



Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2016

Meeting convened at 1:30 pm

Members In Attendance: Karen Maier(SA); Christopher Lubinski (FA); Sandra Kanczuewski (FA); Joyce Clark (FA); Irma Wagster for Megan Lazat, DRC, (A); SDRC; Rigoberto Zavala (SA)

Ex-Officio Members: Gabriella Ohmstede (A), SDRC, Mary Ellen Stives (A), SCDD

Members Absent: Michelle Bartick (SA); Suzanne Goh, (A); Chanae Jackson (FA); Eva Melendez((FA);

Guests Present: Yvette Torres, Premier Healthcare (A); Connie Strohbehm (FA), Darren Robinson, (A); Joyce Ward (FA); Malek Djebari (SA); Tiffany Connell (SA); Chris Cummins (FA); Brian G (A); Leticia Galvan (FA); Sebastian Ladron de Guevara (SA); Carlos Ladron de Guevara (FA); Linda ?

Welcome and Introductions: Self introductions by members and guests.

Public Input: None

Presentation from Past Participants in Self-Determination: Joyce Ward shared the experiences she and her son Malek have had as Self-Determination pilot participants, who continue to benefit from these services. Joyce shared that existing programs are not always a good “fit”, so the service coordinator at that time told them that Malek had been suggested for this pilot. While the family had some fears, the service coordinator persisted, and they eventually agreed to try it. While there is a lot of information to absorb initially, Joyce said that things will be explained, and as time goes on, you understand. Malek had a consumer advocate come to the house to learn more about him. Feeling empowered by being able to hire and fire people was one of the benefits of this service. Joyce thought that programs and people were more accountable under this system as well. Self-Determination was life changing for Malek! Initially a life coach was hired, which was someone they knew. A second person was also hired (who still works with him), and this person takes him shopping, as well as to a LOT of social activities such as plays, the beach, sports, etc. Malek goes to Foothills Adult school 5 days a week, and he is working on getting a GED. Before the pilot decisions were made for them, but after, they had the control. Malek has been in Independent Living for 18 years. Joyce likes that she doesn’t have to handle paperwork such as timesheet, as they go to the Fiscal Management service. The cost of this service does come out of the budget set for Malek, but Joyce felt this was money well spent. Additionally, self-determination has allowed Malek and Joyce to pay staff a better wage than the agency can, although she also believes utilizing Self-Determination has saved the state money.

Chris Cummins then spoke about her and her sister Tiffany’s experience with Self-Determination. In 2001 Tiffany lost her eyesight, and the agency that she had could not help her any longer. Self-Determination services assist with a lot of social activities, and used to help with volunteer work that Tiffany did. Chris and Tiffany agree that they would recommend this program.

Principles of Self –Determination: Joyce Clark reviewed the principles of self-determination which are: Freedom, Authority, Support, Responsibility, and Confirmation. Joyce provided more information on what these principles mean.

Future Meeting Schedule: Because several members have been unable to attend the last few meetings, a change in meeting day/time was discussed, but this issue will need to be re-addressed at the meeting on July 15, 2016.

Other Business: Gabby Ohmstede provided a brief overview on the status of the CMS regulations, which could possibly be ready for public comment by the end of July. After a public comment review period, the plan would be re-submitted in August, and if approved, could be completed by the end of December. There is nothing certain about this however, and if people would like to be notified as things change, they can sign up at www.dds.ca.gov for updates.

How 100% of advocates will be notified when Self-Determination becomes available was briefly mentioned, but it would seem letters in the preferred language sent to each advocate would seem to make sense.

Gabby also sent out an informational sheet to service coordinators at the San Diego Regional Center.

There will be a Statewide Self-Determination teleconference on June 21, 2016, and if interested in listening in, can call the number provided on the announcement. Additionally, if interested in participating on the call, members can come into the office of the State Council at 8880 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 250, San Diego, CA 92108.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 3:00.

The next meeting will be on Friday, July 15, 2016 at 1:30 at the San Diego Regional Center, 4355 Ruffin Road, Suite 100 and via videoconference at the San Diego Regional Center, 512 W. Aten Road, Imperial, CA 92251