SUPPORTED LIFE
36th Annual Conference

October 13, 2022
People with intellectual and developmental disabilities experience respect for their culture and language preferences, their choices, beliefs, values, needs, and goals, from a person-centered service system made up of a network of community agencies that provide high quality, outcome-based and equitable services.
Enable community inclusion across the service delivery system

Beginning at early age, individuals have a right to participate fully in their communities and in decision-making regarding their life and services they need; All parts of the service delivery system should support individuals in accessing the services they need and meaningfully participating in the community
Camping, Social Recreation and Other Services

- Camp services and associated travel expenses
- Social recreation activities
- Educational services for children ages 3 through 17
- Nonmedical therapies including, but not limited to specialized recreation, art, dance, and music

Suspended July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2021

Restored July 1, 2021

Regional Centers developed outreach plans to inform communities and revised POS policies
Camping, Social Recreation and Other Services (continued)

• Themes among Regional Center outreach plans:
  o Staff training about updated policies regarding restored services
  o Resources on websites listing socialization, leisure and recreational programs
  o Information translated into multiple languages
  o Stakeholder meetings
  o Surveys to the community to identify local interests and needs
  o Staff to provide inclusion training to community programs

• DDS providing technical support to Regional Centers, as needed

• DDS refining data collection to improve analysis of service utilization
Examples of Regional Center information-sharing on their websites

- Central Valley Regional Center (cvrc.org)
- Inland Regional Center (inlandrc.org)
- Harbor Regional Center (harborrc.org)
Grants for Enhanced Community Inclusion

• $12.5 million in one-time funding will be awarded

• Priorities identified through engagement with families, self-advocates, regional centers, community-based organizations, local park and recreation entities

• Guidelines to be posted this Fall, anticipating awards in Winter 2023

• Projects to begin in Spring for approximately 12 months
  o Projects will complement outreach plans and updated policies for restored Camp, Social Recreation and Other Services

For children and adolescents with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to develop friendships from opportunities provided by integrated and inclusive social and recreational programs in local communities
Employment

- Paid Internship Program (PIP)
  - Established in 2016
  - Expanded in 2021, established incentive payments

- Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Incentive Payments
  - Established in 2016
  - Expanded in 2021, increased incentive payments

- Quality Incentive Program – Employment Measures
  - Establishes additional incentive payments for CIE
  - Establishes incentive payments for employee certification as specialists

- Regional Center Performance Measures – Employment Measures
Employment (continued)

**Employment Grants**

- Employment Workgroup
- $10M to increase pathways to employment
- Guidelines released June 2022, anticipate awarded projects to begin December 2022

**Regional Center Employment Specialists**

- Focus on competitive integrated employment, postsecondary education, and career readiness for individuals with developmental disabilities exiting work activity programs or secondary education
- Will be developed in consultation with stakeholders

**New Service Model – 3 year pilot**
Participant-Directed Services are available to individuals who live in their home, their family’s home, and some community living arrangements

- Offers flexibility to support consumers and their families
- More control over how and by whom some Individual Program Plan (IPP) services are provided
- Option to minimize risk to COVID-19

Consumer or family choose who to hire, schedule when the person works, and supervise their work
Participant-Directed Services (continued)

Ongoing Participant-Directed Services

- Respite
- Day Care
- Non-Medical Transportation
- Nursing
- Community-Based Training Services

Expanded during COVID-19 in March 2020

Regulations amended to permanently include as of September 2022

- Personal Assistance
- Independent Living Skills
- Supported Employment
OUTREACH

- Virtual informational sessions in English and Spanish (November 2020)
- Materials and a recording available on the DDS website
- Another webinar to come to reference permanent expansion of service types

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on DDS website
- Informational materials are being updated, expected by February 2023 in multiple languages

PARTICIPANT CHOICE SPECIALISTS

- Regional Centers hiring Participant Choice Specialists (November 2021 directive)
- Fully dedicated to supporting service coordinators, consumers and families with participant-directed services and the Self-Determination Program (SDP)
- Building RC institutional knowledge
Statewide SDP Enrollment
August 2022
SDP Participants by Ethnicity

SDP Participants Compared to All Regional Center Consumers
July 2022

- **SDP Participants July 2022**
  - Asian: 13%
  - Black/African American: 6%
  - Hispanic: 25%
  - White: 44%
  - Other: 12%

- **Total RC Population July 2022**
  - Asian: 9%
  - Black/African American: 8%
  - Hispanic: 41%
  - White: 28%
  - Other: 14%
SDP Participants by Language

SDP Participants Compared to All Regional Center Consumers
July 2022

- Chinese: SDP Participants - 2%, Total RC Population - 1%
- English: SDP Participants - 86%, Total RC Population - 77%
- Korean: SDP Participants - 1%, Total RC Population - 0%
- Spanish: SDP Participants - 10%, Total RC Population - 0%
- Tagalog: SDP Participants - 0%, Total RC Population - 0%
- Vietnamese: SDP Participants - 0%, Total RC Population - 1%
- Other: SDP Participants - 1%, Total RC Population - 2%
SDP Participants by Type of Disability

SDP Participants Compared to All Regional Center Consumers
July 2022

- Intellectural Disability: 28% (SDP) vs 32% (Total RC)
- Autism: 45% (SDP) vs 33% (Total RC)
- Cerebral Palsy: 10% (SDP) vs 8% (Total RC)
- Epilepsy: 8% (SDP) vs 9% (Total RC)
- Other: 8% (SDP) vs 19% (Total RC)
SDP Participants by Age

SDP Participants Compared to All Regional Center Consumers
July 2022

Ages 3-17
- SDP Participants: 39%
- Total RC Population: 45%

Ages 18-64
- SDP Participants: 60%
- Total RC Population: 47%

Ages 65 and over
- SDP Participants: 1%
- Total RC Population: 3%
Office of the SDP Ombudsperson – Established October 2021

Suzy Requarth
SDP OMBUDSPERSON

Cynthia Salomon-Ponce
MANAGER

Office of the Self-Determination Program Ombudsperson
SDP.Ombudsperson@dds.ca.gov
(877) 658-9731

The Ombudsperson assists regional center consumers and Self-Determination participants and their families to participate in the program.
Self-Determination Program Activities since July 2021

- **Statewide Rollout**: July 2021
- **Established Office of the SDP Ombudsperson**: October 2021
- **Established Regional Center Participant Choice Specialists**: November 2021
- **Established SDP Advisory Group**: June 2022
- **Established Statewide Orientation**: July 2022
- **Updated FAQs**:
  - Spending Plan
  - Natural Supports
  - Conservators of Adults and Durable Power of Attorney
  - RC review of SDP spending plans
  - Independent Facilitators
- **Issued Guidance**:
  - Supports for SDP transition
  - Goods and Services
  - Updated Individual Budget and Certification
  - Funding to support Fiscal Year 2021/22 SDP Implementation
  - Home and Community-Based Setting Assessments
  - Meetings of Local Advisory Committee
  - Regional Center Payment of Financial Management Services (FMS) for SDP Participant
  - SDP: Initial Person-Centered Plan and Pre-Enrollment Transition Supports
  - Adjustments to Individual Budget
  - Funding to Support FY 2022/23 SDP
Community Engagement

Developmental Services Task Force
- Community Resources Workgroup
- Oversight, Accountability & Transparency Workgroup
- Safety Net Workgroup
- Service Access & Equity Workgroup
- System & Fiscal Reform Workgroup

Workgroups
- Employment
- Quality Incentive Program
- RC Performance Measures
- Direct Service Workforce

Additional Engagement
- Tribal Leaders
- Advocacy
- Provider Associations
- Public Meetings
- Expert Panel – Conservatorships

Focus Groups
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- African American Focus Group
- Abuse Awareness & Prevention Focus Group
- Self-Determination Program Advisory Group
- Small Focus Groups to inform new initiatives – such as, Coordinated Family Supports, SDP FMS providers, etc.

Upcoming Focus Groups
- Latinx
  Contact autism@dds.ca.gov
  Online nomination form
- Down Syndrome & Dementia
  Contact info@dds.ca.gov
- Asian Pacific Islander
  Contact Linda.Gutierrez@dds.ca.gov
Thank you!

www.dds.ca.gov
info@dds.ca.gov
Self Determination Program Links

**July - Dec 2021**
- Statewide Rollout of SDP
- Consumer Supports for Transitioning into the Program
- Participant Choice Specialists
- Office of the SDP Ombudsperson

**Jan - June 2022**
- Goods and Services
- Individual Budget Development and Certification Tool
- FAQs on Spending Plan
- Funding to Support the SDP implementation for Fiscal Year 21/22
- FAQ Update on Natural Supports
- FAQ Update on Conservators of Adults and Durable Power of Attorneys
- FAQ Update on Regional Center review of SDP spending plans
- Guidance on Home and Community-Based Setting Assessment

**July – Sept 2022**
- Meetings of the Local Volunteer Advisory Committee for the Self-Determination Program
- Regional Center Payment of Financial Management Services for SDP Participants
- Initial Person-Centered Plan and Pre-Enrollment Transition Supports Guidance
- FAQs on Independent Facilitators
- Funding to Support the SDP Implementation for Fiscal Year 22/23
- Adjustments to Individual Budget
- Financial Management Services Payments and Notifications
- Participant Choice Specialists
- Office of the SDP Ombudsperson