

# SCDD UPDATE TO SSDAC

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February 15, 2022



# Committee Background

In October of 2013, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed into law the Self-Determination Program, which provides consumers and their families with more freedom, control, and responsibility in choosing services and supports to help them meet objectives in their Individual Program Plan.

To ensure the effective implementation of the program and help the sharing of best practices and training materials, local and statewide advisory committees were established.

# Background Continued

Since the first statewide meeting in 2016, the Council has been seeking dollars to fund this important statutorily-created body. On multiple occasions, the Committee has acted and/or requested to meet more frequently than twice a year. The Council has done its best to accommodate this request with its limited resources and in June of 2020 asked the Chairs of the local advisory committees for \$3,000 each to fund more meetings. Several Regional Centers chose not to allocate this money. The Council's Executive Director (and later select committee members) reached out to DDS to request funding to carry out the statutorily required mandate of this Committee.

# DDS Commitment to Fund

- ▶ At the November 2021 SSDAC, the Executive Director announced that DDS had agreed to allocate funding to support SSDAC.

# Funding Update: Scope of Support

## Duties Include

- ▶ Track SSDAC membership, update distribution lists, create meeting summaries for the Council, synthesize notes from meeting participants, research and respond to member questions, complete workgroup tasks and assignments.
- ▶ Prepare up to three (3) reports or other written work products annually.
- ▶ Participate in quarterly meetings with DDS and the SSDAC Co-Chairs as requested.
- ▶ Participate in focus group meetings as requested by DDS to provide input about the program, train SSDAC and Local Volunteer Advisory Committee members about their roles and responsibilities, and leadership skills as requested.

# Scope of Support - Continued

## **Statewide Meeting Support**

- ▶ Organizing and conducting up to four (4) SSDAC meetings each year.
- ▶ In addition to logistic supports, other supports include building agendas with the Co-Chairs and Workgroup, researching and producing background materials for agenda items, producing and distributing meeting agendas and materials for committee members and the public pursuant to Bagley-Keene requirements and timelines, ensuring materials for meetings are in plain language and meet accessibility standards, securing presenters, taking meeting minutes, debriefing with the Co-Chairs, synthesizing notes and recommendations, and other tasks as assigned by the committee collectively.

## **Workgroup Meeting Support**

- ▶ Organizing & conducting up to 6 virtual workgroup meetings a year.
- ▶ Preparation includes coordinating member availability and meeting dates, scheduling meetings, providing a virtual platform for meetings, creating agendas, workplans and taking notes.

# Funding Update: Next Steps

1. Sign Contract
2. Post Job Announcement
3. Interview Candidates
4. Offer Position
5. Start Training
6. Estimated to be completed by end of May

# DDS SDP Spending Priorities

Beginning in July 2021, SDP is available to all consumers. To support the expansion of SDP, the estimate includes funding for:

- ▶ Enhanced transition support services for individuals and their families to assist with the transition into the SDP.
- ▶ Implementation of statewide orientation and training materials.
- ▶ Participant choice specialists at regional centers to support individuals with timely transition to SDP participation as well as support other regional center staff.



# 2021 Trailer Bill Language

DDS to address:

- ▶ Choice of independent facilitators
- ▶ Choice of financial management service
- ▶ Long-term sustainability of the SDP
  - IPP team's responsibility during the individual budget development
  - Review of individual budgets that are at or above a spending threshold

# 2021 Trailer Bill Language

- ▶ Definition of a “spending plan” added
- ▶ Requirements for use of the additional federal participation funds from SDP
- ▶ Medi-Cal eligible participant’s obligation
- ▶ IPP team must document the specific reason for the individual budget adjustment in the IPP
- ▶ The spending plan and not the individual budget shall be assigned to uniform budget categories

# 2021 Trailer Bill Language

Regional centers to:

- ▶ Meet the Self-Determination targets and benchmarks in areas:
  - Timely enrollment
  - Diversity of consumers served
  - Reduction of disparities in the individual budget of participants from racial and ethnic communities
- ▶ Be eligible for incentives for exceeding these targets and benchmarks
- ▶ Develop and implement an outreach and training plan about the SDP for the diverse communities
- ▶ Annually report the enrollment, individual budget data, and purchase of service expenditure data for the SDP
- ▶ Assist eligible participants and their families in applying for Medi-Cal



# 2021 Trailer Bill Language

Regional centers to:

- ▶ Review of individual budgets that are at or above a spending threshold
- ▶ Review the spending plan to verify that goods and services are eligible for federal financial participation and are not used to fund goods or services available through generic agencies
- ▶ Train all service coordinators and fair hearing specialists in the principles of self-determination, the mechanics of the SDP, and the rights of consumers and families.

# 2021 Trailer Bill Language

Regional centers to:

- ▶ Provide payment to the FMS provider for spending plan expenses through a not less than semi-monthly pay schedule
- ▶ To identify a regional center liaison to the LVAC
- ▶ Include a representative from a Family Resource Center on LVAC
- ▶ Provide DDS the name of the staff liaison and the names of the committee members, the positions they fill on the committee, and which entity appointed them to the committee

# 2021 Trailer Bill Language

## Office of Ombudsperson

- ▶ Providing information and assisting regional center consumers and their families in understanding their rights under the SDP
- ▶ Deciding whether to investigate complaints regarding the implementation of the SDP
- ▶ Recommending to the Department strategies for change and improvement of the SDP
- ▶ Annually compiling and reporting to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature including:
  - Number of contacts to the Office
  - Number of complaints made, including the type of those complaints
  - Number of investigations
  - Trends and issues that arose
  - Number of referrals made
  - Number of pending complaints

# 2021 Trailer Bill Language

## Office of Ombudsperson

- ▶ Recommending to the Department and the Legislature changes to:
  - Relevant laws
  - Regulations, policies
  - Actions that it determines to be appropriate
  - Provide and facilitate public comment on:
    - Relevant laws, regulations, policies, and actions.
- ▶ Establishing a dedicated telephone number at which regional center consumers and other stakeholders may contact the Office.

# Funding Update

**Questions?**

