

Direct Support Professional Training (DSPT)
Regional Advisory Meeting
Tri-Counties Regional Center
covering Ventura, Santa Barbara, and SLO counties
& San Andreas Regional Center covering San Jose area
April 02, 2024

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions

- Service Hub Representatives-Janet Sloan, Margo Perkins, Renae Dominici, Terri Nelson, and Jamie Rivera-Vallestero
- Regional Center Representatives- Tri-Counties RC: Jeff Edler, Liz Aced-Arnett, Tracy Jackson, and San Andreas RC: Molly Sullivan, Gabriela Alvarez, Savanna Hartman, Hazel Jordan, Ruby Nunez, Ann Sieber and Michelle Livoni
- Regional Center Vendor Community Care Facility Provider Representatives- Veronica Arenas Soto, Jolly Padayao, and Ebony Brown
- CDE/SBCSS/DDS – Tina Silva SBCSS, Raymond Usac DDS, Stephanie McNay DDS, and Tara Neilson CDE

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.

California Department of Developmental Services Report

- Program updates:
 1. DSPs may **not** miss more than **3 hours** of classroom instruction.
 2. 7 Rights Video has been updated, available on YouTube and Vimeo. Links below.
 3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9t-Hy69ZEY>
 4. The Stipend Program is offering \$1,250 for watching 2 training videos.
 5. Time sensitive, ends June 30, 2024 for stipend training program.
 6. Enrollment numbers as of January 2024- Enrolled total is 2,668, Tested 1,665, Passed 1,581. Retention Rate 60.19% Year 1, 66.36% Year 2
 7. Authorization Letter, please email dspt.helpdesk@sbcss.net for verification.
 8. Raymond showed PowerPoint. Went over expectations during trainings.

- Legislation:
No updates currently
- Program quality management system:

Observations are done yearly from DDS, CDE, and administrator Hub.

California Department of Education Report

- Materials and supply issues:
 1. Student Guides can be downloaded for virtual training.
- Local coverage (issues, development of formal agreements, etc.):
 1. Curriculum contract is still in process. Updates will include Person Centered material and all the legislation updates.
 2. DSP August Recertification Conference will be held August 6th & 7th, 2024

San Bernardino County Office of Education Report

- The Helpdesk is available from 8:30 AM to 3:30 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.
- DSPs need to have access to their accounts. Must read the welcome email prior to class.
- In-Person and Virtual Trainings are now both being offered. DSPs need to pay attention to which platform they are registering for.
- Testing results are available immediately for virtual trainings as soon as testing is submitted.
- Vendors have access to view testing results. Must have correct information to view records.
- Duplicate accounts have been a challenge for the helpdesk to correct. Please advise the DSPs not to create any other accounts. This causes delays and issues for the DSP to get registered.

Service Hub Report

- Jamie Rivera-Vallestero will be teaching In-Person training Year 1 June 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25, 2024 from 2 PM to 9:30 PM at site located in San Jose. Terri Nelson will do a Challenge Test this spring in Tri-Counties RC. Both instructors offer virtual classes as well.

Regional Center Report

- Ann Sieber stated that DDS is imposing sanctions and will be cutting funding on December 31st of 2024. The challenges are providers need their staff to have more knowledge and training regarding HCBS and person center training. What does it look like to be Person Centered and what is the HCBS rule? Tara agrees that this is a group effort from facilities, trainings, and updating the curriculum. Ann said the RC is offering a stipend of \$200 to administrators to attend training regarding this important information. Raymond also added that the HCBS material is included in the workforce Stipend program when the DSPs and administrators take part in the training videos.
- Liz with Tri-Counties also agrees that HCBS is vital to have the proper training implemented.
- DSP Instructor Jamie Rivera-Vallestero implements both person-centered and HCBS in all her classes. Jamie also takes person centered training yearly to stay up to date and has completed her mentorship. DSP Instructor Terri Nelson teaches Code of Ethics, Informed Decision Making, and Person-Centered Support that includes HCBS. When going over this information, Terri has observed that she has had to reteach the correct information than what the DSPs' have been taught. Terri asked if the administrators who have taken the DSP training classes so long ago can take the training again to have all the updated information?
- Michelle Livoni asked if Jamie would be interested in doing some role playing as a DSP at the next training course that SARC offers. Jamie agreed. This will help in teaching Person Centered Skills and HCBS.
- Ann Sieber asked Raymond what representative would contact the regional center if there were any incident with behavior issues regarding a DSP. Tara responded that it would be the Hub rep who would contact the regional center if necessary.
- Veronica Arenas-Soto requested if there are the enrollment numbers for each full year and not just quarterly. Raymond responded that those numbers can be pulled by DDS. Stephanie McNay DDS emailed those numbers to Veronica right after the meeting. Data reflecting the yearly numbers will be included when emailing the minutes.
- Veronica asked Raymond to elaborate on the authorization letter for DSPs. Raymond responded that every DSP must be employed to register for the DSP training. In a situation where a DSP or administrator is in transition and would like to take the training, an authorization letter would be required and emailed to Tina Silva DSPT helpdesk at Tina.Silva@sbcss.net from the regional centers or DDS.
- Hazel asked how the RCs know if a DSP doesn't pass the training? Tina said the RCs can create an administrator account to look up each DSPs record. Ann will assist Hazel.
- Ann also mentioned that SARC are reaching out for employment opportunities to try to gain more interest for more DSP positions. There's not enough staff and consistent employment with DSPs. Janet suggested reaching out to the local ROP programs for interest.
- Tracy with Tri-Counties recently learned why DSPs get locked out or deactivated accounts. What to do when that happens and to contact Tina Silva at the helpdesk right away.
- **Provider Representative(s) Input** – Veronica, vendor said DSPs struggle hearing back from the helpdesk. Tina said they have a call list but, unfortunately, the DSP may not see that they did receive a returned call. Please reach out to Tina if that situation takes place again at 1-800-910-4604 or email at Tina.Silva@sbcss.net

DSP Trainer Input – Terri and Jamie discussed person-centered training and HCBS with the RC's.

Next Meeting – Virtual Platform

Recap and Closure- Input from vendors/administrators are always appreciated in helping improve the DSP program.