

Regional Center of Orange County

Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

February 5, 2018

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

Present

Jocelyn Brodowski, Parent

Rhys Burchill, Parent

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Training and Organizational Specialist

Tim Jin, Person Served

Larry Landauer, RCOC Executive Director

April Lopez, Parent

Jacqueline Miller, Clients' Rights Advocate

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.

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.

II. Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2018 Meeting

The committee was unable to review and approve the minutes from the January 8, 2018 meeting since a quorum was not available. The minutes will be reviewed at the next advisory meeting on March 5, 2018.

III. Self-Determination Informational Meetings

Ms. Cathy Furukawa provided an update on the RCOC hosted Informational Meetings. To date, there have been meetings held in the Cypress and Santa Ana office with interpretation available at certain meetings. There will be more meetings in the months of February and March with interpretation at specific meetings. RCOC has sent out a mass notification by email to those within the RCOC mailing list in December and January. Another mass email will be sent out in February. Most people who attend the meetings submit their name or the name of a family member for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) lottery when the Self-Determination Program is available. As of February 1, 2018, Ms. Furukawa reported that there are 128 known RCOC names that have been submitted to DDS for consideration for the lottery.

Ms. Miller asked for an update on Mr. Jin's presentation at Informational Meetings. Mr. Jin shared that he was able to present at a meeting in the Santa Ana office and is scheduled to share at future meetings as well. Ms. Furukawa shared that attendees appeared to have benefited from hearing about Mr. Jin's personal stories and perspectives.

Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen shared that State Council on Developmental Disabilities will hold another informational meeting.

Ms. Jocelyn Brodowski asked that it be clarified to Service Coordinators that an "interest list" for information regarding the Self-Determination Program is not the same thing as having one's name submitted to DDS for the lottery. Ms. Furukawa stated that Service Coordinators have been presented with same information from the Informational Meetings the community is receiving so Service Coordinators should be more aware of the Self-Determination Program now. Ms. Furukawa will clarify to Service Coordinators how to check if a name and Unique Client Identifier (UCI) has been submitted to DDS.

IV. Representation at the next State Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting in Sacramento

Ms. April Lopez shared that an email was sent to the chairs asking for a representative to attend the State Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting in Sacramento. She had asked Mr. Jin to attend the meeting since he had already completed some of the training. Ms. Lopez shared that it would be beneficial to have other committee members attend the state meeting in the future.

V. PRESENTATION: Person Centered Thinking

Dr. Cristina Mercado serves as the Person Centered Thinking Coordinator at RCOC and presented on Person Centered Planning (PCP) since this process can help with determining goals in Self-Determination. Person Centered Thinking is based on the philosophy that each person is an expert in their own lives. PCP provides tools and ways for people who need supports in their lives to describe how they envision their life, their goals, what they need, and how they prefer their needs to be met. Dr. Mercado presented the different components of a PCP and how she was able to facilitate a plan for Mr. Tim Jin.

The goal of Self-Determination is to allow people with flexibility to tailor services that fit their needs and align with their goals. Dr. Mercado reviewed the concept of learning what is “Important to” a person and what is “Important for” a person. Service providers tend to focus on what’s “Important for” a person (i.e. health and safety) and tend to not address what is “Important to” a person (i.e. relationships, things to do, rituals and routine, and things to have). In a PCP, it is important to find a balance between the two and find out how others can best support a person to get what is “important to” them.

A Person Centered Planning meeting is different from a traditional Individual Program Plan meeting because a PCP is more fluid and is about figuring what is going on in a person’s life. Before a PCP meeting, it is important to establish what is the purpose of the meeting and to decide who should be part of this meeting. Mr. Jin’s desired outcome from this PCP is to create a video to share with new support staff so they can be aware of his routines, preferences, and how to best communicate with him. People involved in a PCP meeting include the individual, members of the circle of support, a vendor, the service coordinator, or an independent facilitator – it can be anyone the individual wants. Discovery tools allow participants to discuss: what they like and admire about a person, what a good and bad day looks like, the different relationships in this person’s life, rituals and routines, and matching good support. This process can be utilized in the Self-Determination Program because it helps with establishing goals and desired outcomes so that services and supports can be identified.

Mr. Jin shared that he has never had a Person Centered Plan from RCOC and thanked Dr. Mercado for this experience. He shared that he included friends as part of his PCP team and was surprised that people were so willing to participate. This experience helped to open his horizons and helped his Service Coordinator of nearly 20 years to learn new things about him. Mr. Jin thinks that the Individual Program Plan should be like this and not a “cookie cutter” process.

VI. Public Comments

A member of the public asked if the Self-Determination Program would benefit individuals who require care at all hours of the day. She shared her experience as a parent vendor and the challenges she had because she had to be present for every staff shift change. The committee discussed that with Self Determination, services do not necessarily change but more flexibility is allowed.

Ms. Burchill asked if DDS has officially submitted the wavier yet. Ms. Lopez shared that at this time it has not yet been officially submitted but at the Task Force Meeting it was shared that it should be submitted next week. The questions that came back to DDS were reduced from 100 to five and the committee wants to make sure that all these questions are addressed.

A member of the public shared that the final submission will look at the list of services and supports. Services need to adhere to the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule which states that people need to have services which allow access to the community. Ms. Burchill commented that it is difficult to understand the array of services and what services to ask for so she suggested that the Local Advisory Committee publish the list of services from the waiver submission. Ms. Burchill also commented that the fee for the Financial Management Services (FMS) has also not been established.

VII. Agenda Items for the March 5, 2018

It was requested that on next agenda include a discussion on rotation of committee representation at state committee meetings. A discussion on wavier services the state has applied for is to be added as well since some families have misconceptions on what type of services can be provided under the Self-Determination Program. There was also a request that an update on Informational Meetings be included as a standing item on future agendas. The committee discussed what type of trainings and presentations can be scheduled for the future and it was suggested an independent facilitator come present on his/her experiences.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.