



North State Office



Far Northern Regional Center

Self Determination Advisory Committee

All Interested Persons Are Welcome to Attend Our Meeting

www.farnorthernrc.org

When: Friday, March 15, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: FNRC Chico Office – B4 Conference Room
1367 East Lassen Avenue, Chico, CA

Phone: 895.8633

**Coffee & lunch will be provided*

Minutes:

1. Welcome and Introductions. -Committee members in attendance: Jennifer Bowman, Ronda Dever, Stephen Concklin, Glen Pollock, and Kathy Brown. Others in attendance: Lorie Atamian and Sarah May. FNRC Staff: Marlene McCollum, Melissa Gruhler, Megan Swope, Morgan Curtiz, and Kelly Jensen.

Megan Swope and Morgan Curtiz were introduced. Their new SSC roles were detailed in how they are supporting the Self-Determination Program with trainings, orientations, SCs as well as participants and their families.

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.)*
–Catherine Brown.
3. Approval of meeting Agenda. -Moted by Jennifer Bowman with a second by Glenn Pollack.
4. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting. –Moted by Glenn Pollock with a second by Kathy Brown.
5. Update on Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting from 2/21/19, by Melissa Gruhler. -Ronda shared that the overriding takeaway is that FNRC is on right on

track and even ahead of schedule in comparison to other RCs. She commented how nice it was to see where we are sitting in our planning and execution of SDP. Some time was spent going over the SD Orientation content. Melissa reported on who attended Train-The-Trainer for the participant Orientation. Sarah May conveyed how proud she is of our region, how we are represented, and where we sit in our trainings and organization amongst other state regions. Sarah May has witnessed that folks in other regions comment on how they feel the SDAC is controlling this program development, though she doesn't feel that is the case with this region. Reported that RCs are going to be reporting back to DDS on a monthly basis. She spoke about the Bagley Keene Act and that it is about the issue of transparency and that whatever is said in a public meeting is means it is out on the table, but within that there has be guidelines, so it was reinforced that this will be followed and is to be followed where this program is concerned, for instance. Sarah May expressed that she thought it would be a good idea to have Bagley Keene Act information brought to a future committee meeting. It was decided that she will provide this information to the group. Melissa Gruhler conveyed that we will continue to make these meeting dates available to the public and encourage their attendance. Sarah said the statewide committee would like to have more than 2 meetings per year, though Ronda wonders what the reality of that is and questioned how productive it would be to add more meetings. Morgan Curtiz spoke about her surprise to hear the feedback on SCs outside of our region being overwhelmed on how to implement SDP in their workloads since so much of the program are tasks/actions already in place. Megan Swope commented on how impressive it was to see the progress FNRC has made with the task of implementing the Self-Determination Program and in how IPPs are done at this RC.

6. Self-Determination Program Monthly Status Report from 2/27/19 (*see handout*). -There is a new monthly mandated report that will need to be submitted on the 15th of every month to DDS. The first of these reports was completed for March 15th and was circulated to the committee to show what information will be included. Melissa Gruhler went over the report with the group, column by column, particularly the common reason for participants opting out of the program. One of the main reasons is "happy with traditional services" and that SDP will be too much work. We are working through on how to communicate and walk the participants through this point. Marlene McCollum detailed the amount of work it is to set up services and to get going with this program, but also that for many families the work will be worth it.

Kathy Brown asked if there is a family support group in relation to SDP. Melissa replied that there is not one yet, but we are working towards this as the program develops. The hope is to foster connections amongst participants and their families so they can exchange information and support one another as well.

Melissa Gruhler went over the graph page (handout added to this meeting's materials), and how the graph reveals where support is needed. For instance, the folks who live in the outlying mountain areas have not been to the Welcome Meetings. It was agreed amongst the group that it was nice to have a visual and how it aids in perspective, like in what regions are getting the most information and what regions have the most hardships in accessing meetings/orientations/trainings, etc. Kathy Brown expanded on the concern for services/programs expiring 2022, and how it needs to be relayed to families, to help soften the fear that services will be eliminated come March of 2022 (services will have to meet the HCBS rules). The need to "calm the anxiety" is something we need to look at providing. Marlene McCollum commented on the fact that right now it feels like all we are doing is losing when, in fact, services are transitioning to meet the greater needs. When all is said and done there will be lots of options though the options may look different, and that SDP will offer up a lot of creativity to make the services/program meet the needs of the participants and their families.

Catherine Brown (public attendee) asked the question, "Is SDP not replacing the current traditional services offered?" Marlene McCollum helped answer and identify the difference between the current traditional services and the new SDP services. Melissa emphasized that although it might be a slow process, the focus will be on support and that the outcome will be positive. Stephen Concklin said that, based on his folks in Mt. Shasta, this more individual based system may very well attract more people who can benefit from services.

Melissa Gruhler touched on the current Independent Facilitator training that we are currently in the middle of, having completed day-3 out of 5 days, and how positive and successful the third day of IF training went. Ronda commented on whether or not the IF role would be a large group of interested folks or will this be a small group. Melissa replied that it will likely be a small group of individuals based on how the role is outlined and the feedback we have received on those interested. Melissa showed the committee the binder that has been put together and provided to potential IFs, and detailed all materials included in the binder. The idea is to build on this binder as trainings and meetings transpire and information evolves and, eventually, a guide or "IF Manual" will be created to provide IFs in the future.

7. Self-Determination Orientation. -Melissa Gruhler went over an additional handout called "Self-Determination Orientation Agenda". The orientation will include an Introduction, History of the Regional Centers, Principles of Self-Determination, Person Centered Planning with regards to the Liberty Plan (plans will be developed for each participant), Roles and Responsibilities, and Introduction to Budget and Spending.

Mains'1 and REACH are the vendors who will do the Liberty Plans for SD Participants. Four plans have already been scheduled. The above-mentioned curriculum is the agenda for day 1 out of a 2 day orientation. Day 2 of the orientation will be scheduled 6 weeks later so that Liberty Plans can be done in the interim. Participants will be asked to bring their plans with them to day 2. The plan is to have "breakout sessions" on day 2 so that there will be private sessions to go over current budgets and the potential of how the budget can support the execution of their Liberty Plan.

The committee went over the handouts one by one. They are as follows:

- a. Self-Determination Program Service Definitions. When do you start looking for service providers? The answer is now.
- b. Hiring Service Providers in the Self-Determination Program. Possible questions for personal care workers, for IFs, agencies, etc. is included as well as questions you cannot ask. Very important to go over with each participant.
- c. Self-Determination Program Service Provider/Participant Agreement Template. Makes sure everyone is on the same page as far as hours. There might need to be a back-up if that SC does not show up, per Melissa Gruhler.
- d. DDS Safety Net (flyer). Are there other materials with regards to safety available to provide?
- e. Additional Resources. This is a list in regards to resources with regards to the Self-Determination Program.

8. Budget:

- a. Activity: Figuring Out Your Spending Plan. Looking at budget over the last 12 months plus any unmet needs as a base for projecting budget for this program. Morgan Curtiz went over the handout and shared how she worked out her spending plan using the activity sheet as an example on how SCs will project service budgets for their SD participant clients. Glen Pollock suggested to add a box to the activity sheet that says something like "do I really want to spend this part of my budget on this service?"
- b. Self-Determination Program Service Codes by Budget Category. There are 3 categories within the budget codes and an entire budget cannot be spent on 1 category.
- c. FMS Rates. Pretty straightforward as to how much it will cost a participant to employ an FMS based on number of services.

9. Person-Centered Plan:

- a. Person-Centered Planning Resources (handout). An online resource list for information, education, and videos to broaden knowledge on Person-Centered Planning.

10. Self-Determination Implementation Needs:

- a. Committee selection; establishes use of funds, activities, and projects. Melissa Gruhler brought up the documentary possibility where participants would be followed; their service planning, establishing their budget, taking part in selected services. Following the progress of participants will help educate various groups, such as schools, vendors, centers, etc. Who would like to be part the committee for this purpose? It was suggested to work with “Theater in the Now” to help put this project together. Melissa Gruhler is going to nominate a committee since there were no volunteers.

11. Self-Determination website home page updates. -We are working with our IT Dept. to refresh and add more prominent real estate on the site. This will include all current information, such as trainings and current events.

12. Other. -The Self-Determination Program brochure was presented. It was suggested to make it “FNRC” specific and include contact information. Laurie Atamian commented to simplify the information included to be more client friendly or, have two options; one for clients and one for general public. Morgan Curtiz suggested integrating SC information because that connection is missing from brochure. This will be addressed and added to the brochure.

13. Set date for next meeting. -Friday, May 3, 2019, 10a to 1p.

14. Adjourn. –Ronda Dever motioned to end meeting at 1:02p, Glen Pollock with a first motion, Jennifer Bowman with the second. Meeting was adjourned.