



Alta California

Regional Center

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Sacramento, CA 95815

916-978-6400

Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)
Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)
Wednesday, August 11, 2021
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Minutes

Members:	Present	Absent
Benita Ayala, FA	X	
Carmen Delgado, FA	X	
Daniel Meadows, SA	X	
Karen Mulvany, FA	X	
Kelsey Handcock, DRC	X	
Kenya Martinez, FA	X	
Kimberly Terrell, SA	X	
Lisa Cooley, SA (Chair)	X	
Meena Kalyanasundaram, FA		X
Tom Hopkins, SA		X
Tracy Ligtenberg, FA	X	
Others Present:		
Lori Bandles, ACRC Brittany Mangum, ACRC Mechelle Johnson, ACRC Jennifer Bloom, ACRC Tracy Brown, ACRC Herman Kothe, ACRC David Lopez, ACRC Sylvia Castro Vega, ACRC Peter Mendoza, SCDD Maxine Paula Milam, DDS	Joe Hernandez, SP Breanne Burris, SP Rachel Palmer, Progressive Employment, SP Cindy Cox, First Choice Solutions, SP Chynna Glasson, SP Janelle Lewis, IF Starpoint Consulting, IF Mark Altieri, California SDP Emely Arienza, Anthem	Deborah Beal Cindy Johnson Michelle Loiseaux, FA Kidada Medina, FA Teresa Nold, FA Kat Soltanmorad, FA Jena Ward Patricia Chu, Warm-line
Legend: SA – Self-Advocate, FA – Family Advocate, SP – Service Provider		

1. Call to Order by Lisa Cooley, Chair

Welcome & Introductions (1:03 P.M.)

2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes (from July 14, 2021)—Lisa Cooley

- Meeting agenda and minutes:
 - Motion to approve, with amendment to minutes, by Karen Mulvany
 - Seconded by Tracy Ligtenberg
 - Approved with one abstention (Kimberley Terrell).

3. The SDAC Purpose and Responsibilities, and Open Meetings -- Benita Shaw, Vice Chair

- Benita discussed the Purpose and Responsibilities of the SDAC, as described in the Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4685.8(v)(1):
 - “The committee shall review the development and ongoing progress of the Self-Determination Program, including whether the program advances the principles of self-determination and is operating consistent with the requirements of this section, and may make ongoing recommendations for improvement to the regional center and the department.”
 - The SDAC is collaborating with Alta Regional to identify any challenges that Participants may be experiencing, and root causes, in order to identify improvements that can make the process of implementing self-determination easier, faster and less burdensome on Participants and Alta Regional staff.
- Benita reviewed the SDAC's power to limit the time allowed for public comment, which is part of the Bagley Keene Act in Government Code Sections 11120-11132.
 - After discussion, Karen made a motion to give the Chair and Vice Chair of the SDAC the right to limit the duration of public

comment per speaker at their discretion, with accommodation for disabilities of the public speaker.

- Seconded by Tracy Ligtenberg
- Passed unanimously
- *Public Comment*: Janelle Lewis requested a means to provide written public comment to be published on the agenda.
 - Mechelle Johnson indicated that this would be addressed before the next SDAC.

4. Introduction of New Committee Members

- Mechelle Johnson, ACRC, advised that ACRC had contacted Warmline of Sacramento regarding a representative to serve on the SDAC. Pam Chu from Warmline, which is a Family Resource Agency, is attending today. A new representative will join the SDAC shortly.

5. ACRC Progress on SDP Implementation (Tracy Brown; Lori Banales)

- Alta provided updated information in attachments to the agenda (also attached to these minutes.)
- Alta has created a new spreadsheet to track each Participant's progress as they move through the various stages of the Self Determination process. This will help Alta to identify any barriers or slower progress. The reports are on the SDP website now and will be updated monthly.
 - Alta has over 236 individuals who have completed SDP Orientation, and 16 who have flipped the switch and started services under Self Determination.
- Alta now has 7 FMS vendored Agencies (see <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/sdp/financial-management-service-contact-list/>):
 - Acumen
 - ARCC Center
 - Aveanna
 - The Emlyn Group
 - GT Independence,
 - Mains'l
 - Public Partnership LLC

- One provider of Person-Centered Planning services has decided not to pursue vendorization. There are 4 remaining agencies in various stages of the vendorization process for Person Centered Planning. Three vendors have submitted their service delivery plan; 1 is nearly completed.
- Alta is continuing to train its own staff, hosting weekly Q&As on the SDP; and conducting a budget training on July 28. HCBS internal workgroup meetings are occurring monthly.
- Alta has enhanced step number 3 of its SDP Implementation Timelines (which is posted on the SDP website) which is intended to speed the budget process.
- And Alta is continuing to meet monthly with DDS.
- SDAC comment:
 1. Karen Mulvany requested that Alta add to its new implementation spreadsheet where the numbers were at the end of June.
 2. Benita Shaw advised that families are receiving the initial budget that is too light and too small to read. Kenya Martinez said her experience was the same. Mechelle Johnson thanked them for the feedback and will look into it.
 3. Lisa Cooley also requested that the header of charts should be large enough for anyone to read.
- Public comment in chat:
 1. Please provide a means for the public to deliver written input. Mechelle Johnson indicated that would be implemented soon.
 2. Please provide the online SDP orientation with captioning or an ASL window for those who are deaf. Mechelle Johnson responded in chat that there is an ASL version and to contact her at her email.

6. Independent Facilitator Roles

There have been some questions arising about the roles of Independent Facilitators

- IFs can be used for initializing Self Determination, and/or used on an ongoing basis. Participants need to decide what kinds of services they want from an IF:
 - Some IFs may be able to develop a person-centered plan, if they have been trained to do so.
 - An IF that can help identify local generic or community resources.
 - An IF that can help to negotiate with a service provider on their rates and scope of services
 - An IF that can help recruit and screen direct support staff
- The Self Determination Statute does not allow an Independent Facilitator to provide any other services to a Participant.
 - That also means that if you are a Participant and you want a particular service provider to deliver services, be careful not to ask that provider to work as an Independent Facilitator, or they won't be allowed to deliver services to you under the SDP.

7. Update on SDAC-Provider Committee Meetings (Karen Mulvany, Chair of Ad Hoc)

- The committee has been meeting every two weeks.
- For vendored providers who are interested in offering services under the Self Determination Program, the committee has been taking input on potential trainings and online Q&A sessions.
- A slide deck for initial training is nearing completion with a goal of initial training in September.

8. Review of Self Determination grants (Mechelle Johnson, ACRC)

- Status of 2020-2021 grants: The grant funds are allocated, with some outstanding trainings and deliverables scheduled for completions by the fall.
 - Progressive Employment:
 - Has finished 2 Person Centered Thinking trainings.

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- Three of 4 Independent Facilitator trainings are completed, with one more scheduled for September
- Two Person Centered Facilitation trainings are scheduled.
- David Lopez and Lisa Cooley are completing their trainings.
- Benita and Kenya will finish their Train the Trainer Person Centered Thinking work this week and will be certified by September.
- 2022-2023 grant will be awarded in the same amount
 - SDAC questions:
 - How was the \$7000 that was not allocated in the grants spent? This was spent on translation for Self Determination brochures and the Q&A sessions.
 - When does the SDAC need to provide grant ideas to ACRC, which manages the grants?
 - By the end of September.
 - Karen Mulvany suggested that SDAC add this to the agenda for September and to plan to create an Ad Hoc for this topic.

9. Review of Updated Self Determination Website (Herman Kothe)

- Many changes were made to ACRC's SDP website to reflect the start of statewide implementation, and make the site easier to navigate for families and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Please forward any suggestions or questions about the website to the SDAC in future meetings or to Mechelle Johnson. The website will be updated as needed.

10. Public Comment

- Kidada Medina, FA - What a difference a month makes. Very excited about the progress, with 16 people starting Self Determination. The progress that was made in 30 days has been the most progress that's been made in six months, so she is really

excited and gives the regional center kudos for that. However, she is still experiencing a problem with obtaining the individual budget from ACRC.

- Rachel Palmer, Progressive Employment – she is working with several people who have requested their individual budget multiple times starting July 1st and have still not received it. Clients have their PCPs done, and their FMSs are picked and are ready to go, but can't proceed without their budget. On average, clients are seeing a 1.5-month delay. Also, she would like to serve on SDAC Provider ad hoc committee.
- David Lopez, ACRC Client Advocate – he will be a certified trainer shortly, along with 2 others. He may wish to go over a portion of the training material with the SDAC.
- Emely Arienza from Anthem -- sharing information regarding the wildfires. Anthem is relaxing benefit guidelines for refills on prescription and supplies for those affected by wildfires. CAC meeting scheduled Aug 25 for El Dorado County, Nevada and Placer counties.
- Kat Soltanmorad – wanted to share that SDP is AWESOME. It has been really helpful for her family and their ACRC case manager helped lead the process, answer their questions and help facilitate/navigate the new program.
- Natalie Cooper – she got a budget tool from DDS and Alta, but it did not work. It is taking a long time to receive a budget; also, budgets are having to be sent back.
- Mark Altieri, California Self Determination Program Network, asked if the Committee would consider adding to next meeting agenda, a presentation of a website his company built for SDP that is a directory of Independent Facilitators and service providers. The site is free to sign up and they have 53 IFs and 76 service providers so far and the number increases almost daily. The site is www.thecasdpnetwork.org
- Cindy Cox First Choice Solutions, IF out of Bishop, CA; good news is that her agency is starting to see clients move through SDP; they have close to a dozen clients moving through Self Determination and are getting a lot of calls.
 1. A few things clogging it up: some service coordinators and program managers are untrained.

2. Recommendation: SC should have a budget certification worksheet available for team to serve as the budget baseline and enable a discussion about unmet needs.
3. Service coordinators should be prepared to screen share for a team meeting to complete budget certification. Everyone needs to be viewing the same budget online.

11. SDAC Member Comments

- Kenya Martinez - She agrees with Rachel regarding the long lead time to obtain the individual budget.
 - Also, last month, after already waiting for 1 year to move forward in the SDP, she was notified that she and her family members had not completed SDP Orientation, and this was why they could not proceed. This was not correct, as she had completed the orientation in person in 2020. The delay in notification is concerning, and needs to be addressed so others do not have this experience.
 - She has heard comments from others that Alta is the worst regional center and Sac City is the worst district in state of California. She encourages everyone to help to get things improved.
- Benita Shaw - She reinforces Kenya's comments. She wants the committee to focus on how it can make a change, and come together as a team to make a difference.
- Karen Mulvany – Thanked everyone for their input; it is really helpful, especially when detail about the nature of the issue, (not personal information), is included and is specific enough to help the regional center to identify and fix the hurdle or barrier and help the SDAC to monitor the progress. The SDP is taking off and the number of completed orientations has jumped from around 80 to over 300, so it is not going to be easy to implement.
 - She also asked that ACRC create a more complete record of who completed orientations, either online or in-person, so that SCs do not erroneously restrict the progress of those who have actually completed an orientation. She also suggested that the LMS orientation system should

be updated to enable multiple individuals who are together and simultaneously viewing the online SDP orientation to register and get certified at the same time.

- Kimberly Terrell - Concerned about implementation issues, worry about trying the SDP.
- Carmen - should DDS do a report out in future agendas?

12. Identify agenda items for next meeting:

- Update on the 2021-2022 budget as it pertains to Self Determination, including the new Ombudsman office.
- Ideas for Self Determination Grants—approximately \$100,000.
 - Create subcommittee to work on this topic – will require a vote
- Presentation by Mark Altieri from the California Self Determination Program Network on its new website.

13. Dates for Future Meetings:

- September 8, 2021, 1 PM- 3 PM
- October 13, 2021, 1 PM- 3 PM
- November 10, 2021, 1 PM- 3 PM

14. Meeting adjourned at 3:23 PM