

Self Determination Program Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2023

Introductions:

- Carla Lehmann- Committee Chair
- Committee Members
- **Regional Center**
 - Cesar Garcia, Client Services Director
 - Alex Marquez, Participant Choice Specialist
 - Sanaz Nasiri, Participant Choice Specialist
 - Randall Smith, Participant Choice Specialist

Quorum Established:

1. Felicia Ford
2. Joseph Juarez
3. Nathalie Lichtenthaeler
4. Nilo Choudry
5. Harvey Lapin
6. David Wyles
7. Elizabeth Gomez
8. Madeline Schneider
9. Ereida Galda
10. Fran Goldfarb
11. Matt Alivio

Public Comment:

V.G: Thanked everyone for the Self Determination resource fair. Her Son was present at the resource fair and introduced his micro-enterprise. Her son felt very proud, and it meant a lot to him to be at this resource fair. SDP has made a big difference in his life. V.G. wishes for there to be more resource fairs/events where individuals can introduce their micro-enterprises.

WRC updates:

- For the month of June, WRC has Transitioned 14 new individuals.
- WRC currently has 228 participants in the Self Determination Program

- WRC continues to work with the FMS agencies to get FMS rates updated. FMS agencies will provide a list with the new rates for each participant.
- Some FMS agencies are increasing employer burden rates. This increase has to do with state/federal wage increases and FMS has to be compliant with labor laws.
- WRC is in the process of hiring a SDP program manager and SDP SC's to create an SDP unit. –
- Families will be getting a new SDP service coordinator once the unit starts.
- WRC has one 099 vendor, Aveanna.
- There is one Independent Facilitator who is in the process of becoming an 099 vendor.
- 024 service code will remain for completing Person Centered Plans.
- SDP resource fair was successful and a great event to meet families, vendors, and micro-enterprises.

Comments:

Harvey Lapin: He does not see the justification for the rate increases. It should be the same percentage of increase across the board but each FMS agencies is charging a different rate.

Cesar Garcia: WRC will continue to discuss this matter with FMS agencies.

Carla Lehmann: If there are no independent facilitators who are registered for 099, how will families access IF services?

Cesar Garcia: Service coordinators have to step up and assist the families through the SDP process and WRC can also look into assigning RFP money to an agency who will assist families.

Elizabeth Gomez: What if families don't want to work with Independent Facilitators who are WRC vendors. Families may feel that independent Facilitators can't advocate for families if they are vendors.

Cesar Garcia: Independent Facilitators can continue to do their job and advocate for families. WRC will not interfere with that. It is good to have oversight for new Independent Facilitators by providing coaching and guidance. Also 099 vendorizations allows regional centers to receive federal reimbursements.

Carla Lehmann: There's going to be disparity because There are families who will be able to afford to pay for an Independent Facilitators but there are families who can't afford do that.

RFP- Disabilities Voices United:

- DVU provided 4 webinars. Three webinars were in English with Spanish translation and one webinar in Spanish with English translation.
- DVU organized and put together SDP resource fair

Kelly Kulzer- Reyes from Disabilities Voices United (DVU) on SDP resource fair:

- There was good vendor and family turnout with a couple of micro-enterprises. There were 60-65 attendees. Vendors were very generous with raffle prizes they brought for the fair.
- DVU was not able to get access to a bigger room, the auditorium was not available.
- Parking was also difficult to find.

Kelly Kulzer- Reyes from DVU presented community center plan.

- Goals, actions steps, and timelines for the committee was presented. The committee can now adopt this plan and add or make changes moving forward.

Updates from Claudia Cares:

- Claudia Cares is no longer doing office hours due to lack of participation from families.
- Claudia Cares was able to assist 18 families. Getting referrals from service coordinators and Claudia Cares presenting/introducing their services at WRC's SDP part 2 orientations was most helpful. RFP contract for Claudia Cares will end 6/30/23. Claudia Wegner expressed that they had a short time frame to reach out and assist families. If they had a longer time frame, they would have been able reach more individuals/families.

Comments:

Carla Lehmann: Suggested doing a workgroup to discuss simplifying spending plans. Feels that families have to make lots of revisions.

Cesar Garcia: The committee is a state group and workgroups are public meetings. Also, any discussions about making changes to spending plans must be discussed with FMS agencies. WRC can't make decision about changing spending plans.

Carla Lehmann: Asked for WRC to clarify timelines for getting back spending plan revisions.

Cesar Garcia: Timeline for getting back revised spending plans is 5 working days.

Elizabeth Gomez: requested to have more discussions about the requirements for Clinical Services. Clinical services will be added to next month's agenda to discuss.

Felica Ford: Asked if the Committee can skip July and August's SDP Local Advisory Committee meeting so everyone can have a summer break and the committee can meet as needed.

Committee's vote on canceling committee meetings for July and August:

- committee voted on canceling July and August committee meeting. Motion did not pass. Next Local Advisory committee meeting has been scheduled for July 18, 2023.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm. Total Time, 2 Hours and 40 minutes.