

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

Present

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Self-Determination Program Coordinator

Stephen Gaiber, Self-Advocate

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Approval of August 8, 2022 Meeting Summary

There are not enough voting committee members present to meet quorum. Approval of minutes deferred to the next meeting.

III. RCOC Self-Determination Program (SDP) Update

Ms. Cathy Furukawa provided an update on the status of SDP participants. RCOC has certified 198 individual budgets, with 72 of these budgets for participants from the initial group. There are currently 83 people actively receiving services through SDP, with 32 people from the initial group. Out of the 83 people active in SDP, 51 people received Person Centered Planning (PCP) and/or Independent Facilitator (IF) services.

In regards to the demographics of the 83 people active in SDP, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (11), Black/African-America (3), Hispanic (16), Other (9), and White (44). Of the 83 people who are active in SDP, 30 people are from the West Area Office while 53 are from the Central Area Office. In regards to the demographics of the 198 people who received a certified budget, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (40), Black/African-America (5), Hispanic (49), Other (24), and White (80). Of the 198 people who received a budget, 85 people are from the West Area Office while 113 are from the Central Area Office.

An Independent Facilitator asked to discuss the latest program directive regarding funding for transition supports ([Person Centered Planning and Self Directed Supports Guidance \(ca.gov\)](https://www.personcenteredplanning.ca.gov/)). She noted she is not sure what the vendor process entails. Mr. Jin expressed concern that Independent Facilitators will not want to provide services because the rates are low.

Another Independent Facilitator noted she will continue to provide Person Centered Planning (PCP) services in Orange County but will not provide General Self-Directed Supports because RCOC takes too much time and her hourly rate is cut in half.

Another Independent Facilitator shared that she has been vendored for Parent Mentor services and it was not easy to get vendored. She does not think she will provide Independent Facilitator transition services. She stated she will continue to provide coaching and PCP services since the budgets of those in the Hispanic community are low. Mr. Jin noted he does not think the Financial Management Services (FMS) agencies will advocate for the needs of the participant.

A member of the public stated she is concerned because RCOC has had issues with addressing new needs and she believes this is part of issues with disparity.

Mr. Jin asked Ms. Furukawa to present a chart to the committee on the Self-Determination Process at the next meeting.

Mr. Stephen Gaiber asked why RCOC is micromanaging services in Self-Determination.

Mr. Jin asked noted that RCOC has provided so many certified budgets yet not many people are moving forward. Mr. Jin asked that the Participant Choice Specialist ask people she provides outreach why they are not moving forward with SDP. A member of the public stated that many people do not move forward because the budget is too low. Ms. Furukawa noted that the Individual Budget is based on the services a person would receive in traditional regional center services.

A member of the public asked why does the Spending Plan need to be updated when the changes are within the same service code. Ms. Furukawa that the Spending Plan is reviewed to make sure the services being purchased meets program criteria. Mr. Jin asked how long does it take to for Spending Plan changes to go in place. Ms. Furukawa stated that if the Spending Plan does not have any follow-up needed, it can take up to two weeks. The Spending Plan needs to be signed by the participant, RCOC, and FMS in order to update the Purchase of Service. Once this is processed, the RCOC accounting team needs to review it, update the authorization, and update E-Billing to allow the FMS to bill. If there is additional information needed on the Spending Plan, this may extend the time.

An Independent Facilitator stated that it takes six months for a person at RCOC to get into SDP compared to 3-4 months at other regional centers. Another Independent Facilitator stated it takes six months for RCOC and said it takes a long time when requesting services to meet needs. She asked if the timeline is different to request for new services in SDP compared to the traditional system of services and Ms. Keli Radford confirmed there are is difference in timelines.

Mr. Jin asked the committee and members of the public if it would be helpful to have a support group to guide people through the SDP process. An Independent Facilitator said that most of the

time information is “lost in translation” when decision-makers are not at the meeting and multiple questions are asked.

IV. 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

Since there are not enough committee members present for the discussion, this item is deferred to the next meeting.

V. Self Determination Conference in December and Allocating Committee Funds

Mr. Jin shared that Disability Voices United (DVU) is hosting a one-day conference about SDP in December. DVU has been vendored with RCOC in the past for this conference but they are unable to be vendored this year because RCOC requires a specific insurance policy for vendorization. Ms. Radford stated she would look into this matter.

Ms. Tina Stang said she think committee members and people interested in SDP should attend the conference.

A member of the public thinks there should be scholarships available to attend the conference. Mr. Jin said it would be a good idea for service coordinators to attend.

VI. Committee Center Planning

Since there are not enough committee members present for the discussion, this item is deferred to the next meeting.

VII. Community Input and Barriers to Completing the SDP Process

Input from community members were provided throughout the meeting.

VIII. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Agenda item to include review of requirements of committee members serving on the advisory committee. Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen asked to move the discussion regarding Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination All Program for Fiscal Year 2021-22 to the top of the agenda.

IX. Adjourn

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