

Regional Center of Orange County
Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting
February 5, 2024
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Virtual Public Meeting

Present

Cathy Furukawa, RCOC Self-Determination Program Coordinator

Chad Escallier, Client's Rights Advocate Disability Rights California

Crystal Chavez, RCOC Participant Choice Specialist

Jennifer Montanez, RCOC Director of Case Management

Kaitlyn Truong, Comfort Connection Family Resource Center

Karen Pagano, Parent

Marlene Morales, RCOC Participant Choice Specialist

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

Tim Jin, Self-Advocate

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Tim Jin, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. She welcomed all attendees of the Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee (SDPLAC) Meeting. Committee members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of December 5, 2023 Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 5, 2023 meeting. All committee members voted in favor of approving the minutes, except Mr. Jin and Ms. Karen Pagano noted needing to abstain due to not being present during the last Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting (SDPLAC). Ms. Cathy Furukawa asked Mr. Chad Escallier to confirm if the meeting had quorum to be able to vote on items due to there only being five committee members present and only three were able to vote in agreement with the meeting items. Mr. Escallier stated he would verify this shortly.

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

a. Review RFP Submissions for PCP Training for Participants and Families Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination

Ms. Cathy Furukawa noted the ability to have the individual creators of the Requests for Proposals to present their proposals, as two proposals were submitted to RCOC. Mr. Jin confirmed.

Ms. Kristianna Moralls from Disability Voices United (DVU) reviewed their proposal for “PCP Training for Participants and Families Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination”. Ms. Moralls noted the training will be provided in multiple ways such as via video conferencing and in-person with the option of translation in a series of 3 trainings.

Ms. Kaitlyn Truong noted the incorrect number of hours billed on the proposal. Ms. Moralls apologized and noted the total hours were incorrect, but the total amount of the cost for the training was correct.

A member of the community noted it is valuable for the Spanish Speaking community to be able to have a presenter that speaks Spanish that is able to provide the presentation directly in Spanish. Additional community members noted agreement with the presentation being provided to the Spanish Speaking community. Ms. Moralls noted the ability provide the Spanish-speaking training by a Spanish-speaking presenter.

A member of the community inquired if the training will be recorded. Ms. Moralls confirmed that it will be recorded.

Ms. Furukawa thanked Ms. Moralls for reviewing the proposal for DVU. Ms. Furukawa presented Mr. Bill Greenfield as the second creator of the proposal submitted.

Mr. Greenfield reviewed his proposal noting that he will be providing the ability to for families to have 4 individual sessions after the main training in order to allow individuals to ask more specific questions. Mr. Greenfield noted that he will be also recording the trainings and post them on his YouTube channel in order for additional and on-going training to occur.

A member of the community inquired if Mr. Greenfield spoke Spanish and how he would be providing the training to the Spanish-speaking community. Mr. Greenfield noted that he would be acquiring the support from a Spanish-speaking Independent Facilitator (IF) or Person-Center Plan (PCP) provider. Mr. Greenfield stated if he was unsuccessful, he would hire translation services to assist through his existing translation providers.

A member of the community inquired as to how someone would be able to sign-up for services. Mr. Greenfield noted that he will have the sign-up option available via Google or Zoom.

A member of the community inquired if Mr. Greenfield is vendored for 099 services. Mr. Greenfield confirmed that he was vendored for 099 services.

A member of the community inquired if Ms. Moralls has experience working as an IF for an individual in Orange County. Ms. Moralls noted she has not worked with an individual from RCOC from beginning to end.

Ms. Furukawa inquired if Mr. Escallier was able to verify the ability to hold quorum and vote on items. Mr. Escallier noted he was unable to verify and would continue to look into this.

Ms. Furukawa noted the ability to review the DDS Directive from October 2023 stating the ability to continue to meet if the majority of the meetings are present and are able to vote, while not counting vacant seats.

Ms. Scarlett VonThenen inquired if about the third applicant for the RFP. Ms. Furukawa noted the third applicant withdrew their proposal on Friday. Ms. VonThenen thanked Ms. Furukawa for the confirmation.

Ms. VonThenen noted there needs to be a motion to vote for the RFP Submissions for PCP Training for Participants and Families Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination. Mr. Jin noted he would need to abstain from voting due to being an employee of DVU.

Mr. Escallier made a motion to vote for the RFP Submissions for PCP Training for Participants and Families Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination and which candidate should be selected for the RFP. Ms. Truong second the motion.

Ms. Furukawa inquired if there was a discussion from committee members.

Mr. Escallier noted there is a significant cost difference between both proposals. Mr. Jin noted that the selection should be based on the cost, but quality of the service.

A community member inquired about the ability to fund for both proposals.

A community member noted they would have liked if there could have been additional proposals.

Ms. VonThenen noted the need to abstain from voting due to previously working with both candidates.

Ms. VonThenen did noted that there is enough funding available to be able to be able to fund for both proposals and if both were funded, it would allow for a variety of programming available. Ms. Truong stated she was in agreement with the information noted by Ms. VonThenen. Ms. Furukawa confirmed there was enough funding to be able to fund for both proposals.

Ms. VonThenen inquired if there would be an ability for both candidates to be able to work collaboratively to ensure that they are not providing trainings on the same day.

Ms. Pagano noted there may need to be a flip of a coin as to who would be able to provide the training first. Mr. Greenfield noted there may not need to be, as he would not mind in what order he presents in. Mr. Greenfield stated he would work collaboratively with DVU to ensure they are reaching as many community members as possible.

Ms. VonThenen requested to confirm as to when the funds would need to be expended by in order to be covered by 2021 to 2022 funds. Ms. Furukawa noted the funds for 2021 to 2022 would need to be expended by the end of February 2024. Ms. Furukawa noted there is the ability to utilize the 2022 to 2023 funds, as there is sufficient funds to cover the cost of the proposals.

Ms. VonThenen stated that given Mr. Greenfield and DVU's commitment to work together, Ms. VonThenen noted an amendment to her motion noting to be able to fund for both RFP for PCP training with the following years funding of 2022 to 2023 and to remove the expended deadline of 2/29/24. All committee members voted in favor of the motion.

Ms. Furukawa stated that now that the motion was passed to fund for both proposals, if both candidates would be open to modifying their RFP's to note a new end date and if DVU would be able to add the Spanish-speaking training. Ms. Moralls confirmed.

IV. Program for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

a. Review Draft RFP for PCP Training to develop more Independent Facilitators (IF) - IF training

Mr. Escallier reviewed the RFP for IF, where he noted the need to modify the deadline to March 2025 due to being able to utilize 2022 to 2023 funding. Mr. Escallier inquired if there was discussion from committee members in regards to how the RFP should be modified.

Ms. Vonthenen noted that a community member has been able to complete to an RFP for the Resource Fair. Ms. Furukawa noted this is an agenda item and would be discussed next, if time allowed.

A member of the community noted there has been various new DDS directives from December 2023 noting the need for IF to be vendored with the Regional Center in

order to provide transitional support into SDP. The member of the community stated that due to the pending ability for IF's to be vendored, this RFP should be placed on hold.

A member of the community noted they are an IF that works with RCOC and is in the process of becoming vendored for 099 services. The community member noted it has been brought to her attention the additional costs associated with becoming vendored such as the insurance policies needed. The community member noted the request to have the SDPLAC fund incentives for IF to take on clients. The incentive can be to assist with payments of trainings and payment for insurance requirements by RCOC.

b. Review Draft RFP Submission for SDP Resource Fair Follow-Up

Ms. Beth Martinko noted the ability to be able to create the RFP for the Resource Fair follow-up. Ms. Martinko was able to summarize the information stated on the RFP.

Mr. Jin praised Ms. Martinko's work on the RFP and requested to confirm if she had the sign-in list from the fair. Ms. Martinko confirmed.

Ms. Martinko noted that it would take about five individuals to complete the outreach. In addition, she noted due to the timing of review, the deadline would need to be modified due to when the service would need to be expended by for the 2021 to 2022 funding.

Mr. Escallier noted he would like to see the deadline to be March 2024. Ms. VonThenen agreed with Mr. Escallier.

Ms. VonThenen made a motion to approve the RFP with the deadline submission of the RFP by 3/29/24, provided they are able to acquire the amount of attendees of the Resource Fair from Integrity House. Mr. Escallier second the motion.

Ms. Martinko noted that the RFP includes the need to have native Spanish-speakers to the outreach to Spanish-speaking families.

Ms. Martinko noted the ability to modify the RFP with the agreed upon deadline and would be able to provide the updated RFP to selfdetermination@rcocdd.com and would request confirmation of the number attendees upon e-mailing.

c. Review of Alternative Options for Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program

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

V. RCOC Self-Determination Activities

a. Current listing of all the Regional Center's Self-Determination Participation Status

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

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

Mr. Jin inquired if additional information could be provided in regards to the time it is taking for IF to be reimbursed for 024 IF Transition Supports.

Ms. Furukawa noted that GT Independence is the FMS agency that is used to pay out this support. Ms. Furukawa notes the SDP team has been able to intervene and follow-up in regards to pending items that have not been paid. Ms. Furukawa noted there was a delay due to change of personnel at GT Independence and the information was being provided to an individual who was no longer processing the 024 payments.

VII. 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.

VIII. 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.

IX. Adjourn

Adjourned at 8:32pm.