



**SELF-DETERMINATION LOCAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approved 4/3/17

Date: March 6, 2017

Start Time: 7:02pm **End Time:** 8:34pm

Location of This Meeting: Regional Center of the East Bay, San Leandro

Location of the Next Meeting: Regional Center of the East Bay, Concord

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members Present: Nickole Bouslog, Esther Chow, Morena Grimaldi (via phone), Vi Ibarra, Arthur Lipscomb, Irene Litherland, Maria Marquez, Dianne Millner, Krista Loomis, Pei Wang

Committee Members Absent: Pamela Baird

RCEB Staff Present: Melanie Gonzales

SCDD, Bay Area Staff Present: Sheraden Nicholau

Guests: Will Sanford, Josh Sullivan, Jeyashri Ramiya, Guy Houston, Sarah Desumala (via phone), Patrick McKay (via phone), Young Ha (via phone)

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Vi Ibarra chaired this 21st meeting at RCEB's San Leandro office. Attendees were greeted and self-introductions were made.

Agenda Item: Consent to the Minutes

M/S/C "The committee moves to approve the February 6, 2017 Minutes as presented"
[Bouslog/Marquez] Unanimous

Announcements

Pei Wang was welcomed in as a new committee member appointed by the SCDD.

Agenda Item: Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Vi Ibarra and RCEB staff Ronke Sodipo are currently working on resolving the phone and video issues that the committee has experienced for individuals calling into the meeting and hopes to have this improved soon.

Agenda Item: Updates on DDS Self-Determination Program Workgroup

Will reported that the call between DDS and CMS last month went well and it seems that the questions that CMS had were answered satisfactorily, specifically in regards to the FMS fees and self assessments. There was question as to whether the FMS fee would be in addition to the individual's annual budget or included in it. It was determined that since current vendored services already include the admin fee as a part of their rate, that this would be included in the annual budget amount and not an additional cost that is added (FMS would essentially take over the administrative functions, such as payroll, that vendored programs previously performed). DDS is close to resubmitting the waiver to CMS and will not need to re-post it for a 30 day public comment/review prior to resubmission.

There is a Self Determination Webinar in the works and a training for Regional Center Service Coordinators ready to go, but we do not yet know when this will be rolled out (there is concern about rolling the training out too far in advance of the Self Determination Program approval). The training and the number of Self Determination slots allotted to each Regional Center will likely be determined when we are close to implementing Self Determination.

There was much discussion around protections of individuals involved in Self Determination. Specific concerns brought up included the possibility of current vendors charging individuals a higher rate than is charged to the Regional Center and of unqualified or inappropriate people acting as independent facilitators for the individuals served in Self Determination. The concern regarding vendors charging individuals a higher cost for services stems from the low rates providers are paid by RC's and the lack of services available due to this. There was a question as to whether the individual's budget could be increased in the event the provider would only serve the individual at a higher rate. The committee was reminded that the only two situations that would allow an individual to have the annual budget increased beyond the prior year's maximum budget are if the individual's needs changed significantly or if there were unmet needs that were not addressed through the IPP the prior year. There was also discussion about the buying power of individuals in Self Determination to negotiate lower rates from providers by negotiating alternative requirements of the service (i.e., not requiring quarterly progress reviews, etc...) as well as opening the door for individuals to access non-vendored services at more competitive rates in the individual's favor. The concerns about the Independent Facilitator (IF) largely stemmed from the very loose criteria set for the IF currently and the possibility of individuals hiring IF's that do not have knowledge of resources in the community and the risk to individuals if their service needs are not met. Regional Center Service Coordinators can act as IF's, but with the current caseload levels they may not have the time needed to plan and secure services and may not be as familiar with non-vendored services in the community.

Further questions to consider: How many vendored providers are in our catchment area that also provide services on a private pay basis (fee for service)? How many non-vendored providers in our catchment area already have the capacity to provide IF's (i.e., Good Shepherd provides case management services)?

Agenda Item: Outreach

The Self Determination brochure has now been translated to Spanish and Morena has volunteered to review the translation for accuracy. Previous versions translated include Vietnamese and Manderin (or Cantonese). Esther offered to review the Mandarin/Cantonese brochure and to have one of her staff review the Vietnamese brochure. The committee will follow up on other languages needed for translation.

Sheraden and Maria participated in the Town Hall meeting held in Oakland last month, where Maria referenced Self Determination and Sheraden ensured that the packets that participants received included information about Self Determination. Sheraden has also participated in, or is soon to participate in, a various community events where she will provide some information on Self Determination, including the Support for Families Resource Conference, the Alameda County Transition Fair, and meeting with representatives at Berkeley College.

Agenda Item: Input on Future Agenda Items

None

Agenda Item: Public Comment

None

2017 MEETINGS

DATE and LOCATION

- April 3 Concord
- **May 1 San Leandro**
- June 5 Concord
- **July 10 San Leandro**
- August 7 Concord
- **October 2 San Leandro**
- November 6 Concord
- **December 4 San Leandro**