

**Regional Center of Orange County**

**Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting**

**August 2, 2021**

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Public Meeting**

**Present**

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Self-Determination Program Coordinator

Bruce Hall, Parent

Tim Jin, Self-Advocate

Andrea Kumetz-Coleman, Parent

Larry Landauer, RCOC Executive Director

April Lopez, Parent

Keli Radford, RCOC Director of Services and Supports

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. April Lopez 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 him/herself.

**II. Approval of Minutes from June 28, 2021 Meeting**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the June 28, 2021 meeting. Ms. Lopez made 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. Fifteen (15) Individual Budgets have been certified since July 1, 2021 bringing the total number of certified budgets to 84. There are 30 people are actively receiving services and supports through SDP.

A member of the public asked how long it takes to receive a budget for people starting in SDP and for those ready to start year two of SDP. This person was told it would take 30 days but she said that does not give her enough time to start on the Spending Plan. It was clarified that the turnaround time for a certified budget can happen as soon as services in the traditional model are determined.

A member of the public noted that RCOC is not following guidelines from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on how to determine the budget. This person provided a testimonial regarding her work as an Independent Facilitator and as a parent. She noted the authorized amount for services is not included in the budget despite issues with receiving services. Ms. Lopez asked what would be the next step for those experiencing these issues. Ms. Keli Radford noted that Planning Team Meetings are held and a Notice of Action is provided. Ms. Radford noted that the part of the budget certification process is that RCOC certifies the amount in the budget is the amount a person would have spent in traditional services.

A member of the public noted that the rates she is paying providers on her Spending Plan and qualifications of the provider have been questioned and asked if others have the same experience. Another member of the public shared that in her experience as an Independent Facilitator there has been no questions about rates or qualifications.

Ms. Lopez recommended that an agenda item is added to the next meeting to discuss questions and criteria for the Individual Budget and Spending Plan.

A member of the public asked the committee to advise RCOC regarding the issues presented and to report issues to DDS. Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen noted that the Office of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities has filed a 4371 complaint on the use of the disencumbrance factor. At this point, DDS will need to issue guidance so this issue can be resolved.

### **IV. Discussion: Service Codes in SDP**

The committee does not recall the context of this agenda item that was proposed by Ms. Karen Millender at a previous meeting. This item will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**V. Discussion: Nomination of Vice-Chair**

Mr. Tim Jin made a motion to nominate himself as Vice-Chair and asked that the current Chair provide him with plenty of notice if he needs to chair a meeting. All committee members voted in favor of approving Mr. Jin as Vice-Chair.

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

A member of the public noted that she has asked for her son's Individual Budget for the past 12 months but has not been provided with one. Ms. Furukawa confirmed a budget can be provided this week if she is ready to proceed.

A member of the public noted that in her work as an Independent Facilitator, there has been confusion in regards to the budget process. She noted that RCOC is sending a certified budget however there needs to be a meeting to discuss the budget and unmet needs. She suggests that RCOC first sends a Purchase of Service (POS) with the past 12 months of services instead of the certified budget. Ms. Furukawa clarified that the process of addressing unmet needs is through the Individual Program Plan (IPP) meeting process and this is not necessarily a meeting to discuss the budget. The budget is based upon services and any unmet needs in the traditional service system.

Mr. Jin asked how many committee members are currently in SDP and how many plan to start. He asked how can committee members advise if they do not have experiences in SDP themselves. Mr. Jin noted that he is determined to start SDP soon.

**VII. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting**

The committee asked RCOC to provide available dates and times for the next meeting via an online poll and to allow committee members to select the best date. The following agenda items were recommended for the next meeting: review budget development process and spending plan criteria.

**VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.