

Direct Support Professional Training (DSPT)  
Regional Advisory Meeting  
Regional Center of the East Bay  
February 17, 22 10AM-12PM

## **Minutes**

### **Welcome, Introductions**

- Service Hub Representatives-Janet Sloan, Margo Perkins, Renae Dominici, Dr. Cindy Christovale, Ellen Faryna, Abraham Hill, and Craig Lang Director for Eden Area ROP
- Regional Center Representatives-Michael Minton, Brooke Guerrero, Marisol Ferrer, Derrick Levingston, Nicole Hill-Nawy, and Synthia Hakola
- Regional Center Vendor Community Care Facility Provider Representatives-Patricia Harris,
- SBCSS/CDE/DDS Representatives-Tina Silva SBCSS, Cindy Prentice SBCSS, Tara Neilson, and Raymond Usac DDS

### **Purpose of DSPT Advisory Committee Meeting-**

- To ensure that the Challenge Testing and Training are sufficiently scheduled to meet the needs of eligible DSPs within the Service Hub's regional center catchment area
- Provide updates from DDS and CDE on DSPT program issues
- Address and resolve issues related to the DSPT program within the local regional center catchment area
- Provide Training and Testing aggregate results

### **San Bernardino County Office of Education Report**

- The Helpdesk is available from 9 AM to 4 PM Monday-Friday. Advise staff and administrators to not create account for their DSPs. Please have DSPs call the helpdesk to get assistance to register at 1-800-910-4604.
- Registration fills so quickly now that the platform is online. Helpdesk advises to have DSP call prior to registration opening to assist in getting registered.
- In-Person and Virtual Trainings are now both being offered. DSPs need to pay attention to which platform they are registering for.
- Attendance should be able to be viewed up to 10 business days after the training ends. The administrator and DSPs can view their attendance up until those 10 days.
- Tina Silva presented a PowerPoint. Displayed the DSPT homepage and how administrators can navigate their DSP's training and certificate information.
- FERPA Privacy Laws prevent the helpdesk in speaking with anyone other than the DSP. If the DSP needs assistance with translating, they may have a family member or their administrator assist them during a call to the helpdesk, but not a co-worker.

## **California Department of Education Report**

- Materials and supply issues:
  1. Student Resource Guides were updated October of 2021. Can be downloaded.
- Local coverage (issues, development of formal agreements, etc.):
  1. 2022 recertification will be in August virtually. This will include med skills, behavioral issues, and discussions regarding instruction online and In-Person.
  2. Trainings must be in system 35 days prior to class starting.

## **California Department of Developmental Services Report-**

- Program updates:
  1. Videos for trainings are being updating this year by DDS.
  2. Challenge Test to take place in June 2022 In-Person at Eden Area ROP
  3. Raymond displayed PowerPoint with data for January 2022. Enrollment numbers are 1,222 with 544 who tested and 514 that passed. The pass rate is 96%. The retention rate is around 50% due to DSPs dropping the class or not showing. This may be due to January 2022 having a surge with the Omicron virus. Feedback is that there are many staffing issues due to COVID in the beginning of this year.
  4. ASL interpreter restrictions. DSPs must attend if ASL services have been requested. A second request for the same DSP will not be permitted if an absent occurs due to the scheduling and financial resources required to obtain services.
- Legislation:
  1. No updates currently.
- Program quality management system:
  1. Classroom observations are taking place by DDS and by the Hubs.
  2. Raymond will be working with CDE and the Hubs on handling behavior issues that are inappropriate during class. Instructors filing an incident report and notifying their Hub. A report will go to DDS, CDE, and SBCSS. The Hubs will be informed once those protocols are set in place.

## **Service Hub Report**

- Dr. Cindy will be doing an In-Person Challenge Test in June 2022. Dr. Cindy will be planning to teach 1 to 2 In-Person trainings in the Fall of 2022. Abraham Hill will be able to teach 1 or 2 In-Person trainings once his training site opens back up. Ellen Faryna is also wanting to teach In-Person but is waiting for the training site to re-open in San Rafael. All our DSP Instructors will remain to instruct virtually while implementing a few In-Person trainings.
- Janet Sloan would like to keep an eye on the retention rate the next few months.
- Craig Lang with Eden Area ROP would like to reinvoke the Hub to use a facility in Turlock for the Modesto trainings. This would fall under the SJCOE catchment area.

## **Regional Center Report**

- Derrick Livingston Quality Specialist with RCEB asked the question, how many attempts does a DSP have for the Year 1/Year 2 trainings and Challenge Test? Renae Dominici with the Fresno Hub responded to the question. A DSP only gets one attempt to take a Challenge Test. The Year 1/Year 2 trainings can be taken as many times as needed to pass.

## **Provider Representative(s) Input –**

- Patricia Harris Administrator Manager with Step Closer Day Program and SLS Program in Oakland stated her appreciation to everyone for the support and assistance.

## **DSP Trainer Input-**

- Abraham Hill would like to ensure that the Contra Costa area will be served. Prior to the pandemic, the Fresno Hub and Abraham were searching for a training site. Michael Minton and the Hub will work together with Abraham to find a site in the surrounding area in Contra Costa County.
- Dr. Cindy Christovale thanked everyone for the supportive collective effort in the betterment of the program. She especially thanked Tina for all her time in assisting the DSPs with accessing their personal accounts to test in virtual trainings.

## **Next Meeting – Virtual Platform**

**Recap and Closure-** Input from vendors/administrators are always appreciated in helping improve the DSP program. Working with a virtual platform is something that will continue along with getting back to offering some in-person trainings.