

Self-Determination Local Advisory Group

May 17, 2016

Carolyn Tellalian moved that the minutes for the April 19, 2016 meeting be approved with one correction. The Autism Awareness Society event was changed to read the Valley Children's Hospital George's Pass Fund Run event. The minutes were approved with the correction.

Self-Determination Update

Sidney Jackson spoke to the Group about the formal discussion the State has had with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the HCBS Waiver Settings Rules. HCBS Medicaid monies cannot be used in settings that are not "as inclusive as possible". They must meet the qualities of a community setting. Sidney shared that the State submitted a transition plan in August 2014 which speaks to how they are assessing all their HCBS programs to assure they are in compliance. Individuals participating in Self Determination must also meet these rules. The final rule is due in 2019. States are receiving HCBS monies to transition residential facilities from 6-bed to 4-bed. The California May revise budget includes monies for this purpose. The Tennessee Transition Plan offers examples of assessments they did on their programs to assure compliance and also speaks to how they are addressing non-compliant settings. Cliff notes are available on the DDS website or tncare.gov if interested.

Sidney shared that he presented to the Head Start Disability case managers. He also participated in the Transition Fair in Mendota High School. Sidney uses these opportunities to speak about CVRC services and Self-Determination. Sidney also presented to the Fresno Center for New Americans with primarily a Hmong audience.

Sidney also shared that he educated himself more on person-centered thinking focusing on citizenship and a practical based orientation.

Sidney will be in West Hills College in Firebaugh next Monday (May 23rd) and at the Fresno Unified Transition Fair this Friday (May 20th).

He also has a presentation scheduled with Lighthouse, a program for young mothers with whom CVRC shares clients on Thursday (May 19th).

Sidney shared that CVRC hosted a Coffee Social on May 31st from 9:00 am to 11:00am for consumers and their families.

Premier Financial

Wesley Moss returned as a guest speaker from Premier Healthcare Services. The handouts give detailed information on the two models of Financial Management Services: The FMS Co-Employer Model (The FMS is the "primary" employer) and the FMS Fiscal Employer Agent (The participant is the sole employer).

In both models the Participant decides how the budget is used to purchase services within the confines of their IPP.

Ron asked about who takes care of the taxes when it's time to do your income tax return.

Wes explained that the Financial Management Agency takes care of all that for either model. The big difference between the two models, according to Wes, is the Affordable Care Act. If there are more than 50 employees 99% of the time and over 30 hours per week they are eligible for health insurance.

Wes shared that a self-reporting tool to assess HCBS compliance for settings where Self-Determination services are being provided will be used.

With regards to rates, Wes shared that the State will probably go with monthly rates. The State will probably look at the national average which ranges from \$150-\$75 monthly to the Financial Management Service Agency. It will not be based on the consumer's budget size and it will not come out of the participant's budget as previously thought.

Wes was asked whether SB 468 leaned to one model or the other. Wes responded that generally most people use the Fiscal Employer Agency Model nationally so language in SB 468 leans that way. This model gives you more control. Premier uses the Co-Employer model.

Wes was also asked if the Financial Management Agency will provide training for the staff hired or will it fall back on the family/client? Wes responded that it will probably fall back on the family/client because all client situations are different. The exception would be generic training that all staff needs and the agency provides. The FMS HR department will generally handle personnel issues. Wes stated that you could ask the FMS to assure that all training is completed prior to starting pay.

Workers must pay for their own background checks. Wes felt that the person centered process time should be reimbursable but acknowledged the difficulty of determining how to pay.

Wes also reminded us that the Independent Facilitator is not mandated. A Regional Center service coordinator must always be part of the process.

Sidney was asked if Regional Center service coordinators were going to get trained to be Independent Facilitators. Sidney responded that there will be Person Centered training. Service Coordinators will retain their titles. Each Regional Center will handle this differently.

Program Development Grant

Bebe from Resources for Independence, and Ron Allan, worked on the skit on Self-Determination for clients. Sidney and Bebe read the skit to the Group.

Michelle Smith suggested adding pictures to the narrative so nonverbal or less verbal clients can follow the skit. Ron liked the idea.

Bebe shared that Resources for Independence will create a web ex or video of the skit. It needs to be completed by May 31st. The State Council feels that since this is a statewide program, the proposal could go to all other Regional Centers and be considered by all State Council offices.

Michelle Smith proposed to approve the skit as a proposal to the State Council.

Gloria Guzman seconded and the proposal was approved by the Group.

Lucia Arreguin asked if it could be translated to different languages.

Carolyn Tellalian suggested that perhaps the translation could be done in subtitles.

Bebe shared that Fresno State interns doing marketing promotional projects could be used for this project.

Sidney felt chances are pretty good for the proposal to get funded since it can be used statewide.

Information Sharing

Michelle Smith suggested that we organize some type of meeting to bring the 181 interested participants up to date on where we are with the Self-Determination project. Interested participants do not know what is going on. Sidney reminded the Group that the sign up meeting was not the only meeting the interested participants needed to attend. There will also be an orientation meeting if they are selected.

All agreed that an update meeting for interested participants would be a good idea. September may be a good month to hold this meeting.

Public Comment

None

Meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 5:00 pm in the Fresno CVRC office.