

Regional Center of Orange County
Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting
September 30, 2024
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Virtual Public Meeting

Present

April Lopez, Parent/Committee Chair

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC SDP Coordinator

Crystal Chavez, RCOC SDP Coordinator

Evelyn Pinto, RCOC Participant Choice Specialist

Gihong (Collin) Kwon, RCOC Participant Choice Specialist

Jennifer Montanez, Director of Case Management

Kaitlyn Truong, Comfort Connection Family Resource Center

Karen Pagano, Parent

Rachel Leach, Disability Rights of California

Renu Moon, Parent

Scarlett Von Thenen, Orange County Office on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities
(SCDD)

Tina Blabagno, RCOC Participant Choice Specialist

Tina Stang, Parent

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Approval of July 29, 2024 Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the minutes from the July 29, 2024 meeting. Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 29, 2024. Ms. Kaitlyn Truong seconded the motion. Committee members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

III. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

a. Review submitted RFP for PCP Training to develop More Independent Facilitators (IF) - IF training

Ms. Cathy Furukawa reviewed of the request to re-issue to the proposal for PCP Training to Develop More Independent Facilitators to the community to translate the Request for Proposal (RFP) in Spanish and Vietnamese from the previous meeting. Ms. Furukawa noted there were four applications submitted to Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC) for review.

Ms. Furukawa noted the first application available for review is from Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA). Ms. Kim Sinclair from ASLA noted the ability to provide a summary of the RFP request. Ms. Sinclair noted their proposal for training would provide the training in Spanish and Vietnamese, where Spanish would be directly in Spanish language and Vietnamese language would be via a translator. Ms. Carola Maranon from ASLA noted understanding the importance of being able to provide the support needed in native language.

Ms. Furukawa noted the following RFP was provided by Independent Facilitator Training Academy (IFTA). Ms. Rosie Lasca from IFTA provided a summary of the RFP request. Ms. Lasca noted after the training, participants from the training will be able to continue to have access to the online courses from the initial training and any updates that may be available after the completion of the course. In addition, the course will include an e-guide that would be updated every time there are any new directives released from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Ms. Renu Moon requested to confirm that if the classes will be online and will have 1:1 classes in person. In addition, Ms. Moon requested to clarify if there are any tests that individuals will take and if the purpose the training is to certify individuals as Independent Facilitators (IF) with the PCP certification. Ms. Lasca confirmed individuals would be certified after the training as an IF and that they will be able to always freshen up their knowledge by being able to go back and access the modules at a later time via the online materials that will be available.

A member of the community noted the concern of the flexibility of having virtual or in-person trainings for both presenters. Ms. Lasca noted understanding the issues with being a parent and the need for flexibility. The trainings will be recorded and if they are unable to attend, they can always go back and attend the recorded sessions when able to. The trainings are able to be completed by each participant on their own time. Ms. Sinclair noted that the RFP is to provide PCP training and that is their offered

service. Ms. Sinclair noted there is the option to attend an alternative language and attendance is mandatory as there is live feedback from the facilitators in order to have the ability to work hands on with others in the group as well as the facilitator.

A member of the community asked if a parent is not from the RCOC catchment area, if they can participate in the training funded by RCOC SDPLAC. Ms. Furukawa noted the point of the RFP was to develop more IF in the Orange County catchment area. Ms. Moon inquired if parents would have access to the materials for the PCP training. Ms. Furukawa stated the RFP request is for PCP training with the understanding the participant will becoming an IF versus the PCP training that was previously funded for families and parents.

Ms. Renu inquired as to how long the training with ASLA was. Ms. Sinclair stated the training was a total of 20 hours.

Ms. Furukawa noted the following proposal was from A. Norton Facilitation. A. Norton Facilitation was not be present during the meeting and was unable to present a summary of their RFP.

Ms. Furukawa noted the following proposal was from Guidelight Group. Ms. Sonny Charness from Guidelight Group was able to provide a summary of the RFP Application submitted. Ms. Charness notes there are two Facilitators that are certified PCP trainers at their agency. Ms. Charness stated the main training is provided in English to all participants, but the small group and individual coaching has the option to be provided in Spanish. Ms. Charness shared that all the material is translated via Google Translate from English to other languages needed, as they are attempting to reduce the cost of the training to ensure the increased the ability to meet the needs of all participants. Ms. Deborah Jorgensen from Guidelight Group noted wanting to address the concern from the community in regards to the language. Ms. Jorgensen noted they have seen individuals be successful in being able to provide that continuous mentorship after the training. Ms. Charness noted there will be a fee associated with the enrollment process of participants. Ms. Charness noted this was due to seeing an increased commitment from the participant and follow through with completing the program in its entirety. Ms. Charness stated she understood that not all individuals will be able to pay for the entire price of the enrollment fee and there are different scholarship amounts that will be available to assist with the required cost.

Ms. Moon inquired as to what the different tiers of scholarships are and why they are not able to use the funds provided by the SDPLAC to cover the complete cost of the enrollment fee. Ms. Charness noted it was not particularly about the money, as they have seen that when individuals are able to contribute financially they take the course more seriously as it is more of an investment for themselves.

A member of the community noted that some people may start the process and may not be able to finish it. The same community member inquire if any of the proposed RFP Applicants were able to assist with being able to find work after the certification

process is complete. Ms. Charness noted the work involved with taking the course and the importance of finishing up the certification process. Ms. Charness noted that they do have a referral process where the Guidelight Group does have a community where they can share overflow of customers to participants of the PCP training.

A member of the community inquired as to how the RFP Applicants will ensure the participants are rendering services to clients in Orange County.

The committee members held discussion in regards to the proposed providers of the RFP. Ms. Karen Pagano made a motion to award Guidelight Group the RFP. Ms. Tina Stang second the motion. Committee Members voted and there was no quorum.

Ms. Moon made a motion to award the RFP to ASLA. There was no second motion.

Due to time constraints, Committee Members requested to reconvene on 10/28/24 to continue the discussion of the RFP Applications and be able to vote to award the RFP to an Applicant.

b. Review submitted RFP submissions for SDP Resource Fair Follow-Up

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

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

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

IV. Review DDS Directive regarding non-employer burden <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Self-Determination-Program-Employer-Burdenand-Other-Employment-Related-Costs.pdf>

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

V. RCOC Self-Determination Activities: RCOC

a. Current listing of all the Regional Center's Self-Determination Participation Status

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

Ms. Lopez requested to hold a meeting mid-October. Ms. Furukawa noted the ability to schedule 10/21/24. Ms. Lopez stated not being able to chair that day. Ms. Furukawa proposed 10/28/24, where committee members noted the ability to participate that date.

Ms. Furukawa noted this would be her last meeting as SDP Coordinator, and Crystal Chavez would be assuming the role of SDP Coordinator. Ms Chavez introduced the new SDP Participant Choice Specialist team: Collin Kwon, Evelyn Pinto and Tina Blabagno.

VIII. Adjourn

Adjourned at 8:32pm.