

Self Determination Advisory Committee
Friday, August 21, 2015
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Recorder: Donna Landry-Rehling
Timekeeper: Lynne Page

AT&T and Video Connection

Present: Cindy Lemas, Kara Ponton, Robert Miland Taylor, Lynne Page, Victoria Mayes-Webb,
Mary Block, Dawn Morley

Guest: Sheila Keys

Absent: Pam Jensen, David Folkenberg

1. Welcome - Mary welcomed the group and those present introduced themselves. Lynne agreed to be the timekeeper.
2. Binder Review - Mary reviewed the contents of the binder documents and explained the travel voucher reimbursement process. Some of the documents in the binder are also on the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Disability Rights California (DRC), and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) websites. The group was encouraged to periodically check the websites for updates. **ACTION: Sheila will give Kara and Robert a hard copy of the August DDS update and the SCDD document titled "A New Option – Self Determination"**. Dawn noted that the SCDD document is also available on their website.
3. Brief History of RCRC's pilot and status of success – Sheila explained how the initial pilot program was implemented. RCRC initially had 30 clients in the program. Participants in the pilot and their teams were creative and resourceful. Many people stayed with at least one of the vendored service providers, especially if that provider had been doing a good job for them. Most developed new ways to meet their support needs as well. Ongoing support with implementation and monitoring of their plans/budgets was provided to all participants. Sheila considered the initial participants to be "pioneers" and was impressed with how responsible the participants were with their budgets. When the system experienced increased budgetary constraints, participants took pride in finding ways to cut back where ever they could. With the independent broker model, the role of the service coordinators shifted to that of an expert, sharing their knowledge of the person, of resources, both generic and vendored, when asked. Independent brokers bring a fresh perspective which can be key to successful planning with people.

The pilot project participants and their teams took ownership of their plans and budgets. One indicator of this was that clients kept the binder with their plan, budget and monthly statements close at hand and actively used these documents throughout the year. For the most part, people in the project appreciated having the freedom, authority, support, responsibility, and confirmation offered via the Self-Determination pilot project. Mary noted that RCRC has the fortunate perspective that only four other regional centers have due to having participated in the pilot project.

4. Self-Determination Program power point presentation – Hard copies of Mary's presentation were handed out to the committee. Mary went through the document and explained the role of the committee, its composition, and processes. This advisory committee is to provide oversight of the development and roll out of the Self-Determination Program. Each of the expectations were reviewed and discussed. This advisory committee must have a

chairperson. The chairperson will also serve on the statewide State Council on Developmental Disabilities' committee. Those meetings are quarterly and some are conducted via teleconference and are likely to begin in early 2016. A co-chair is recommended in order to provide coverage in the event the chair is not available to attend a meeting. Self-Determination Program meetings are public. RCRC will post the meeting dates and minutes on its website. **ACTION: Dawn will provide a user friendly copy of the Bagley-Keene Act for discussion at the next meeting.** Self-Determination will be a new way for clients to manage their lives. The five principles of the Self-Determination Program are freedom, authority, support, responsibility, and confirmation (the critical role of families in making decisions in one's own life). The program is completely voluntary and clients can return to the "traditional service model" whenever they wish. The differences between the traditional service model and the Self-Determination Program model were discussed. In the eligibility criteria and selection process, the diversity of each particular geographic area must be reflected. The RCRC project will include approximately 55 participants total. The current pilot project already has 27 participants so, over the next three years RCRC can increase by about 28 clients. Any potential participants must attend an informational meeting. The meetings will likely be held in each county and on the Mendocino coast, as well as other outlying areas. Following the informational meetings, RCRC would submit a list of potential participants to DDS. Enrollment in the program is determined by DDS after review of the balance of representation of diversity (ethnicity, age, gender, type of disability, and the geographic areas served by RCRC.). DDS-selected clients will then attend a detailed orientation. The role of the Fiscal Management Service person and their tasks were discussed. Cost of the Fiscal Management Service comes from the individuals' budget. The budget is based on the cost of services used in the previous 12 months. If the participant is new to the system, the planning team will determine needed services and supports and the budget would be determined based on the cost of those services. Currently, the Self-Determination Program's state wide implementation plan is in the public process. Once the Waiver is accepted by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Waiver must be then be approved within 90 days. The Self-Determination Program state wide will move forward once this approval is concluded.

There was discussion about how facilitators might be recruited and vendored for each county. Sheila Keys will be an excellent resource for this process since she has provided the training during the pilot project phase.

5. Select Chair and Co-chair – The chair and co-chair will assist in the development of the Self-Determination Program Advisory Committee agendas and then conduct the meetings. On the state level, the chair/co-chair would represent RCRC at the statewide SCDD Self-Determination Program meetings. **ACTION: Sheila offered to provide supports to the person attending those meetings.**

ACTION: Cindy L., Robert, Kara and Victoria each expressed interest in serving as Chair or Co-chair of the Advisory Committee. Donna will contact David and Pam about whether they are also interested in serving in that capacity. If the Bagley-Keene- rules allow, a ballot would be developed and the committee would vote for Chair and Co-chair. Dawn will check the Bagley-Keene rules for guidance and provide Donna with the outcome before implementing a voting process.

6. Public Input – None
7. Next steps – **ACTION: The next meeting is set for Wednesday, December 2, 2015, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon via video conference and AT&T dial-in call between the Ukiah and Eureka large conference rooms. At that meeting a proposal of other additional meeting dates (3 months apart for the next year) will be determined.** It was noted that Fridays are preferred, with Wednesdays being the second preference. Meetings will be scheduled on a quarterly basis. **Once determined, all meetings will be posted to the RCRC website.**

Following review of the action items, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Donna Landry-Rehling
Redwood Coast Regional Center

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