

# Agenda Item 9

SSDAC Townhall Report

Presented by Rick Wood & Nestor Nieves

# What did we learn?

## Freedom - What barriers prevent participants from making choices freely?

- Restrictions on payment/reimbursement options
- Lengthy processing times for spending plan changes & payment delays

## Support - What supports do people need to exercise self-determination?

- Standardized information about pros/cons of SDP
- Greater linguistic supports (e.g., translated materials, bi-lingual SCs, etc.) and cultural awareness
- Access to well-trained, knowledgeable Independent Facilitators

# What did we learn? (Continued)

## **Responsibility** - What helps people meet the responsibilities of the SDP?

- Additional (Plain Language) training regarding the participant's role & responsibilities as an employer

## **Authority** - Where do participants face limits to exercising authority?

- Budget & spending plan
- Lack of clarity and enforcement of DDS directives

## **Confirmation** - How can we ensure participants feel acknowledged in their self-determination?

- Participants experience confirmation when support staff validate their goals and encourage their success in the SDP

# Recommendations for DDS (highlights)

- Provide clarity on what reimbursements are allowable and ensure that they are processed timely
- Require that FMS providers allow access to pre-paid debit cards for approved purchases
- Develop & implement a timeline for processing spending plan changes
- Make SDP information & the formal acknowledgement that this information was received uniform between RCs
- Ensure that Independent Facilitators are provided with robust training and fair wages
- Provide comprehensive budget and spending plan training for RC staff
- Standardize a spending plan template
- Provide direct oversight/monitoring of the implementation of directives

# Actionable Recommendations for the SSDAC to Consider

- Create/promote resources to help SDP participants locate quality support services.
- Increase access to Plain Language resources/materials regarding the consumer's responsibilities as employers.
- Provide additional training opportunities for consumers/families pertaining to their responsibilities as employers, regional center policies/processes, and how the SDP works.

# Other Public Recommendations Received

- Collaboration with community-based organizations to support families and self-advocates on a cultural level.

# Next Steps



Translate to Spanish and submit to DDS



Members – review the full report & think about how these findings and recommendations can inform the SSDAC's goals and priorities going forward