

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

November 6, 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, Person Served

Larry Landauer, RCOC Executive Director

April Lopez, Parent

Jacqueline Miller, Clients' Rights Advocate

Michael Rillera, Parent

Andrea Kumetz-Coleman, Parent

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 October 2, 2017 Meeting

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 2, 2017 meeting, and no changes were suggested. Mr. Jyusse Corey gave a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Michael Rillera seconded the motion.

M/S/C to approve the minutes as presented

III. Person Centered Planning – A Work in Progress

Ms. Andrea Kumetz-Coleman gave a presentation on her experience with the Person Centered Planning process with her son. She has been serving as a parent advocate in Orange County for the past 20 years, assisting families navigate the school system, and was a member of Area Board XI for 16 years. She has legally represented her son in court and now her son's case can now be used to help others. Ms. Kumetz-Coleman shared that the key for her success has been "The power of providing what you can instead of waiting for what you want." She has been focused on informing herself and being active while raising her son. Ms. Kumetz-Coleman said that the Person Centered Plan is an on-going process that involves her son and everyone around him. Since her son is nonverbal, Ms. Kumetz-Coleman makes sure that the planning process works for him and reflects him. Her son is able to use diagrams and visuals to illustrate the people who support him. She showed a diagram that included the people who are willing to participate in her son's plan and to share ideas. This can include people her son interacts with like family members, neighbors, bank tellers, Regional Center, medical specialists, and educational institutions. If people are unable to attend the planning meeting, they are sent questions to answer. Ms. Kumetz-Coleman said that these people are honored to be part of her son's Person Centered Planning process.

Questions to ask during the planning process includes, "What help and resources can her son use in his future and how do we get there?" This question allows people to think about supports for her son and creates a sense of ownership for people participating. As an example, contributors are asked to write down a list of recreational ideas they think her son will be interested in and her son picks some that he can explore (i.e. biking, college, yoga, gym, bowling, Disneyland, and board games). Ms. Kumetz-Coleman made a book called "David's Life" and personalized the game board "Life" for her son. Her son was involved in the process and asked to think about his life. She used pictures, cards of "likes/dislikes," and new experiences to get her son's input. This planning process not only helps her son plan his life, but it helps him develop interests. Ms. Kumetz-Coleman encouraged parents to start the Person Centered Planning process today and to not wait for the Self-Determination Program to get started.

Mr. Jin asked Ms. Kumetz-Coleman what does her son like to do day-to-day and how long it took to get his Person Centered Planning done. He also asked if it was difficult to get his friends involved and how long did it take to complete. Ms. Kumetz-Coleman said she started the process when he was young and has done this for him all his life. There is a masterplan and structure but layers of information are added over time as they identify things they did not know he needed. She said it is an on-going process that will never be completed since people grow and change.

IV. Legal Overview of the Bagley Keene Act

Ms. Burchill said that this Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee was born out of state legislation. She reviewed the Bagley Keene Act which outlines certain parameters the committee needs to meet to ensure that the public has the opportunity to participate in committee meetings. The public needs to be informed of the existence of the committee and of tasks completed on behalf of the committee. The public must also be given 10 days' notice before any meeting so special committees cannot meet unless notice to the public is given. The Bagley Keene Act also prohibits committee members to discuss committee related topics outside of public meetings – this includes emails. Ms. Burchill stated that an agenda is needed so the public knows what will be discussed at the meeting so they can decide if they want to attend the meeting.

V. Overview of DDS Self-Determination Training

Mr. Corey provided an overview of the DDS two day training on the Self-Determination Program that took place at the San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center. The presenters at the training were Liz Harrell from East Los Angeles Regional Center and Jim Knight from DDS. There will be 2500 participants statewide during the soft rollout of the Self-Determination Program during the first three years. After three years, the program is open to everyone. Mr. Corey shared that the Self-Determination Program is an evolution from how services are provided and people will have more options on how they want to live their lives. The relationship between the person served and the Regional Center will not change. People will still need to access generic resources prior to utilizing resources from their budget. The five principals of Self-Determination were reviewed: Support, Confirmation, Authority, Responsibility, and Freedom. Since Self-Determination will look different for people with different needs, Person Centered Thinking works well in conjunction with Self-Determination.

A member of the public expressed displeasure about his experience with RCOC while another member of the public shared that she has had the opposite experience.

A member of the public stated that the Self-Determination Program will not solve all problems and currently, there is money for services. She shared that she has a 42 year old daughter who has been living on her own and that her daughter has been able to live a self-determined life because of the supports and services from RCOC. Her daughter gets to choose what she wants to do during the day and choose who she spends her time with. She spoke in support of Ms. Burchill as the chair due to her extensive experience with Task and the State Council.

A member of the public stated that a well-informed Service Coordinator makes a difference. Ms. Lopez reported that the DDS Self-Determination training has been taking place statewide and that the Regional Centers were in attendance of the trainings. She encouraged people to continue to attend the local advisory committee meetings to listen and to learn more about the Self-Determination Program. Mr. Corey empathized with the

frustrations expressed since he grew up with Regional Center services. However, he said that the state has now provided information that can be provided to the public.

Mr. Jin shared that he attended the first day of training and he thought the training was good. Rick Wood was a speaker who was able to share his experience with the Self-Determination Program since he has been in the pilot program for 15 years. Mr. Jin can reach out to Rick and ask if he can speak at a local advisory committee meeting next year. There still is no timeline on when the waiver for the Self-Determination Program will be approved. Mr. Jin asked how DDS is getting the list of people who want to enter the lottery and if RCOC has submitted this information to DDS. Mr. Jin stated that the local advisory committee has issues with outreach and that it may be time to recruit new committee members.

A member of the public expressed excitement about the Self-Determination Program and asked if the committee is aware that this program has already been done in Australia. She suggested that the successes and failures of the program in Australia can be explored so that we can learn from it. She asked if the budget can change or is it strictly based on the previous year's budget. Mr. Corey stated that the budget changes along with needs of the person served and that establishing the budget is a collaborative effort between the family and those who serve them. Ms. Lopez added that the services needed may not be currently provided by RCOC so the Self-Determination Program will allow for these services to be covered.

A member of the public asked who makes decisions on the budget if it needs to be changed. Mr. Landauer said that if a change is needed, the Fair Hearing process is still available.

A member of the public asked if the RCOC rate for services will be available to family members through the Self-Determination Program since the rates set by RCOC is better than what families privately pay. Ms. Burchill said that through the Self-Determination Program, families do not have to go through vendors and they can pick their own staff and pay them directly. This allows families to negotiate rates that may be lower. The member of the public asked if families will have support to identify resources and to find providers since this has been difficult for her in the past.

A member of the public asked what is "FMS" and Mr. Landauer clarified that FMS stands for "Financial Management Services." The money from the budget will be handled by the FMS who will allocate the money to the different people providing services, based on the budget agreement. A member of the public asked if the FMS handles the taxes too and Ms. Burchill stated that the costs for services have not yet been established. Ms. Lopez said there are several levels of services provided by the FMS agency.

VI. Schedule of Presentations and Trainings for Future Meetings

Ms. Lopez has arranged for a presentation from Mr. Victor Lira from Premier on Financial Management Services and invited the audience to attend the meeting. She also shared that the Statewide Task Force meeting is on December 5, 2017 and families are able to call in to listen to the meeting and hear all the questions that will be asked.

Ms. Lopez said that she will send an email at the state level in regards to recruitment of members to serve on the Local Advisory Committee. She said there is one position open in Orange County with the possibility of a second open position. People who want to promote the Self-Determination Program and who have input on how to disseminate the information to the community would be good candidates for the committee.

VII. Public Comments

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the last two Local Advisory Committee meetings. He shared his support of the Self-Determination Program and respect for Ms. Burchill. He said that a committee member previously commented on the “dysfunctional nature” of the Local Advisory Committee. This member of the public shared that he has been to every Local Advisory meeting since June 2015 and has not observed any dysfunctionality but stated that the last two meetings have not been civil. He asked why there is an election for Chair and Vice Chair and expressed support for Ms. Burchill as the Chair.

Mr. Rillera stated that he has been on the committee for two years and is committed to this committee due to the crisis he observes at his job as a psychiatric nurse. He thinks that the crisis that these people experience can be addressed by supports through the Self-Determination Program. He is excited for the Self-Determination Program but understands that passing the waiver will take time since the government is involved in this process. Mr. Rillera does not understand the need for an election when the committee currently has a knowledgeable and experienced chair. Mr. Rillera expressed concern about the email from Aaron Carruthers of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities stating there is a rumor about committee members losing interest in the committee. Mr. Rillera stated he is not one of these people as he shows up to every meeting.

Ms. Lopez said that the letter referenced that people in the state of California are losing interest, not just people on this committee or people in Orange County. She stated that many committees that meet do not have a quorum and that it has been known that the Local Advisory Committee in Orange County did not meet for several months. She stated that the Local Advisory Committee has a responsibility to get information out to the community to the different areas that represent the community. She shared that other advisory groups have been meeting monthly and have been educating the community with presentations. Ms. Lopez stated that the chair gets to decide when there are meetings. Ms. Burchill stated that every meeting has a time for the committee and the public to request items to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

A member of the public shared that people learned about Self-Determination from other people, not from RCOC. She said there is misinformation and RCOC is not communicating about what Self-Determination is. She thinks Service Coordinators should be able to provide information on the program. Another member of the public stated that RCOC is not providing information on the Self-Determination Program and asked that this information be given to Service Coordinators so they know how to respond to questions. Ms. Lopez stated that the training is happening with Service Coordinators.

A member of public stated that in general, Service Coordinators are not informed about services and she has been getting information from Los Angeles County. She asked who would be the best person to get information. Mr. Landauer says stated that DDS has just started providing information in the past couple of months. More information will be provided at future meetings and Service Coordinators will be trained with Self-Determination information.

A member of public stated that she works with multiple families and families get information by talking to each other because Service Coordinators give conflicting information. She asked for more training and coordination so that everyone has the same information. Mr. Landauer says that there are 280 Service Coordinators and every Individual Program Plan is individualized so there are exceptions. Mr. Landauer encouraged the public to call the Area Supervisor or Area Manager so RCOC is aware about people who are having difficulty accessing services.

A member of public wants to know if Service Coordinators are seeking out persons served who would benefit from the Self-Determination Program. The committee clarified that Self-Determination is for everyone and RCOC does not have a say on who gets picked for the soft rollout. There will be a random selection of people based on ethnicity, age, gender, and diagnosis to make sure the people chosen are reflective of the people served. RCOC will have informational meetings that will allow people to submit their name for the lottery.

A member of public stated she hopes to get information on the Self-Determination Program because in the past she got information from other people. She said that her child's psychiatrist told her to ask for behavioral respite and she did not know that this service was available. Mr. Landauer stated that people do not need to wait for the Self-Determination Program to receive services to meet her needs. He asked this person to provide her number later so that she can be helped.

A member of public shared concern that persons served who are adults may not understand their bodies and their actions may be misinterpreted. She is not sure how to prevent this behavior so that her son is not accused of sexual harassment.

A member of public stated that the Self-Determination Program has not been approved by the federal government. If families are having difficulty with services, they can get services needed now. This process starts with strengthening the Individual Program Plan. Another member of the public shared that Person Centered Planning can happen now with the current IPP and through current services.

VIII. Agenda Items for the December 4, 2017

Mr. Victor Lira from Premier is scheduled to present on Financial Management Services (FMS) at the next Committee meeting. Mr. Rillera asked to allow for majority of time for this presentation since the FMS may be detailed and there may be questions. Ms. Burchill asked that a review of a Code of Civility be added to the agenda.

IX. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Burchill called for a vote for election of Chair and Vice Chair. Out of eight committee members present, Larry Landauer, Jacqueline Miller do not vote and Rhys Burchill, as chair, only votes when there is a tie. Mr. Tim Jin received two votes and April Lopez received two “Yes” and three “No” votes; Ms. Burchill remains Chair.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.