



**SCDD San Diego Imperial Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)
DRAFT Minutes for Meeting Held:
January 13, 2022
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Through Zoom**

Call to Order

Marta Leyva, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present

Nicole Brobeck (SA), Melissa Cenizo (FA), Helen Crenshaw (FA), Leticia Galvan (FA), Harvey Goldman (FA), Dayon Higgins (FA), David Jespersen (FA), Susan Madison (SA), Jackie Riddell (FA), Julie St. Pierre (FA), James Walker (SA), Nancy Vogel (FA),

Staff Present

Mary Ellen Stives, Debbie Marshall, and Suza Szewiola of SCDD San Diego Imperial Office.

Guests

John Filley, outgoing Employment Services Coordinator for the San Diego Regional Center; Paul Quinones, incoming Employment Services Coordinator for SDRC; Viri Salgado (SCDD San Diego Imperial Intern), Peter Salgado (SA), Justin Hamilton Hole (SA), Ethel (Career Path Navigator, PRIDE Industries), Sebastian Ladron de Guevara (SA), Zach Hill (SA), Lucille Lynch, Patricia Herrera, Tyler Hershey.

Welcome and Introductions

Members and staff introduced themselves.

Establish Quorum

A quorum was established.

Approval of Agenda

Helen Crenshaw moved to approve the agenda. Julie St. Pierre seconded it. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Harvey Goldman moved to approve the November 18, 2021 minutes. Susan Madison seconded it. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Public Comment

Justin Hamilton Hole (SA) commented that SCDD and People First are doing a lot of good things on Zoom.

Presentation

John Filley, Employment Services Coordinator for the San Diego Regional Center, updated the RAC on the Paid Internship Program (PIP).

PIP is a legislative incentive that prepares clients for employment in an integrated setting where they are earning a competitive wage. Any active Regional Center client who 18 years or older is eligible for PIP.

Paid internships are a maximum to 1,040 hours per calendar year with sample schedule being 20 hours per week for 52 weeks. With each new calendar year, the candidates are eligible to have a new internship or continue their internship in the same setting.

Internships are a good way to evaluate and demonstrate a person's capabilities, support needs and/or accommodations which can help in furthering the employee's development.

The goal of the internship is to lead to employment in the community in an integrated setting with a competitive wage and to help move people out of poverty. It is not long-term subsidized employment.

The Regional Center has received 10 million dollars in State funding for PIP, much of which remains in reserve. The funding cover wages, and related payroll costs. SDRRC uses a Financial Management Service (FMS) to be the employee of record and handle the internship funding, payroll costs, worker's compensation, wages, and W-2s.

Prior to COVID there were 150 interns, currently 50-60 active interns. PIP was hit hard due to employers not being available or interns choosing not to work anymore. All regional centers had a significant reduction in those employed through PIP.

Mary Ellen introduced Viri Salgado, Information and Outreach Intern at SCDD's San Diego Imperial Office, who gave a PowerPoint presentation of her internship. Viri described how she obtained the internship, her duties, and how the internship has contributed positively to her future employability by giving her a range of experiences and knowledge as well as the opportunity to expand her possible employment connections.

SCDD Legislative Committee Update

Julie Austin was absent so could not present an update.

Self-Advocacy Report

Debbie Marshall said the San Diego People First Conference is planned for May and will be a virtual event held on Zoom. Imperial Valley self-advocates and agencies will meet on Zoom in February to discuss ways of overcoming the internet access barrier so they can hold an inclusive virtual conference for Imperial Valley People First.

The Health and Wellness group has started a new series of conversations on aging which will include 3 weeks of workshops with the Alzheimer's Association. The I SPEAK Winter 2021 Newsletter will be released soon. Additional disaster preparedness workshops with the American Red Cross are being planned, with the hope to start again in February.

Project S.A.F.E.E. (Self-Advocates for Emergency Education) is developing statewide virtual trainings in partnership with the San Diego Chapter American Red Cross.

The Leadership Group is preparing trainings on the topics of cyber-bullying and a code of ethics and behavior for meetings.

Manager Report

Mary Ellen mentioned that the *There Should Be a Law Contest* that guest speaker Bridget Kolakosky, SCDD's Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs, spoke about at the last RAC meeting, garnered 33 pages of submissions.

She quickly reviewed information provided in the report, highlighting that one of the local Fiscal Management Services that provided services for Self-Determination is going to discontinue service which leaves around 65 clients without immediate backup.

SCDD has hired a Self-Determination Manager who will coordinate trainings and work with DDS on related issues.

Leading the Charge received positive feedback.

In the budget, a substantial amount of money is being put towards family supports such as the community navigator program. Additional spending will go towards having a designated emergency preparedness coordinator at every regional center, hiring more service coordinators to reduce client to service coordinator ratio, and raising rates to ensure vendors can recruit and retain quality staff. Social recreation and camp services have been put back in the budget.

IEP Day is still scheduled for an in person event at the Town and Country Hotel on April 30th.

Roundtable

Helen Crenshaw mentioned that a significant number of people are waiting to commit to Self-Determination due to uncertainties brought on by COVID. These include not knowing what services are available and should be provided.

Mary Ellen mentioned Los Angeles-based *Disability Voices United* as a resource. They have regular informative meetings, many of which have been recorded and are available for viewing online.

Leticia said she and her son, Sebastian, are extremely pleased with Self-Determination. She said Sebastian has become more independent. The person they hired is not just showing him how to do things, but encouraging him to think and work it out for himself.

Susan continues to be an advocate for her 11-year-old grandson who is transitioning to middle school. She spoke about the importance of giving young people choices and the understanding of what is available to them regarding continuing their education and going into the world of work.

Marta mentioned how motivated a transition teacher at her school was after attending *Leading the Charge*. As a result, his students have become really motivated to explore colleges and careers.

Nicole has been working “non-stop” on Jackie Riddell’s website. And will start back volunteering at the library soon.

James has been working with DOR to obtain a State internship and is on a wait list for job development. He continues working at Marshall's—but only 4 hours a week.

Julie relayed a story of how the being a client of SDRC helped her family get tested for COVID in a timely manner.

David will be meeting with an associate pastor of the Lutheran Church to discuss the idea of connecting people to jobs and employees through their faith community.

Dayon mentioned the COVID-related regression and anxiety many of the clients are experiencing and the challenge it is to get them proper help.

Jackie mentioned that free COVID PCR testing is available in Imperial Valley for SDRC clients. However, most people want the rapid tests.

Mary Ellen gave information to the RAC about how clients of SDRC can obtain rapid test kits through the State.

Harvey continues to be concerned about day programs which are still having a lot of trouble hiring enough staff for their clients.

Helen voiced her frustration with lack of staffing. They are still waiting to restart PIP. However, she grateful to those who have remained.

Nancy shared that her son has been at home keeping himself busy by creating a menu and meals for the family.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regional Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2022 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.