

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
April 6, 2022

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of HRC Self Determination Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:05PM on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 via Zoom. Quorum was established at start of meeting.

**Committee Member Present**

Rosalinda Garcia, Parent  
Johnanthony Alaimo, Office of Client Rights Advocacy Representative  
Linda Chan-Rapp, Parent  
Miriam Kang, Parent  
Sunghee Park, Parent  
Patricia Jordan, Client

**HRC Staff Present**

Katy Granados- Client Services Manager  
Jessica Sanchez- Participant Choice Specialist  
Johnny Granados- Participant Choice Specialist  
Bryan Sanchez- Participant Choice Specialist  
Patrick Ruppe - Executive Director  
Antoinette Perez – Director of Children’s Services  
LaWanna Blair- Director of Early Childhood Services  
Angela Woods- Provider Relations  
Jessica Leos- Client Services Manager

**SCDD Staff Present**

Albert Feliciano

**Abbreviations**

HRC: Harbor Regional Center  
IF: Independent Facilitator  
PCP: Person-Centered Plan  
SCDD: State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
SDP: Self-Determination Program  
DVU: Disability Voices United  
FMS: Financial Management Service  
DDS: Department of Developmental Services  
RFP: Request for Proposal

**Visitors**

Fernando Núñez (Interpreter)	Jamie Van Dusen (DDS)	Martha Grajeda	Whitney Williams
Reiko Sakuma Umeda	Shelia Jones	Maria Zavala	Katie Ramirez
Vic Martinez	Kin Vuong	Tess Clemons	Naomi Hagel

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**Welcome**

Introductions of committee members and guests – Via Chat on Zoom

**Approval of Minutes:**

Quorum was established at start of meeting. March 2, 2022 minutes posted and available for viewing on HRC website. Patrick's last name was spelled incorrectly. Correction was made. Miriam Kang stated at the bottom of the minutes her last name was incorrect; correction was made. Linda motioned to approve minutes as amended. Rosalinda asked for a second; Miriam second. Minutes successfully approved.

**Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:**

Bryan Sanchez presented the SDP data in a graph format via an "HRC SDP" Power Point presentation shared on the screen.

- Soft Roll Out Participants
  - Total Participants Selected: **129**
    - Remained in SDP: **87**
    - Withdrew: **35**
    - Moved out of State: **3**
    - Inactivated/Not DD: **3**
    - Transferred Out (to another RC): **1**
  - Completed PCPs 58; 27 within the soft rollout and 31 from 7/2021 to 3/2022
  - Certified Budgets 101; 37 within the soft rollout and 64 from 7/2021 to 3/2022
  - Spending Plans 63; 29 within the soft rollout and 34 from 7/2021 to 3/2022
  - SDP Live 60; 29 within the soft rollout and 31 from 7/2021 to 3/2022
- SDP by Ethnicity: 19 Latino participants, 17 White/Caucasian participants, 8 African-American/Black participants, 3 Filipino participants, 1 Korean participant, 9 other/ Bi-Racial participants, 4 Other Asian, and 2 Chinese participants.
- SDP by Language: 51 English speaking participants, 1 Korean speaking participant, and 11 Spanish speaking participants.
  - Total Participants fully orientated 390 (73 are in the follow up stages, 63 have chosen to withdraw and 223 in the unknown stage)
- Questions/Comments:
  - Miriam commented and expressed gratitude for graphs.
  - Linda inquired what the total number of live participants are at this time. Bryan answered that there were 31 live clients from the open enrollment and 29 from the soft roll out which equals 60. Linda inquired that of the 60 clients that are live how many are second year or third year participants. Antoinette responded by asking Katy if HRC has seen any third year participants. Katy stated there might be a third year in adults. Katy expressed that HRC would be able to look into it and share it next time. Antoinette confirmed that there are mostly first and second year participants at this time.
  - Rosalinda commented that she is happy to see things are going in the right direction
  - Miriam asked if this was the first month that we have seen that White/ Caucasian is no longer the higher number of participants in SDP. She commented that Latino is higher than White/ Caucasian at this time. Antoinette commented that she made a good

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observation and stated that in the past the White/ Caucasian number of participants have been higher. Miriam stated that HRC is moving in the right direction to match our demographic. Patrick stated that HRC serves about 42% Latino and 19% White/ Caucasian. Patrick clarified that this reflects the clients we serve now.

- The presentation continued to report there are no updates with fair hiring at this time.
- Implementation Funds:
  - Antoinette presented that for the 2019-2022 year HRC was awarded a total of \$59,107.00 and the funds were supposed to have been spent by March 2022. Skills 4 Care billed for a total of \$17,631.63 Therefore \$41,475.38 of the money that was not spent.
  - Rosalinda stated that her assumption was that Skills4Care was going to have a larger amount of clients come through and the funds were going to be expensed at that point and that is not quite what turned out. Rosalinda asked if there was any discussion why it turned out that way. Antoinette stated that the pandemic had a direct impact on families' willingness to access supports. It was anticipated that a larger pool of individuals would benefit from coaching services. Rosalinda stated she believed we made a considerate effort to ensure families knew the service was available to them.
  - Linda asked when people go through SDP orientation are they given information of how to access Skills4Care. Antoinette answered that Skills4Care is discussed in the orientation, but HRC will now be making an adjustment because the contract for Skills4Care has ended. Antoinette also explained that Skills4Care was marketed on social media as well and HRC will continue to increase strategies in marketing these programs when a decision is made for the next allocation of funds.
  - Rosalinda inquired if it was felt that the same need is still there. Antoinette confirmed that the need is still there. Rosalinda suggested more creative ideas in order to have a better result.
  - Linda stated that the coaching RFP that is going to be decided in the next week addresses a lot of the goals in the Skills4Care program.
  - Patrick stated that he believes we need to monitor the utilization/running balance from the funds allotted once provider is selected and report it back to this committee. In order to see if we are going to spend all of the funds, we can go back to the drawing board and see what else can be done to make sure all funds can be spent.
  - Linda stated that Paul from Skills4Care was going to write a report about the issues that were brought up that motivated people to seek coaching support and she has not seen one yet. Antoinette informed Linda that HRC has the data and HRC can present.
  - Rosalinda and Linda both mention that data from Skills4Care could provide insight on how to use next round of funds.
- RFP update
  - Antoinette stated that the RFP's that they have received are more comprehensive than was seen in Skills4Care
  - Antoinette stated that the total allocated funds for the 2021 year is \$80,784.00. The RFP that this committee helped with was posted and had five responses: Phoenix, First Choice, ASLA ,Ally and Mountain Top.
  - HRC has reviewed the responses and will be following up soon to get the committees input soon. Antoinette discussed the 2021/2022 funds (same amount was allocated \$80,784.00) and stated that we are recommending we use the responses from current

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RFP and make a decision on the 2021/2022 funds to get a head. There is a dead line to spend funds March 2023 and March 2024.

- Linda inquired whether it was possible as an advisory committee to recommend that some of the funds for the third year address issue previously expressed.
- Rosalinda stated that the committee should give suggestion to determine what direction to go and requested to hear from HRC if there has been any new needs that have been discussed in the orientations that have not been captured. Antoinette stated that consistently there is a Spanish-speaking language need. Families are going through orientations multiple times to get information. Whoever is chosen for RFP must have high capacity to serve Spanish-speaking clients.
- Katy discussed barriers in accessing FMS, IF's and PCP's. She also discussed families' struggle to understand all of the responsibility in SDP.
- Patrick discussed that under the DDS directive there is a definition that states that orientation support and cost of speakers. HRC can re-look at materials.
- Linda stated it would be beneficial for committee members to have the criteria on areas of focus that need to be addressed to help guide discussion. Rosalinda discussed a possible survey of the committee to have suggestions put in to have guidance of what meeting should look like.
- Linda inquired about the number of Korean speaking families at HRC families and stated that Korean-speaking participants who are live is low in SDP. Patrick was able to say that there are 93 clients who's primary language is Korean. HRC will work with IT to attempt to find out the actual break down.
- SungHee agreed to check in with the Korean community to discuss barriers they may be facing. Angela discussed that in the RFP Korean speaking was requested. SungHee explained that a barrier for the Korean community is understanding the concept of SDP.
- HRC agreed to compile data about FAQ about coaching requests from Skills4Care and provide prior to May meeting.
- Shelia discussed barriers for the African American families from accessing SDP. It should be made clear to families that they are the employer. There is disparity in the budget that must include technology. Shelia will be providing her time to support families to be more successful in SDP and explained what some of the questions she asks families prior to PCP meetings.

**Partner Updates:**

**Office of Clients and Rights Advocacy – Johnanthony Alaimo**

Johnanthony shared that the update is not SDP related but is important regarding Medi-Cal. It is expected that public health emergency is going to expire. During Covid under public health, emergency Medi-Cal terminations were halted. Medi-cal will start doing redeterminations. Families may start getting notices. Advice to contact county to make sure contact information is up to date.

**SCDD- Albert Feliciano**

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- Albert shared a website that is for any family looking for IF or service providers. The website will give families a blurb about IF. IF and service providers can access website as well.
  - LA office continues to host statewide trainings. Next training is on 4/11 in English and is about strategies for coping with change. On 04/18, 10:00 AM, same topic in Spanish.
  - Albert discussed that SCDD LA will be having a conversation with Spanish speaking families, self-advocates and providers (Spanish only) to discuss Senate Bill 639 on Friday 03/08/2022 at 10 AM. Other state offices will be having conversations in other languages
- Miriam Kang
- Miriam shared the success story for her son in SDP.

**Statewide Updates:**

Rosalinda provided statewide updates.

- There was an update 3/15 from SDD that spending plan FAQ's have been updated and located on the website. They now include conservator, durable power of attorney and specifically who reviews and approves the spending plan at Regional Center.
- FMS contact list for SDP has been updated on website.
- Updates on HCBS final rule requiring individuals who receive services and be provided full access to the benefits of the community living and services be offered in settings that are integrated in the community. Assessment tool is posted.

**Public Comments:**

- Linda stated she had noticed that the number of FMS agencies are decreasing. Antoinette provided information that it is happening all over the state and DDS is aware and have gotten input for FMS agencies.
- Whitney asked are there any updates regarding 04/01 DDS rate study and how it impacts SDP participant budgets. Patrick answered that as it relates to SDP budgets, there was nothing in the service codes that were looked at regarding SDP.
- Linda commented that she is concerned that day programs are changing more to participants in SDP than traditional.
- Miriam commented that she had heard that other vendors of regional centers are charging more to SDP participants.

**Next meeting:** May 4, 2022 via Zoom 6PM-8PM

**Adjournment, Conclusion**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Minutes submitted by Jessica Sanchez