

Regional Center of Orange County
Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting
March 7, 2022
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Virtual Public Meeting

Present

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Self-Determination Program Coordinator

Stephen Gaiber, Self-Advocate

Bruce Hall, Parent

Tim Jin, Self-Advocate

Larry Landauer, RCOC Executive Director

April Lopez, Parent

Kathleen McFarlin, CCFRC Manager, Family Support and Community Outreach

Karen Millender, Parent

Keli Radford, RCOC Director of Services and Supports

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

Ms. April Lopez, chair, 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 themselves.

II. Approval of February 7, 2022 Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the minutes from the February 7, 2022 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) Update

Ms. Cathy Furukawa provided an update on the status of SDP participants. RCOC has certified 169 individual budgets, with 71 of these budgets for participants from the initial group. There are currently 55 people actively receiving services through SDP, with 29 people from the initial group. Out of the 55 people active in SDP, 38 people received Person Centered Planning (PCP) and/or Independent Facilitator (IF) services.

In regards to the demographics of the 55 people active in SDP, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (6), Black/African-America (2), Hispanic (12), Other (5), and White (30). Of the 55 people who are active in SDP, 23 people are from the West Area Office while 32 are from the Central Area Office. In regards to the demographics of the 169 people who received a certified budget, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (29), Black/African-America (5), Hispanic (46), Other (19), and White (70). Of the 169 people who received a budget, 69 people are from the West Area Office while 100 are from the Central Area Office.

Ms. Von Thenen asked when RCOC will update Self-Determination Individual Budgets to reflect the change in vendor rates effective April 2022. Ms. Furukawa noted once these vendor rates are updated, Individual Budgets of those active in SDP will be reviewed and updated accordingly.

A member of the public requested that RCOC hold “budget meetings” for those interested in SDP. Ms. Furukawa noted that the Individual Program Plan (IPP) team consists the participant, their circle of support, and the Service Coordinator. Ms. Furukawa explained that service requests can be made during these IPP meetings or outside these meetings. Once there is a recommendation on the services based on RCOC Purchase of Service guidelines and IPP team, the Self-Determination Program Coordinator creates an Individual Budget based on services the participant would have received in the traditional model of services.

Ms. Von Thenen asked if the Participant Choice Specialist position has been posted externally. Mr. Jin noted that one of the three positions can be for a person in the Accounting Department. Ms. Furukawa noted that RCOC is in the process of identifying a candidate for the position and the position has been posted internally at RCOC. Mr. Jin wants to make sure that the person is qualified for the position and thinks this position should be posted externally. Ms. Radford noted that the regional center system is complicated and RCOC wants to hire someone familiar with the regional center system so they can hit the ground running with SDP. Ms. Lopez asked if RCOC can post this position to other regional centers to see if there is any interest. Ms. Von Thenen commented that the Local Advisory Committee wants to be involved in selecting the best candidate. She also noted that the pool of candidates is substantially limited if RCOC is only looking at internal candidates. Ms. Radford noted that there are qualified candidates at RCOC and the concerns of the committee will be taken into consideration.

Ms. Von Thenen made a motion that once RCOC makes a tentative job offer to the Participant Choice Specialist, the SDP Local Advisory Committee wants to be able to meet with this person before the formal offer is made. Mr. Larry Landauer noted that it is not within the scope of the committee to be involved with RCOC’s hiring processes. Mr. Jin noted that RCOC should not only hire internal staff and that this position should be available to other people. Mr. Landauer commented that RCOC understands the seriousness of hiring for the Participant Choice Specialist and RCOC will hire a competent person for this position. Mr. Hall and Ms. McFarlin noted they do not know if it is appropriate for the committee to identify the hiring practices of RCOC. A member of the public stated there are many people in the community who would be a good fit for this position and asks that the person be bilingual. Ms. Millender thinks it is important for the committee to meet the candidates and to ask them questions and to get

information. This might lead to discussion on qualifiers but at the end of the day, RCOC will make decision on this person.

The committee voted on the motion that once RCOC makes a tentative job offer to the Participant Choice Specialist, the SDP Local Advisory Committee wants to be able to meet with this person before the formal offer is made. The motion passed. Ms. McFarlin and Ms. Miller abstained from voting.

Ms. Sandi Ames of Parents Can asked how the committee will fund their program again. This topic is deferred to item 10 of the agenda.

A member of the public noted that it has been very difficult to ask for unmet needs. She has been advocating for services for months and RCOC only gave her services for short term and not for the full time. She shared that for her, SDP has been very difficult for her.

IV. Discussion: Review of Attendance Policy

Members of the committee reviewed the current Attendance Policy. Ms. Millender made a motion to update the Attendance Policy to note if a committee member misses two advisory meetings in a row, and their absence does not meet extenuating circumstances, they will be removed by the agency that appointed them.

All committee members voted in favor of updating the Attendance Policy.

V. Discussion: Restructuring SDPLAC Meeting Format to be More Productive

Ms. Kathleen McFarlin asked that this agenda item be moved to the next meeting agenda.

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

Ms. Von Thenen asked if the committee would be interested in hosting a Resource Fair and Meet and Greet with SDP providers such as Independent Facilitators, Person Center Planners, and Financial Management Service (FMS) agencies. Ms. VonThenen made a motion that the SDP Local Advisory Committee hosts a Resource Fair. Ms. Miller and Ms. McFarlin noted this event should be in person and not a virtual event since virtual resource fairs are not effective. Ms. Lopez noted that it is possible to host a virtual event first and then an in-person event. A member of the public suggested a virtual Resource Fair with “breakout rooms” where attendees can meet different providers. Attendees can also submit questions ahead of time. A member of the public suggested recording the event on Zoom and making the recording available to be viewed by members of the public.

All committee members voted in favor of hosting a SDP resource fair.

VI. b. Discussion: Hosting meeting with SDP Ombudsperson

Ms. McFarlin asked if the committee is interested in hosting a “SDP Town Hall” with the acting SDP Ombudsperson, Katie Hornberger. Similar events have been held in other areas and SCDD hosted a similar event in November 2022. Mr. Jin noted that DDS has not yet hired a permanent SDP Ombudsperson and they do not have staff yet. Mr. McFarlin made a motion to for the Local Advisory Committee to host a Town Hall with the SDP Ombudsperson with assistance from CCFRC (Comfort Connection Family Resource Center) to organize. All committee members voted in favor of hosting a SDP Town Hall.

VII. Discussion: Barriers with FMS Agencies

The committee agreed to schedule a special committee meeting to solely discuss FMS services. The meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

VIII. Discussion: Draft letter to DDS Regarding FMS Services

The committee agreed to discuss this topic at the next meeting scheduled for March 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Members of the public provided input throughout the meeting regarding this topic.

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

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

XI. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 9, 2022 at 9:30 p.m. Agenda items for the next meeting to include items not addressed during today’s meeting.

XII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42p.m.