

Regional Center of Orange County
Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting
August 8, 2022
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Virtual Public Meeting

Present

Crystal Chavez, RCOC Participant Choice Specialist

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Self-Determination Program Coordinator

Stephen Gaiber, Self-Advocate

Tim Jin, Self-Advocate

April Lopez, Parent

Kathleen McFarlin, CCFRC Manager, Family Support and Community Outreach

Karen Millender, Parent

Keli Radford, RCOC Director of Services and Supports

Tina Stang, Parent

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. April Lopez, chair, 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 themselves.

II. Approval of June 27, 2022 Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the minutes from the June 27, 2022 meeting. Ms. Kathleen McFarlin made a motion to approve the minutes. All committee members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

III. RCOC Self-Determination Program (SDP) Update

Ms. Cathy Furukawa provided an update on the status of SDP participants. RCOC has certified 179 individual budgets, with 71 of these budgets for participants from the initial group. There are currently 74 people actively receiving services through SDP, with 30 people from the initial group.

Out of the 74 people active in SDP, 49 people received Person Centered Planning (PCP) and/or Independent Facilitator (IF) services.

In regards to the demographics of the 74 people active in SDP, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (8), Black/African-America (2), Hispanic (15), Other (8), and White (41). Of the 74 people who are active in SDP, 27 people are from the West Area Office while 47 are from the Central Area Office. In regards to the demographics of the 179 people who received a certified budget, the ethnic/race breakdown is: Asian (31), Black/African-America (5), Hispanic (47), Other (23), and White (73). Of the 179 people who received a budget, 74 people are from the West Area Office while 105 are from the Central Area Office.

Mr. Tim Jin commented that this is not a big number of people active in the Self-Determination Program. Mr. Stephen Gaiber commented that it is taking a long time for him to receive his budget. A member of the public asked how long it takes to get into Self-Determination. Ms. Furukawa noted that the minimum amount of time is approximately two months but it may take longer as participants need to establish services with a Financial Management Services (FMS) provider, identify services providers, and on-board these providers.

A couple members of the public noted that it is taking a long time for them to receive a certified budget upon request and that transition to Self-Determination is taking anywhere from four to six months. Ms. Furukawa noted that the process to certify the Individual Budget does not take long once services in the traditional system are established. Requests for new services and unmet needs occur through the Individual Program Plan (IPP) and Planning Team process just as it would occur through traditional services.

Ms. Furukawa introduced Crystal Chavez as RCOC's Participant Choice Specialist. Ms. Chavez speaks Spanish and has experience working with participants as they transition to the Self-Determination Program. In the next few months, Ms. Chavez will reach out to those who have received a certified budget and who have completed the Orientation to follow-up on transition to Self-Determination.

IV. Discussion: Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination All Program for Fiscal Year 2021-22

a. Creation of Request for Proposal

There was a discussion regarding how the committee should allocate Self-Determination Implementation funds. DDS Directive dated February 11, 2022:

[SDP RC Participant Supports Letter and Enclosure - February 11, 2022 \(ca.gov\)](#)

A member of the public suggested a Resource Fair where people interested in Self-Determination can meet service providers and FMS agencies. She said she attended an event hosted by Westside Regional Center. She said this was a well-attended event since the event was not Self-Determination specific but included other programs and resources.

Mr. Jin suggested more training about the Self-Determination Program for Local Advisory Committee members.

A member of the public shared that a couple of the regional centers have provided scholarships to train Independent Facilitators (IFs). This would result in more IFs with training and more IFs who speak a language other than English. This group training is provided by the Guidelight Group and costs anywhere from \$1,200 to \$1,500 per person.

There were suggestions to update Self-Determination materials and to update RCOC's website. Ms. McFarlin noted that the CCFRC has funding that can be used for translation of materials.

Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen suggested that an ad-hoc committee meet to come up with proposals to present to the committee and members of the public at the next meeting.

V. Committee Future Planning for Person Center Planning PCP process

Mr. Jin shared that Disability Voices United (DVU) offers Committee Centered Planning services. Similar to Person Center Plan, this is an opportunity for the Local Advisory Committee to discuss things such as the role of the committee, how to manage committee meetings, recruitment of new members, and committee goals. Ms. Judy Mark of DVU shared that she has helped other SDP Local Advisory Committees through this process. She noted that each Regional Center and committee has unique needs and goals that can be explored through this process. This item will be included in agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

VI. Community Input and Barriers to Completing the SDP Process.

Members of the public ask about RCOC's Social and Recreational guidelines. Ms. Keli Radford noted that the updated guideline has been submitted to DDS for review and RCOC is awaiting response from DDS.

A member of the public noted that it is taking too long to transition to Self-Determination. It was suggested that a guide with detailed steps on how to go through the process be created for distribution. It was suggested that RCOC have Service Coordinators who specialize in Self-Determination.

A member of the public shared that there are not enough FMS agencies, which is a barrier to Self-Determination.

XI. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Agenda items to include: Self-Determination Implementation Funds and Committee Center Planning.

XII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.