

Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee Report: Barriers to the Self Determination Program

State Council on Developmental Disabilities
September 15, 2020



Summary

On August 10, 2020, the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) submitted a report on the barriers to implementing the Self-Determination Program to the more than 300 people, including the Legislature, DDS and regional centers. This report is the result of more than 18 months of research and work by the SSDAC. It lists the top four implementation barriers and provides more than 20 recommendations.

Barrier 1: Delay in Implementation of the SDP

The Committee had 5 recommendations for this barrier. The recommendations included asking DDS for better data reporting, and shorter transition times into the program with benchmarks showing progress. The recommendations also said that the local advisory committees need to track progress so that they could share with the SSDAC.

Barrier 2: Lack of Guidance by DDS to Regional Centers and Consumers

The Committee had 11 recommendations for this barrier. Some of the recommendations included asking DDS to issue clear and regular guidance in a number of areas, including templates, category definitions and online resources; hire a person to coordinate with regional centers; and using things learned from the pilot program. The recommendations also asked regional centers and local advisory committees to work together to share DDS information with everyone.

Barrier 3: Lack of Trainings for Regional Center Staff, Participants and Families

The Committee had 4 recommendations for this barrier. Recommendations to DDS mainly asked for required trainings for regional center staff, plain language training materials and timelines for when trainings are done. Regional centers need to have multiple trainings and include the local advisory committee members.

Barrier 4:

Lack of Trainings for, and Development of, Person-Centered Planners, Fiscal Management Services (FMS), Independent Facilitators and Service Providers

The Committee had 3 recommendations for this barrier. The recommendations included asking DDS to provide FMS oversight and making plain language training materials for the workers listed above that include provider definitions and explained the role of the FMS. Also, the regional centers need provide timely payments and better education to the workers.

Conclusion

SSDAC members believe that the recommendations in this report are possible and the cornerstone to overcoming the barriers to implementing the program. By working together, the Self-Determination Program will be a success and a way to a better life for consumers and their families.

Questions?