

GGRC SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 24, 2015

Present: Elizabeth Grigsby, Jennifer Walsh, Angie Foster, Gabriel Rogin, Katie Spielman, Peter Mendoza, Roya Rassai, Wesley Moss, Victoria Hanson, Lisa Rosene

Excused: Connie Johnson, Lili Byers

1. **Welcome** – Lisa Rosene, Chief, Regional Center Services at GGRC, welcomed the group and gave a brief overview of the history of the service system and self-determination.

Five (5) regional centers have been involved in the pilot for self-directed services, aka self-determination. Once the Federal government approves California's self-determination waiver, the program will be implemented statewide. Each center will be assigned a certain number of participants who will be randomly selected by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). This phase of the program will last 3 years, after which time anyone with interest may enroll.

2. **Introduction** – Each person introduced themselves and briefly said who they are and what they hope to accomplish on the committee.

Hopes:

- How to set it up so it's user friendly and accomplish the services;
- Raising child help, shape what is for son's future and help people later on;
- Pay it forward;
- Big push to reduce costs may push responsibility back to families without the resources;
- Learn to be a more effective advocate;
- Help families see what is ahead of them; worried about it just becoming another program; my purpose wherever I go is inclusion; does not want this to be just another disability program, wants it to be a valuable program;

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- Wants SD to provide seamless service and supports; also wants to see majority of funds spent to meet people's needs as opposed to administrative costs;
- Need to keep up with changes for younger people coming up;
- All the info our clients need to know needs to be out there; RC doing everything we can to be in the forefront; help people to get the best services that they desire, not just what they need to have but what they want;
- Make it as successful as possible;
- Want to see what the experience of others is; does not know where else to go; new beginning; came from place of not knowing about disabilities; always worries about what will happen to her child; Wants to share their experience in the hopes it will help others;
- Wants to contribute resources and capabilities;
- To learn, listen and bring statewide perspective; bring knowledge of the law to the process.

The committee consists of 3 self-advocates, 3 parents, 1 regional center vendor of service, the GGRC Client's Rights Advocate and staff from GGRC and SCDD.

3. **Overview of SB468: Self-Determination** – Gabriel gave a power-point presentation on the law. He also discussed the attached one-page description of the Advisory Committee and its responsibilities.

Comments:

- More competition may improve the quality of service;
- People will be more visible in the community;
- The main issue currently is that low rates are depressing the number of vendors; need to push back on the budget issue immediately;
- System is currently underfunded; the State is being pennywise and pound foolish;
- People drop out of the system because it takes so much effort and the resources are not available.

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4. **Brainstorming Goals and Activities** – Discussion started with who are the people served by GGRC and what are the unmet needs. The committee will look at demographics at the next meeting.

There was also discussion regarding how progress and quality will be measured. Veronica said, "You do not remediate what you do not measure." There is a need to have evaluations and what it actually costs so the committee can report back to the State.

The following ideas came out of the brainstorming session:

- Conduct a survey on the breakdown of vendors, unmet needs and plan to address those needs;
- Create a menu of services;
- Define framework of available resources and correlate that with the framework of self-determination; restructuring with existing resources won't achieve true self-determination and doesn't address underlying issues;
- Make a mission statement;
- Review draft waiver and provide public comment;
- Review information on the pilot programs and demographics.

GGRC is a member of the National Center for Participant Directed Services out of Boston College. This group disseminates best practices information and provides training on all aspects of participant directed services. The latest training was on the ABLE Act: Role in Self-Determination.

Other Ideas:

- Getting information from the Centers for Excellence in the state;
- Hearing from folks on the barriers and then figuring out how to make the system work;
- This is what we need to do as opposed to asking permission on how the budget can be spent;
- GGRC social workers cannot possibly do justice to the Independent Facilitator (IF) role with caseloads of 85+;
- Recruit a pool of Ifs who would volunteer to do the work;

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- Wes talked about statewide options for FMS, the costs of this have not yet been determined.

5. Next Steps

- Lisa will distribute the contact information for committee members to the group;
- Send a clear message to the State about structural problems in the program;
- Schedule the outreach meeting;
- Schedule a meeting to discuss FMS and facilitator types;
- Look at demographics for GGRC; also try to get the number of people served by both GGRC and IHSS.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, July 24, 2015, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at GGRC, 1355 Market Street, Suite 202.

LR/wjt