

**Regional Center of Orange County
Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting
December 4, 2023
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Virtual Public Meeting**

Present

Dr. April Lopez, Parent

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Self-Determination Program Coordinator

Chad Escallier, Client's Rights Advocate Disability Rights California

Crystal Chavez, RCOC Participant Choice Specialist

Kaitlyn Truong, Comfort Connection Family Resource Center

Marlene Morales, RCOC Participant Choice Specialist

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

Tierney Cameron, Self-Advocate

Tina Stang, Parent

I. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Dr. April Lopez, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. She welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee (SDPLAC) Meeting. Committee members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of November 6, 2023 Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 6, 2023 meeting. Mr. Chad Escallier made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Tierney Cameron seconded 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. Review additional RFP for PCP Training to develop more Independent Facilitators - IF training**

Mr. Chad Escallier reviewed previous discussion and shared draft of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for PCP training to develop more Independent Facilitators. Mr. Escallier noted the change of the deadline to submit applications will be changed from January 10, 2024. Ms. Cameron made a motion to change the deadline to February 3, 2024 in order to allow additional time in order for providers to submit their RFP application. Ms. Kaitlyn Troung seconded the motion.

Ms. Cathy Furukawa noted the current attempt to be able to pay out for Implementation Funds from 2021 – 2022 from RCOC Accounting, where the completion of the RFP and documentation needed for payment will need to be received by mid-March. Ms. Scarlett VonThenen noted that the current time frame for the new RFP with the 2021 – 2022 implementation funds, may not be completed in its entirety by the time frame needed. Ms. Furukawa noted in the event that the receipt of the required documentation and completion of the RFP is not done by mid-March 2024, the RFP would then be funded by the 2022 – 2023 Implementation Funds.

A member of the community noted the request to be able to place the current RFP with sooner dates in order to receive potential individuals who would be interested, where then the dates would be able to modified pending interest.

Mr. Escallier inquired if Ms. Cameron was aware of the information noted by Ms. Furukawa in regards to as to when the RFP will need to be completed by. Ms. Tierney noted she was not aware and made an amended motion to change the deadline for applications to January 10, 2024. Mr. Truong seconded the motion. All committee members voted in favor.

Ms. Furukawa noted there is no amount noted in regards to the cost of the training on page 1 and inquired if there could be a change to the request of the outline of the budget for the training to an overall note of the cost of training. Mr. Escallier noted the ability to change the wording for the cost of the training, where Independent Facilitators are able to note the rate of cost per person or hourly and changed the requirement of noting how funds are budgeted to note what the cost of the training includes.

A member of the community inquired as if the training will be required to be provided remotely or in-person, as the remote option would be best for her.

A member of the community noted the ability to have this training available via remote would allow for greater geographical access.

Ms. Troung noted the ability to leave the RFP open for individuals to choose how they would like to provide the service; remote, in-person or hybrid. Mr. Escallier confirmed.

A member of the community inquired as to what an RFP is. Ms. Furukawa explained what the RFP is and why it is needed.

A member of the community noted the increase cost of services while in SDP and inquired if it is a possibility to re-allocate those funds to individuals already in SDP to assist with covering the increased costs in SDP.

Ms. Furukawa shared the link to the DDS Directive discussion the SDP Implementation Funds: https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/DirectiveEnclosure20_21.pdf

Ms. VonThenen noted being inclined to leave the amount allotted as open ended in order to allow for the proposed vendors to note what their cost will be.

Ms. Jennifer Montanez noted it may be best to note the amount To Be Determined, as the virtual versus in-person cost will vary significantly.

Ms. VonThenen made a motion to pass the RFP with the To Be Determined note about the amount allocated. Ms. Truong seconded the motion. All committee members voted in favor.

b. Review outcome of SDP Resource Fair held November 4, 2023

Ms. VonThenen inquired if any members from Alliance of Abilities were present to review the Resource Fair. Ms. Furukawa noted members from Alliance of Abilities were not present during the meeting.

c. Review of Alternative Options for Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program

Ms. Lopez inquired if there would be an ability to implement an RFP to be able to purchase SDP books quickly with the current SDP Implementation Funds.

A member of the community inquired about the ability to fund for an in-person training or orientation in order to allow families the opportunity to ask specific questions. Ms. Furukawa noted there is an in-person SDP Zoom meeting via State Council on Development Disabilities (SCDD). Ms. Furukawa provided the link as to how to access the SCDD Orientation: <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>

A member of the community inquired as to why the Regional Center does not have an escrow account from which the funds FMS' need in order to pay out services faster and when is Regional Center going to certify more FMS Agencies in order to assist families in moving forward faster. Ms. Furukawa noted the recent DDS Directives to pay FMS Agencies a higher monthly rate, pay out on a weekly rate and the on-boarding of new FMS Agencies. Ms. Furukawa noted the barrier for individuals to become vendored as an FMS agency is that there is a required amount of money needed to have as well as liability as an employer.

A member of the community noted it may be beneficial for the SDP Team to be able to hold monthly forums with families that would allow for individual questions to be asked. The member of the community noted delays in response from the FMS and them signing the Spending Plans and inquired if the Regional Center would be able to aid in the communication with the FMS.

Ms. Furukawa inquired if there would be an RFP that is created to fund for better materials noting an informational for SDP and an RFP to fund for monthly forums for families.

Ms. VonThenen made a motion for Beth Martinko to create the RFP for SDP Follow-up post the SDP Resource Fair from November 4 2023. Ms. Cameron seconded the motion. No discussion from the committee members. All members voted in favor.

Ms. Beth Martinko confirmed being able to create the RFP at no cost.

a. i. Discussion of a second SDP Resource Fair

A member of the community inquired if Alliance of Abilities could be reached out to again in order to repeat the successful resource fair.

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.

There are currently 234 people actively receiving services through SDP. Out of the 234 people active in SDP, 147 people received Person Centered Planning (PCP) and/or Independent Facilitator (IF) services. In regards to the demographics of the 234 people active in SDP, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (49), Black/African-America (6), Hispanic (45), Native-American (2), Other or Unknown (42), and White (90). Of the 234 people who are active in SDP, 77 people are from the West Area Office while 157 are from the Central Area Office.

RCOC has certified 437 individual budgets. In regards to the demographics of the 437 people who received a certified budget, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (102), Black/African-America (12), Hispanic (88), Native-American (2), Other or Unknown (70), and White (163). Of the 437 people who received a budget, 171 people are from the West Area Office while 266 are from the Central Area Office

b. Update on Outreach and Barriers to SDP Enrollment

Due to time-constraints, this agenda item was not discussed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

V. Review of Purchase Reimbursement (024) Process for Independent Facilitators

Due to time-constraints, this agenda item was not discussed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

VI. Community Input and Barriers to Completing the SDP Process

Due to time-constraints, this agenda item was not discussed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

VII. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting

Items not discussed at today's meeting will be included on the agenda for the next meeting. Committee members are welcome to email agenda items to be included as well.

VIII. Adjourn

Adjourned at 8:31pm.