

Regional Center of Orange County
Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting
November 6, 2023
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Virtual Public Meeting

Present

Dr. April Lopez, Parent

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Self-Determination Program Coordinator

Chad Escallier, Client's Rights Advocate Disability Rights California

Kaitlyn Truong, Comfort Connection Family Resource Center

Marlene Morales, RCOC Participant Choice Specialist

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

Tierney Cameron, Self-Advocate

Tim Jin, Self-Advocate

Tina Stang, Parent

I. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Dr. April Lopez, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. She welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee (SDPLAC) Meeting. Committee members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of August 28, 2023 Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the minutes from the August 28, 2023 meeting. Ms. Scarlett Von Thenen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Tierney Cameron seconded the motion. All committee members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

III. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program for Fiscal Year 2021-22

a. Review and Finalize RFP for PCP Training for Families and Person Served

Mr. Chad Escallier reviewed a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for Person Centered Planning (PCP) training for persons served by the regional center and their families. A member of the community asked if this training would just train on the PCP or if this is to train people to become Independent Facilitators (IFs). Mr. Escallier confirmed that this first proposal is to train persons served and their families on the PCP.

Ms. Tierney Cameron asked self-advocates can be IFs. Ms. Von Thenen confirmed that self-advocates can be IFs and she will connect Ms. Cameron with the organization that was provided with a grant to train self-advocates

Mr. Escallier shared that this PCP training can be a starting point for training and future trainings can be reviewed with other implementation funds.

b. Review additional RFP for PCP Training to develop more Independent Facilitators - IF training

Mr. Chad Escallier reviewed a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for PCP training to develop more Independent Facilitators. Mr. Jin shared that he completed a training through San Diego Regional Center (SDRC) and the training reviewed everything, not just the PCP.

The Local Advisory Committee noted that they would like to decide how to utilize these implementation funds soon as the funding for Fiscal Year 2021-22 need to be expended by March 2024. Mr. Escallier originally had the RFP submission date for January 2024 for a completion date by end of February 2024. Ms. Cathy Furukawa suggested that the RFP deadline be moved to end of December 2023 to allow the committee time to award the RFP.

Community members provided feedback on the RFP throughout the meeting. A community member shared that training for IFs can range from \$4000.00 to \$8000.00 for a full training program. Another community member noted that an eight-week course might be a good idea if there are enough funds to allow it.

c. Review purchase of Self Determination Program Books

Ms. Furukawa reviewed information provided by Judy Mark on the cost of the Disability Voices United (DVU) SDP books. For bulk orders of the books, the cost would be \$20.00 per book. To have the book translated Ms. Mark estimated this would cost approximately \$6000.00. It would also cost an additional \$6000.00 to redesign the book in Vietnamese. This does not include the cost of printing each book in Vietnamese for \$20.00.

There was a discussion regarding the benefits of the SDP book and how many SDP books to purchase. A community member shared the positive aspects of having a SDP book. Ms. Judy Mark joined the meeting and shared that Central Valley Regional Center purchased 250 books in English and 200 books in Spanish, East Los Angeles Regional Center purchased 1000 books, while Valley Mountain Regional Center purchased 700 to 800 books.

Ms. Cameron made a motion to purchase 250 books in English and 250 books in Spanish. Mr. Escallier seconded the motion. There was discussion on how the books will be distributed and to who. It was suggested that priority be given to those people who are not yet in SDP but are interested in transitioning into SDP. Ms. Mark noted that people active in SDP would also benefit from the book as they do not all understand components of the program such as labor laws, service codes, and the wavier. Ms. Mark noted that at some regional centers, books are accessible to Service Coordinators and they can decide who would benefit from the book. All committee members voted in favor of purchasing the books.

The committee revisited the two RFPs previously discussed. The committee discussed how much money to allocate towards each RFP and how much the training would cost. It was suggested that the committee decide how many people they want to be trained and what threshold languages will be available for the training. Mr. Escallier suggested \$1,100.00 to train one person, up to 25 people. Ms. Furukawa asked if the RFP can be written without a dollar amount attached to the RFP since the cost of training varies by provider and length of training. Instead, the RFP can request for an outline on training, how much time is needed for training, and the estimated cost of training.

Mr. Escallier made a motion to use SDP Implementation funds for PCP training for participants and their families. This training is to be completed by February 2024. The amount allocated for the training will depend on the RFP submissions. Mr. Jin seconded the motion. There was a discussion about having Spanish and Vietnamese interpretation available for the training and other languages upon request. A community member also asked if the RFP can ask if training materials can also be available in all languages. All committee members, with the exception of Ms. Tina Stang, voted in favor of funding PCP training for participants and their families.

Mr. Escallier noted that an RFP will be available for review when the committee reconvenes in December 2023 and that submissions should be received by end of December 2023.

IV. RCOE Self-Determination Program (SDP) Activities

Due to time-constraints, this agenda item was not discussed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. Furukawa asked Ms. Minaya Wright of Alliance of Abilities to provide a report on the Self-Determination Resource Fair that was held on November 4, 2023. Ms. Wright reported there were 230 individuals who registered for the event, over 150 attendees at the event, and 30 providers/vendors who had tables at the event. Ms. Wright plans on creating a resource list based on the information from the providers for distribution and will create a post event survey to be complete by those who attended the event. A committee member noted it would be helpful to survey people who were not able to attend the event as well to gather feedback on better times to hold the event.

- a. Current listing of all the Regional Center's Self-Determination Participation Status**
- b. Update on Outreach and Barriers to SDP Enrollment**

V. Review of Purchase Reimbursement (024) Process for Independent Facilitators

Due to time-constraints, this agenda item was not discussed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

VI. Community Input and Barriers to Completing the SDP Process

Due to time-constraints, this agenda item was not discussed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

VII. Agenda Items and Date of the Next Meeting

Items not discussed at today's meeting will be included on the agenda for the next meeting. Committee members are welcome to email agenda items to be included as well.

VIII. Adjourn

Adjourned at 8:32pm.