

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

Currently Eastern LA Regional Center has a total of 114 participants in the Self Determination Program (SDP). 146 participants were initially elected during the 2018 and 2019 selection process. Of the current roster 87% have completed the orientations, with an additional seven participants due to completed it during the month of June. These participants will complete the orientation through on-line technology. 24% have certified individual budgets, 20% have had their spending plans completed, and 25% have secured their Financial Management Services. Service Coordinators continue to provide case management and support to participants and needs are met as they arise, for example individual sessions/consultations are held on particular issues such as spending plan and person center planning is completed with our subject matter expert.

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***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?***

ELARC is drafting a proposal to be presented and discussed at the Local Advisory Committee at the June meeting. Update will be provided.

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

Some barriers encountered by our center are the ability to fully complete orientations and informational sessions in this current climate. Staff is coordinating a schedule to hold these orientations remotely with families who can and are able to participate in virtual learning and have the resources to do so (i.e. computer, internet, etc.) Our staff conducted an informal, general survey to gather this data with the new participants. Results revealed that 70% of new participants are able to participate in the orientation through virtual learning mechanisms. Even at this high rate, some participants/families are not fully familiar with the use of technology and these meeting/virtual platforms. The lack of security parameters that that it brings places a lack of trust for families to conduct these virtual meetings. For the remaining 30% who do not have the resources to access these virtual orientations, a one-to- one approach is being explored such as the possibility of conducting the orientation in person while still adhering to local, state and federal guidance. In addition, some participants have many concerns during this pandemic period that they are requesting a slowing down of the SD process (i.e. developing spending plan, PCP etc.) as well as some have decided to hold off until it is safe and the COVID concerns have passed.

Also when the pandemic occurred the agency was not set up for remote work, therefore a system had to be set up and completely build it from the ground up within short period of time due to the Safer at Home orders. Lastly, there have been some agency personnel changes that have resulted in some adjustments of the management of the program. Systems and procedures have been put in place to address these changes.

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

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Eastern LA Regional Center is moving forward to completing orientations virtually with participants who are able to do so. Individual consultations on specific areas of focus for participants are on-going. ELARC also is focusing on a strategic approach to staff training. Some of these approaches will include specific training for some members of management as well as a targeted group of service coordinators.

Service Coordinators continue to be available and provide support to the current participants while working remote.

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