

**Regional Center of Orange County**

**Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

**January 8, 2018**

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

**Present**

Rhys Burchill, Parent

Jyusse Corey, RCOC Peer Advocate

Tim Jin, Person Served

Larry Landauer, RCOC Executive Director

Cristina Mercado, RCOC Person Centered Thinking Coordinator

Jacqueline Miller, Clients' Rights Advocate

Michael Rillera, Parent

Christine Tolbert, Orange County Office of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Rhys Burchill called the meeting to order at 6:31 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.

Ms. Burchill encouraged members of the public to participate in the Local Advisory Meeting by asking questions and providing comments related to the Self-Determination Program (SDP). Ms. Burchill noted that meeting participants with issues outside of the scope of the SDPLAC can complete a comment card and have an RCOC employee contact them at a later date. Ms. Jacqueline Miller also provided the number for the Office of the Client's Rights Advocate, 714-621-0563.

**II. Approval of Minutes from December 4, 2017 Meeting**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 4, 2017 meeting. Ms. Miller requested an addendum stating that Mr. Tim Jin had offered to be a presenter at a future informational meeting. The addendum was agreed upon, and Ms. Christine Tolbert gave a motion to approve the minutes with the suggested changes. Ms. Miller seconded the motion.

*M/S/C to approve the minutes as presented*

### **III. Self-Determination Informational Meetings**

Ms. Miller and Ms. Tolbert provided updates from the State Council on Developmental Services (SCDD) which stated that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) plans to submit the self-determination waiver to The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by the end of January. Information from SCDD predicted potential approval of the statewide self-determination program by May 2018. Ms. Miller also cited information from SCDD stating that the names of 640 individuals across the state had been submitted to the DDS self-determination lottery, 50 being from RCOC, which appeared to be one of the highest regional centers.

Mr. Jin requested an update on the self-determination informational trainings scheduled by RCOC. Ms. Cristina Mercado reported that RCOC had scheduled 14 separate informational sessions with options in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean. Ms. Mercado stated that after attending the informational meeting, interested parties would be asked to provide their personal information and unique client identifier (UCI) so that their information could be submitted to DDS. Ms. Mercado updated that each participant would be provided a confirmation letter from RCOC which includes instructions on how to check the status of their application via the DDS website. A member of the public noted that DDS was also sending a confirmation letter. Mr. Jin noted that he would like to attend some of the informational meetings to provide his own personal story as it related to living a self-determined life.

Ms. Miller requested assurance that RCOC was doing outreach to the various ethnic communities within Orange County, including the Vietnamese community. Ms. Miller suggested holding informational sessions in public spaces like libraries. Mr. Jin expressed concern that Orange County would not have enough people signed up for the lottery by the time the program goes into effect. Mr. Corey and Mr. Larry Landauer assured Mr. Jin that RCOC is spreading the information as quickly as possible. Upcoming SDP Informational sessions being held in the community are as follows: January 27<sup>th</sup> during the Self Determination Conference, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the State Council office in English, with translation upon request. Ms. Mercado also pointed

out that members of the community who have attended the training can also give the training and provide attendee information to RCOC. Mr. Landauer noted that all community members who will be hosting informational meetings will need to provide all contact information of attendees to RCOC immediately to ensure that their information is given to DDS.

#### **IV. PRESENTATION: Role of the Independent Facilitator**

Ms. Tolbert presented on the topic of the independent facilitator. She explained that the role of the facilitator varies and can include assisting the individual with accessing generic resources, developing resources within the community, and budget development. The independent facilitator's role within the person centered planning meeting can range from leading the meeting, being an active participant, or advocating on behalf of the individual, but ultimately, their role is to ensure that the focus stays on the individual. Within the guidelines of the self-determination program the independent facilitator is optional but must meet the following qualifications: can be paid or unpaid and must understand the principles of person centered planning and self-determination. Ms. Tolbert stated that DDS is in the process of developing training for people to become independent facilitators. Ms. Burchill asked if RCOC service coordinators will be expected to be trained in facilitation and Mr. Landauer stated that they would be provided training to the degree that the law requires. Ms. Tolbert reiterated that the use of a paid or unpaid independent facilitator is optional within the self-determination program. The cost of the independent facilitator will come from the individual's budget. In response to Ms. Burchill's questions regarding whether unpaid-parent-independent facilitators would be required to be trained, the response was, "yes".

#### **V. Person Centered Planning and One Page Descriptions**

Ms. Burchill presented a one page description she developed for her daughter. The description included information on what matters most to her daughter, supports she needs to stay safe and healthy, things that people like and admire about her, her communication style, and characteristics of people who best support her. Ms. Miller and Mr. Jin proposed having a presenter at the next meeting give an overview of person centered planning. It was agreed that Ms. Mercado would give a global overview in her capacity as RCOC's Person Centered Thinking Coordinator.

#### **VI. Discussion of how Members of the Committee would change a client's service under Self-Determination**

Members of the committee listed the following reasons why Self-Determination would change either their lives or the life of the person they love: funding for support in unique

living options, getting rid of case notes for support staff, being able to put a plan that truly represents their loved one to paper, parents being able to determine best supports for their child, and more freedom in finding the right people to support you.

## **VII. Public Comments**

Ms. Miller asked why public comments were on the agenda if the public is able and encouraged to comment throughout the meeting. Ms. Burchill noted that it was included to inform people who are unused to being able to speak throughout a meeting there is a time when they are welcome to give their comments.

A member of the public stated that the self-determination program is not a cure all and many of the same tailored services can be achieved by maintaining a close working relationship with one's service coordinator.

## **VIII. Agenda Items for the February 5, 2018**

The next agenda will include an overview of person centered thinking, updates on informational meetings given by RCOC and in the community. Ms. Miller suggested updating the self-determination portion of RCOC's website to note that the local advisory committee meets the first Monday of every month unless there is a holiday. She also suggested adding the meetings to the community calendar.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

These were changes to the minutes of the January 8, 2018 Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting requested by Ms. Jacqueline Miller at the March 5, 2018 Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting

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