

**Regional Center of Orange County
Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting
February 24, 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

Evelyn Pinto, 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

Karen Pagano, Parent

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Beth Martinko, committee member, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Ms. Martinko welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (SDP LVAC) Meeting

2. Approval of January 27, 2025 Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 27, 2025 meeting. Ms. Hannah Pickett made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 27, 2025. Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen seconded the motion. There was no additional comments and the committee members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

3. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

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

Ms. Martinko provided an overview related to her attendance at the Statewide Self-Determination Committee (SSDAC) held on 2/19/2024. Ms. Martinko noted there was a discussion of several Regional Center wanting to come together and allocated SDP LVAC funding for Independent Facilitator (IF) training. Ms. Renu Moon and Ms. Von Thenen agreed that the funding being beneficial in developing Independent Facilitators. Ms. Von Thenen noted the LVAC has previously approved training for advocates to become an IF.

Ms. Pickett noted a common barrier in relation to individuals attempting to navigate SDP includes wait times for processing and Spending Plan development. Ms. Pickett indicated trainings related to Spending Plan development may be helpful for community members.

A community member shared some barriers experienced by families include the lack of IFs available.

Ms. Crystal Chavez noted there is an upcoming conference that will be held by Disability Voices United (DVU) in August 2025. Ms. Martinko requested to clarify how much funding is available. Ms. Chavez confirmed that \$10,831 remains available for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and that the funds for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 have been received and available, totaling \$105,580.38. Ms. Chavez noted the fund from Fiscal Year 2023-2024 must be expended by March 2026. Ms. Von Thenen motioned to utilize the remaining funds of \$10,831 from Fiscal Year 2023-2024 to pay for the 8/23/25 DVU conference at \$50 per person, prioritizing self-advocates and circle of support second from the Regional Center of Orange County catchment area. Ms. Moon seconded this motion. There was no additional comments and the committee members voted in favor of the motion.

Ms. Moon indicated that she would like to understand Employer/Employee Labor Laws, including over-time rules and regulations. Ms. Martinko agreed and mentioned that SSDAC may be able to share this cost of training to help better understand employment labor laws. Ms. Martinko motioned to inquire if SSDAC can assist in sharing the cost of training for employment Labor Laws for SDP participants that include overtime rules and regulations. Ms. Moon seconded this motion. There was no additional comments and the committee members voted in favor.

Ms. Chavez noted the need for an updated motion to ensure the clarification of the updated project end date for Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA) of 6/30/25 training for Independent Facilitator PCP training. Ms. Martinko motioned to utilize the funds for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 to allow for the modified project end

date of 6/30/25 for ASLA to complete their training for Independent Facilitator PCP training. Ms. Moon seconded this motion. There was no additional comments and the committee members voted in favor.

A community member requested to review SDP Spending Plan timelines and review process, noting barriers in accessing services and supports. Ms. Jennifer Montanez referred to Ms. Chavez's presentation on RCOC SDP Budget and Spending Plan review process presented during last SDP LVAC meeting on 1/27/25. Ms. Montanez reported RCOC's progress in updating the SDP review process internally and strategies in streamlining this process for efficiency.

Break at 7:32 PM

Meeting resumed at 7:36 PM

Ms. Martinko and Ms. Von Thenen noted there were great ideas provide from both the community and committee members for the use of the implementation funds. Ms. Martinko made a motion to create a survey on the topics discussed during this meeting and obtain feedback from the community. Ms. Moon seconded the motion. There was no additional comments and the committee members voted in favor. Ms. Von Thenen noted the ability to create survey in regards to the prioritization use of funds. Ms. Von Thenen inquired if Ms. Chavez would be able to assist with the Spanish translation and distribution to the community. Ms. Chavez confirmed.

Ms. Kim Sinclair from Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA) provided an update on her ASLA Training RFP. A community member inquired if everyone can participate in this training. Ms. Sinclair noted the training would focus on the training of 15-25 English speaking participants, 15-25 Spanish speaking participants, and 15-25 Vietnamese speaking participants with a minimum of at least 5 Spanish speaking participants and 5 Vietnamese speaking participants for those respective languages. Ms. Chavez requested Ms. Sinclair clarify if this is a general training for individuals or if it is for those who are on track to become an SDP IF. Ms. Sinclair clarified that this is for individuals that are looking to become an IFs.

4. RCOC Self-Determination Activities:

a. Self-Determination Statistics

Ms. Chavez shared recent SDP Statistics: "There are currently 430 people actively receiving services through SDP. In the last month, 13 new individuals have entered into SDP. Of the 430 people active in SDP, the ethnic/race breakdown is - Asian (110), Black/African-America (17), Hispanic (79), Native-American (3), other or Unknown (55), and White (160). Of the 430 people who are active in SDP, 147 people are from the West Area Office while 283 are from the Central Area Office."

b. Updated SDP FMS Provider List

- a. English: <https://padlet.com/CCFRC/self-determination-program-sdp-gj84v696q8l5l55o/wish/x5m7aoz8KRwVWkAV>
- b. Spanish: <https://padlet.com/CCFRC/self-determination-program-sdp-sp-autodeterminaci-n-zjyykvixzlhqz1cy/wish/MbejW1XwoKv3ZNkG>
- c. Vietnamese: <https://padlet.com/CCFRC/self-determination-program-sdp-vt-ch-ng-tr-nh-t-quy-t-2qxmfbmx3kwmp3vj/wish/KxJvagzMJRKVWAg0>

5. Community Input and Barriers to Completing the SDP Process

a. SDP Case Studies

Ms. Martinko noted that it would be important to review how SDP has been working for individuals who have been in the program for some time. Ms. Martinko inquired if anyone in the community would like to share their experiences in SDP and to be considered an SDP Case Study. A member of the community volunteered to share their story.

6. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting

Ms. Von Thenen requested clarification as to when the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the SDP Resource Fair and the SDP Resource Fair Follow-Up applications were due, as she would like to schedule the next SDP LVAC meeting. Ms. Chavez noted the RFP for SDP Resource Fair was due 3/15/25 and the SDP Resource Fair Follow-Up was due 3/14/25. Committee members requested to hold the next SDP LVAC meeting on 3/24/2025 at 6:30pm.

Ms. Pickett mentioned that the Spanish speaking community members expressed their interest in more representation for their demographics and inquired if RCOC can share some information on how committee members are selected.

Ms. Chavez mentioned that Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has ability to join LVAC meetings for presentation.

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.