

***Generally, what is the status of the Self-Determination Program (SDP) at your Regional Center? How many people are in SDP?***

<b>STATUS</b>	<b>COUNT</b>
ON SDP	2
BUDGET CERTIFIED, IPP IN PROGRESS	2
BUDGET REVIEWED, PCP IN PROGRESS	20
WILL START AFTER SUMMER/COVID	21
MANDATORY ORIENTATION REQUIRED	3
VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL	10
NO CONTACT	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>

The major reason for withdrawal is that they attended the Orientation and decided SDP is a lot of work. This is especially true for adult clients, who reported that they would need a lot of handholding, especially if they did not have a large circle of support. Also, until the Orientation, some candidates had the expectation that it would be “free funds,” i.e., available for use however they pleased, not managed through the FMS.

***Has your SDAC made a plan to spend DDS funds for the local advisory board? If so, what’s your plan? Has your SDAC been able to spend any of those funds?***

We have not yet made decisions, although we have considered ideas that emphasize training and support (roundtables, Q&A sessions, support groups, facilitated forums). Proposed topics included:

- Q&A sessions on FMS, budget process, spending plan.
- Paying for experts to provide workshops and mentor support groups.
- We discussed recording these workshops and making them available online.

There was much discussion about not doing a similar effort 21 times in different RCs. We should be collaborating on our SDAC efforts. We are spending the month considering options, and we expect to make some choices at our next meeting on July 2.

***What, if any, new barriers are your regional center seeing in light of the COVID pandemic? How is your regional center addressing them?***

Service Coordination across the board has been a challenge, e.g., developing remote IPP meetings. For many services, families are saying they would prefer to wait until COVID is “over.”

For SDP, a third of the families said they want to wait until after summer to move forward. It’s not just concerns about contagion, but also work overload. Also, the spending plans must change due to COVID. Services they were planning on using are not available, or the participants do not want to access them at this time.

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For those families who want to move forward, it seems *easier* to get them through the SDP processes during this COVID period. The normative expectation for a meeting has changed from the richness of an in-person gathering to the necessity of a Zoom meeting. They are being forced to use web-based meeting platforms, and it turns out that it's easier to get a PCP meeting together. It's also easier to meet with an FMS, and with RC staff.

Identified challenges: access to technology, or proficiency with technology. We discussed options for loaner laptops and non-profits that are providing them to the underserved. The next steps are to identify the ones who need the equipment, and connect them with the donors. And for everyone who is not well-versed in using these tools, training with social distancing needs to be figured out.

### ***What is your regional center doing to continue the self-determination program during this time?***

Besides the efforts to overcome the COVID-based challenges mentioned in #3, the processes are being improved. With experience, things are getting better and faster. The spending history, for example, is delivered in 2 days. It takes about 1-2 weeks for the preliminary budget to be turned around.

For those who don't have good access to internet, RC staff has reverted to snail mail because the offices are not open for visiting.