Co-Chair Report to SSDAC

February 16, 2021

Presented by Rick Wood

To: The Chairs of all Regional Center Local Advisory Committees

On September 25, 2020, the SSDAC received and reviewed its report on barriers to implementation of the SDP. The report arose out of a discussion of barriers at the SSDAC meetings held in February and June 2020, and was formally released in August 2020. The SSDAC developed recommendations to overcome barriers to the SDP, and authorized the formation of a Workgroup whose purpose is to identify SDP best practices, analyze information from those persons who have withdrawn from the SDP, make recommendations to increase participation in the SDP, and revise the SDP orientation to be shorter and presented in plain language.

The Workgroup was formed from among volunteers which includes myself, Maria Marquez, and LAC chairs Sherry Alvarez, Sascha Bittner, Linda Chan-Rapp, Judy Mark, Maia Pawooskar, and Robert Taylor. The Workgroup has convened monthly to share information and to develop the agenda for today’s meeting.

Thanks to those LACs who have graciously allowed me to participate in their LAC meetings. I have attended meetings of 15 LACs and will be happy to attend others if invited. Based on the exchange of information at Workgroup meetings and on my observation of LAC meetings, it is apparent that all RCs are experiencing similar barriers to implementation of the SDP. The SSDAC has discussed these barriers in detail in previous meetings, and has made specific recommendations to overcome them.

Few of the recommendations have been implemented by DDS and systemically by RCs. There is a lack of consistency among RCs in implementation. However, it is clear that some RCs are posting enrollment numbers which are much higher than others. I believe that the primary reasons for differences in enrollment include the degree of proactivity by RC staff and the level of involvement by LACs.

Today, the SSDAC has an opportunity to develop specific recommendations to complete the enrollment of individuals chosen to participate in the SDP by June 7, 2021. Our goal is to dramatically increase the numbers of persons enrolled; to understand why some RCs are underperforming and to assist them in improving performance; and to share best SDP practices from all RCs. In other words, we expect each LAC to develop and implement a plan for enrollment of SDP participants in the next 4 months.

This is a critical point in the evolution of the SDP. I look forward to a lively and engaging discussion. The future of the SDP is at stake.