreach and Barriers to SDP Enrollment such as: individuals noting there was too much going on in their personal life to manage the transition into SDP, no longer interested in transitioning into SDP once they received their budget that was lower than anticipated, a lot of work to transition into SDP for the amount of services/budget they would receive in SDP, wanting to wait until change of circumstance occurred (i.e. school), pending the ability to match with an IF, finding an FMS that would accept new cases, Covid-19 reasons (i.e. service closure, vaccination status), and individual resides in a healthcare setting where they were no longer eligible for SDP. Ms. Chavez provided resources requested to assist with barriers noted by individuals.

##### **c. SDP Enrollment Process**

Ms. Furukawa reviewed a visual flow chart of the SDP enrollment process (attached at the end of the minutes).

#### **V. Self-Determination Conference in December and Allocating Committee Funds**

A member of the public shared their experience with attending the DVU SDP Conference. They stated feeling more comfortable in being able to ask questions and confident with SDP process. Ms. McFarlin inquired as to the current status of the SDP process for those the SDP Local Advisory

Committee funded for registrations, including race of individuals who attended. Ms Furukawa noted being able to report findings at the next meeting.

## **VI. Community Input and Barriers to Completing the SDP Process**

This item was discussed throughout the meeting.

## **VII. Committee Center Planning**

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

## **VIII. Recruitment of Advisory Committee Members**

Ms. Furukawa noted there is one vacant seat to be appointed by State Council and RCOC has no vacant seat. Ms. Furukawa will identify individuals who are actively in Self-Determination to join the committee. Ms. Von Thenen that the SCDD has their application available online for those interested and SCDD is looking for self-advocates to join the committee.

Ms. McFarlin asked if there would be a conflict of interest for and IF to join the committee since there is financial interest in SDP. There was a discussion on this topic. Due to time constraints the discussion will continue at the next meeting.

## **IX. How to Become Vendor for Service Code 099**

Ms. Furukawa shared Service Code 099 is a way for IF and FMS to assist individuals transition into SDP. The original date for this service to commence was February 1, 2023, however DDS extended date to June 30, 2023, in order to allow more time to standardize the vendorization process. IF can continue billing for supports under Service Code 024 until June 30, 2023.

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Self-Determination-Program-Extensions-and-Development-of-Standardized-Vendorization-Packet.pdf>

Mr. Jin shared concerns in regards to the FMS availability. Ms. Furukawa is attempting to courtesy vendor two additional FMS providers and one new FMS agency.

## **X. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting**

Ms. Radford noted the Winter Dialogue will be published in February 2023 and highlights a success story in SDP.

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 Draft RFP for Review and Agenda items not discussed today.

## **XI. Adjourn**

Adjourned at 8:33pm.