

Regional Center of Orange County
Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: June 2nd, 2025

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Present:

Beth Martinko, Parent

Crystal Chavez, Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC) Self Determination Program (SDP)

Coordinator

Gihong (Collin) Kwon, RCOC SDP Participant Choice Specialist

Evelyn Pinto, RCOC SDP Participant Choice Specialist

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

Jennifer Montanez, RCOC 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 SDP Participant Choice Specialist

Tina Stang, Parent

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Beth Martinko, Committee member, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Ms. Martinko welcomed all attendees for the Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (SDP LVAC) Meeting. The Committee members introduced themselves, along with Regional Center Staff.

2. Approval of March 24th, 2025 Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 24, 2025 meeting. Ms. Renu Moon made a motion to approve the March 24, 2025 minutes. Ms. Kaitlynn Truong second the motion. All committee members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

3. DDS Self-Determination Ombudspersons Presentation

Ms. Katie Hornberger, Departmental Developmental Services (DDS) Ombudsperson, introduced herself and the managers of the two offices Ms. Cynthia Salomon-Ponce Acting SDP Ombudsperson and Ms. Shanna Holzer Lanterman Ombudsperson. Ms. Salomon-Ponce provided a presentation regarding the roles of the offices of the ombudsperson, provided data in regards to the type of contact received by their offices. Ms. Salomon-Ponce provided the contact information for the community to reach out to SDP DDS Ombudspersons office to assist with addressing any individual participant issues – Email: SDP.Ombudsperson@dds.ca.gov and Phone: (877) 658-9731.

A member of the community request to review manners regarding delays in authorization and rate reform. Ms. Hornberger suggested reaching out to Ombudsperson office to receive individualized support.

A community member asked about the procedures for applying to SDP for his adult child and who should be the person completing the paperwork on behalf of the person served. Ms. Salomon-Ponce stated that there is no formal application process, but the first step is to take the orientation and that both Person Served and parents are encouraged to attend. Ms. Martinko stated Person Served does not have to attend if they cannot sit through a meeting.

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

a. ASLA PCP Training for IF update

Ms. Kim Sinclair, from Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA) provided a information to follow up on the Person Centered Planning (PCP) Training for Independent Facilitators (IF). Ms. Sinclair noted the original application deadline was on March 27, 2025. She noted there was sufficient applicants to meet the requirements for English and Spanish PCP Training applicant. However, there were only three application for Vietnamese PCP training. Ms. Sinclair noted the end date was extended to 4/14/2025 for the Vietnamese training in order to allow additional applicants to meet the minimum threshold of five participants needed for the

Vietnamese training. Ms. Sinclair noted that after this additional effort, there were no additional applicants for the Vietnamese training and the training was unable to be provided. Ms. Sinclair confirmed there was a total of 145 applicants for the English and Spanish training. A total of 67 were provided with the opportunity to participate in the PCP training and 41 individuals ended up confirmed being able to participate in the training. Ms. Sinclair noted there is about \$26,500 that was not utilized due to not being able to proceed with the Vietnamese training. Ms. Sinclair noted she would like to repurpose the \$26,500 that was unused to be able to expand on the training to include Independent Facilitator certification. The proposed training would be a 9-week course: 5 weeks of foundational training and 4 weeks of intermediate topics, covering SDP basics, budgeting, and Spending Plan development.

Break: 7:36 PM

Meeting Resumed: 7:41 PM

Ms. Martinko shared feedback from Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen, who suggested postponing the IF training approval until DDS releases the statewide IF certification training. Ms. Crystal Chavez noted there is a formal process that would need to be followed in order to reallocate SDP implementation funds, such the SDP LVAC would need to make a motion for a Request For Proposal (RFP) to fund for Independent Facilitation certification.

b. SDP Resource Fair Update

Mr. Bill Greenfield, Greenfield & Associates, provided an update on the upcoming SDP Resource Fair. The tentative date is scheduled for July 26, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Mr. Greenfield noted the breakout sessions will be conducted in the participants' primary language, with roaming interpreters available outside of the breakout room. Mr. Greenfield stated he has received a lot of interest from vendors and there is approximately 40 to 60 vendors expected at the Resource Fair. Mr. Greenfield noted the fair will include designated sections for IFs, micro-businesses, Financial Management Services (FMS), and SDP service providers. Mr. Greenfield confirmed that others outside of Orange County resident will be able to attend the SDP Resource Fair.

Ms. Moon inquired about the location of the resource fair. Mr. Greenfield stated it will be held in Central Orange County and did not want to disclose the exact venue due to not signing a contract with the location at this time.

Mr. Greenfield requested to confirm that services could be provided outside of the agreement date as the current agreement of resources fair that notes that the agreement date is June 30 2025. Ms. Chavez confirmed the fair could occur after June 30, 2025.

5. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

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

Ms. Martinko inquired if Ms. Chavez had the result from the last survey that was completed in March 2025 regarding the community input on how the SDP implementation funds should be allocated. Ms. Chavez noted that Ms. Von Thenen has the result of those survey. Ms. Martinko confirmed she would reach out to Ms. Von Thenen to receive the results of the survey.

1. Training on Labor Laws for SDP participants, including Over-Time Rules – Cost Review

Ms. Martinko states she would be attending the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) on June 26 2025 to obtain new information regarding training on Labor Laws for SDP Participant, over-time, and cost review. Ms. Martinko confirmed she would share the results of the meeting with the SDP LVAC.

6. RCOC Self-Determination Activities:

a. RCOC Self-Determination Statistics

Ms. Chavez reports there are currently 492 people actively receiving services through SDP. Since the last meeting, 48 new individuals have entered into SDP. Of the 492 people active in SDP, the ethnic/race breakdown is - Asian (128), Black/African-American (18), Hispanic (88), Native-American (3), other or Unknown (72), and White (183). Of the 492 people who are active in SDP, 172 people are from the West Area Office while 316 are from the Central Area Office.

Ms. Martinko inquired whether SDP participation is becoming more diverse. Previous statistics were reviewed. Ms. Karen Pagano inquired if the demographic shift reflects the general population of Orange County and questioned whether Hispanics are underrepresented.

A community member shared that Service Coordinators (SCs) often do not provide thorough explanations of SDP and may discourage participation.

A community member asked who is responsible for sharing SDP information. Ms. Chavez responded that SDP is discussed during the annual IPP meeting at a minimum.

Ms. Martinko asked whether outreach had been conducted through CCFRC.

A community member stated that general SDP information is provided but acknowledged that the "how-to" process is overwhelming.

Ms. Truong committed to coordinating outreach efforts.

7. SDP Case Studies

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next SDP LVAC meeting.

8. Community Input and Barriers to Completing the SDP Process

A community member asked about the average timeline for enrollment into SDP. Ms. Chavez noted that no formal data that is currently collected on this.

A community member asked how to register for the next meeting. Ms. Chavez confirmed that all attendees would receive an email invitation.

9. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting

Ms. Martinko proposed scheduling the next meeting for Monday, July 14th 2025, at 6:30 PM, and all committee members noted availability – except for Ms. April Lopez and Mr. Santos Cline, as they were not in attendance for this meeting.

Ms. Martinko and Ms. Pagano requested for Regional Center to review the demographic of the population of the overall RCOC community and compared to those who are enrolled in SDP.

10. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 8:21pm