



North State Office



Far Northern Regional Center

## Self Determination Advisory Committee

*All Interested Persons Are Welcome to Attend Our Meeting*

[www.farnorthernrc.org](http://www.farnorthernrc.org)

When: Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: FNRC Chico Office – Conference Rooms Lassen & Plumas  
1377 East Lassen Avenue, Chico, CA

Phone: 895.8633

Refreshments will be provided.

### Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - Meeting was called to order at 1:05p by Ronda Dever.
  - Committee members in attendance: Ronda Dever, Jennifer Bowman, Kimberlee Candela, Kathy Brown, Glen Pollock, and Stephen Concklin. Others in attendance: Mary Agnes (in for Sarah May). FNRC staff: Laura Larson, Larry Withers, Melissa Gruhler, and Kelly Jensen.
2. Public Input/Open Forum *(This section is for members of the public only; and is to provide the public an opportunity to comment and/or present information to the Committee on any matter. Each member of the public will be afforded up to five minutes to speak. If you have additional information you are encouraged to submit it in writing.)*
  - No public members present.
3. Approval of meeting Agenda.
  - Motion by Ronda Dever, second by Glenn Pollock. No discussion, motion passed.
4. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting.
  - Motion by Kimberlee Candela, second by Glen Pollock. No discussion, motion passed.

5. Update on Self Determination statewide activities by Ronda Dever and Sarah May.  
-No additions/updates at this time, as noted by Mary Agnes (in for Sarah May). Next statewide meeting is in San Diego on February 21, 2019.
6. Updates by Melissa Gruhler;
  - a. Introducing new Senior Services Coordinators, Megan Swope and Morgan Curtiz. –Neither were able to be in attendance for this mtg. Melissa described their roles and how they will have a focused understanding of the Self-Determination Program and that they will be a support to those SCs who have clients participating in the program. They will have to be actively involved and a central point in understanding services; how they are located with a focus on community development, actively working on developing relationships with the SCs on establishing relationships with services offered in the community.
  - b. Summary of SDP Welcoming Meetings. – Two meetings were scheduled for November 7, 2018 in Redding and two meetings scheduled for November 8, 2018 in Chico. While the November 8<sup>th</sup> date had to be canceled due to the Camp Fire, the meetings were rescheduled and held on January 11, 2019. Round table topics were created with a 15 minute time frame to discuss the following topics:
    - i. Principles of Self-Determination
    - ii. Hopes and Dreams
    - iii. Independent Facilitator Roles/Service Coordinator Roles
    - iv. HCBS Rules
    - v. Financial Management Services (FMS)

Guests' questions were answered. They were also advised we are still learning about this program and don't have all the answers, especially where funds are concerned. Melissa shared the binder and contents that were given to each participant, including their most recent IPP, and that the idea is to have a place to keep any and all materials (current and future) to do with Self-Determination within this binder. Melissa addressed attendance for these meetings, drops, and no shows. Stephen Concklin was present at the November 7<sup>th</sup> (Redding) Welcoming Meetings and discussed his excitement and almost disbelief that this program is coming to fruition, given the history he has seen out in the field over the last couple of decades. He further commented on the good energy he witnessed at the meetings Redding. Glen Pollock was present for the January 11<sup>th</sup> Welcoming Meetings and said that the discussion was so thorough and enthusiastic that the meetings could have easily filled three hours instead of the allotted two.

For those who did not RSVP for the Welcoming Meeting, we will reach out to them and make sure on whether they still have intention on moving forward with the program or not.

- c. Independent Facilitator (IF) and Financial Management Services (FMS) directives from DDS (*see attachments*).
  - We are going to start with opening up a two-day PCT training on February 26, 2019 and February 27, 2019, and hold 10 slots for IFs. It was discussed that there was some feedback during the Welcoming Meetings about the concerns participants have surrounding having to pay for FMS. Further discussion was held in regards to the role of the FMS and that they are essentially the accountant for the client, the person who handles paying for services and monitors/assesses spending. Further, the FMS does not take the role of deciding what services the participants should have.
- d. SDP participant numbers post Camp Fire.
  - It was reported that 5 participants have dropped the SDP from the South region and 3 from the North region. The reasons are various and include, moving out of state secondary to events surrounding the Camp Fire, life circumstances, and wanting to see how the pilot goes before opting into the program. Melissa addressed that DDS will be doing another draw to fill in the empty spots.
- e. Discussion; how have services been impacted by the events of the Camp Fire? What will services look like for participants?
  - Melissa spoke with Liz Harrell about the timeline for details on the SDP Orientation. The feedback was that it probably won't be ready until end of February. Laura Larson would like to see Liberty Plans being done in the interim. Discussion opened up about what traditional services will look like after March of 2020, with the change of HCBS rules, such as pay and who will have to be employed, etc, with concerns about sub-minimum wage no longer being able to be used as well as a mix of developmentally disabled and non-developmentally disabled folks will have to run businesses. Laura spoke about the loss of momentum we have had as an agency secondary to two major events occurring in the last 6 months, the Carr Fire in July and then the Camp Fire in November, and that we lost approximately 4 months of day to day tasks dealing with the fallout from the fires. Laura stressed that we are in a time of refocusing here at FNRC with "lots to do, lots to get back on track...and put into motion", for example, with HCBS rules.  
With regards to the Self-Determination Orientation, Mary Agnes asked if holding daytime meetings was a hardship for the participants and Melissa reported we have not had any negative feedback from our participating families.  
The layout of the land has changed and this will make things more difficult on the SDP participants, particularly those located in our Butte County region. For example, some of the folks in the area are even more spread out now because of being displaced by the fire, so getting services to the participants is even more challenging. We are now looking at what the overall challenges are, what

adjustments can be made, and what resources can be accessed? Much of this will be answered in the following weeks as there is more forward movement in permanent placements, what programs are operational, and what services are accessible post Camp Fire. This topic will be discussed further at the next SDAC meeting.

7. Self-Determination Implementation Needs. *(see handout)*

-Decisions on the use of the funds and the agency's needs were discussed. Melissa would like to put a committee together to help make decisions on what the funds will be used for and establish what other activities/projects the funds could support. A suggestion was made to create groups and/or workshops to hold ongoing meetings with the SDP participants to go over how the SD program is going for them. Kathy Brown suggested focusing on gathering information on the participants' interests, what the family's interests are, what their regular activities are, and what their backgrounds are, etc, to help best match them with services. The group was reminded that the agency will be hosting the SDP Orientation and the IF Curriculum, in relation to funding. Melissa would like for the committee to think on this and bring ideas/discussion to next meeting. Mary Agnes brought up broadening the conversation (outreach) instead of keeping the conversation closed off to our closest groups within our individual communities.

8. Individual Budget Development and Spending Plan. *(see handout)*

-Melissa went over the guidelines presented in the handout and that the budget amount will be determined in two ways; for participants who currently receive regional center services based on prior 12 months of expenditures or, for participants who are newly eligible for regional center services or who do not have 12 months of regional center purchases...the team will identify the services and supports needed by the participant.

9. Other.

-The Committee revisited the idea of performing the Liberty Plans now while waiting for the details to come from DDS for the SDP Orientation. The plan and hope is that Liberty Plans will begin in the next several weeks. A suggestion was made by Kathy Brown that some of the funding from the SD Implementation Needs could be spent on a Documentary style film on participant experiences with the SD Participants, produced by Doug Churchill. This idea was well liked by all and will be discussed further when the committee meets to go over agency funding needs.

10. Set date for next meeting.

–The next meeting for the SDAC will be March 15, 2019, 10:00a to 12:00p, in the B4 conference room of the FNRC Chico office.

11. Adjourn.

–Motion by Jennifer Bowman to adjourn meeting at 2:47p, with a second by Kathy Brown.

Respectively submitted,

Kelly D. Jensen  
FNRC Administrative Assistant