

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

October 2, 2017

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Present

Rhys Burchill, Parent

Jyusse Corey, RCOC Peer Advocate

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Training and Organizational Specialist

Tim Jin, Consumer

Larry Landauer, RCOC Executive Director

April Lopez, Parent

Jacqueline Miller, Clients' Rights Advocate

Michael Rillera, Parent

Scarlett von Thenen, Orange County Office of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities

I. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Rhys Burchill called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee (SDPLAC) Meeting. Each committee member introduced him/herself. Community members in attendance also introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes from March 30, 2017 Meeting

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 30, 2017 meeting, and no changes were suggested. Mr. Tim Jin gave a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Michael Rillera seconded the motion.

M/S/C to approve the minutes as presented

III. Summary of State

Ms. Burchill attended a presentation on the State of Self-Determination. Ms. Trudy Marsh Grable provided a summary handout to committee members. She reported that Person Centered Thinking (PCT) helps the Self-Determination Program since there is a need to “think outside the box” when utilizing PCT. Ms. Burchill shared that people, including facilitators, will be trained to think differently. DDS has shared a packet of information on the Self-Determination Program and it is currently available on the RCOC website. The final waiver for California has not yet been approved by the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS), DDS has submitted yet another draft in response to CMS’ request for clarification of six areas.

Ms. April Lopez said she sent an update with notes from the State Advisory to the committee. The State Advisory will meet monthly to discuss questions to be submitted for the waiver as a means of making the process more transparent.

IV. Overview of DDS Self Determination Training

Mr. Jyusse Corey stated he will attend the training on how to conduct Self-Determination Informational meetings. He will record the meeting and send the information out to committee members. Ms. Lopez shared that she and Mr. Jin will also attend that training and will bring back information to share.

V. Discussion of Training for the Public

Ms. Burchill asked how the committee will proceed with training community members on topics related to the Self-Determination Program. Ms. Lopez suggested inviting trainers to present information to the Self-Determination meetings. She suggested that the committee can decide what trainers should come and add them to the meeting agenda. Ms. Scarlett von Thenen suggested having Ms. Trudy Marsh Grable and Ms. Andrea Kumetz-Coleman come speak and share their experiences regarding the Person Centered Planning. Ms. Lopez also suggested having Mr. Victor Lira from Premier present on Financial Management Services (FMS). Ms. Lopez said she will invite these speakers and see when they are available. Mr. Jin requested that the next Self-Determination meeting be held next month, and Ms. Lopez said they will reach out to potential trainers based on availability.

Ms. Burchill asked suggestions for other trainings and encouraged audience members to speak up throughout the meeting. Ms. Lopez suggested that Judy Mark offer training on managing a budget and costs of a monthly FMS.

Ms. Lopez expressed concern with outreach and how to let the community know about the Self Determination Local Advisory Committee meetings. Mr. Larry Landauer said there is an interest list of 70 people and that RCOC can send an email to its distribution list. Mr. Landauer stated that he wants to make sure that the purpose of the Self-Determination meetings and the Self-Determination Program is clearly explained to people.

Mr. Jin shared his opinion that more outreach needs to be done in regards to Self-Determination. Mr. Landauer said that people are willing to come to the local advisory meetings but people are more interested in the informational meeting that places their name in the lottery to be picked for the Self-Determination Program. Ms. Lopez said that the committee has a responsibility to inform and educate the community on the Self Determination Program so they can be prepared.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding how to notify the public regarding training and meetings. Ms. Lopez insisted that there should be a calendar of monthly meetings established and suggested the first Monday on a monthly basis. She also expressed the opinion that RCOC send out flyers to the RCOC mailing list. Ms. Burchill suggested that establishing a set meeting date would be helpful assuming that presenters are available and RCOC has Board Room availability. Mr. Landauer said that he would check on availability of space. Ms. Burchill asked if the flyer could be reviewed by the Committee and Mr. Landauer agreed.

Ms. Scarlett von Thenen suggested that the initial training should be an overview of the Self-Determination Program before trainings on individual topics.

VI. Nominations for Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Burchill opened the discussion for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. Lopez nominated Mr. Jin for Chair while Mr. Jin nominated Ms. Lopez for Vice Chair.

A discussion ensued regarding the election process. The agenda stated that nominations would occur to which Mr. Jin, Ms. Lopez, and Judy Mark objected. Mr. Jin stated that he had asked that "election" be placed on the agenda. Consistent with the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act, Ms. Jacqueline Miller commented that the committee needs to set agenda items during the meetings and there should not be emails occurring between committee members on what to add to the agenda. She shared that the public needs to have a voice in regards to the agenda and trainings and this does not occur when internal emails are shared among members.

Ms. Burchill asked Judy Mark when she thinks the waiver for the program will be approved. Ms. Mark responded that with enough pressure she believes approval should be forthcoming by early 2018.

VII. Agenda Items for the Next Local Advisory Committee Meeting

The following agenda items were suggested by committee members: update on DDS Self-Determination training, and presentations and trainings for future local advisory meetings.

VIII. Public Comments

A member of the public commented on how the Self-Determination Program will be rolled out and shared how the waiver will be completed by the state. One of the major issues is that the HCBS Waiver states that in 2022, services need to be in fully inclusive settings. The Federal Government is asking how the Self-Determination Program will abide by these rules. Persons served will need to verify that services used are fully inclusive. When someone goes into crisis, the Federal Government does not want the person to go into a facility for more than 30 days. Ms. Lopez said that the State Advisory Committee is confident there will have a waiver in six months.

A member of the public asked if parents can attend the Self-Determination Training. Ms. April Lopez clarified that Day 1 of the training is for Regional Center Staff and members of the Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee. A different member of the public clarified that Day 2 of the two-day training is to “Train the Trainer.” On this second day, community organizations can send someone from their organization to gather information.

Judy Mark suggested that someone who was part of the pilot program can come to a meeting and talk about how Self-Determination has affected their lives and what it looks like. It was suggested that Rick Woods, a parent from Kern Regional Center, be invited to speak.

A member of the public asked if there are restrictions in the Self-Determination Program, and another member of the public shared that Early Start recipients are ineligible unless they have already been established as “Status 2” and eligible for Lanterman Service. A participant also cannot live in a Development Center or group home, unless they are transitioning out of these homes within 60 days.

A member of the public asked if the parent can be a vendor. Judy Mark commented that parents may provide services but they cannot act as the independent facilitator. A member of the public asked for an agenda item to be added. He would like to ask Mr. Jin and Ms. Lopez questions before the election. Ms. Lopez stated that there was not an election when the group was formed and that they should occur regularly and trainings

should be offered to the public. She stated that if the committee does not educate the public, she will no longer be a part of this committee. Mr. Landauer shared that PCT and FMS trainings were offered at past meetings and the public expressed frustration with the committee about these meetings. DDS has also offered this information in packets.

Judy Mark commented that this is an advisory committee that informs the public and does not need to have a chair. She said that the public is concerned that the committee is not meeting regularly enough to provide information, that the room is too formal and this is a committee, not a board and should not be so concerned about the Bagley Keene Act.

A member of the public asked if RCOC service coordinators have been trained on the Self-Determination Program. Mr. Jin encouraged committee members to attend the Self-Determination training next week.

A member of the public asked to have monthly meetings. Ms. Lopez seconded this request and suggested that the meetings be held on the first or second Monday of the month.

A member of the public commented that he has been to every local advisory committee meeting and that it was agreed to hold fewer meetings because the State does not have a waiver or an approved program. Ms. Lopez noted that many of the people she meets in the community do not know about the Self-Determination Program, and this concerns her.

A member of the public commented that this is the first time she had heard of this committee meeting and she does not think that the committee has done a good job of informing the community.

A member of the public commented that there needs to be more outreach to families to explain the Self-Determination Program.

A member of the public thinks RCOC has been doing good things with sharing information on the program. Mr. Jin commented that people need to be educated before the lottery occurs.

A member of the public shared that her son has had a lot of resources but they never worked out for him so her family would like to make the decisions regarding his supports. She would like to know how the Self-Determination Program looks and if it would be a good fit for her child.

A member of the public acknowledged the frustration of not having a waiver for the program since the law was passed in October 2013. She said that DDS is taking a long time to complete the waiver submission to the Federal Government. After the DDS training next week, she thinks that informational meetings need to be offered at different

community agencies and in different languages so that the people in the lottery reflect the diversity of the community. She suggested that a flyer be created and given to families at their IPP meetings so that they are informed and can be invited to the local advisory committee meetings. Ms. Lopez shared that Westside Regional Center has a one-page flyer to share with families.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.