

Regional Center of Orange County

Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting

December 13, 2021

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

Virtual Public Meeting

Present

Cathy Furukawa, RCOE Self-Determination Program Coordinator

Bruce Hall, Parent

Tim Jin, Self-Advocate

Larry Landauer, RCOE Executive Director

April Lopez, Parent

Karen Millender, Parent

Keli Radford, RCOE Director of Services and Supports

Kathleen McFarlin, CCFRC Manager, Family Support and Community Outreach

Jacqueline Miller, Clients' Rights Advocate

Tina Stang, Parent

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. April Lopez, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. She welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee (SDPLAC) Meeting. Each committee member introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes from September 27, 2021 Meeting

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 27, 2021 meeting. Mr. Bruce Hall 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 an update on the status of SDP participants. RCOC has certified 137 Individual Budgets in total. Out of these 137 people, 59 people identify as “White,” 39 people are Spanish-speaking, 22 people identify as “Asian,” four people identify as “Black,” and 13 people identify as “Other.” There are 48 people actively receiving services and supports through SDP. Out of these 48 people, 25 people identify as “White,” 10 people are Spanish-speaking, 6 people identify as “Asian,” one person identifies as “Black,” and 6 people identify as “Other.”

Dr. Lopez asked how many people started receiving services and then dropped out of the program. She also asked if the Orientation training is available on YouTube so people can access the training at their own pace. Ms. Furukawa stated that two people have enrolled in SDP and then decided to transition back to traditional services. The Orientation training is currently available on the Learning Management System and can be accessed at any time. This system allows RCOC to verify an individual has completed the mandatory training while YouTube does not allow for verification of unique users. Ms. Furukawa shared that if any users have issues with accessing the online training, RCOC can work with the person to ensure they can view the training.

Ms. Karen Millender asked of the 48 people active in SDP, how many were part of the initial group. Mr. Tim Jin asked how many of these people worked with an Independent Facilitator. Ms. Furukawa stated that 26 of these people were part of the initial group. Ms. Furukawa can give more information about how many people worked with an Independent Facilitator at the next meeting.

Ms. Kathleen McFarlin suggested that a video overview of SDP be developed to help generate interest in the program. Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen stated that State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is working on a video overview that should go live in a couple of months.

A member of the public commented that the Individual Program Plan (IPP) team needs to be part of the budget team, especially if there are exception level services. Dr. Lopez suggested an agenda item for the next meeting to address barriers with getting started in SDP and how to move beyond the individual budget stage.

A member of the public stated that when social recreational services are requested, they are told to use funds within their individual budget. A member of the public noted they were told that in order to add social recreational services to their budget, respite hours would be reduced. Ms. Furukawa noted that social recreational services are based on

Purchase of Services (POS) Guidelines in traditional services and the SDP budget is calculated based on services in traditional services.

Mr. Jin noted that an action plan is needed or else people and Independent Facilitators will be deterred from working with RCOC.

IV. Presentation: *This is My Self-Determined Life*

Mr. Sean McElwee provided a presentation overview of his life while accessing services through SDP. His presentation highlighted how the supports he purchases in SDP help him in his daily life.

A member of the public asked how Sean was able to find his staff and if he had problems with provider rates. His mother shared he was able to find staff through the Facebook page of the local Down Syndrome community and through a posting at the local university. They were able to hire everyone on the first interview and his current staff supports include a sibling and a parent of a person with Down Syndrome. Sean's mother noted that they are paying their staff \$20 per hour which is a higher rate than they received through an agency.

V. Discussion: Updates on SDP Outreach and Independent Facilitator training from Aveanna and I CAN. Brainstorm on how to outreach to Spanish-speaking Communities

Ms. Sandi Ames of ICAN provided updates on Independent Facilitator training. She reported that self-advocates are having a good time and learning a lot. They started with 20 self-advocates and now currently have 18 self-advocates in the program. There are currently nine mentors who work in teams, three languages represented, and five adult agencies represented. ICAN completed outreach for the program and held seven informational meetings to recruit participants.

A member of the public asked if ICAN provides Spanish interpretation services. Ms. Ames stated that trainings are in English. ICAN tried to recruit in Spanish and sent information to community groups. They do have a Spanish-speaking self-advocate and mentor. Ms. Ames stated that in the future, they will ask each person to include in their business plan how to best provide services in different languages. She is hoping in the future they can expand to multi-lingual groups.

Ms. Alma Morales of Aveanna provided updates on coaching services to help people transition to SDP. Out of the 43 referrals Aveanna received: four people transitioned to SDP, six people were not interested, and 33 people are under "other" category. This

category includes people who have a PCP in progress, people who are looking for an Independent Facilitator, people with budget concerns, people working on the spending plan, and people Aveanna were unable to contact. Ms. Morales mentioned that of the four who transitioned into SDP, they all worked with an Independent Facilitator. She said the Independent Facilitators were helpful in the process and encouraged participants to get an Independent Facilitator.

A member of the public asked for clarification on who can receive coaching services from Aveanna. She also stated that there is misinformation from Aveanna and there is no help for the Spanish-speaking community. Ms. Furukawa confirmed that the initial Request for Proposal was only for people part of the initial draw group. Ms. Morales confirmed that everyone in the Aveanna office speaks Spanish and they keep in touch with Independent Facilitators who speak Spanish. Ms. Morales confirmed coaching services were limited to those referred by RCOC from the initial group.

Mr. Hall made a motion to open Aveanna coaching services to people outside of the initial group to transition to SDP. All committee members voted in favor of the motion.

VI. Updates on SDP Ombudsperson

Due to time constraints, this agenda item to be discussed at the next meeting.

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

Community members were able to provide input throughout the meeting

VIII. Discussion: Review of Attendance Policy

Due to time constraints, this agenda item to be discussed at the next meeting.

IX. Discussion: Hosting Local Advisory Committee Meet and Greet with IF/PCP/FMS providers

Due to time constraints, this agenda item to be discussed at the next meeting.

X. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting

Ms. Furukawa asked to schedule future committee meetings ahead of time. Committee members agreed and asked RCOC to provide available dates and times for future meetings. Agenda items not addressed today will be included in the next agenda along with “New Advisory Members” and “Barriers with Getting Started in SDP and Moving Past the Budget.”

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.