



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER

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ELARC Self Determination Local Volunteer Advisory Committee June 23, 2020 Meeting Notes

Due to the current health crisis the Self Determination Local Volunteer Advisory Committee meeting was held by remote participation only

Members Present: Carl Blum, Cathay Liu, Carola Marona, Josefina Nieves, Virgilio Orlina, Alex Scarlis, Yougene Sun, Mei Ye

Members Absent: N/A

ELARC Staff: Gloria Wong, Liz Harrell, Roxy Ortiz, Elizabeth Ornelas, David Castaneda, Araceli Angiano

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Los Angeles Regional Office: Julie Eby-McKenzie

DDS Liaison: Jacqueline Gaytan

Guests: Mabel Lopez, Joe Martinez, Jacobeb Garcia, Alma, Taleen Khat

Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Virgilio Orlina, Chair.

Community Input

- Mei Ye- CPAD have monthly parent support group every month. This month having a one page profile training to help parent prepare for the self-determination, how to do a basic one page profile.

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

M/S/C (C. Blum/C. Marona) To approve the Minutes of the Self Determination Local Volunteer Advisory Committee of January 28, 2020 as recorded. Unanimous.

Updates

Statewide Efforts

- Statewide Efforts
 - Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)
Report provided by Chair, V. Orlina- The Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee met on June 9th 2020. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom because of the current health crisis. More than 100 participants joined the meeting that includes chairs of the 21 Regional Center's LAC, regional center staff, State Council, DDS, and community organization representatives.

During the meeting, DDS gave updates on the department directives providing flexibility for people receiving services as a result of the pandemic. DDS also shared the executive order issued by the Governor allowing people providing personal care services in Self-Determination to get background without fingerprint. DDS also reported about the funding allocation to support the implementation of the Self-Determination Program.

The main part of the agenda of the statewide meeting was the breakout sessions. Due to large number of participants in the virtual meeting, the participants were broken into seven groups. The purpose of the agenda is to engage all members of the SSDAC in a discussion of barriers to Self-Determination in the age of Covid-19 and to arrive at consensus recommendations to overcome them. After the breakout sessions the leader of each group reported the barriers discussed. Among

the barriers discussed were about the Delay in the implementation of SDP, Lack of Guidance by DDS. Lack of Training, and Lack of Trained Person- Centered Planners, FMS, Independent Facilitators and Service Providers.

Some recommendations raised during the breakout sessions includes DDS and RC should provide more trainings and make materials available in plain languages for the community. The person who will be hired as Independent Facilitator should be familiar with all aspects of SD. It was also mentioned that training on the use of technology such as Zoom is needed to allow efficiencies in meetings, reduces travel, and also the need of more training of participants on the difference between the individual budget and the spending plan.

The schedule of next Statewide Meeting has not been finalized yet though there was a motion passed during the meeting to meet every two months.

- DDS Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup
 - Ms. Wong shared that the DDS put a workgroup into effect years back made with a select group of participants that included regional centers, advocacy, and service providers. The group had been thinned out, had started instituted project and stakeholder was to advise direction, now we had the COVID situation so the stakeholders group had turned into the ARCA workgroup.
- ARCA Workgroup
 - When issues come up, those are presented to the department through Jim Knight. He has now been promoted and another group has taken place by Jennifer Parson.
Ms. Wong provided a budget update and overall operations. Budget needs to be passed by June 15, but it was delayed. The proposed cuts were about half a million to the system. It was quite unbelievable to have those cuts rejected. We have a budget that is status quo no augmentation. Budget is a baby budget, because they must passed a budget that is balanced, but they are expecting revenues for the July 15 income tax, September/October for business, if those revenues are off we need to come back and reconvene.
- ELARC Implementation
 - Monthly Report to DDS status- DDS had not submitted reports for the month of April and May, but have now resumed with the June report, which was updated and submitted.
 - Case Assignments- we continue to build expertise with in our staff and their respective units, each unit will have two service coordinators become the subject matter experts providing support and expertise to their units.
 - Staff Training Plan- We are rebuilding our training program to have a specialized training for supervisors in July and another one for those selected service coordinators to continue to build on their level of expertise.
 - Orientations- All participants have gone through the orientations with the exception of ten, Information and Training Specialist did a basic survey to gain information as to the level of technology this remaining group had. Seven out of the 10 participants indicated they have the resources to be able to do a virtual orientation, the first part was on June 18 with the second part on June 25. For the remaining participants a more personalize approach is being explored.
 - Information Sessions- early this year these sessions were alternating by languages with English being held in January, Spanish in February and Chinese in March, however with COVID these sessions were postponed. But we are gearing up to restart them.
 - PCP Workshops- the new Information & Training Specialist and the PCT trainer will resume doing Person Center Planning workshops.
 - DDS Directive- the Directive regarding the suspension of background checks has been suspended to July 31st

Funding to Support Implementation of the Self Determination Program

- Ms. Harrell provided an overview and walked through the DDS directive of the different priority areas of using funds to support the roll out of the SDP. These funds need to be secured by next week.
- Reviewed all proposed areas (five)- Refer to “Funding To Support Implementation Of The Self-Determination Program”.
- Some questions/feedback from the LAC:
 - For #1 how many booklets? Can it be mailed? Allocate funds for mailing such as for brochures. There are already SDP brochures developed that will be shared at the next meeting.
 - Dollars are for staff support, discussion about meeting needs of the participants. Perhaps someone can sit down and assist people through this. Instead of having these dollars going to consultants to develop brochures, rather have dollars go to direct support for clients and families.
 - IFs are doing a lot of extra work for free, all they’re being paid for is for the PCP. But once they reach that \$2500 cap then they do it for free.

Discussion of the SDP funding proposal:

Language around the development of the spending plan are consultation with FMS, SC and IF. Being more specific around the topic of the focus group and spending plan development. Navigating the spending plan so it becomes more like \$17,000 and expand it to include IF and the navigation process.

Concept to delay resource fair and roll out the \$7,000 to navigating plan development, broaden it up to include IF. Development of on-line info session to be more specific to be more like videos. Keep the workbook orientation in all languages while still having videos and focus groups, but move this to what the members are suggesting.

The financial commitment is to hold this money before June 30, the identification of the specific plans can be continued.

The proposal based on group’s feedback was narrowed from five to three elements: Keeping workbook; moving away from on-line info session and orientations, to possibly next year, focus on supportive coaching and making transition to SD, building expertise and helping people navigate involving development to focus group and funding for staff and IF training, and funding for spending plan development support. Expand beyond FMS to also include IF.

M/S/C (C. Blum/J. Nieves) Approve in concept to what Ms. Harrell shared, and have staff wordsmith proposal. Unanimous.

Question- Ms. Ye inquired about having a new unit for self-determination.

Response- Every unit will have two service coordinators to build the expertise. Some cases will remain with same SC.

C. Liu- will a parent be notified by call or letter if case is transferred and parents be notified of who the new SC will be?

Response- Some case may actually be transferred out from some units due to some units have higher number of cases. Ensuring the units have an equal amount of cases so that expertise can continue to be built. Each unit will have two liaisons. However any time there is a change in service coordination it is the expectation that parents are notified of who the SC will be.

2020 Meeting Dates:

- September 22nd, November 17th

Close

M/S/C (C. Blum/J. Nieves) There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Unanimous