

Regional Center Name:

Alta California Regional Center

1. Where is your regional center at in the program implementation process?

Feb, 2021
SDP Updates

- Nine clients in SDP (1 client flipped the switch on 1/1)
- PCP-9 completed, In progress 12
Budget-completed 6, In Process 2
Spending Plan completed 7: In process 6
FMS completed 7; In process 2
SDP IPP Completed 7, In Process 2
- FMS vendored Agencies: Aveanna (formerly Premiere); Community Interface Services (CIS) GT Independence, and ARCC Center. Tracy Stein vendored (to serve 1 client @ their request)
- and The Emelyn Group.
- 4 Agencies in various stages of the vendorization process for PCP.
- January 14th 2021-SDP SC Forum
- 11/6 & 12/18, ACRC/DDS SDP Meeting
- December 3, ARCA (North/South) Regional Center SDP Meeting
- November 2, SCDD HCBS Training-Katherine Weston
- 10/19, 11/16, 12/7, ACRC HCBS SDP work group
- 13 clients in the DDS second pull have not completed orientation. Everbridge message sent on 10/6 encouraging clients/families to schedule orientation.
- Of the 88 clients in the DDS second pull, 48 have declined indicating current services are meeting their needs, "lots going on" waiting until its available to everyone, 2 no response, focusing on new job. 4 case closed/inactive.
- Adding monthly SDP discussion topic in unit meetings across the agency-Management Team topic: SDP Tools
DDS FAQ

2. *What is your RCs plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?*

ACRC remains committed to providing education and training support to participants who have been identified through the DDS lottery. Unfortunately, several of these participants have expressed little interest in pursuing SDP at this time. Nonetheless, ACRC continues to promote orientation/training in either a group or 1:1 setting.

3. *Do you or your committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment?*

Our SDAC and our RC are working collaboratively to increase the enrollment of SDP through partnered and individual efforts of outreach and training support.

4. *What is the top barrier that you believe could be overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June?*

-Reports that the Budget development process is onerous

-People are satisfied with the services that they are receiving in traditional model and have reported that they do not have the time required to support the SDP model. Additionally, they will consider the transition to SDP after the program becomes widely available in June.

Regional Center Name:

Far Northern Regional Center

1. Where is your regional center at in the program implementation process?

FNRC is continuing to enroll participants each month. Currently, we have 28 participants enrolled. We have implemented the process for handling second year budgets and we have approximately 12 participants who have entered their second year in SDP. FNRC is hosting orientations on a monthly basis via Zoom and we are inviting any family and client interested in SDP to join the orientation.

2. What is your RCs plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?

FNRC is offering additional staff training including interactive workshops to ensure staff are knowledgeable of SDP and the FNRC process of enrollment. Our goal is to have budgets developed for the remaining participants by March 31st. Once the budgets have been certified, FNRC will continue to assist participants with the development of spending plans and with getting the remaining participants enrolled by June 1st. Brochures have been created in English and Spanish to be given to and clients and their families who are interested in SDP. Our local committee is currently working on developing grants that can be utilized for onboarding of Independent Facilitators.

3. Do you or your committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment?

Our local advisory committee recently engaged in a liberty plan to define goals for the next year. One of the goals for FNRC is to have all 60 participants enrolled by June 1st. In order to meet the advisory committee goals, all participants will have budgets by March 31st. The committee also recommended Increase trainings to participants, community members and vendors of FNRC.

4. What is the top barrier that you believe could be overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June?

FNRC has implemented a plan to ensure participants are educated on the program prior to choosing to opt out; however, FNRC is still having participants opt out of SDP. Due to the opt outs, FNRC still has slots available that cannot be filled as there has not been a third selection of participants from DDS. FNRC is inviting families who are interested in the program to join the orientation with a plan to obtain budgets and assist with spending plans in order to enroll them July 1st. Another barrier that has been expressed is the FMS agencies not responding to participants in a timely manner.

Regional Center Name: Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center

1. Where is your regional center at in the program implementation process?

- Lanterman Regional Center has 50 active participants in the SDP
- 21 are fully transitioned in Self Determination
- 1 has a certified budget and an IPP in progress
- 11 have individual budgets (12 month reports), with a PCP in progress
- 13 have decided to wait until after COVID-19 to begin the SDP process
- 3 have not completed the mandatory orientation
- In one case, we have been unsuccessful in communicating with the family.

2. What is your RC's plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?

While we expect that some of the barriers will be reduced, given the significant barriers introduced by the pandemic, it is not possible to complete enrollment of all those selected by June.

Based on two reports last year on the barriers to participation in the Self-Determination Program — the August Statewide SDAC report on barriers and the September DDS report on their Withdrawal Surveys — and discussions with colleagues in the I/DD world, the FDLRC SDAC advised the regional center staff to take the following actions to help the program overcome some barriers to participation.

RECOMMENDED FDLRC ACTIONS FOR NEEDS IDENTIFIED IN THE TWO REPORTS

Need: More individual coaching through the process (“handholding”)

- We have extended the Promotora program for Spanish-speaking clients, under contract with Fiesta Educativa.
- We are developing scholarships for coaching services.

Need: Better training for Independent Facilitators

- We are developing scholarships for IF training for family members.
- We will offer scholarships for DVU conference in April 2021.
- We will be a sponsor of the DVU conference in April 2021.

Need: Monthly reports with better data analysis

- We have engaged a data analysis consultant.

Need: Better access to IFs, PCP facilitators and FMSs

- We offered to contribute to support the Education Spectrum platform, but Education Spectrum declined the funding because they secured another source. SDAC members have offered help with beta-version testing.

Need: Make SDAC meetings available to everyone

- We offer translation into Spanish.
- We are gauging the need for other translation services.

Need: Improve training and orientations

- We are developing training videos with other RCs, to be translated into several languages.
- We are promoting virtual Mandatory Orientations.
- We are updating the SDP webpage at lanterman.org.

3. Do you or your committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment?

Given the language barriers for monolingual parents and/or clients, the expansion of our Promotora program will help some Spanish-speaking families participate.

In addition, one SDAC member wrote: "Especially when I think of Asian families, I believe it would be helpful if multi-language simultaneous interpretation is provided at the upcoming Disability Voices United's SDP statewide conference. In the past, Disability Rights California had several virtual Zoom meetings using multiple language interpretations (Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese and Spanish). They were very successful." With our financial sponsorship of the DVU conference, we hope they can provide this service.

Many families have other challenging priorities, such as food insecurity and health concerns. The regional center has been an instrumental partner with the city for the distribution of food, etc., to needy families. Helping with these other priorities probably will not *increase* enrollment, but it may lessen the likelihood that those already in the SDP process will stop because of distractions.

Families who lack access to the internet and to computer technology, or do not know how to use it, have a lot of difficulty participating in any aspect of service

request or delivery during this pandemic. This includes the Self-Determination Program, but separate from its promotion of the SDP, the regional center has been instrumental in getting technology to many of these families and providing training.

Once completed, our training videos should increase the understanding of the various components of the program, making it easier for families and self-advocates to move forward.

Finally, the change from an 8-hour in-person, instructor-led Mandatory Orientation to a self-paced virtual orientation allows interested families and self-advocates to cover the materials more conveniently (and repeatedly, if necessary), and thus reducing another barrier to participation.

4. What is the top barrier that you believe could be overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June?

The top barrier for many of our families is COVID-19. Many of the selected regional center clients who have not move forward have stated that they would rather wait for this pandemic to slow down before changing their situation. Not only is the pandemic taxing the families' resources to tackle something new, but there are fewer available services during COVID, so families are reluctant to go through the effort when the chances of betterment are low. It is unlikely that this top barrier could be overcome during the remaining months before the rollout in June.

The top barrier that *can* be overcome is probably the language barrier. Not totally overcome, of course, but continuously reduced. For example, for the Spanish-speaking community, we can overcome some of the language barriers if we continue using the outreach that is being provided by Fiesta Educative, and the training videos in multiple languages.

February 16, 2021, Local SDAC Report to the SSDAC

Regional Center Name:

Golden Gate Regional Center (Meeting between Sascha Bittner, Eric Zigman, Jennifer Walsh, Lisa Rosene, Sheraden Nicholau on Feb. 8, 2021)

Where is your regional center at in the program implementation process?

| MONTH (as of SDLAC Mtg) | JANUARY 2021 TOTAL | FEBRUARY 2021 TOTAL |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>PCP's Done</i> | 24 | 24 |
| <i>PCP's In Progress</i> | 2 | 2 |
| <i>Individual Budgets Done</i> | 12 | 14 |
| <i>Individual Budgets in Progress</i> | 7 | 5 |
| <i>Spending Plans Done</i> | 8 | 8 |
| <i>Spending Plans in Progress</i> | 1 | 2 |
| <i># Actively Using SDP Funds</i> | 6 | 6 |
| <i>Dis-enrolled</i> | 12 | 14 |
| <i>Total Participants from 68 Total</i> | 54 | 52 |

What is your RCs plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?

1. Staff is working on a timeline framework—coming later in Feb.
2. Staff is doing orientation for social workers on a monthly basis at GGRC.
3. Staff to coordinate for SDP participants to be asked soon—what is their satisfaction with the program? Are they in the phase they want to be or on hold because they want to be? We want to better understand the reasons for the numbers.
4. Based on the data, we could prioritize certain batches of people who want to move faster through the phases.
5. Having some social workers who are knowledgeable about SDP who can help others.

Do you or your committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment?

1. Us acting as mentors. Especially for those who are stuck in various phases.

2. Setting up a mailing list
3. Funding coaching to get people unstuck
4. Invite people to write to us, so we can help people informally.
5. Having office hours to answer question

What is the top barrier that you believe could be overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June?

Not having a clear sense of a timeline. Having a rough timeline will keep everyone on track. Not knowing why participants aren't progressing, having a sense of why can help us focus on participants who are ready to advance into SDP.

February 16, 2021, Local SDAC Report to the SSDAC

Regional Center Name: Harbor Regional Center

1. Where is your regional center at in the program implementation process?

Participants going “live” are slowly increasing nearing 20% of our total continuing in SDP, with 27 with certified budgets, 20 with approved spending plans and 8 in process. Monthly informational meetings are held (in English or in Spanish on alternating months), training of all service coordinators has been completed, and there will be a provider training at the end of February.

2. What is your RCs plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?

a. We are launching a coaching program to match clients/family members who have gone “live” with participants requesting aid in progressing in their SDP journey.

b. General roll-out information and materials will be shared at our March 3 SDP local advisory committee meeting.

c. Information about the Self-Determination Program and the coaching program will be sent out to all Regional Center clients; upcoming virtual Meet and Greets (featuring Independent Facilitators or FMS representatives) are in the planning.

3. Do you or your committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment?

a. Personally connect with SDP advisory committee members who are willing to make an effort to go “live” before June 2021 to assess places of impasse, and offer specific support to empower them to move forward.

b. Continue featuring presentations requested by SDP advisory committee attendees that highlight challenging areas (November 2020 – Independent Facilitator Panel; February 2021 – Unmet Needs; April 2021 – Managing Employees); and certain hot topics could be posted on the HRC SDP page.

c. Involve local committee members as volunteers in the monthly informational meetings.

d. Feature clients/families who have gone “live” who are fluent in languages other than English to present their journey. Target recruiting mentors who are fluent in Spanish, Korean, etc.

e. Making support for transitioning into SDP available to families who do not have ready access to Zoom or the Internet, but might be able to meet via phone conferencing.

4. What is the top barrier that you believe could be overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June?

We need best practices shared statewide to facilitate setting up coaching programs to ensure communication, excellence, transparency, and outreach especially to those families that are typically underserved.

Regional Center Name: Inland Regional Center (IRC)

1. Where is your regional center at in the program implementation process?

Response from IRC P.M. :

IRC is currently in the process of certifying budgets and spending plans for consumers in the Self Determination pilot. The process has been successful and is slowly build speed in the implementation of Self Determination. IRC is expanding its staffing to accommodate more SDP pilot participants. IRC would like to make orientation materials available to consumers/families on a virtual platform.

Note: IRC SDP Spaces - 256 Total Selected – 317 # of Continuing Participants With Certified Individual Budget - 17 % of Continuing Participants With Certified Individual Budget - 6% # of Continuing Participants With Spending Plan Completed - 14 % of Continuing Participants With Spending Plan Completed - 5%

2. What is your RCs plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?

Response from IRC P.M. :

IRC has implemented a Self Determination team that will review incoming consumers interested in Self Determination in anticipation of the “go live” date of June 7th. IRC would like to be proactive and encourage non-pilot consumers to consider Self Determination services.

Note: IRC SDP Spaces - 256 Total Selected – 317 # of Participants Receiving Services Through SDP as of December 2020 - 15

3. *Do you or your committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment?*

Response from IRC P.M. :

IRC is committed to getting more SDP pilot consumers active and will have SCs reach out to current consumers and prompt these consumers to continue. IRC is being proactive in preparing for consumers not on the pilot that will be able to enter after June 7th. IRC would like to be ready to meet the needs of those consumers. The current questions are: Will DDS continue to allow funding of Person-Centered Plans beyond the pilot? Can IRC fund educational services or coaches to encourage indecisive SDP pilot consumers to continue forward? Can IRC use SDAC funds to fund coaches and mentors?

Note: IRC SDP Spaces - **256** Total Selected – **317** Number of Continuing Participants Who Have Obtained an FMS - **15** % of Continuing Participants With FMS - **6%**

4. *What is the top barrier that you believe could be overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June?*

Response from IRC P.M. :

Getting through the process and its many hurdles is the biggest barrier. The two biggest areas are consumers satisfying the *orientation requirement* and *budget certification*. The solution will be to improve the process of getting budgets certified and spending plans approved. To accomplish this IRC has added more weekly appointments and expanded review time to increase the number of budgets and plans reviewed. IRC will also be making available an SDP learning module on a virtual platform to satisfy the SDP orientation requirement for consumers and families.

Note: IRC SDP Spaces - **256** # of Participants Receiving Services Through SDP as of Dec 2020 – **15**
Total Withdrawals - **48** Continuing Participants - **269** Total Selected – **317**
of Participants with Orientation - **176** Percentage of Continuing Participants With Orientation - **65%**
of Participants With Certified Individual Budget - **17** Percentage of Participants With Certified Individual Budget - **6%**
of Continuing Participants With Spending Plan Completed - **14** % of Continuing Participants With Spending Plan Completed - **5%**
of Continuing Participants With FMS - **15** % of Continuing Participants With FMS - **6%**

Barriers causing delays based on public input during SDAC meetings –

- Lack of information and direction on SDP from IRC CSC
 - Limitations of existing archaic POS requirements
 - Requirements for assessments for new services
 - Requirements for assessments for services to fulfill unmet needs
 - Budget is certified by IRC committee which meets once a week
 - Lack of access to immediate meetings with IRC staff during COVID
 - Some requirements by FMS causing issues/delays in hiring/payment of staff
 - Vendor agencies creating issues (with FMS payment mode/requirements)
 - Shortage of Independent Facilitators in the area
 - Lack of readily available and easily accessible information on IRC's website
 - Lack of availability and sharing of printed / hardcopy materials on SDP by IRC staff
-

Regional Center Name: Kern Regional Center

1. Where is your regional center at in the program implementation process?

The December 2020 DDS RC Report Summary reveals that more than one-half of the continuing SDP participants have enrolled in the SDP. However, approximately 70% of those enrolled are SD Pilot participants who have transitioned into the SDP.

2. What is your RCs plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?

The primary focus is to identify those participants who are “stuck” at some point in the process and need assistance in moving forward to enrollment by facilitating relationships between participants and experienced facilitators in order to “fast-track” participants to enrollment. Secondary focus is to continue outreach to and education of vendors and outside organizations.

3. Do you or your committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment?

Recommend a collaborative SD enrollment approach by RC staff; one-on-one oversight by RC staff; cooperating with IFs to fast-track enrollment; require those selected to participate who have not decided whether to enroll to make a decision by March 1, and if they do not wish to proceed, select an alternative from waiting list and facilitate a fast-track enrollment by June 7.

4. What is the top barrier that you believe could be overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June?

Top barrier which can be overcome is inability to move those who are “stuck” in the process. There are a variety of reasons, excuses, including lack of information, lack of understanding, cultural and ethnic differences, language, lack of DDS directives, fear of the unknown. All of these can be overcome by prioritizing fast-track enrollment with assistance of experienced IFs.

Regional Center Name: Redwood Coast Regional Center

1. Where is your regional center at in the program implementation process?

As of 02/08/21, RCRC has 36 currently enrolled, 11 currently in process for enrollment (2 of which are considering withdrawal at this time), and 18 total withdrawals since the soft rollout.

2. What is your RCs plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?

RCRC SCs and IFs have been actively contacting all eligible clients regularly to support SDP enrollment for their desired start date.

3. Do you or your committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment?

The committee and RCRC staff is committed to marketing and outreach strategies for better education to the community about SDP and how it works via a variety of alternative means such as videos posted to YouTube using current RCRC clients active in SDP. We are also working on accessibility options to clients with restricted or no technological access.

4. What is the top barrier that you believe could be overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June?

Covid is considered the top barrier. Most clients are uncomfortable with moving forward during this time and want to just wait. Some is due to physical access, but also clients are feeling overwhelmed with everything else in their life and not wanting to make another change at this time. RCRC will continue to consistently reach out to clients to help them in their process on their own time line.

Input from SDLAC at RCEB on
Barriers Outlined by Statewide Advisory Committee Co-Chairperson's in 2020 Report
Submitted February 2021

Per a request from the Statewide Advisory Committee, our Local Advisory Committee discussed each of the four barriers. The following are notes and suggestions from our discussion, held at three different meetings.

Input on barrier #1, Delay in implementation of SDP:

- The timeline for the transition into the program is not clear for families.
- Monthly check-in with families would help to identify if they require additional support.
- Take into consideration that this program is new for RCEB and families. We are doing it for the first time.
- COVID-19 has impacted it, and some families have decided to postpone the process.
- Person-centered planning capacity and ability have slowed down the process; there aren't enough vendors that provide person-centered planning.
- SDP represents a significant shift in who takes the initiative on every step.
- Families are gradually taking over authority.

Input on barrier #2, Lack of guidance by the California Department of Developmental Services to regional centers and consumers, resulting in inconsistent implementation of the SDP across the regional center system:

- DDS guidance should be provided in plain language
- DDS guidance should be sent to SD participants directly at the same time it is sent to RC staff.
- Guidance should be mindful of timing/timelines. Sometimes, guidance is retroactive in effective date which makes following the guidance challenging.
- The need to pay in advance for person-centered planning services is an issue for those who are not using an existing vendor.

Input on barrier #3, Lack of Trainings for Regional Center staff, participants and families:

- More training needed for case managers and participants at the same time—It appears there's a lack of knowledge of SDP amongst some case managers. One member has heard that case managers have recommended not participating in SDP because it's too complicated.

- Inviting participants to attend the local advisory committee meetings . Needs availability of Spanish interpretation.
- Inviting case managers to trainings that are provided for participants—one guest indicated they provide ongoing training in San Andreas Regional Center’s area and service coordinators (case managers) are invited and do attend.
- More trainings for participants—some regional centers are providing trainings on various aspects of SDP
- There have been some fiscal problems with rolling out SDP which need to be addressed
- Language barriers—ensuring there’s translation in Spanish and other languages
- SDP as a more flexible system compared to the traditional model requires a shift in thinking.
- RCEB staff mentioned that while it is prudent to focus on trainings, the underlying reality of large caseloads cannot be ignored. SDP requires more time and involvement from case managers that has to be addressed in context of caseloads. Also need streamlined budget process.

Input on Barrier #4, Lack of Trainings for, and Development of Person-Centered Planners, Fiscal Management Services, Independent Facilitators and Service Providers:

- Need vendorization of more Fiscal Management Services and streamlining the process
- There is a stronger Independent Facilitator network statewide than when the report was written.

Regional Center Name: San Andreas Regional Center

1. Where is your regional center at in the program implementation process?

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Of those continuing in SDP... | 102 | |
| Orientation completed: | 91 | 89% |
| Separate person-centered plan completed: | 36 | 35% |
| Separate person-centered plan in progress: | 14 | 14% |
| Separate person-centered plan not applicable: | 1 | 1% |
| Individual budget certified: | 35 | 34% |
| Individual budget certification in progress: | 2 | 2% |
| Spending plan completed: | 27 | 26% |
| Spending plan in progress: | 5 | 5% |
| FMS obtained by participant: | 27 | 26% |
| FMS in progress (working to get established): | 5 | 5% |
| FMS in progress (not yet vendored): | 0 | 0% |
| IPP completed and signed: | 32 | 31% |
| IPP in progress: | 4 | 4% |
| Background checks completed: | 14 | 14% |
| Background checks in progress: | 6 | 6% |
| Background checks not applicable: | 0 | 0% |
| Reviewed for SDP Waiver eligibility: | 50 | 49% |

There are 6 individuals who stated they are still interested and the regional center will schedule orientations. The remaining 17 individuals have indicated that they still want to be on the list, but have put things on “hold” due to Covid issues taking priority at this time.

2. What is your RCs plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?

San Andreas will schedule zoom orientation meetings (both group and individually) for the remaining individuals wishing to participate in Self Determination. Each individual will receive another invitation to these orientations. These will be scheduled by the end of February.

3. Do you or your committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment?

This year, Covid has been a priority for many of the Self Determination participants, and some families have put the program “on hold” until the pandemic is more under control. We have groups that do “mixers” for potentially interested families to explain what Self Determination is about. There is currently low (virtual) attendance for the mixers, with maybe 2-3 people new to the program in attendance.

Many also continue to be confused about the budget process and how it is determined. Simplifying this to the simplest form will be helpful. Also, the many steps needed to enroll can be simplified.

4. What is the top barrier that you believe could be overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June?

The biggest barrier appears to be the lack of understanding of the budget process and creation. Simplifying this process and helping people understand can be helpful.

Also, another barrier is the role of the pandemic and the priority of safe services and obtaining a vaccine. This will potentially be overcome with time. Aside from the pandemic, the biggest barrier seems to be that participants new to self-determination find the program more complicated than they anticipated.

February 16, 2021 Local SDAC Report to the SSDAC

Regional Center Name: **Central Valley Regional Center**

Submitted by: **Michelle Smith**

Where is your regional center in the program implementation process?

CVRC has a team of three service coordinators who have been trained in the SDP and PCP. They have a smaller caseload and support the participants in the soft roll-out. They will be known as subject matter experts and be available for consultation to staff after the full implantation. They will have office hours and provide individual training. The program manager for SDP oversees the implementation process within the RC and in the community. They have been able to transition 39 participants into SDP with more on the way.

Provide PCP/ PCT for all new hires

They have trained all the program managers in December and November. The service coordinators will have (3) ninety-minute trainings with the team in two groups: early start to transition and the adult. They are planned for March and April. Participants will stay with their current service coordinators instead of having to move to the "team".

They will continue introductory meetings, orientation, and PCP training monthly.

SCDD is providing independent facilitator training quarterly increasing from 1 day to 2 days., as well as sponsoring a monthly IF brainstorming meeting.

What is your RCs plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?

They are trying to listen to self-advocates and families about where they are in the process and support and refer as needed, given the restrictions of COVID-19. When or if a person states a date for entry into SDP, the SC is working hard as well as the FMS, to complete the process by the stated date.

We continue to talk to families as they are known to the LAC to offer support in meeting the requirements and hearing the hopes and dreams for implementation.

Do you or committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment

1. Embed community IFs and their role in SDP for the RC trainings. "IFs are assets not a deterrent to your job."
2. Schedule weekly May/ June Q & A for RC staff
3. Build competency with Independent Facilitators in the catchment area. Include them with RC trainings.
4. Record trainings
5. Record mock budget processes
6. Record mock spending plan process
7. Complete one page profile brochure that will be provided yearly to people receiving RC services by SC.
8. Continue information meeting: meet and greet, skills lab (resource building), round table
9. Storytelling and problem-solving sessions: Legacy Project with Ronnie Allen
10. Develop resources utilizing self-advocates
11. Target specific populations in outlying areas.

What is the top barrier that you believe could overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June? *Answers received from committee participants*

1. Lack of parent commitment
2. From my personal experience as a parent, the Regional Center employees, themselves, are the biggest barrier. When I asked the service coordinator what their personal opinion was about Self-Determination their response was, "...oh that's not a program suitable for your child. It's for high functioning adults that want to work 5 days a week..."
3. Survey-monkey the CVRC service coordinators to gage what they know/understand. Not on questions like, "...do you like this program..." but ask questions to assess their knowledge of **how it helps**

them (and their clients), what their reservations are and where they think they could use additional understanding.... What if we could positively impact them from *the outside in*?

4. We need a very short, clear cut excellent video with subtitles in Spanish breaking down what is self-determination in laymen's terms. It needs to be no more than 7 minutes. Needs to say "We put more of the decisions, hiring, and crafting of the plan into your hands (individual served and parents) so you can design the life you dream of. Everyone can self-determine with their community around them. Parents know their kids, even when they are non-verbal and unable to communicate..."

Often, when I share this, parents self-select out thinking that their child is not high functioning enough for this. It's sad. They need to hear brief testimonies and video of what this looks like for different individuals

5. Budget and Spending Plan Confusion: Follow through from PCP to budget to spending plan. Parents need an (IF) advocate and a voice who thoroughly understands the process so we can move from "enrolled in the program" to actually having a plan and a spending plan that has been approved.
6. I would say one of the barriers for smoother roll-out is to stabilize the rates that reflect an equity for those transitioning into SD. To hear from DDS, what the rates are, and the meaning behind the differences in rates for the same service.
7. I would like to see some effort in building competencies for folks building a Person-centered Plan.

Regional Center Name: South Central Regional

- Where is your regional center at in the program implementation process?

We have eight individuals who are actively in the program, and approximately 30 who are currently in process (i.e. completing PCPs, budget certification, spending plans, etc.); we are aiming for a March 1st start date for at least four more. In general, we have seen an uptick in movement/engagement over the last few months. All individuals who are interested in moving forward are receiving the necessary assistance to do so; however, many families have chosen to hold off at this time due to various concerns, including but not limited to COVID, personal and professional pressures and losses, and a desire to see others move forward before they do so. In an effort to assuage any concerns, answer questions, and ensure that the community is ready for a June “full roll out,” we have also contacted every family via phone to discuss any barriers, held 1:1 meetings as necessary, reached out to individuals on the waiting list, held numerous training and information sessions on various topics, and continue to hold introductory informational sessions on a monthly basis to provide basic information about Self-Determination and add individuals to the waiting list in case DDS makes additional selections prior to June 7th, 2021. All information and invitations are forwarded to an email list with over 600 stakeholders on it and are held via Zoom with interpretation available as necessary (including some sessions held exclusively in Spanish in order to reach out to the Hispanic community), which also expands the reach, as it prevents individuals and families from having to travel to the Regional Center, etc. We have held training for all staff that work with individuals who are “Status 2” in an effort to ensure they are informing the individuals and families they support about the program, and we are holding intensive trainings with the staff assigned to Self-Determination cases in general. We are adding Self-Determination to the “New Parent Orientations” that we hold for individuals and families when they are accepted into Lanterman Services. We also are planning a mailing (hopefully in March 2021) to all “Status 2” individuals and families with upcoming informational sessions and information on the program to increase overall outreach as well.

- What is your RCs plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?

SCLARC will continue to provide any and all support to the committee and the community that is needed to assist individuals to transition to Self-Determination. This includes a partnership with Lanterman Regional Center to hold monthly trainings in Spanish, as well as monthly trainings in English. SCLARC is also transferring all Self-Determination Program cases to Self-Determination Service Coordinators with lower caseloads who will be able to provide more intensive, 1:1 support to individuals and families, more frequent check ins, etc. SCLARC is hoping to begin bi-monthly “office hours” in March, which will be “drop in” on Zoom to give individuals and families an opportunity to ask any questions they may have as well. All active Self-Determination cases are being transferred to Self-Determination Service Coordinators with lower caseloads in order to provide more intensive and frequent support and check-ins with individuals and families pending transfer to the program, and SCLARC is pending the finalization of a contract to provide Independent Facilitation training via allocation funds in order to ensure the provision and availability of high-quality Independent Facilitation, particularly to individuals who speak languages other than English primarily. The committee is also planning to hold “matchmaking” sessions to link interested individuals/families with necessary supports, i.e. Person-Centered Planners, Independent Facilitators, FMS companies, etc. However, SCLARC also feels strongly that it is necessary to be person-centered and not force anyone into the program before they are ready. Many of the individuals and families we support have suffered tremendous personal and professional losses, both related to and unrelated to COVID-19. Self-Determination is not their current priority due to health needs, financial stressors, etc. SCLARC is supporting these individuals and families in a person-centered manner, including by providing additional services in traditional services, referrals to generic resources for necessities such as food, and by not pressuring individuals about Self-Determination if they are not ready to move forward at this time.

- Do you or your committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment?

Additional resources for Regional Centers to provide the necessary supports to individuals and families in case management and fiscal due to the significant workload implications of not only the program itself, but also COVID-19. Funding to hire dedicated Service Coordinators, particularly to lower caseloads for Self-Determination Service Coordinators and assist with the workload implications and implementation, as well as funds to hire additional fiscal staff for budgeting assistance.

- What is the top barrier that you believe could be overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June?

3 Consistency of communication/action between DDS, Regional Center, and outside stakeholders/community based organizations to ensure that the same information is being provided throughout the state and to all participants, and that Regional Center directives are provided to Regional Centers in a way that can be operationalized in a timely manner and with sufficient notice to do so (i.e. the FMS directive was problematic because it was released in November 2020, effective October 2020, discussed with community organizations prior to Regional Centers, and DDS did not operationalize it until February 2021, delaying individuals and families from being able to access services they were entitled to and causing frustration at all levels (Regional Center, participant, etc.) In general, Regional Centers are implementing the program differently, which leads to complaints and overall confusion, and improved consistency and communication from DDS is critical.

Regional Center Name:

Tri-Counties Regional Center

1. Where is your regional center at in the program implementation process?

TCRC is developing a portal where our orientation which has been narrated will be posted on our website for our community to access. In addition, we will be creating training modules on the budget, IF, Spending Plan and FMS that can be accessed and reviewed on their time. We will begin virtual orientations in March for anyone in our community who are looking towards June will it will be available to anyone over age 3 served by the regional center.

2. *What is your RCs plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?*

TCRC has approximately 44 participants who due to COVID have stated and continue to state they do not want to move forward until COVID is under control. TCRC SC's continue to talk with them on a monthly basis to explore any barriers and brainstorm how to overcome these barriers to move forward. They are encouraged to begin the process however, honoring the person-centered process includes honoring the requests of those served to begin when they are ready.

Make a sequential list of steps and consider including the following: person centered plan, present services participant is receiving, are services adequate when reviewing a daily schedule of needed services met and unmet, consideration of hourly salary and benefits based on vendored payments to employees, experience, years of service by the employee to participant, development of costs to service needs with the continuation of vendored and non-vendored.

3. *Do you or your committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment?*

A sequential plan:

- Participant and possibly IPP team need to meet with case manager to develop Person Centered Plan and review the current budget and discuss possible unmet “needs” with identification of daily schedule and how needs are met
- Participant needs opportunity to understand the Self Determination Orientation and Workbook; particularly Module 5: Services and Spending Plan developed for TCRC.

4. *What is the top barrier that you believe could be overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June?*

Need preparation for TCRC case managers to understand and share with participants/families how to:

- Identify time to develop person centered plans self determination plans with their individual case load participants.
 - identify additional charges/changes not identified in original development of the participants person centered plan particularly in relationship to medical and daily schedule planning for needs not paid by insurance or Medi- Cal (ie. Gold Coast) such as RX, medical co-pays, vision and dental
 - identify FMS, costs, and comparable payments/benefits that are similar for Self-Determination “non-vendored worker” to payments /benefits received by worker at vendored service.
-

Regional Center Name:

Valley Mountain Regional Center (Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne)

1. Where is your regional center at in the program implementation process?

Total selected for the SD program= 112

Total completed the orientation= 73/ Total need to complete orientation= 21

Total not interested= 14/ Total left region/passed away= 4

Total PCD/IPP Meeting Completed=37/Total PCD/IPP Meeting Not Completed=16

Total IPP Signed=20

Total working on budget= 4/ Total working on Spending Plan=19

TOTAL completed all items and are in the Self Determination Program= 35

2. What is your RCs plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?

For those randomly selected for the soft roll-out we will continue to make contact and offer support to transition to the SD program. Monthly orientations have been scheduled for the remaining participants who need the orientation. Our VMRC SDAC is also working on opportunities for participants to meet via zoom to check in and see how things are going and to help move people forward to full implementation of the SD program.

3. Do you or your committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment?

- VMRC will send out a survey for those on the interest list/ provide SD orientation training for anyone interested in learning about SD/ offer PCP for those who have completed the SD orientation and want to be prepared come July 1st.
- RC working on bilingual training videos to post on-line/ SC's continue to provide information to families/ SD advisory committee coming up with a plan to use the funds for training/outreach
- RC need training regarding the HCBS "final rule" and it would be nice for DDS to provide an example of the survey that needs to be completed to determine if a program is compliant with the final rule.
 - COVID and the business that have closed - (business that we already had as part of plans for some consumers have closed)

Our Regional Center has been doing the following to inform the community about Self-Determination regularly (and or planning on doing)

- VMRC Health Advisory in English & Spanish – regular updates
- A Self Determination handout at each annual IPP
- Annual Transition Fairs in all 5 counties
- Regular updates to School Districts focused on Transition Age (quarterly SELIT meeting).
- Self-Advocacy Council 6 has had few sessions on Self Determination on Friday CHATS.
- The Coalition of Local Area Service (CLASP) regular updates and trainings
- Regular Update report at each VMRC board meeting, VMRC Consumer Services meeting and VMRC executive committee
- Special Events Committee: The committee is working on creating and supporting educational webinars on Self-Determination. One idea was to have a forum for current participants to discuss how things are going for them and the public can attend and ask questions.
- Self Determination monthly orientations open to everyone. This is promoted weekly on our website and Health Advisory.
- The SCDD Regional Offices are doing several trainings a month that our community can access as well
- Facebook page by SCDD is regularly promoted and the VMRC and SAC6 Facebook Pages and other social media promotion.
- Annual CHOICES Conference
- Self-Determination Advisory Committee to present to CLASP

4. What is the top barrier that you believe could be overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June?

Targeted OUTREACH- due to the pandemic- people are just doing what they can to get by right now and many are not thinking about self-determination as an option. Many in the Hispanic community have shared that they do not understand the principles to decide if this is right for them or their family member. (Example: their loved one has a VMRC small budget and they believe this will deter them from entering the program- so Person Centered Planning and IEP development are trainings to help answer these questions)

VMRC SD LAC Chair, Mariela Ramos

From what I've seen firsthand, VMRC Self Determination participants and or clients many times do not attend trainings. They do not understand how SDP really works. I see this especially with Hispanic community. Having an outside agency person(a none VMRC staff)/someone neutral, paid with SD funds that DDS designates to our VMRC would help in answering whatever questions SD participants and people who are interested in the program but are not yet in may have regarding SD. Then that designated neutral private agency could report back to our SD LAC. I think it would be very helpful; this idea was already shared with our working group and will be brought to our next SD LAC to be vote it on. The working group is a group that meets outside of our Self Determination Committee meetings with some committee members and none committee members as well.

Regional Center Name:

Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center

1. Where is your regional center at in the program implementation process?

As of January 2021, ELARC has 92 active participants in the Self-Determination Program. 36% has successfully transitioned. 30% completed the Person Centered Plan. FMS obtained by participants was 38%. IPP completed and signed 39%. Spending Plan completed 38%. Certification of the Individual budget 42% and SD participants that complete the orientation was up to 95%.

2. What is your RCs plan to complete enrollment of those selected by June 7th?

ELARC continues its plan to complete the enrollment by conducting the orientation on a higher rate despite the current crisis. ELARC staff is conducting the orientations remotely with the families. The individual consultations are on going on specific area for participants. We are doing the info sessions on a monthly basis in both English and Spanish with alternating months. ELARC has expanded the implementation theme to increase the efforts for a successful transition into the program

3. Do you or your committee members have recommendations that you feel would increase enrollment?

To reach out more to the community to get out the word about the Self-Determination specially to the underserved participants.

4. *What is the top barrier that you believe could be overcome during the remaining months before the roll out in June?*

The participants would be able to fully complete the orientations and informational sessions in this current health crisis. The families would be able to fully familiarize themselves with the use of technology to attend the virtual meetings. During our local advisory meeting some parents expressed that they choose not to move forward until there is more stabilization of the current pandemic.
