

Regional Center of Orange County
Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting
January 27, 2025
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Virtual Public Meeting

Present

Beth Martinko, Parent

Crystal Chavez, RCOC SDP Coordinator

Gihong (Collin) Kwon, RCOC Participant Choice Specialist

Hannah Pickett, Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA)

Jennifer Montanez, Director of Case Management

Kaitlynn Truong, Comfort Connection Family Resource Center

Renu Moon, Parent

Santos Cline, Self Determination Program Participant

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. Renu Moon, committee member, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Ms. Moon welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee (SDPLAC) Meeting.

II. Approval of November 18, 2024 Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 18, 2024 meeting. Ms. Scarlett VonThenen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 18, 2024.

Ms. Moon seconded the motion. Committee members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

III. Designate for Local Liaison to the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee

Ms. Moon request for Ms. Crystal Chavez to review process for designating a liaison. Ms. Chavez explained that a representative from the Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (SDP LVAC) would volunteer to be the designated individual to serve as the SDP LVAC representative to the Statewide Self-Determination Program Advisory Committee through SCDD. Ms. Beth Martinko volunteered to assume the liaison role, if there were no additional volunteers. There were no objections.

A community member requested a Spanish-speaking member join as the Local Liaison to the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee. A community member also requested a Spanish speaking member in the LVAC meeting. Ms. Chavez noted that Dr. April Lopez is Spanish-speaking. Ms. Martinko noted she was committed to review all concerns and interests from her catchment area, including those areas as noted by the Latino community.

IV. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination All Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024

a. Request to Fund Person-Centered Planning (PCP) Training for Independent Facilitators Under Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Instead of FY 2022-2023

Ms. Chavez provided an overview of the request to change the funding source for the funding of the PCP training for Independent Facilitators from FY 2022-2023 to FY 2023 – 2024. Ms. Chavez noted the request was due to Autism Society of America – Los Angeles (ASLA) need to extend their project completion date and the project would not be expended by the due date required by the funds from Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023. Ms. Chavez noted sufficient funds remain available. Ms. Moon made a motion to change the funding source for the PCP training for Independent Facilitators from the FY 2022-2023 to the FY 2023-2024 in order to allow ASLA additional time to complete the project. Ms. Martinko seconded the motion. Ms. Scarlett VonThenen commented that LVAC had previously voted on this matter in the November meeting and awarded the RFP to ASLA. Ms. Chavez clarified that this discussion pertained specifically to utilizing FY 2023-2024 funds to pay for the awarded RFP. Ms. Hannah Pickett raised a concern regarding the potential waste of funds if they were not utilized within the fiscal year. Ms. Chavez noted that historically, not all funds have been fully utilized. Ms. Martinko concurred with Ms. Pickett, emphasizing that the committee should aim to utilize all allocated funds. Ms. Pickett made the motion to change the funding source for the PCP training for Independent Facilitators from the FY 2022-2023 to the FY 2023-2024 in order to allow ASLA additional time to complete the project. Ms. Moon seconded the motion. There

was no additional discussion. The committee members voted in favor of approving the motion.

b. Review of updated RFP for SDP Resource Fair

Ms. Chavez noted Ms. Martinko submitted two distinct Request For Proposals (RFP), however the original motion was to create an RFP for the SDP Resource Fair that included follow-up to participants after the fair. Ms. Martinko explained her reasoning for submitting two separate RFPs was in case there were two different providers that would want to provide the Resource Fair and the Follow-up. Ms. Chavez inquired if the committee would prefer to separate the RFPs into two distinct items or continue with the original motion that was one RFP for both projects. Ms. VonThenen stated she was in agreement of the separation of the Resource Fair from the follow-up. Ms. Moon inquired whether the committee members wished to separate them. Ms. Tina Stang asked if the RFPs could still be awarded to the same agency even if separated. Ms. Martinko confirmed that they could. Ms. Kaitlynn Truong supported the idea of separating the RFPs, one for hosting the live event and another for research and follow-up. However, she raised concerns regarding potential HIPAA violations if awarded to two different agencies. Ms. Martinko stated this should not pose an issue, provided that participants are informed of the follow-up that would be occurring during registration. Ms. VonThenen suggested including language in the RFP clarifying that if the RFP is awarded to two different agencies, they would be required to share participants' information. Ms. Pickett confirmed her understanding of the discussion. Ms. Pickett made a motion to separate the RFPs, where there would be one RFP for the SDP Resource Fair and a separate RFP for SDP Resource Fair Follow-up. Ms. Moon seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. The committee members voted in favor.

Ms. Chavez noted that due to the motion to separate the RFPs, the RFPs could be reviewed. In review of the RFP's with the committee, Ms. VonThenen noted the need to change the submission date to today's meeting date. Ms. Pickett noted the RFP did not explicitly state "hosting events" and recommended adding language specifying "hosting a resource fair." Ms. VonThenen suggested modifying the title to "Hosting and Facilitating a Self-Determination Resource Fair, Including Concurrent Breakout Training Sessions." Ms. Pickett proposed additional adjustments to the body of the RFP to align with this language.

A community member suggested making the resource fair available in Spanish.

Ms. VonThenen proposed adding a requirement for simultaneous Spanish and Vietnamese translation, as well as other languages upon request. Ms. Chavez revised the RFP accordingly. Ms. Pickett emphasized the importance of simultaneous translation to promote inclusivity.

A community member suggested having roaming interpreters available to assist families on-site, an idea seconded by another member based on personal experience. Ms. Pickett

supported this recommendation, and the RFP was further modified to reflect this need. Ms. Martinko motioned to approve the RFP for Hosting and Facilitating a Self-Determination Resource Fair, Including Concurrent Breakout Training Sessions as edited during the SDP LVAC meeting. Ms. VonThenen seconded the motion. Mr. Santos Cline recommended arranging a group tour for Spanish-speaking families, to which Ms. Pickett responded that such arrangements could be accommodated under the current RFP language. There was no additional discussion. The committee members voted in favor of the item.

Ms. Chavez confirmed that the RFP would be posted on the RCOC website and distributed via the SDP email list.

Break at 7:28 PM

Meeting resumed at 7:35 PM

A community member inquired about the timeline for Autism Society of America - Los Angeles (ASLA) commencement of the PCP training. Ms. Kim Sinclair from ASLA responded that material development would begin as soon as the contract was finalized. Ms. Chavez noted that with the motion made by the SDP LVAC, the next steps would be able to occur for ASLA to continue with the next steps of starting the training.

Ms. Moon requested to proceed with the second RFP concerning the Resource Fair Follow-up.

A community member asked if FY 2022-2023 funds could be extended to prevent the funds from being lost. Ms. Chavez clarified that fiscal year funds are subject to hard deadlines and cannot be extended.

Ms. Martinko confirmed the RFP for the resource fair follow-up remained unchanged from the previous resource fair RFP. Ms. Pickett suggested that the RFP specify that it pertains to the 2025 Resource Fair. Ms. Moon made a motion to approve the RFP as modified during the SDP LVAC meeting. Ms. Pickett seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All committee members voted in favor of the item.

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

Ms. Moon inquired about the request for funding for coaching of Individual in SDP. Ms. Chavez stated that a SDP LVAC member had suggested the review of funding for this need in order to support individuals transitioning into SDP. No further discussion was held on this item.

V. RCOC Self-Determination Activities

a. Self-Determination Statistics

Ms. Chavez shared statistics regarding active participants in RCOC SDP noting that as of today, 1/27/25, there are currently 417 people actively receiving services through SDP. In regards to the demographics of the 417 people active in SDP, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (108), Black/African-American (15), Hispanic (76), Native-American (3), Other or Unknown (59), and White (156). Of the 417 people who are active in SDP, 143 people are from the West Area Office while 274 are from the Central Area Office.

For historical reference at the meeting from 12/4/23, below were the stats:

There are currently 234 people actively receiving services through SDP. 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.

b. RCOC Process for Individual Budget and Spending Plan Review

Ms. Chavez presented slides detailing the SDP budget and spending plan review process. Ms. Martinko inquired whether the increased staffing levels had improved efficiency and timeliness. Ms. Chavez confirmed that they had and the Regional Center of Orange County is working on modifying their Case Management technology to improve the SDP review process.

c. SDP LVAC Community Concerns Shared with Senior Management

This item was review with the Individual Budget and Spending Plan Review presentation.

d. Updated SDP FMS Provider List

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 SDP Process

a. SDP Case Studies

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. VonThenen proposed scheduling the next meeting for Monday, February 24th, at 6:30 PM, and all committee members noted availability – except for Ms. Tina Stang as she noted she would need to confirm at a later time due to previously pending confirmation of a personal appointment.

Ms. Martinko suggested beginning the next meeting with public comments.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.