



Self-Determination SG/PRC Local Volunteer Advisory Committee

Members Present:

Ameen Ali (SCDD appointed)
Cory J. Carmichael (SGPRC appointed)
Molly Chen (SGPRC appointed)
Bertha Monterrey (SGPRC appointed)
Aimee Delgado (OCRA)

Absent:

Anthony Rodriguez (SCDD appointed)
Mercedes Ospina-Manotas (SCDD appointed)
Mary Valencia (SCDD appointed)
Vacant (SGPRC appointed)

SGPRC Staff Present:

Anthony Hill
Daniela Santana
Lucina Galarza
Edith Aburto
Yaned Busch
Johnny Pang
Willanette Steward/Satchell
Beth Johnson

SCDD Staff Present:

Sofia Cervantes

DDS Staff Present:

Jacqueline Gaytan

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Bertha Monterrey, at 6:05 pm with approximately 34 attendees.

1) Establish Quorum

Quorum was established after the fifth member joined the meeting.

It was noted that Mercedes Ospina-Manotas and Mary Valencia have missed several meetings. They are State Council appointed members. Mrs. Ospina-Manotas had indicated to both Mrs. Monterrey and Ms. Cervantes that she would need to withdraw from the Committee. Ms. Cervantes is waiting to receive her formal termination before making the announcement and officially recruiting. Ms. Cervantes will follow up with Ms. Valencia

to make sure what her commitment might be and then move forward as needed.

So there are potentially two vacancies for SCDD appointed seats and one vacancy for an SGPRC appointed seat.

2) **Introductions**

Introductions were made by Committee members and by key staff from the Regional Center.

3) **Public Comment Period (2 minutes max per person)**

Tamra Pauly reminded the group about the All In For Self-Determination! Virtual Conference to be held April 16-18. It's sponsored by Disability Voices United:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eho655dha775c09b&llr=9jtsrt9ab>

Mark Altieri of Public Partnerships FMS thanked Ms. Monterrey and Tamra Pauly for organizing a meeting that morning with a small group of parents. The meeting provided feedback from a parent's standpoint about their expectations of FMS. Mr. Altieri said this type of feedback and partnership makes self determination run well.

Edith Aburto, manager of Family Services, was available to provide simultaneous translation from English to Spanish during the meeting.

Parent Lila Cheung asked how to join the Self Determination Program. Ms. Monterrey suggested she speak with Daniela Santana, Director of Client Services or Lucina Galarza, Director of Community Services for guidance.

4) **Review and Approve of 12/8/2020 and 2/9/2021 Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Minutes for 12/8/2020 approved. (See voting grid, 4a.)

Meeting Minutes for 2/9/2021 approved with correction. (See voting grid, 4b.)

5) **RC Updates/Reports**

Mrs. Santana provided an update, including the following:

- As of this month, another family has transitioned over, for a total of 18 families.
- Four to five families will be transitioning over by April.
- Unfortunately, one family has dropped out due to personal issues, but the door remains open should they wish to return and continue with the process.
- Forty-seven families left from DDS selected pilot program were referred to Education Spectrum for their coaching program.
- We are reaching out to parent support groups. A presentation and overview of SDP was recently given to a group of fifteen people in the Vietnamese support group.

6) **Sonni Charness – Guidelight Group Update**

Sonni Charness provided an update on her project:

- The project consists of a series of training videos which will live on-line and be available publicly to help people who are going through the program. The project will also serve as a refresher of some of the key information from the orientation training.
- There are four videos: Navigating the self determination program, the person centered planning, the budget, and spending plan.
- Approval was given at the last meeting for the content of videos #1 and #2 which are now being recorded.
- Review of content for video #3 was scheduled for this meeting, but due to the complexity of the subject matter on the budget (in particular the budget tool), this deadline was not met. The idea with these videos is to be short and entertaining, to use plain language, to be easy to understand, but also detailed and thorough.

- It was an ambitious timeline due to Mrs. Charness's upcoming maternity leave in two to three weeks. At this point, she's shared a finished draft of video #3 with the team internally at the Regional Center, and will work with them on refining it. Mrs. Charness said her deadline would be to submit the module 10 days prior to the next meeting so the Committee would have time to review it.
- Updates will be provided next month on the status of the recordings for videos #1 and #2.
- Mrs. Charness is working with her company team to keep the momentum going. She will keep the lines of communication open and will push forward with the project.
- Mrs. Santana said regional center staff were providing feedback on the videos which have excellent content, and staff excited to receive the product.

7) Vote to Approve Content of Guidelight Group's Video and Handout

Tabled until next meeting

8) Elena Sanchez – Parents' Place FRC Update

Mrs. Sanchez shared items accomplished during the past month:

- During the Spanish speaking support group, several families were interested in learning about Self Determination. With the help of Education Spectrum and Elizabeth Cuevas, Parent's Place has been able to hold a second monthly virtual meeting on Self Determination topics (on the 4th Wednesday). These meetings will continue until June. Two meetings have already been held. Mrs. Cuevas presented an overview of Self Determination attended by 18 to 20 parents. The role of the facilitator was discussed at a second meeting and attended by 18 parents. The third meeting will be on the role of the coach, followed by the FMS, and whatever else the parents want to learn about.

- A Self Determination page has been added to the Parent's Place website which includes links to the SGPRC, DDS, and Education Spectrum websites. Videos from Education Spectrum are also available on the page.
- A binder containing presentations and information has been assembled for families attending the Spanish-speaking classes. Many families have a good grasp of technology, but there are families who would benefit from having a binder of information. Three families have already stopped by to pick one up. Parent's Place will continue to add material to these binders and will forward to families who've already received a binder.
- Mrs. Sanchez has spoken with Mrs. Santana about having classes in English as well for those wishing to learn more about the program.

9. Cathy Gott – Education Spectrum Update

Cathy Gott provided her project update:

- Progress report on participants as of March 1:
 - Thirty families enrolled by end of May
 - Eight families in SDP on 8/1/2020
 - As of March 1, fifteen families in SDP. (As of March 9, three additional families have transitioned.)
 - One on target to transition in March/April
 - Six on target to transition in April/May
- Seven families being coached by Education Spectrum who were not part of rollout and want to transition in June 2021. It has been reported that hundreds are on the waiting list.
- New independent facilitators Felicia Ford and Julie LaRose were introduced.
- Collaboration between Independent Facilitators and Service Coordinators
 - Attachment A – not yet addressed

- Independent Facilitator Network has grown to 148 members
- Platform Beta Testing for SGPRC – on schedule for April 1
- Independent Facilitator Network is enthusiastic and will partner with SCDD on platform
- Orientation and Trainings
 - See Attachment B (see proposal)
 - Recommend collaborative with other RCs in LA County
- Community Outreach
 - Meeting with Parenting Black Children leadership to develop program (Felicia Ford)
 - Parents Place – Elizabeth Cuevas leading parent trainings in English and Spanish
 - Meeting with Connie Sun and Connie Kwok working on outreach to Asian communities
 - DVU Conference April 2021
- Financial Report
- Reviewed proposal for expanding coaching and trainings (Please refer to draft of Proposal on Google Docs drive.)
- Mrs. Gott shared about a recent meeting she'd had with Aimee Delgado, Client Rights Advocate, and other advocates in the community.
- Mrs. Monterrey commended the Regional Center and its partners for their collaborative work and in focusing on outreach.
- Parenting Black Children previously had a disparity grant and may have applied for a continuation grant. Mr. Hill will report back to the Committee on whether they're still approved. It would be a good thing if they are, as the connection is already established and they can continue their good work.
- Three families representative of the SGPRC catchment area have been interviewed for an inspirational video in which they share their individual stories. Mrs. Gott will forward the video to the

Committee members and Regional Center staff to view before the next meeting.

- Mrs. Monterrey asked if Education Spectrum has also been sent any referrals for consumers themselves, not just for families. She mentioned the independent consumer who had attended last month's Meet & Greet meeting and feels this group is underrepresented. Mrs. Pauly responded they have one self advocate in the program, but would be happy if more were to join the program as there are people on staff who would be able to assist them.
- Service coordinators are communicating about the program with individuals served. Mrs. Santana is working with the Webmaster at the Regional Center to roll out the LMS modules which will be available through the website. They would also like to make them available through the Parent's Place website. The Regional Center has also reached out to Mrs. Bartlett regarding trainings.
- Monies must be encumbered by June 30, 2021 and spent by March 2023 according to Mrs. Galarza. It is a joint decision between the Regional Center and the Committee how the monies will be allotted. A contract with the providers who receive the monies must also be completed before June 30, 2021.

10) Discuss the monies that have to be allocated to help support the Self Determination Program

If you take a look at the meeting materials that were provided there are some considerations on how the monies might be allocated. Education Spectrum made some suggestions of where the money could be allotted. Mrs. Monterrey opened discussion to the Committee members.

- Mr. Ali suggested continuing funding to Education Spectrum, Guidelight Group, and Parent's Place and to allocate monies by using percentages as they had done originally and to not require proposals.
- Mrs. Galarza reminded the group that the remaining \$37,520 funds must be encumbered by June 30th and there needs to be a contract in

place. \$40,000 was already awarded: \$20,000 for coaching and \$20,000 for the platform. If the remaining \$37,520 was set aside for coaching for those who are coming into the program in June, the money may not be enough to last for all the people involved, but it would provide the opportunity to give some really good coaching to the people participating in the beginning phase of the SDP.

- Mrs. Monterrey shared that we not only need to support the families that are coming into self determination but also those already in the program. She suggested money could be allotted for a project that would assist these families. This could include:
 - Providing a support group
 - Coaching to help families through hurdles they may encounter
 - Managing their FMS, independent facilitator or employee
 - Acquiring skills on hiring, firing, filing new hire paperwork, background checks, payroll, and adjusting the level of support dependent upon the needs
- With several hundred people on the SDP interested party list, are we prepared to support the presentations by staff and is the staff fully trained. There will be many coaching requests and families looking for independent facilitators, most of whom will already be booked
- The money allotted may not be able to help everyone, but it could be used to build supports
- Videos are one way to support all participants
- When individuals are coached, their knowledge can then be shared with others through support groups
- Additional funding to support these needs may be available next year
- We need to continue the momentum that has been created, to continue to engage the parent support groups as they support one another along with the assistance of the Regional Center

- Meet & Greet meetings could be used for extra coaching, e.g., existing providers could provide small, targeted FMS training sessions, or share on other coaching topics
- At a recent meeting with FMS providers, an invitation was extended to them to participate in trainings and possibly a virtual fair
- Education Spectrum has already proposed various trainings including online ArcLearn
- Guidelight Group's modules provide an opportunity for online training
- The expertise and knowledge of Regional Center staff can be tapped for video and zoom trainings
- Committee members are on the same page and want to continue to build on the supports that are in place and to continue the momentum we have by expanding on the needs.
- For the annuals, it's taking about two months to go through re-doing the person-centered plan, submitting it, and then getting the budget if there any revisions to the budget. And then you have to make sure that the POS is in place before your current POS expires. You need to look at the spending plan at six months and make sure that it's being spent well and you're getting good reports from your FMS. You need to make sure that all POS documents are in in place before the current ones expire so your people can be paid seamlessly.
- People should lobby hard to keep the \$2,500 in place for families to pay someone to prepare their person-centered plan. Some families may not be able to afford this out of their budget.
- Mrs. Gott shared that there's a budget item in Education Spectrum's proposal for a parent support group.
- Mr. Ali said Mrs. Gott had presented her case. He asked Mrs. Charness and Mrs. Sanchez to share what they would need.
- Mrs. Charness commented at this point she has no needs but will have an update on spending for her project at the next meeting. She did

share that not many people have transitioned into year two of SDP. She feels the regional center needs to outline the process of steps which the family and the independent facilitators need to understand. When people get to the end of the year, they may have money left over and want to purchase different things. They need to keep revising their spending plan. Some kind of process needs to be established and then families need to be coached on it, have some kind of training or have some kind of document to which they can refer.

- Mrs. Monterrey asked if Mrs. Charness has a collaborator to hand the work off to in order to meet the deadlines. Mrs. Charness said she would consider this and respond at the next meeting.
- Mrs. Sanchez said she doesn't have anything to say right now but that they do have needs, but it involves a bigger conversation with the people who are involved and she must speak with them first. She will get back to the Committee next month. However, her current commitment is only to provide childcare when there are face to face meetings which there haven't been due to COVID. In terms of addressing needs, she will speak with Cathy Gott, Elizabeth Cuevas, and Connie Sun and then report back to the Committee at the next meeting.
- Ms. Delgado recommended waiting until the April meeting to vote on the allocation of monies so that the Committee has time to review Education Spectrum's report which they'd just received.
- Mr. Carmichael suggested the Committee may need to consult with someone as to the most efficient way for monies to be allocated before the deadline date.
- Mrs. Galarza suggested asking people to have their proposal ready to present at the April meeting if they have an additional service or project. There is \$37,520 available to spend. The Committee and the Regional Center will then decide on how the money will be allocated.

If, for example, there are three proposals, it may be divided among them in some way or it could all be awarded to one group if that's where the need exists.

- Mr. Hill agreed that Mrs. Galarza will need time to get the contract put together before the June 30th deadline. And since there seems to be a need for further discovery as Ms. Delgado said regarding the Education Spectrum proposal, then if there are other proposals that would be the time to do it. An allocation vote would then follow and would be a joint agreement between the Regional Center and the Committee members. Mrs. Galarza could then prepare the contract.
- Mrs. Monterrey thanked Mrs. Galarza for her answer and asked that any proposals be sent to the Regional Center and that providers be prepared to present them at the April meeting.

11) Discuss allocation of monies for assistance to participants both coming into the program as well as those already in Self Determination

See Item 10.

12) Discuss the cost for Parent's Place using their large number of members to offer them training to become available staff to families already in SDP

Tabled

13) Discuss removal of Second Public Comment Period from the agenda

The agenda typically runs long. Mrs. Monterrey asked if the Committee wants to keep the second public comment period on the agenda.

Following discussion, there was consensus among members to remove it.

14) Public Comment Period (2 min max per speaker)

Damaris Ruiz, field service representative at GT Independence, introduced herself to the group. She offered to help answer any questions regarding

FMS services and she provided her contact information: Damaris Ruiz, Druiz@gtindependence.com 818-224-0456

Mr. Ali asked if any members had participated on the recent State Senate hearing call where the Self Determination Program had been discussed. He had only heard the last part of the hearing. Discussion followed about the call and that additional information about the hearing and comments made by State Senators could be found on the Disability Voices United website.

There was discussion as to why families may or may not enroll in the program and how participation varies depending upon each family and their particular situation.

Ms. Cervantes shared again that there are State Council appointed seats available on the Committee. She shared her contact information: Sofia.Cervantes@scdd.ca.gov or 818-543-4636. She will send interested people the link for an application and will be happy to answer any questions.

In response to a parent's Chat question about whether the regional center had a time limit to authorize a spending plan after it's submitted, Mrs. Santana responded that the Regional Center staff do their best to expedite the process. It could possibly take two weeks as it's dependent on factors such how many meetings are needed, or whether an assessment is needed, but the Regional Center staff will do their best to expedite spending plans.

Mrs. Monterrey said parents in the program are struggling to access services and have a concern about losing the monies in their budget if it is not spent within the first 12 months. Mr. Hill said he will bring up the issue with the Executive Directors' Group. He asked Mrs. Santana and Mrs. Galarza to also discuss this with their counterparts at the other regional centers. There may need to be some type of directive or policy from DDS to address this issue arising from a disruption of services due to COVID. Mrs. Santana said she will also reach out to the SDP group from

DDS for clarification and feedback. The Regional Center will report back to the Committee.

Mrs. Sanchez asked what entitles one to become a Committee member and if a Spanish speaker can participate. Ms. Cervantes said there are not necessarily any requirements, but statute does require that the Committee be representative of the regional center's catchment area. It must also be composed of self advocates, family members, and others in the community, with the majority being self advocates and family members. During the application process they look at the current composition of the Committee, and if they have a lot of family members, and a self advocate, then it might be okay for a person who is a provider or someone else in the community to participate. You just need to be passionate about self determination and want to be involved in these conversations. As far as Spanish speakers, they are encouraged to apply. Of course, translation and other things would also need to be arranged, but absolutely they may apply.

15) Future Agenda Items

Standing items: Review and vote to approve March meeting minutes; Regional Center update/report; and updates by awardees who need to share current progress on their projects. Other items include: Vote to approve content of Guidelight Group's video #3 and handout; presentation of proposals and vote on allocation of remaining monies for the Self Determination Program.

16) Next Meeting

Committee members were in consensus to hold the next Zoom meeting on April 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Mrs. Monterrey said she'd like to see more families in attendance at Advisory Committee meetings. Families would be able to use the public comment period to express concerns and ask questions. She asked for outreach to families to invite them to the meetings.

17) **Dismissal**

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Motion – Members Voting Grid

Item 4a - Vote to Approve 12/8/2020 Meeting Minutes			
M/S/C – Mr. Ali/Mr. Carmichael. Motion carried.			
<i>Voting members present</i>	Yes	No	Abstained
Ameen Ali	√		
Cory Carmichael	√		
Molly Chen	√		
Bertha Monterrey	√		
Aimee Delgado (OCRA)	√		

Motion – Members Voting Grid

Item 4b - Vote to Approve 2/9/2021 Meeting Minutes			
M/S/C – Mr. Ali/ Mr. Carmichael. Motion carried with correction to word in Item 3.			
<i>Voting members present</i>	Yes	No	Abstained
Ameen Ali	√		
Cory Carmichael	√		
Molly Chen			
Bertha Monterrey	√		
Aimee Delgado (OCRA)	√		