



## Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2016

**Meeting convened at 1:40 pm**

**Members In Attendance:** Karen Maier(SA); Christopher Lubinski (FA); Eva Melendez (FA); Joyce Clark (FA); Megan Chambers-Lazet DRC, (A);

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

**Members Absent:** Michelle Bartick (SA); Suzanne Goh, (A); Chanae Jackson (FA); Sandra Kanczuewski (FA); Rigoberto Zavala (SA)

**Guests Present:** Connie Strohhahn (FA); Maleia Christian (FA); Megan Christian (SA); Paul Mansell (SA); Thomas Andrews (SA)

**Welcome and Introductions:** Self introductions by members and guests.

**Public Input:** None

**Approve Outstanding Minutes:** There was not a quorum present to take any action.

**Review Membership Procedures:** When the question was asked on the Statewide Committee call on June 21, 2016, the Chair of the State Council, April Lopez, indicated that the Membership Committee prioritizes appointing members to the State Council, then the 12 regional office regional advisory committees, and the Self-Determination appointments following these other obligations. Since the Membership Committee only meets on a quarterly basis, this could take some time. Mary Ellen agreed to re-send the announcement that members are being sought, with a brief overview of what the Self-Determination Advisory Committee is intended to do. Expanding the Committee membership would be very helpful in achieving a quorum, as well as obtaining additional information on the needs/desires of the community. In addition, information will be requested of other advisory committees regarding removal of members unable to participate in meetings.

**Developmental Disability Services (DDS) Work Group Update:** There has not been another DDS Work Group meeting since the end of May.

**SCDD Statewide Advisory Board Update:** The Statewide Advisory Committee Chairs had a teleconference call on June 21, 2016. The role of the Advisory Committees was reviewed, and information provided on why they were established. According to this call, these committees were intended to provide oversight, and review the implementation of self-determination to insure that the intent of Self-Determination is being advanced. The Committee should check on and monitor progress; provide input; do outreach and training; and reach underserved and diverse communities. On June 17, 2016, a trailer bill was sent to the Governor, and states that the regional centers will contract and consult with local organizations to do outreach and collaborate with local family resource centers, etc. Collaboration with local regional center and family resource center will determine how outreach can be done most effectively. The trainings should be conducted jointly, and have representatives from the committee participate in these, be offered in various languages, be offered in plain language, etc. To date the Trailer Bill language has not been sent out to the local committees.

Someone asked where the Department of Developmental Services was in developing these materials, but it did not appear they are very far along. School districts can begin to receive training, since the Person-Centered Plan is a critical piece of obtaining the services available with self-determination.

Jim Knight from the Department of Developmental Services said the department was returning the questions to the feds, and will be waiting for the responses. Once they receive these responses, they can post the revised plan for public comment, which has to be available for 30 days. Hopefully the waiver will be approved by the end of November, but there is nothing certain. There was \$15 million set aside in the budget to identify how to move forward with the Transition Plan. Jim said this information will be updated on the website and on an ongoing basis as it becomes available. Joyce asked for clarification on the “transition” process for those sites that do not meet the criteria for self-determination, and was told that those sites will not be allowed under self-determination.

Regarding training the staff at the various regional centers, Jim stated that they will provide some history, what services are available, differences, etc. The modules were just sent out for input, and they will utilize a Train the Trainer Model. There will be 5 trainings for regional centers, then will be released to all. The 1<sup>st</sup> training is targeted to be at the end of July. According to Gabby, nothing is currently scheduled.

Chris Lubinski did have the draft power point presentation for regional center staff, and it does appear that Independent Facilitators will come out of the individual budget.

**Enrollment and Outreach Strategies:** The idea of doing trainings for the public was discussed, and it was decided that a disclaimer would have to be made to inform people that these trainings would not serve as the OFFICIAL meetings that people must attend to be considered for inclusion in the Self-Determination program.

Since the regional center is obligated to provide information to every eligible consumer, a mailing was suggested, but Gabby was not sure SDRC could do this because of the cost and would explore options. Further discussion by the committee members expressed concern about limiting translation to English and Spanish, since the SCDD sent out National Core Indicator surveys in 17 languages for this same catchment area, and that was under a contract with DDS, so there is a need for more than two languages.

Additionally methods of disseminating the information considered were the Communicator, on websites, through trainings, meetings, vendor advisory meetings, IEP/IPP meetings, etc. There is a committee revising the IPP, so Gabby will suggest that a checkbox be added indicating that Self-Determination has been discussed. Regarding the Communicator, since it is no longer actually sent to people, this was not considered a viable means of communication. Currently, a postcard indicating the Communicator is available on the SDRC website, and an individual needs to download it. This does not seem to be something many people do, and there is no information available as to how many hits they receive on their website for this. The Facebook page was another idea, and it would be easier to track usage on this. Moving forward, it was suggested that something could be added to the IPP/ITP/IFSP, etc., and also to include some information in the annual cost statements sent. There was discussion that service coordinators could serve in this capacity, but that is not as reliable as other methods.

**Community Trainings:** Joyce suggested that video-conferencing be employed at the numerous offices for regular meetings, and training on core principles of Self-Determination at least could be provided. Thomas suggested that the information be text or an automatic call made, but there is not system in place to do that. Karen suggested a “circle” kind of information sharing be done, but Gabby said regional center cannot share people’s private information. Chris thought something regarding Self-Determination needs to go out NOW, and then a formal letter with the “Official” dates of trainings could be sent at a later date. Since the next Communicator comes out in November, Megan offered to write up an article to be included in this, and Gabby will find out if a portion of the newsletter could be dedicated to providing updates on Self-Determination, and Megan volunteered to write these. Gabby suggested that at the next meeting the committee could review and approve language for the article.

Another suggestion was made that regional center use “constant contact” or something like it to track the number of people opening the Communicator on line. Mary Ellen suggested a brochure be created to hand out at meetings and events, so that the main body of language could be a Statewide Standardized Template, with a space

available for each area to insert their particular meeting information. Joyce also asked if the Board of Directors had been provided training on Self-Determination, but they rarely do presentations any longer, and one has not been done on this topic. Overall, a shotgun approach was decided to be tackled, but it was the general consensus that information needs to be shared IMMEDIATELY!

**Future Agenda Items:** It was agreed that the items on this agenda could be continued from meeting to meeting.

**Future Meeting Schedule:** The next meeting will be held on August 19, 2016 at 1:30 at the San Diego Regional Center. The discussion of meeting dates and times will be discussed at this meeting, when there is hopefully a quorum present!

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:00.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen Stives