

Self Determination Program: Initial Person-Centered Planning Services

What should the participant expect from the individual or organization providing the service and what should the individual or organization providing the service be paid?

April 29, 2019

Background

For Self-Determination Program (SDP) participants, the individual program plan (IPP) must be developed utilizing a person-centered-planning process. Per the [February 11, 2019 correspondence](#) from the Department of Developmental Services, participants can request initial person-centered-planning services to assist them as they transition into the SDP.

Person-centered planning is an approach to determining, planning for and working toward the preferred future of a person with developmental disabilities and her or his family. The preferred future is what the person and family want to do in the future based on their strengths, capabilities, preferences, lifestyle and cultural background. Person-centered planning is a framework for planning and making decisions. It is not a collection of methods or procedures. Person-centered planning is based on an awareness of, and sensitivity to, the lifestyle and cultural background of the consumer and family. (Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4646.5(a)(1))

Additionally, according to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations (or rules) for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS,) person-centered planning is a process directed by the person with services and supports needs. It may include a representative who the person has freely chosen, and/or who is authorized to make personal or health decisions for the person. The planning process should also involve others the person or their representative wishes to include, such as family members, legal guardians, friends or others. The person-centered planning process should provide the supports necessary to ensure the person directs the process to the maximum extent possible. Ultimately, the person-centered planning process leads to a written plan that is consistent with the person's needs and desired outcomes and includes the person's goals and preferences in areas such as recreation, transportation, friendships, therapies, home, employment, and family relationships.

What should the participant expect from the individual or organization providing person-centered planning services?

"One of the functions of the person-centered planning process is to help the person and the support team to develop innovative and non-traditional ways to meet the goals in the plan. The goals must not be restricted due to a lack of easily identified services or supports."¹

The individual or organization providing person-centered planning services should be knowledgeable in person-centered planning and embrace the following concepts:

- Presuming competence
- Reframing behavior as communication
- Respecting cultural diversity
- Providing critical supports for health and safety across the lifespan so people may live in the community where and with whom they want ²

¹ Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Home and Community Based Waiver

² Sally Burton-Hoyle, Ed. D, Eastern Michigan University

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The individual or organization providing person-centered planning services are expected to demonstrate they have received training or certification in the person-centered facilitation process. If the selected individual or organization has been trained in any specific approaches (Planned Facilitation, Liberty Plans, MAPs, etc) the participant has the option to request and receive proof of such training.

The participant and their support team should determine how much time the planning process will take based on the needs of the participant, their own scheduling needs, as well as the recommendations of the individual or organization providing person-centered planning. Person-centered planning can range from one short and focused intensive meeting to several meetings, depending on the needs of the participant.

At the end of the planning process, the individual or organization providing person-centered planning services should ensure that there is a written document with clearly stated outcomes provided to the participant that captures the strengths, hopes and dreams of the participant, along with their vision for their future and the supports needed to have a meaningful life in the community.

What should the individual or organization providing person-centered planning services be paid?

In advance of the Department establishing rates for these services, here are some parameters that may assist you in discussing appropriate costs. Individuals or organizations providing person-centered planning services might charge between \$25 – \$75 per hour or more depending on experience. Individuals or organizations providing this service would likely include preparation and documentation time in addition to the time spent facilitating the meeting(s). The individual or organization may also charge a flat rate that might be as much as \$2,500; however, there should be documentation from the provider indicating how many hours of service is being funded. Prior to the provision of service, the regional center must contact the Department at sdp@dds.ca.gov regarding any estimate that exceeds \$2,500.

Non-vendored providers

The participant and individual or organization providing the service should come to an agreement regarding payment terms and then, prior to beginning planning services, provide that information to the Regional Center so that payment arrangements to the provider can be made under service code 024.

Vendorization

If the individual or organization is seeking vendorization from the Regional Center, they should contact the Community Services Department of the Regional Center in their community regarding the process for obtaining vendorization.