

Department of Developmental Services
Self-Determination Program Workgroup Meeting

December 6, 2017
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

Welcome

Jim Knight, Assistant Deputy Director at the Department of Developmental Services (Department), welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Knight reviewed discussion points from the last Self-Determination Workgroup conference call held on October 30, 2017. Mr. Knight also discussed distribution, by regional center, of the breakdown of the initial 2,500 Self-Determination Program (SDP) participants per selection criteria.

Waiver Application Status

Mr. Knight reviewed the status of the SDP Waiver. There are remaining questions that need to be addressed with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) before we can resubmit the SDP Waiver for approval. The Department has been in continuous communication with CMS. CMS has been submitting questions on a flow basis to the Department. Mr. Knight reported that a call is getting scheduled with CMS, the Department, and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to clarify remaining questions.

Items recently discussed with CMS include:

- CMS responded to the Department's inquiry regarding whether a settings assessment must be done for supported employment services in integrated settings. While CMS previously stated assessments should be done in all settings, the Department proposed that assessments would be done only in settings where consumers are grouped together for the purpose of receiving services or supports (example: group supported employment, etc.).
 - The workgroup expressed concerns that the assessments could be a barrier to employment and limit employment options.
 - There was further discussion about how to assess disability specific groups.
 - The Department will convene a subgroup to address issues regarding setting assessments.
- CMS inquired about the individual training and conferences category of services. Specifically, in addition to the conference fee, what would be included in the cost of conference materials and transportation to conferences.
- CMS inquired about consumers who may need more support than their previous year's budget would allow.
- CMS asked if providers will be paid minimum wage.

Items still to discuss with CMS include:

- The short-term crisis timeline, and whether 180 days is acceptable while remaining in the SDP.
- Clarifying the special incident reporting process for non-vendored providers.

The workgroup requested the waiver application be submitted by December 31, 2017. Mr. Knight committed to a call on December 13, 2017, to discuss further.

Financial Management Services (FMS)

The workgroup discussed maximum rates for the FMS providers. Specifically, whether there is a need for exceptions to the maximum rate. There was additional discussion regarding the following:

- The Department may take a look at what pilot participants are spending annually for FMS services.
- The Department and ARCA are working out details on how the regional center could advance funds to the FMS without affecting the cash-flow of the traditional system.
- Suggestions were made to change the names of the FMS descriptions to something that is more easily understood.
- It was also suggested that charts/graphs be created to make it easier to understand the FMS material.
- The Department will draft guidance on the requirements for FMS and share with the workgroup.

Independent Facilitator Update

Mr. Knight introduced Jennifer Parsons, who reviewed the discussion points from the Independent Facilitator (IF) subgroup call held on November 29, 2017.

- The workgroup reviewed forms used in one of the pilot programs to interview a potential IF.
 - It was suggested that this template be used for all providers, not just IFs. The Department will modify the form to be inclusive of all potential providers.
 - The workgroup gave feedback to amend the interview template to include questions that will help the participant and FMS verify an IF's qualifications and training.
- The Department will draft guidance on the requirements for IF's and share with the workgroup.
- The workgroup posed the question of whether a family member could be paid to be the IF or not.

Training Subgroup and Consumer Orientation Materials

Ms. Parsons reviewed the discussion points from when the Department met with the Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) on November 15, 2017, in order to get feedback on the SDP Orientation modules. Ms. Parsons reported that members of the CAC gathered in groups and reviewed two modules per group, and completed an

accompanying worksheet that prompted feedback on the language used and topic covered.

- Suggestions were made to add modules on the following topics: budget development, settings assessments, self-advocacy, and a worksheet to guide participants in deciding services they need.
- The next version of the SDP Orientation modules will be viewed and discussed in early February.

Website Updates

Mr. Knight reviewed new features and changes to the SDP page of the Department's website. Mr. Knight also reviewed a breakdown by regional center of individuals currently on the list from which the Department will select the initial 2,500 participants.

Next Meeting

The workgroup will have a conference call on December 13, 2017, to discuss a waiver submission date. The next face-to-face meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2017, to discuss person-centered planning.