

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self Determination Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 1st, 2024

Opening:

The regular meeting of HRC Self Determination Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:06PM on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 via Zoom. Quorum was established.

Committee Member Present

Rosalinda Garcia- Self-Determination Advisory Committee Chair
Deaka McClain – Individual, Self-Determination Advisory Committee Co-Chair
Maria Elena Walsh – Harbor Family Resource Center
Tim’an Ford – HRC Peer Advocate
Wendy Clutterbuck – Parent
Jamie Temple – OCRA
Miriam Kang – Parent
Kyungshi Choi – Parent

HRC Staff Present

Antoinette Perez – Director of Children and Adolescent Services
Bernice Perdomo-Chavez – Participant Choice Specialist
Minerva Prado – Participant Choice Specialist
Aurelio Lopez- Participant Choice Specialist
Jessica Sanchez- Client Service Manager

Visitors

Santiago Villalobos, Phoenix Facilitation
Ayala Socol, Guest
Dawn Gordon, Guest
Virginia H., Guest
Debra Jorgensen, Guidelight
Selvin Arevalo, GT Independence
Tami Kaller, Guest
Silvia Macias, Guest
Beth T, Guest
Ting Wang, Guest
Alberto Feliciano, SCDD
Kim Sinclair, ASLA
Teresa Hernandez, Guest
Tamra Pauly, Independent Facilitator
Naomi Hagel, Phoenix Facilitation
Ana Davaa, Independent Facilitator
Felice Zoota-Lucero, SDP Parent
Renee Zoota-Lucero, HRC Individual
Reiko Umeda, Independent Facilitator
Montserrat Palacios, DDS
Michele Arslan, Parent

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Claire Seo, Guest
Lucy Paz, Interpreter
Chloe Estelle, HRC Individual

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
SDAC: Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee
OCRA: Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy
ASLA: Autism Society of Los Angeles

Welcome:

Introductions of committee members and guests via the chat.

Approval of Minutes:

April 3, 2024 minutes were posted for review. Minutes were approved.

Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:

Aurelio Lopez presented the SDP data in a graph format via an "HRC SDP" Power Point presentation shared via Zoom.

- Completed PCPs 164; 25 within the soft rollout and 139 from 7/2021 to 04/2024
- Certified Budgets 249; 37 within the soft rollout and 212 from 7/2021 to 04/2024
- Spending Plans 216; 32 within the soft rollout and 184 from 7/2021 to 04/2024
- SDP Live 235; 32 within the soft rollout and 203 from 7/2021 to 04/2024

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SDP by Ethnicity:

White/Caucasian	90
Latino	58
Asian	44
Black	18
Other	13
Multicultural	10
Biracial	2

SDP by Language

English	193
Spanish	36
Korean	2
Japanese	2
ASL	1
Tagalog	1

- Number of fully oriented participants: 956 (85 are in the follow-up stage, 290 have chosen to withdraw and 346 in the unknown stage).

Self Determination Program: Update to Financial Management Services (FMS) provider Requirements

- Effective May 1, 2024, FMS providers are no longer required to file a surety bond with the vendoring regional center.

Self-Determination Program: Employer Burden and Other Employment-Related Costs

- All required and elected staff employment costs must be included in the participant's spending plan.
- Other employment related cost may:
 - Be required by law or company policy (e.g. Federal/state taxes, employment training tax, worker's comp, and paid sick leave)
 - Be optional costs agreed to by the participant and their employee (e.g. health insurance, retirement, and overtime)
 - No other costs can be included in a participant's spending plan.

FMS agencies have also set forth a timeline to ensure all information is updated and share with family.

- **By May 31, 2024**, provide their vendoring regional center (using new attached form) their employer burden costs.
- Regional Center will review form and submit to DDS by June 30, 2024 for approval.
- DDS will review and approve and post to website by July 31, 2024.
- Regional Center will send a copy of approved DDS Form to FMS within 10 days of receipt and help the participants update their spending plans with any changes to their FMS employer burden.

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- **After October 31, 2024**, any changes to the employer burden costs:
- FMS submits a new form with supporting documentation to regional center
- Regional center reviews and forwards the form to DSS for approval within 15 days of receipt
- DSS will review and approve within 15 days of receipt, notify regional center of approval and post on website
- Regional Center will provide the DDS approved form to the FMS within 10 days of receipt
- FMS will inform participants in advance of the proposed implementation dated
- **FMS providers cannot update their employer burden more than one time per year (unless by significant change to policy/law).**

Self-Determination Program: Updated Billing Requirements for Services Billing at “Other Rate”

- Applies to providers who do not bill at hourly or daily rate:
- The cost of the services may not be more than a monthly rate
- Provider invoices must include:
 - Rate
 - SDP Service Code
 - Description of service/task provided
 - Amount of time spent on each service/task
 - Date services/tasks were provided
 - Statement that all services in invoice were provided to the participant.
 - The participant and service provider create an agreement that includes:
 - Participant’s information
 - service provider contact information
 - Start and end date of service agreement

Current HRC FMS Updates

- Presentation on the current active FMS’s and their employer burden.
- HRC clarified that the employer burden for ACE FMS is 25%.
- HRC has begun the process of making FMS information available on the HRC website. Community will be informed once this becomes available.

Lazaryth Adventures

- Based in Torrance, CA.
- Provide in person role/playing and tabletop games for pre-teens and teens with special needs.

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- Purpose is to develop social skills, improve decision-making, and practice active listening.
- Sessions are customized to fit the needs of participants in that particular group.
- Dungeons and Dragons 101- individuals are able to explore their imagination through a wide array of characters, powers, and even building contraptions.
- Website: <https://lazarythadventures.com/>

Phoenix Facilitation Updates

- Presented on ethnicity updates. Majority of referrals in April were Asian and Hispanic, each at 33.3%.
- Referrals are received through the regional center, self-referral, and the community. The majority for the month of April came from the regional center.
- Majority of referrals from April were English and Japanese-speaking referrals.
- Phoenix continues to follow up with families.
- Many families continue to look for qualified independent facilitators. Phoenix along with Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA) will offer Self-Determination Independent Facilitator training (available in English and Spanish) for individuals interested in becoming Independent Facilitators.
- Continually doing outreach to inform community of their coaching program and services offered by the regional center.
- Will be accepting referral's until May 15, 2024.

Guidelight Updates

- Have 20 Scholarship opportunities for individuals to learn how to become Independent Facilitators.
- Taking applications now. They have 20 spots available and as of right now have 24 applicants interested in the program.
- The application window is open until May 15, 2024. Selected individuals will be notified by June 1st, 2024.
- Summer course will begin in July 2024.
- Fall Course will begin in October 2024.
- For more information please visit the Guidelight website at: www.Guidelightgroup.org/harborscholarship or reach out to Debra directly at Debra@guidelightgroup.org

Statewide Updates:

- Enrollment for SDP. They began tracking in August of 2020 with 288 participants.
- Effective February 24, the number has risen to 4,094. Significant increase in the last 3 and half years.

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- Harbor Regional Center in comparison with all other regional centers is about midway with the number of participants they have.
- San Diego Regional Center has the highest number of participants.
- The lowest number of participants is in North Bay Regional Center.
- Highest language representation are English and Spanish.
- Highest ethnicity representation is White at 45% participants against 28% of total regional center participation. In addition, Hispanic at 20% participants against the 41% of total regional center participation.
- Work group for best practice continue to work on the best practice platform.
- Financial Management service and Independent Facilitator standards and certification.

Partner Updates:

Office of Clients and Rights Advocacy (OCRA)

- Provide free legal information, advice and representation to regional center individuals. Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA) | Disability Rights California
- ocra.hrc@disabilityrightsca.org
 - Contact Number: (562) 623-9911
- Offer trainings by request on subjects such as special education, self-advocacy, IHSS. Families are welcome to request a training from there office. These trainings are also offered in Spanish.

SCDD- Albert Feliciano

- State council continues to provider weekly statewide training (every Monday at 10am) on different topics.
- They will be ending their special education serious on May 6, and the next series will focus on mental health and will begin May 13, 2024.
- SCDD continues to provide statewide self-determination orientation trainings. These are supplemental to what HRC is already providing. Provided various times in the month.
- Statewide SCDD Self-Determination Program Orientation: <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
 - SCDD Weekly Statewide Trainings:
 - Meeting ID#: 883-2711-3155
 - Password:2024
 - Direct Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88327113155?pwd=OEhsc09BNkM4V0FSVEJPYjIKQU5YQT09>
- If anyone is interested in applying to be a member of this committee, you can complete the application via the SCDD website. SCDD appoints half of the members for the committee and HRC appoints the other half.
- State council has appointed a new committee member and her name is Mayra Garcia.

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Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA)

- Offering Self-Determination Independent Facilitator Training.
- Looking for 12-15 English-speaking participants and 12-15 Spanish-speaking participants.
- The hard launch will be on May 13, and ASLA will begin accepting applications. Deadline to apply will be June 8th, 2024.
- Anyone is encouraged to apply.

Public Comments:

- Question regarding the timeline for the completion of a draft budget. HRC Client Service Manager offered guidance on what a typical turn around may look like, and encouraged mother to reach out to the Service Coordinator for an update.
- Question regarding clarification on the purpose of Tailored Day program. Description and purpose of service provided by HRC Client Service Manager.
 - https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Tailored_Day_Services_12012022.pdf
- Vendor list available for families to explore as they go through the self-determination process. Committee shared links and resources where family may be able to locate providers and agencies. It was also shared that sometimes FMS's may share vendors in there system providing different types of services.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CA.SDP.Forum>
 - <https://www.thecasdnetwork.org/>
 - <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/sdp/>

Next meeting: June 5, 2024 via Zoom 6PM – 8PM

Adjournment, Conclusion

Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Minutes submitted by Minerva Prado