

Regional Center of Orange County
Self-Determination Program Task Force Meeting

July 12, 2016

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

Present

Rhys Burchill, Parent

Jyusse Corey, RCOC Consumer Advocate

Sam Durbin, Consumer

Daniel Harrington, Consumer

Tim Jin, Consumer

Andrea Kumetz-Coleman, Parent

Larry Landauer, RCOC Executive Director

April Lopez, Parent

Cristina Mercado, RCOC Training and Organizational Specialist

Jacqueline Miller, Clients' Rights Advocate

Scarlett vonThenen, 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 (SDP) Task Force Meeting. Each task force member introduced him/herself, and audience members were asked to briefly introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes from May 17, 2016 Meeting

The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 17, 2016 meeting, and no changes were suggested. Ms. Andrea Kumetz-Coleman gave a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Jyusse Corey seconded the motion.

M/S/C to approve the minutes as presented

III. Status of Outreach to Community Organizations:

Mr. Larry Landauer provided an update from the RCOC Board of Directors. Mr. Landauer stated that one of the Board's established strategic goals is to strengthen RCOC's relationship to the communities it serves in order to increase community awareness of RCOC and its available services. RCOC staff has been working with local community members and legislators to advance this mission. Mr. Landauer expressed that he believes this strategic Board goal ties in with the SDP committee's goal of reaching out to various communities from different ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Mr. Landauer also noted that the Comfort Connections Family Resource Center located within RCOC's central office has reached out to the community in the following ways: held 7 developmental screenings in the last 3 months, sponsored 12 educational outreach activities, and established family support groups. Mr. Landauer stated that he will present an official report on these updates at the next meeting.

IV. Guest Speaker: Differences between the IPP and Persons Centered Planning: Joe Donofrio, Choicess

Mr. Joe Donofrio gave an informational presentation explaining person centered practices and how they can be incorporated into the IPP process. He explained that the overall benefit of incorporating person centered practices is to provide individuals with more self-determination and more opportunities to exert control over their lives. Mr. Donofrio presented visual examples of various tools that can be used to expand on and collect information for the consumer's IPP: visual mapping, staff matching, and communication charts. He explained that person centered tools can be helpful for consumers, parents and providers who are interested in self-determination as they allow you to explore what works best for an individual consumer. These tools can allow families and service providers to focus more on strengths rather than deficits. He noted that the tools he provided could be individualized to each person, and the many options allow you to choose the tool that best suits the individual. Mr. Donofrio finally explained that these tools are typically explored through the use of a trained independent facilitator who guides the consumer and the family toward determining person centered goals, programming, staffing, etc. The Self-Determination Program being discussed by DDS will most likely allow for individual program plans to include the cost of a trained facilitator in the budget (managing and planning for this individualized budget was discussed at the 5/17/16 SDP Task Force Meeting regarding Fiscal Management Service).

V. Presentation for Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC)

Ms. Scarlett vonThenen reported that the VAC has gone dark for the summer and will reconvene in September at which point Ms. vonThenen plans to reach out to their chair to determine if they are interested in receiving an informational presentation on SDP.

VI. Update on Self-Determination Advisory Committee's 6/21/16 Teleconference Report

Ms. Burchill and Ms. April Lopez provided updates from the Statewide Council on Self-Determination. Ms. Lopez noted that she is chair of this Council and that this Council includes the chairs of each local advisory committee from across the State. According to Ms. Lopez, DDS has informally submitted the waiver to the federal government to problem solve any concerns that may arise before the waiver is formally submit. Once the waiver is formally submitted certain time constraints go into effect and it becomes more difficult to make changes to what was submitted.

VII. Discussion of Future Independent Facilitator Presentation

Ms. vonThenen updated that the Regional State Council in Los Angeles held training on the use of independent facilitators. She is uncertain if the RCOC SDP Committee should use this same training as the information in this presentation was tailored toward the specific community resources and vendors available in Los Angeles County. Ms. Lopez noted that by the time of the next meeting there may be a guide available via a webinar training produced by DDS.

VIII. Suggestion for Requests Received via RCOC Website

Ms. Cristina Mercado noted that no suggestions were received via the RCOC website, and community members who express interest continue to be added to the SDP informational mailing list.

IX. Agenda Items for the Next Local Advisory Committee Meeting

- a. Ms. Burchill reminded the committee that agendas are determined by all group members not just the chair of the committee. Ms. Lopez noted that there are concerns across the state regarding agendas for various SDP groups from different regional centers. Ms. Lopez suggested having meeting attendees from the public complete an evaluation sheet to make suggestions for future trainings that they might want. Ms. Lopez stated that she would draft a questionnaire to present at a future meeting.
- b. Ms. Lopez stated that the next meeting should include an update on DDS documents and should also include updates on a potential presentation on the use of independent facilitators. Ms. vonThenen suggested that it may be best to hold off on including items on the agenda that do not have concrete updates.

X. Public Comments

- a.** A community member asked if a parent can be an independent facilitator for an IPP meeting. Mr. Landauer stated that we do not yet know what the requirement will be for who can and cannot be a facilitator as determined by DDS.
- b.** A parent noted that she did not feel that she could take away any actionable items from tonight's SDP meetings. Ms. Burchill and Mr. Landauer explained that actionable information has not yet been provided to RCOC by DDS, and the purpose of these meetings is to keep the public informed about statewide updates.
- c.** A parent commented that even if her child is not chosen for the preliminary pilot SDP program she still felt that these meetings provided her with learning tools to assist her child in living a more self-determined life.
- d.** A parent expressed frustration that this meeting was held in the form of a presentation rather than a training session. Ms. Lopez clarified that the official DDS training for the SDP program has not yet been developed or distributed to any regional center.
- e.** A parent asked who oversees our committee. The committee explained that DDS and Ms. vonThenen (on behalf of the Orange County Office of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities) oversee our committee.
- f.** A parent expressed concern that the information provided during the SDP Committee meetings may not be reaching enough families or consumers. Ms. Lopez noted that once DDS provides more information to RCOC that information will be distributed across parents and consumers.
- g.** A parent noted that she did not understand the purpose of the SDP meetings. Ms. Burchill and Mr. Landauer clarified that the purpose of these meetings is to keep the public updated on information about the state wide roll out of the SDP program while also introducing the public to the many aspects of self-determination. Ms. Lopez noted that the meeting topics are meant to provide and explain tools that will assist in implementing the SDP program once it officially goes into effect.
- h.** A parent expressed that she did not feel that the agendas provided to the public were helpful.
- i.** A parent suggested the SDP group begin each meeting with a brief 10 minute introduction to self-determination including key phrases and terminology.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.