

Participant Choice Specialists Panel

SDP Connect
Disability Voices United
February 16, 2022



New Positions



- DDS is funding three Participant Choice Specialists for each regional center
- They are intended to be subject matter experts in regional center service options that increase consumer choice and control in participant-directed services and the Self-Determination Program (SDP)
- They are not service coordinators and do not have individual cases
- They can also work in the accounting department

The Role of the PCS



- Making accurate information available to regional center staff, consumers and families
- Informing them about state and federal regulations that determine allowable and non-allowable use of SDP funds

The Role of the PCS



- Providing training to service coordinators and regional center staff involved in the fair hearing process and other regional center staff about:
 - the principles of self-determination
 - how services are obtained through SDP
 - the rights of SDP participants.

Training may be provided in conjunction with the local volunteer advisory committee.

The Role of the PCS



- Meeting SDP enrollment targets and benchmarks
- Identifying concerns and barriers to enrollment
- Reducing identified barriers
- Providing information and training to consumers, families and providers about the SDP

The Role of the PCS



- Developing and implementing an outreach and training plan for diverse communities
- Obtaining input from stakeholders about the effectiveness of the outreach and training and other strategies

The Role of the PCS



- Completing additional review of participant budgets, which exceed a specified threshold
- Using the information in aggregate to identify additional training, program guidance, and verification of compliance with state and federal requirements
- Working with eligible consumers and their families to apply for Medi-Cal

Participant Choice Specialists Panelists

- Elizabeth Diaz, Valley Mountain Regional Center
- Silvia Haro, North Los Angeles Regional Center
- Sheila Keys, Redwood Coast Regional Center
- Brendali Maldonado, Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
- Michele Poaster, Valley Mountain Regional Center
- Angie Shear, Valley Mountain Regional Center
- Randall Smith, Westside Regional Center
- David Webb-Rex, San Diego Regional Center