

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

MINUTES

February 11, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Johana Caicedo, Infant/Children's Programs: Lynn DeAnda, Day Programs: Donna Gimm, Robert Horrigan, Member at Large: Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: Velia Partida, Vocational Programs: Donita Remington, Member at Large: David Satterwhite, Behavioral Mod Programs: April Stewart, Respite Programs.

GUESTS PRESENT: William Ames, RCS: Diana Anderson, Desert ARC: Rafael Arunda, Premier Healthcare: Sharon Barton-Maggio, In Roads: Maria Collins, Trailwood Vista Home: Michael Collins, Winter Park Home: Tracy Fakhouri, Pathway, Inc.: Reachi Emerson, Ability Counts: Mojeni Gaji, Ability Counts: Victoria Gomez, Pathway, Inc.: Ruth Goodsell, Desert ARC: Joyce Harsuny, CA Mentor: Kenny He, Premier Healthcare: Tim Heaslip, Rockcreek: Karen Jones, VIP: Sharon Jones, Home Instead: Kayava Lenoir, CA Mentor: Lizeth Lopez, 24 Hr Home Care: Ela Osifeso, Alaphia Care: Lisa Peterson, Shield Healthcare: Cindi Raimondi, A.B.L.E., Inc.: Fred Robinson, ARC Riverside: Ray Ruiz, 123 Home Care: Atiyah Simpson, SVS: Elise Smith, 24 Hr Home Care: Nicolette Smith, Westview Services: Adriana Sosa, Wayfinder Family Services: LaRonda Whitaker, SVS: Dr. Yodites, BOT: Mitzie Yodites, BOT.

IRC STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Cummings, Merissa Steuwer, Vince Toms, Karina Torres, Kevin Urtz.

INTRODUCTIONS: Ms. Remington called the meeting to order at 10:07 and introductions of the committee and the attendees were made.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of October 15, 2018: M/S/C Stewart/Gimm.

Vendor Category Report:

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported they met February 6th. They had attendees from regional center. They discussed 055 and layered services. They discussed 1:1, 1:2 and 1:3 rates. They talked about program designs, updating ISP's and behavior issues, half day filling and how to document. They are requesting that someone from regional center POS department attend and present at the next meeting. They discussed provider enrichment training.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Report submitted by email. Last meeting was 01/16/19. An in-service was held by Nutrition Ink regarding the changes in standards for dietary textures for individuals with swallowing needs. They discussed the minimum wage increase and ripple effects and the current bed openings per provider. Brian Tremain and Brooke Chambers attended and provided updates on current openings in the IE, a report on New Leaf Financial and on DDS. Perlas Insurance Services provided information and strategies for saving money on Workman Comp Insurance. Next meeting is March 20th.

- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported on the meeting of February 4th. They discussed IEP meetings and billing, the Early Start vendor fair on April 10th, turning in progress reports on time. An issue is families are receiving the fee letter and wanting to stop services due to not being able to afford them but there are ways they can be supported with this process.
- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** No report.
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** No Report.
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Stewart reported they did not meet in January. Through email they discussed rate increases and shift differentials. Providers can ask for assistance if needed.
- 7) **SLS:** No Report.
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown reported his group has not met. They did discuss via email behavioral services transition and the challenges. The next meeting will be based upon need.
- 9) **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported on the last Pre-Vac. They discussed TSR's not having all the necessary information in order to determine if they can accept a consumer nor the information needed to keep consumers safe. They will meet with CSC's to try and resolve the issue. A concern is being able to drop off consumers at home without supervision. They need documentation saying this is okay before they can do so. They would like to have someone from the audit team attend to discuss the audit.
- 10) **Vocational Programs:** Ms. Partida reported on the Pre-Vac of November 6th and February 6th. They discussed Self Determination. They would like to meet with IRC staff to discuss challenges with supported employment. Andrew Burdick gave updates on: Paid Internships, CIE, Customized employment and Community Integration. Updates from DOR: Potentially Eligible Student Services and Local Partnership Agreements. They discussed CC & UR service timelines, 14c at the federal level, The Time Act, Raise the Wage Act, Transformation to CIE Act, WIOA and HR 5658. Next meeting is April 10th.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** Mr. Satterwhite reported they are still building interest in the Pre-Vac and thus no meeting was held since the last VAC.
- 12) **Member At Large:** Mr. Horrigan had nothing to report. Ms. Remington had nothing to report, Ms. Gimm had nothing to report.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** Detailed legislative report handed out.
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Mr. Horrigan reported there is an opening for Residential Level 2 & 3 representative.
- 3) **By-Laws Committee:** Mr. Horrigan reported the group worked and they have come up with a draft version to be discussed. Items brought up to be included: how to resolve issues in between meetings, make sure items left unresolved and carried over to the next meeting, some want to meet monthly, some want to meet every 2 months but have training a few times a year for the committee, many want more communication with regional center and meeting monthly would give more contact. The representatives were asked to take this to the Pre-Vacs for discussion there, then the committee will meet again to finalize and submit to the IRC board for approval.

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Financial: Ms. Steuwer reported budget is holding. Next allocation is delayed. Last day to submit billing for 16/17 fiscal year is March 10th. DDS will not accept late billing after that point for 16/17 fiscal. Mr. Urtz thanked the providers for attending the town hall meeting. Being requested is 8% across the board for rate study.

Old Business: None

New Business: Mr. Cook presented on the Community Engagement unit and their functions.

Mr. Toms reported:

1. HCBS Grant funds – 18-19 submissions. There are a total of 11 vendors. They are all existing day service providers. As of 1-24-19, DDS confirmed all 11 submissions.
2. 2018 Performance Contract was submitted to DDS and is on the website.
 - a. CIE averages for IRC – 24.4 hours a week and an average of \$11.40 an hour.
 - b. 478 clients in CIE, with 155 newly added
 - c. PIPs - @ 15% have led to employment
 - d. LPAs – 4 complete with 6 in progress
 - e. Disparity Data – Hispanic with no POS has decreased this year from 28 to 26.4%, so a 1.6% reduction, despite growing numbers of cases opened with IRC. ASD with no POS decreased from 32.8 to 32% for a 0.8% decrease.
 - i. We want to see vendors continue to hire Spanish speaking staff, as much as possible.
3. CRDP – \$150K startup funding for a community based ASD program specializing in employment. Deadline is tomorrow at 5pm.
4. Uniform Holiday Schedule is proposed to be implemented this coming fiscal year.
5. Bridge Funding looks like it will go forward with specific vendor categories, to include Activity Centers (505), ADCs (510), B-Mod day programs (515), ILS, (525) Infant Development Programs (805) and In-Home Respite (562)
 - a. DDS is requesting matching funds from CMS.
 - b. Expected role out is May of 2019 with the one-time funds available until June of 2020.
 - c. Riverside is a low-cost county and San Bernardino is a high cost county. See DDS site for explanation.
6. DDS reorganization at a cost of an additional \$8.1 M.
 - a. Creates 54 new positions and 3 short term positions to monitor and oversee the CMS-FR Provider Assessments.
 - b. It would reorganize DDS internally with addition of new positions, divisions, folding some departments into the new divisions, etc. Basics – New Program Services and Operations Chief Deputy overseeing their divisions.
 - c. Some reasons:
 - i. To meet the new Federal and State Mandates like CMS-FR
 - ii. Oversight of the system, which is rapidly moving to an integrated community-based service model
 - iii. To improve and Increase monitoring and oversight of community services and settings, i.e.: RCs and the vendors. Risk Mitigation, QA of vendors and the SIR processes within the New office of Quality Assurance and Risk Management
 - iv. Monitor safety net services
 - v. Meet the extreme growth in the system

- vi. Meet the extreme change in the system with the overall population having 35% with ASD and 80% of those under the age of 22
- vii. Maintain the \$2.1B in HCBS Federal funding (30% of the system's funding)
- viii. Provides stronger fiscal accountability
- d. Areas of interest for RCs and vendors
 - i. Review all SIRs, investigate and recommend CAPS
 - ii. More rigorous risk mitigation
 - iii. Expand RC Performance metrics and reporting
 - iv. Expand RC technical assistance
 - v. Review and approve the Health and Safety Waivers
 - vi. Monitor the use of services for children with behavioral concerns
 - vii. Attend all RC Board meetings and train the RC Board members which according to DDS often have a varied knowledge of their RC system
 - viii. Review all RC POS Policies
 - ix. Provide clinical expertise and set policy direction for CCF homes in the ARM model
 - x. Develop, maintain and provide expertise and best practice for RCs on ASD programs and services
 - xi. Create an Autism Program Specialist, Senior Psychologist and Staff Psychiatrist
 - xii. Develop, revise and help RCs on residential regulations
 - xiii. Provide statewide dental program coordination
 - xiv. Provide additional monitoring of vendors and their compliance with the CMS Transition Plan
 - xv. Provide additional monitoring of Early Start vendors
 - xvi. Expand Disparity research
 - xvii. Support RCs and the vendor audits

For requests for training from regional center at Pre-Vac meetings, please submit an agenda.

Public Input: None

Next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2019 at Inland Regional Center, 1425 S. Waterman Ave., San Bernardino. Check in at building 3.