

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of HRC Self Determination Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:00PM on Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 via Zoom. Quorum was not established at start of meeting, but was established efficiently prior to meeting minute approval.

**Committee Member Present**

Rosalinda Garcia, Parent  
Deaka McClain, Client  
David Oster, Client  
Johnanthony Alaimo, Office of Client Rights Advocacy Representative  
Linda Chan-Rapp, Parent  
Patricia Jordan, Client  
Miriam Kang, Parent  
Julianna Martinez, Parent

**Committee Members Absent**

Sunghee Park, Parent (BBT)

**HRC Staff Present**

Patrick Rupee - Executive Director  
Antoinette Perez – Director of Children’s Services  
Judy Taimi - Director of Adult Services  
LaWanna Blair - Director of Early Childhood Services  
Josephina Cunningham – Client Services Manager  
Donna Magana - Client Services Manager  
Ashley Brown – Client Services Manager  
Katy Granados- Client Services Manager  
Jessica Guzman-Client Services Manager  
Brenda Bane – Service Coordinator

**HRC Staff Absent**

Liz Cohen-Zeboulon – Client Services Manager  
Bjoern Peterson – Client Services Manager  
Jessica Eich – Client Services Manager

**SCDD Staff Present**

Christofer Arroyo  
Albert Feliciano  
Lia Cervantes Lerma

**SCDD Staff Absent**

Brianna Reynoso

**Abbreviations**

HRC: Harbor Regional Center  
IF: Independent Facilitator

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

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**

Lucy Paz (Interpreter)	Jamie Van Dusen(DDS)	Erin Hardimon	Paul Quiroz	Elia Lopez
Whitney Williams	Reiko Sakuma Umeda	Celia Pena	Amelia Castellanos	
Shelia Jones	Kyungshil Choi	Yvette Torres	Maria Zavala	Juliana Martinez
Martha DeLa Torre				

**Welcome**

Introductions of committee members and guests – Via Chat on Zoom

Chris Arroyo introduced new staff members (Albert Feliciano and Lia Cervantes Lerma). Albert spoke briefly as the new advocate at state council. He came from a regional center (as a community services specialist and service coordinator). Also worked as a service provide for 10 years. 16 years field experience. Lia briefly introduced herself as well. She is a mother of a child with Down Syndrome. She has a history working as a therapist and support group facilitator.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Quorum was established; 7 committee members present during the zoom meeting (one was added later on in the meeting). October 6<sup>th</sup> 2021 minutes posted and available for viewing on HRC website. Linda noted changes – page 3 under action items (2021-2022 implementation of funds RFP update) the last part of the note was cut off. Katy fixed it. John Anthony noted one change – under member status the note was cut off. Katy fixed it. Meeting minutes were approved as amended – Linda motioned first and David Oster seconded this motion. The rest of the committee voted to approve the minutes via Zoom chat. Meeting minutes successfully approved.

**Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates: Antoinette Perez, Director Children’s Services:**

Antoinette noted that the information is being presented in a different format and an “HRC SDP” Power Point presentation was shared on the screen:

- Soft Roll Out Participants
  - Total Participants Selected: **139**
    - Remained in SDP: **95**
    - Withdrew: **37**
    - Moved out of State: **2**
    - Transferred Out (to another RC): **3 – when they left HRC they were in SDP, but unsure if they continued in SDP with the next RC.**
- Of the **95** SDP soft roll out participants,
  - Live as of 07/01/2021: **24**
- Orientation Data
  - Soft Roll Out who completed orientation: **115**

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

- Individuals interested in SDP as of 07/01: **282 (in addition to the 115 aforementioned)**
  - Total Fully Oriented: **397**
- Miriam asked why there has not been produced data for all of the regional centers since the soft roll out (July 1<sup>st</sup>). Antoinette asked for specifics. Miriam clarified that she does not believe DDS sent any data past June 2021. Antoinette stated that there are updates on DDS' website. Jamie (DDS) stated that the federal programs department are working on updating the FAQs, but that she would get back to us with an answer. Antoinette also explained that all of the regional centers do a monthly SDP report. Miriam stated that it is interesting that she has not seen any collective data for all of the regional centers. Rosalinda will also bring back information if she is privy to it.
- David stated that he believes if an individual is in SDP and they move out of area, they would still be a part HRC and that this is only for SDP participants (he stated he was referencing a presentation from Judy Marks). Antoinette clarified that catchment areas still apply in both traditional and SDP. She also clarified that if an SDP participant moved out of HRC's catchment area, that case would be transferred to the appropriate regional center, but the individual would still remain in SDP. This is because each regional center services their local community.
- Jamie stated (via chat) there are **873** SDP participants statewide.
- We continued with HRCs SDP data presentation
  - # of participants with completed PCP's
    - Soft Roll Out: **23**
    - Since 07/01: **16**
  - # of certified budgets
    - Soft Roll Out: **26**
    - Since 07/01: **38**
  - # of approved Spending Plans
    - Soft Roll Out: **24**
    - Since 07/01: **39**
  - # of SDP live participants
    - Soft Roll Out: **24**
    - Since 07/01: **13**
- Patrick noted discrepancy between the number of approved Spending Plans and the number of certified budgets since the amount of certified budgets were one less than the approved Spending Plans. Antoinette stated that this is likely a mathematical error as we cannot have an approved Spending Plan without a certified budget first. Katy explained that we will double-check numbers, but also mentioned that there are some issues with FMS agencies and families moving forward.
- Fair Hearings:
  - Have not had many. There is one pending which involves how we establish dollar amounts for services and unmet needs. We establish the amount (per DDS directive) by taking the service in the traditional service delivery system and taking the rate and putting that in the budget. This family believes we should not put the average but we should put the amount the family wants.
- Budget and Cost Neutrality
  - Other RCs have seen budgets double or triple in the second year. HRC has not noticed this, but we are seeing growth, mainly with individuals moving into their second year with SDP.

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

- RFP Update
  - Rosalinda met with Angela Woods and the RFP was finalized. Angela made adjustments and edits. Linda has reviewed it. The last step is to post it. The process is moving forward as planned.
- Success Stories for Skills 4 Care
  - 15 total families receiving coaching
    - 11 English speaking
    - 4 are monolingual
    - 1 recent referral (one contact)
    - 3 (three contacts)
    - 5 (four contacts)
    - 6 (more than five contacts)
  - Some difficulties reaching out to FMS providers. Each family has their own challenges. There is some difficulty finding IFs, so Skills 4 Care continues to thoroughly guide families. There are also some families who are difficult to reach
  - All families have been contacted at least once. It is a drawn-out process due to the amount of back and forth waiting to hear back from families.
  - IFs and FMS agencies are the main barrier families are dealing with.
- Antoinette shared that she will work with Paul and after the holidays there will be data presented regarding Skills 4 Care
- We are recruiting for the SDP positions that we were awarded.

**Statewide Updates:**

- None – there is a meeting next week and updates will be provided thereafter

**Partner Updates:**

Office of Clients and Rights Advocacy – Johnanthony Alaimo

- No particular updates, but offered contact information for individuals who have questions or need further guidance.

State Council – Chris Arroyo

- Statewide SDP committee meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup> (information on the website).

**Onboarding Process for FMS**

- At the next meeting, a Community Services representative from HRC will provide an update

*(Rosalinda will create an email for this committee)*

**FMS Agency – Yvette Torres from Acumen**

- Two models offered: Bill Payer and Sole Employer Model. Acumen does not offer the Co-Employer Model. Yvette gave a brief explanation of the Bill Payer Model - Payments need to be made directly by the FMS and reimbursement is not allowed in this program. Example for bill payer model – you are the participant and enjoy music. Music is listed in the Spending Plan. FMS can make a payment to the music studio and they can purchase the guitar. If you want to hire direct staff – bill payer does not allow for employee/employer relationship.

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

- Sole Employer Model – participant is the employer of reference. Some families are under the impression that this model gives them all responsibility, but that is not the case. FMS will obtain an Employer Identification Number on the participant's behalf and they will also process the employee's enrollment paperwork. FMS will also process their background checks and payroll. Participant/family sets rate and schedules. Participants/families have a burden cost they are responsible for in this model (i.e. worker's compensation, social security, insurance, etc.). This percentage of the burden cost can range anywhere between 14%-20%. At Acumen, the employee burden is 14.8%
- At the end of the year, employees receive W2s and vendors receive 1099s for tax filing.
- Questions
  - David stated she did not mention the Co-Employer Model. Yvette shared that this is because Acumen does not offer this model.
  - Deaka had a side question for Paul: She asked if there is a way we can get numbers of the people from Skills 4 Care if they feel the program is working and helping them. Paul clarified that they will provide a survey and work with Antoinette to collect data.
- Yvette provided her contact information via chat (she also speaks Spanish)

**Public Comments:**

- Maria had a question in the chat asking how much time it takes to send the authorization for the Spending Plan and when it would be reflected in E-Billing so the FMS can continue to process and begin SDP. Antoinette stated that an issue statewide is with accounting and budget amendments. In essence, it should take approximately one week (at minimum). If it does not happen within one week, they can reach out to the Service Coordinator. Miriam shared that her modifications to her budget (albeit small) went smoothly.
- Another comment – waiting for over a month for budget approval. Antoinette advised to speak with the director and provided the names for all of the directors at HRC.
- Johnanthony asked about clarification for social rec and if it is added to the budget. Antoinette stated they are adding social rec requests to budgets.
- Erin stated she was trying to do SDP for her son, but because he did not have a lot of services prior to the age of three, it did not make sense for her money-wise. She is now questioning this with the opening of social rec. Antoinette stated that it does not matter how many services an individual had in the past. Erin stated she did get information from her SC. Erin's son is getting a lot of services through the school district, but social rec can be added. Erin will reach back out to her SC.
- Patrick stated that we need to be patient with SCs and families since all of the social rec information is brand new and we are awaiting guidelines regarding funding.
- Additional question: How are social rec services implemented in the traditional system? Patrick reiterated the importance of patience as we are still working on policies and guidelines and an RFP for previous traditional social rec services. They are also looking to do a survey to the community to see what families are doing out in the community regarding socialization in attempts to locate social rec vendors. Some old providers have old rates, which are invalid at this point.
- David asked if the numbers of SDP is increasing or decreasing, we clarified that they are increasing.
- Julianna's question – she was looking for Linda, who had to leave early. Julianna then asked if social rec is restricted to age. Antoinette stated that it is for individuals 17 and under. Patrick clarified that this does not seclude us from funding for social rec for adults. Any age can access social rec.
- Martha's question – She asked when day programs will be opening again. Patrick stated that each program is reopening based upon their own timelines. Some programs are part-time, and others who have not started due to staff difficulties. The pandemic and employment market are causing some barriers. However, alternative services are still available. Discussions happen on a regular basis for re-opening day programs.

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Martha then asked if maybe in the New Year programs will be open. Patrick is hopeful, but cannot guarantee due to the aforementioned barriers. Antoinette shared that at the next Your Family Our Focus, they will give an update on day programs. It is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup> and Martha will be provided on how to register.

**Next meeting:** January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 via Zoom 6PM-8PM

**Adjournment, Conclusion**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.  
Minutes submitted by Ashley Brown