

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Inland Regional Center Conference Center
1425 S. Waterman
San Bernardino, CA 92408**

MINUTES

April 16, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Shelly Dawson, Health Facilities: Donna Gimm, Member at Large: Mark Hendren, SLS: Robert Horrigan, Member at Large: Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: Donita Remington, Member at Large: Victor Sanchez, Residential Services Level 2 & 3: David Satterwhite, Behavioral Mod Programs: April Stewart, Respite Programs.

GUESTS PRESENT: Itiola Adesigbin, OPARC: Anthony Akers, VIP: Sharon Barton-Maggio, In-Roads: Florence Bazile, People's Care: Amanda Carrillo, Autism Behavior Consultants: Marie Chatman, Exceed: Sheree Clay, Nurse Next Door: Kathy Coake, Exceed: Alan Eckwerett, CDI: Tracy Falkhour, Pathway: Charles, Fisher, People's Care: Claude Foster, OPARC: Moheni Gaji, Ability Counts: Sheena Henderson, Ascend Beyond: George Howell, VIP: Karen Jones, VIP: Kayava Lenoir, CA Mentor: Mayra Lopez, People's Care: Omar Love, People's Care: Michelle Mainez, ResCare: Cecilia Martinez, Westview: Liliana McDonough, CA Mentor: Bob McGuire, Pathway: Tena Meinders, Salem: Biu Obenaus, Ability Center: Sade Ogunleye, Mentor: Cindi Raimondi, ABLIS, Inc.: Desmond Robinson, People's Care: Fred Robinson, ARC Riverside: Serena Saints, E & CO: Jennifer Senee, OPARC: Jennifer Silva, People's Care: Tammi Simpson, CA Mentor: Erin Stream, ARC Riverside: Tracy Sutherland, SVS: Lee Trisler, Exceed: Carshena Tronnes, Autism Behavior Consultants: Andrea Wells, Exceed: LaRonda Whitaker, SVS: Pedro Zambrano, Exceed.

STAFF PRESENT: Dalila Balderas, Andrew Burdick, Beth Crane, Candace Dawkins, Eric Hamler, Lindsey Haussamen, Lavinia Johnson, Georgia Lowrey, Rosie Martinez, Amanda McGuire, Don Meza, Dan Moore, Monica Siegers, Vince Toms, Kevin Urtz.

INTRODUCTIONS: Ms. Remington called the meeting to order at 10:03 and introductions of the committee were made. The representatives also gave a short statement as to why the VAC is important.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of February 12, 2018: M/S/C Horrigan/Sanchez.

REGIONAL CENTER UPDATE: Ms. Johnson reported regional center continues to grow. Inland now has 35,152 active cases and 748 employees. The concern is where to put all the new staff. Grass Roots day was held on March 20th in Sacramento. Inland has taken a position to oppose the uniform holiday schedule. Inlands disparity report is due May 21st and is being worked on. Inland received a letter from DDS informing that a breach has occurred at DDS. The legal and auditing building was broken into and set on fire on February 28th. A DDS audit will begin at Inland on April 23rd. Ms. Remington added that the Grass Roots day was positive, cohesive and the message was well delivered.

FINANCIAL: No Report. Ms. Steuwer is preparing for the DDS audit. A financial report will be given at the Board Meeting.

Vendor Category Report:

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. Remington reported for Ms. DeAnda on the Day Program Pre-Vac of April 11th. Lindsey Haussamen attended. They discussed issues with public and private transportation vendors. Lindsey advised if there are issues, address them with the CSC first. She also advised to make formal complaints to public transportation agencies when necessary. Amanda McGuire attended the meeting to discuss 055 and 102 service codes. The group was encouraged to attend the Day Services orientation on 06/20/18 if interested in submitting program designs for these service codes. Next meeting is 06/13/18 at 2:00 at IRC.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Ms. Dawson reported on the March 21st Pre-Vac. Department of Public Health attended to discuss new CMS regulations on safety. They discussed the increase they received for gas and vehicle registration. They talked about the supplemental increase they have been waiting for and should receive this week and the daily rate change but there is not date yet for this. Licensing has been coming out to check on medication errors even when not reportable. If there was no adverse reaction to consumer, it is not reportable to Department of Health, only to regional center. When licensing comes out for unreportable incidents, it takes about 4 hours which is time taken away from the consumers. Brian Tremain and Brooke Chambers attended to discuss the current openings in ICF's. Next meeting is May 16th.
- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** No Report.
- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** Mr. Sanchez reported the residential providers have not met since the last VAC meeting. Next meeting is May 17th following the provider training.
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** No Report.
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Stewart reported the Respite providers met March 12th. They discussed going electronic with all systems and files. Electronic verification will be mandated in 2023. This could be an issue with preferred provider services. Preferred Provider is when families select their own worker. These workers may not know how to use a smart device or computer and are typically not required to speak English well. Most of the systems are in English even though paperwork is offered in other languages. ADP came out to present on their electronic system. Another company will present at the next meeting. If anyone has already gone completely electronic, the group would like more panels/presentations on how this has worked. Next meeting is May 28th.
- 7) **SLS:** Mr. Hendren reported the SLS providers met on April 12th. Don Meza attended to answer questions. He informed the group that regional center gets approximately 1800 new consumers a year. This presents the SLS providers with challenges also. Low income housing is a challenge and people are moving further out to find it which creates a transportation challenge. They talked about closing developmental centers and CMS rule. The consumer population is aging and creates new challenges. The providers are supporting many with drug, and alcohol issues as well as criminal issues. The providers need direction on how to support these consumers. They are looking to develop relationships with other professional agencies that support some of the behavioral health issues they are now encountering. A suggestion was a tier system which will be looked at. The meeting ended by focusing on what is working. The group unanimously believes that communication has increase as well as interaction with CSC's. They believe Inland is listening and they are noticing changes. Mr. Hendren thanked Lavinia Johnson and Kevin Urtz. Next meeting is June 14th and they will have a group of attorneys there to discuss labor laws in relation to supported living.
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown reported he has not been able to attend the last few meetings and is happy to be back. He will check in with the providers and is looking to meet either May 2nd or May 16th.

- 9) **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported on the March 29th Pre-Vac. They discussed issues with Riverside CHP; contract renewal and inspections. They are getting prepared. Next meeting is May 24th.
- 10) **Vocational Programs:** No Report.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** Mr. Satterwhite reported his group has not met yet as this is his first meeting as a VAC representative. He would like to talk after the meeting with any Behavioral Modification providers to discuss the Pre-VAC for the group.
- 12) **Member At Large:** Ms. Remington had nothing to report, Mr. Horrigan had nothing to report, Ms. Gimm had nothing to report.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** Per Ms. Cummings legislative report, Grassroots day was held on March 20th at the state Capitol. Nineteen regional centers sent over 130 people. Many legislative offices were visited as well as several other key offices. IRC had representatives attend from the vendor community, a consumer advocate, a parent, and IRC staff. Key points that were discussed were; restore social recreation and camp; reject the "Uniform Holiday Schedule"; fund affordable housing; support Assembly Member Holden's Bridge Funding Request. A legislative summary was given out at the meeting. **Note: Legislation the has ARCA support is noted with an *.**
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Mr. Horrigan reported there is an opening now for Vocational Programs. If anyone is interested, email him. Ms. Remington said they will be forming a committee to work on the by-laws for the VAC. Mr. Horrigan will be on the committee and his term, which is up in June, can be extended for a year if the committee agrees. Ms. Remington asked the group how they feel about extending term limits and most thought it is a positive change. Ms. Stewart agreed to be on the by-law committee as did Ms. Karen Jones.

MOTION MADE TO EXTEND MR. HORRIGAN'S TERM BY ONE YEAR: M/S/C MCKOWN/STEWART.

- 3) **CASACC Committee Report:** Ms. Remington reported this call is not longer happening and this section will be removed from the agenda.

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Mr. Toms reported CMS is granting California initial approval of tis Statewide Transition Plan (STP). In order to receive final approval, all STP's should include: A comprehensive summary of completed site-specific assessments of all HCBS settings, validation of those assessment results, and inclusion of the aggregate outcomes of these activities; Draft remediation strategies and a corresponding timeline for resolving issues that the site-specific stings assessment process and subsequent validation strategies identified by the end of the HCBS settings transition period (March 17, 2022); A detailed plan for identifying settings resumed to have institutional characteristics, as well as the proposed process for evaluating these settings and preparing for submission to CMS for review under heightened scrutiny; A process for communicating with beneficiaries currently receiving services in settings that the state has determined cannot or will not come into compliance with the HCBS settings criteria by March 17, 2022; and A description of ongoing monitoring and quality assurance processes that will ensure all

settings providing HCBS continue to remain fully compliant with the federal settings criteria in the future. There are several technical issues to be resolved before the state can receive final approval of its STP. CMS will be providing detailed feedback about these remaining issues shortly. Prior to resubmitting an updated version of the STP for consideration of final approval, the state will need to issue the updated STP out for a minimum 30-day public comment period. Mr. Toms gave a sampling from the POS disparity report; 26 responses saying there is a lack of service knowledge; 11 responses asked for better day programs focused on employment and ASD; 8 responses asked for social recreation programs; 12 responses asked for ASD life/social skills training. IRC will use 5 new service codes in FY 2018-19; 117-Spec Ther Sve 21 Yrs and over; 616-Behavior Technician-Paraprofessional; 900-Crisis and behavioral facilities-base rate; 901-Crisis and behavioral facilities-enhances services; 094-Arts Program. These services can operate in conjunction with another. The new auditing standards were addressed; providers earning over \$500,000 will need to complete and independent review and those earning over \$2,000,000 will need to complete and independent audit. A letter will be sent out to each provider this pertains to. The new standard goes by fiscal year and each vendor has their own fiscal year. DDS will audit Inland on this and it is detailed in the WIC section. Inland is looking to provide trainings online and post to the internet. There is nothing scheduled now for providers, but the Day Services training will be coming.

Public Input: It was asked at the last VAC meeting if Inland had taken a position on the 14-day uniform holiday schedule. At that time, a position had not been taken but that changed shortly after it being brought up at the VAC. Inland took the position to oppose. This is another example of how the VAC meeting can bring about change.