

**Regional Center of Orange County
Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee
Date: June 22nd, 2026
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting**

Present:

Dr. April Lopez, Chair Committee, Parent

Beth Martinko, Parent

Collin Kwon, Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC) SDP Participant Choice Specialist

Crystal Chavez, RCOC Self Determination Program (SDP) Coordinator

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 (CCFRC)

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. April Lopez, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Lopez welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (SDP LVAC) Meeting. Committee members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of April 13, 2026, Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the meeting summary of the April 13, 2026, meeting. Ms. Beth Martinko made a motion to approve the meeting summary of the April 13, 2026 meeting. Ms. Hannah Pickett second the motion. All committee members voted in favor of approving the meeting summary except Ms. Tina Stang who abstained from voting. Motion passed.

III. Update Regarding RCOC Trainings - Person-Centered Thinking for Independent Facilitators

Ms. Leah Saitz, PCT Trainer, provided an update on upcoming Person-Centered Thinking (PCT) trainings. She reported that the June and August sessions are fully booked, while openings remain for the July 2026 session. Ms. Saitz noted that interpretation services will not be available, as RCOC has not yet identified funding to support interpretation. She added that Spanish-language PCT trainings are available through Up Lift Services in September 2026.

A community member asked whether the training could be attended remotely. Ms. Saitz responded that virtual attendance is not available. Ms. Kaitlynn Truong shared that Language and Cultural Competency (LCC) funds are available, however, those funds are limited to trainings for families only. Ms. Truong added that LCC funds cannot be used for this PCT Training, since it is intended for Independent Facilitators (IFs) and service providers. Then, Ms. Truong stated she will reach out to the Committee to determine if LCC funds can be used to support training for non-families.

Ms. Martinko expressed concern about the lack of Spanish-language accessibility and suggested that RCOC elevate the issue to leadership, noting the large Spanish-speaking population served by the regional center. Ms. Jennifer Montanez stated that RCOC has Spanish-speaking certified PCT trainers but explained that offering the full training in Spanish remains challenging due to the training materials. Ms. Saitz added that RCOC does not receive dedicated funding to offer PCT training to the community and that staff have been contributing additional time to make the training available.

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

a. Vote for applicant award: Person-Centered Planning (PCP) Training RFP

Ms. Crystal Chavez shared that Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA) has submitted an updated proposal and reminded the committee that the RFP had not yet been awarded.

Ms. Kim Sinclair (ASLA) provided an update, stating that the training is now available in Spanish and Korean. She explained that the Spanish training will be conducted in Spanish-first, while Korean participants will be supported through interpretation services.

Ms. Pickett asked why the proposal did not include a break-down of the budget. Ms. Sinclair responded that the proposal was based on the total \$20,000 contract amount for the entire RFP. Ms. Sinclair also stated that the training is open to all RCOC families and will be conducted via Zoom rather than at the RCOC office.

Ms. Martinko made a motion to award the PCT Training RFP to Sonia Ramirez, noting her familiarity with the Hispanic community. Ms. Chavez clarified that there were three applicants for this RFP: ASLA, PUPA, and Sonia Ramirez. Ms. Renu Moon seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion failed to pass as Ms. Tina Stang, Dr. Lopez, Ms. Truong, and Ms. Pickett voted against the motion and only Ms. Moon and Ms. Martinko voted in favor. Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen abstained from voting.

Dr. Lopez noted that the committee had run out of time during the previous meeting to fully discuss all three applicants.

A community member asked why community members were not permitted to vote. Ms. Pickett explained that, under the Lanterman Act, only committee members are authorized to vote, although community input is considered by the committee in its decision-making.

Ms. Pickett made a motion to award the PCT Training RFP to PUPA, which was seconded by Ms. Truong. During discussion, Ms. Martinko asked how interpretation services would be provided for Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese participants. Cesilia Ortiz Barajas of PUPA stated that qualified interpreters would join the Zoom sessions to provide live interpretation. Ms. Truong echoed Ms. Martinko's concerns and requested

the contact information for the interpretation agency for future reference. Ms. Barajas stated she would provide the information privately. Ms. Martinko suggested that the interpretation agencies be vetted by RCOC for quality assurance before the committee voted on the proposal.

Break at 7:06 PM - 7:11 PM

A community member expressed concern that PUPA appeared to be held to a higher standard than previous applicants, such as ASLA. Ms. Martinko clarified that the concern was specific to ensuring qualified interpretation from Spanish into Korean and Vietnamese, as RCOC was not aware of agencies currently providing those language combinations, and stated that the same standards apply to all applicants.

Dr. Lopez suggested postponing the vote until the next meeting to allow PUPA additional time to confirm that qualified interpreters had been secured, noting that this was the first proposal involving Spanish-first training with interpretation into Korean and Vietnamese. Dr. Lopez also suggested that Ms. Truong work with PUPA to ensure interpretation services would meet the needs of RCOC's diverse community. Both Ms. Truong and PUPA agreed to collaborate on this effort. Ms. Martinko clarified that there were no concerns regarding Spanish-to-English interpretation, only Spanish-to-Korean and Spanish-to-Vietnamese interpretation. The motion to award the PCT Training RFP to PUPA did not pass as Ms. Stang, Dr. Lopez, and Mr. Martinko voted against the motion and only Ms. Moon and Ms. Pickett voted in favor. Ms. Von Thenen and Ms. Truong abstained from voting.

b. Vote for applicant award: Employee and Labor Law Training RFP

Due to time constraints these agenda items were not discussed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

c. Vote for applicant award: SDP Parent Support Group RFP

Due to time constraints these agenda items were not discussed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

d. Vote for applicant award: Advanced Training for Independent Facilitators RFP

Due to time constraints these agenda items were not discussed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

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

a. SDP Resource Fair Follow-up Update

Due to time constraints these agenda items were not discussed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

b. Review and update the funding year designation for the SDP Resource Fair Follow-up to Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Due to time constraints these agenda items were not discussed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

VI. RCOC Self-Determination Activities:

a. Self-Determination Statistics

Due to time constraints this agenda items w not discussed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

b. Self- Determination Demographics

Due to time constraints this agenda items w not discussed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

c. 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.

d. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting

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

VII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.