

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self Determination Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2020

Opening:

The regular meeting of HRC Self Determination Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:08 PM on Wednesday September 9, 2020 via zoom. Quorum was established.

Committee Member

Present Linda Chan-Rapp,

Parent Rosalinda Garcia-

Parent

Miriam Kang, Parent

Deaka McClain, Client

David Oster - Client

Patricia Jordan-

Client

Johnanthony Alaimo- Office of Client Rights Advocacy representative

Committee Member Absent

Priscilla Ankrah- Office of Clients Rights Advocacy
representative

Yulianna Martinez, Parent

Sunghee Park- Parent

HRC Staff Present

Antoinette Perez - Director of Children's
Services Judy Samana Taimi - Client Services
Manager

Donna Magana- Client Services
Manager

Katy Granados - Client Services Manager

Ashley Brown- Client Services
Manager

SCDD Staff Present

Brianna Reynoso- State Council

SCDD Staff Absent

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Visitors

L. Pasz, Interpreter	I. Ramirez, Parent
V. Gomes, Parent	M. Ito, Parent
C. Lehman, Independent Facilitator	J. Zegara Huacachi
A. Morales, Aveanna FMS	P. Abdon
I. Munioz, Parent	K. Vuong, Client
R. Lasca, Independent Facilitator/ASLA	

Welcome: Introductions of committee members and guests.

Approval of Minutes

Quorum was established; 8 committee members present during zoom meeting. Deaka McClain and David Oster motioned for approval of minutes. Minutes from August 12, 2020 meeting were approved. Linda Chan-Rapp abstained.

Harbor Regional Center Monthly Update - Antoinette Perez, Director
Children's Services

- There are 95 individuals who are part of the SD Program
 - Of the 95: 10 participants are live;
 - 4 of the 97 individuals are pending orientation; 2 have completed the 1st part and are only missing the FMS portion and 2 need full orientations.
- An information meeting was held in Spanish on August 26th
 - There were no family participants that attended; although, we had 20 who registered to attend
- Information available on HRC website. Anyone interested to attend any training offered for SDP, please register via HRC website. Next information meeting will be held on October 28th, 2020 at 6 PM.
 - Spanish Information Meeting will be scheduled in November and the date is pending at this time.
- Resource Development:
 - Increased interest from Financial Management Services (FMS) agencies statewide wanting to contract with us. When an inquiry is received, we connect them with HRC Community Services. Our perspective is we want to contract as many as soon as possible so that our participants can have access to many options.
 - At the state and local level, there is an increased interest as to what are the barriers for our participants being successful in the self-determination program. We need to get the funds to give our

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participants with extra assistance. When you read about self-determination, it seems simple and straight forward, but on the ground, it's very complicated. What is seen of those who are successful are those individuals who are very knowledgeable of the system as a whole and prior to self-determination, they were already self-directing their own services to some degree. It's challenging for families who aren't as savvy about the system and who has limited resources. Looking forward to launching our mentor program to assist those families who are struggling with getting their program up and running.

Statewide Updates:

- Linda Chan Rapp reported on the statewide updates
 - Provided a summary of the barriers discussed from all of the SDAC.
 - Four main areas and two of them have passed and there is not a lot we can do about the two.
 1. The first is implementing self-determination. It was passed in October 2013, thanks to the advocacy of many families and individuals including David Oster who made tons of phone calls almost every day. From the 2013 time when it started, there were a couple of years gap from that point until the first draw of participants where we lost some momentum.
 2. The second concern was the lack of guidance from DDS to regional centers and consumers resulting in inconsistent implementation of the self-determination program across the regional center system.
 3. The third concern was the lack of training for regional center's staff, participants, and families,
 4. The fourth concern was lack of training and development of person centered planners, FMS, Independent Facilitators, and service providers.
 - In terms of recommendations for these 4 barriers, barrier 1 and barrier 2, didn't involve the local advisory committee that much except on the lack of guidance by DDS to regional centers and consumers. It was recommended that the local advisory committee should consult with regional centers on best practices and share with statewide self-determination advisory committee. One of the things that we as a

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committee should do is not only put out fires and listen to concerns, but also to try and get a handle on what is working. It will be great to hear from those who are active in self-determination on has been helpful with their journey.

- Barrier 3, Harbor Regional has been involved with training and hosting trainings in the past. The recommendation is for regional centers to conduct trainings and orientation at multiple times and places including virtual presentations in English and Spanish. Use of technology when available, combined with individuals, families, and small group meetings should be initiated in order to involve all participants. Local Advisory Committee Members should not only participate in orientations and trainings but should lead them. The focus of all trainings should be on purpose versus process, including emphasis on who is in charge and encouragement of individuality, and creativity of the development of person centered plans. Regional centers should be required to follow-up with all consumers and families to have participated in orientations. Local advisory committees should invite all self-determination program participants to committee meetings.
- The 4th barrier, regional centers to inform and educate current vendored service providers about the self-determination program and should recruit non-vendored providers to offer services to self-determination program participants. Local advisory committees should invite providers to attend their committee meetings in order to inform them of opportunities to provide services and supports.
- To summarize, the action steps that most directly affects us, in terms of the training—as the committee, we could brainstorm as to what trainings we want to prioritize. In addition, we could find out at a future meeting at how vendored providers are being oriented related to self-determination and how it works. We can talk about how people could be invited to our meetings or encourage attending. The information is out there. May need reminders, outreach, or some personal contact to be involved in our meetings. All of us that are members of the self-determination committee are part of the program but none of us have gone live yet.
- To the committee and audience, what are some of the barriers you have encountered in going live?
 - Linda Chan-Rapp: my daughter was accepted into the program in 2019 of November. Since she already had her own person centered plan, it would just be a very direct transfer over to going live. We were

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distracted with the pandemic and it has been pushed to the back burner. I have all the tools to move forward but just haven't got around to it. I think it is juggling priorities.

- Miriam Kang: Cannot find anyone to do the person centered plan.
- Ivon Muniz: Funding for client's needs, many Latina moms find it difficult to increase the budget because they don't have the information. Service coordinators do not have the training necessary to clarify to families regarding this process. It's something that's new and service coordinator need a lot of training in this area. There are many parents who don't know where to find a PCP developer.
- Antoinette Perez: It's been extremely challenging for the Latino community with respect to self-determination. We have done a great job training the self-determination program service coordinators. There are 22 self-determination service coordinators who have gone through lengthy training. The issue is not that they have not been trained. The issue is that there has been so much misinformation out there in the community and there has not been a lot of clear direction coming from DDS. That's what makes it very challenging for people. If the service coordinators don't have the information you need, reach out to their managers. The managers are available as your second layer of service coordination. They will make the time to meet with you and help you understand. If the manager doesn't give you the information that you feel you need, you can always reach out to one of the directors. I always try to make myself available to every parent that calls me. Utilize your resources and don't just stop at the service coordinator if you feel they are not giving you the information that you need. With respect to person centered planners, this is an area of concern. Highly concerned about some of the Spanish speaking person centered planners that are out there. Concerned about the guidance that they are giving to our Spanish speaking families because they are giving them guidance that is not accurate. When I had the opportunity to meet with the Spanish speaking families, I always try to advise them of what the law says or doesn't say. It's challenging because the trust is not with us, Harbor Regional Center. Even when I try to educate Spanish speaking families, I know they are going to listen to what they are hearing on the streets rather than listening to me. We need to work together to figure out how we are going to make sure that our Spanish speaking families are getting the information that they need.

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We want you to be successful. We want you to have the correct information, all of our parents but particularly true to our Spanish speaking parents. We want to help you understand and feel capable of making decisions on behalf of your child. If you have any suggestions, we are open to hearing them. Individuals and parents can go to the DDS website (www.dds.ca.gov) under self-determination; there you will find every memo that has been issued, questions and answers regarding certain questions regarding, "who funds for the independent facilitator", "who funds for the person centered plan". All those questions are listed in English, Spanish, and other languages.

- Deaka McClain: I decided to put my program on hold due to waiting for some information from one of my providers and a few other things that I am waiting on before I go forward. Covid has helped my process slow down.
- David Oster: Provided the resource for person centered plan developer with Parent Empowerment Project which is part of Autism Speak Los Angeles (ASLA).

Office Clients and Rights Advocacy

- Disability Rights of California's local office is open and available to answer any questions and the phone number is (562) 623-9911. We are putting together virtual trainings in Spanish on Saturday towards the end of the month for Economic Impact Payments (stimulus payments) due to COVID-19 that the Federal Government passed earlier this year. Another training that will be scheduled focusing on Special Education during COVID-19 and that will happen on a Saturday in October in Spanish.

State Council Update:

- Cal OYAS have access to disinfectant wipes. Can coordinate an order through state council for an organization serving 50 or more clients to distribute to your clients. You can send your request to Brianna.reynoso@scdd.ca.gov.
- State council representative, Julie meets with Independent Facilitators on a monthly basis. We are learning about the continuous conflicts that some of the IF's are facing. If you are an IF or dealing with an IF and are facing certain barriers or issues they are facing with client's from going live. We do encourage you to reach out to state council as we want to continue learning about your concerns.
- There is an IF online training in English and Spanish. It was put together by the

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state council of Orange County office. The flyer can be found on the state council's self-determination facebook page. This is a self-paced six part series. Once completed, a certificate will be mailed to your home.

- Training provided to the Self-Determination Advisory Committee members to learn more about their roles, how to hold the meeting, and efficiency during their local meetings was held with state council. Pending training for all of the advisory committee members will be provided by Brianna.

Self-Determination Transition Fund

- By next meeting, we will have the formal program with the funds we received to come out and do a presentation on that program.

Announcements:

n/a

Public Comments:

- J. Zegara Huacachi expressed a lot of the Latino parents are very busy and may need a reminder one hour before the meeting. Suggesting calling the families or sending a reminder one hour before the meeting. It's easy for them to forget because they are so busy.
- Ivon Muniz: Are the DRC offices open, I tried calling a couple of weeks ago and no one answered
 - Johnanthony Alaimo: The office is open. You should be able to reach someone tomorrow morning. If you have problems, please email at jonnanthony.alaimo@disabilityrightsca.org. The offices are physically closed but are all working remotely.
- Ivon Muniz: Are there any support with the IEP process during COVID1-19?
 - Antoinette Perez: Thank you Ivon for your suggestion. We are trying to support all of our families. We understand that it's a difficult time. I do want to let you know that in addition to what you see with the service coordinators by attending the IEP meetings. Each of our managers are assigned a school district and they meet with the school district quarterly. We are currently compiling a very extensive list that outlines what each school district is doing. So we know which school district is providing equipment, which school district is providing hot spots or wifi, what each district is doing with respect to therapy, the learning models each district is offering, and how IEP's are

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handled. We are tracking all of the above and that is why we will be doing all of these trainings with OCRA very soon because we want to gear ourselves so we can advocate on your behalf.

- Kim Vuong: suggested more information on what the IF role is in the self-determination process

Next Meeting: October 14, 2020 via Zoom 6 PM to 8 PM

Adjournment/Conclusion:

Meeting was adjourned at 7: 25 PM. Minutes submitted by Judy Taimi

Abbreviations:

- HRC Harbor Regional Center
- SDP Self-Determination Program
- DDS Department of Development Disabilities
- SDAC Self-Determination Advisory Committee
- IF Independent Facilitator
- PCP Person Centered Plan
- SC Service Coordinator
- SCDD State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- OCRA Office of Clients Rights Advocacy
- DRC Disability Rights of California
- IEP Individual Education Plan