

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

MINUTES

April 15, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Shelly Dawson, Health Facilities: Mark Hendren, SLS: Robert Horrigan, Member at Large: Mumbi Kairu, Residential Services Level 4: Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: Donita Remington, Member at Large: April Stewart, Respite Programs.

GUESTS PRESENT: Naomie Arroyo, People's Care: Sharon Barton-Maggio, In Roads: Florence Bazile, People's Care: Darlene Bujanda, Ecoways/AOK: Molissia Bulter, People's Care: Paul Castaneda, ILSI: Marie Chatman, Exceed: Shannine Crockett, OPARC: Jose Guzman, People's Care: Adrianna Harbin, People's Care: Kenny He, Premier Healthcare: Tim Heaslip, Rockcreek: Karen Jones, VIP: Sharon Jones, Home Instead: Kayava Lenoir, CA Mentor: Deborah Lewis, Inland FHS-Mentor: Liz Lopez, 24 HR Homecare: Liliana McDonough, Creative Home Programs: Brenda Najar, Salem Christian Homes: Edna Napier, Easter Seals: Terri Perkins, Anthesis: Serena Saints, Options for All: Elise Smith, 24 Hr Home Care: Nicolette Smith, Westview Services: Adriana Sosa, Wayfinder Family Services: Qunh Tran, Salem: La Ronda Whitaker, SVS: Lucy Yamas-Cortez, Anthesis.

IRC STAFF PRESENT: Lynette Banda, Carolina Betancourt, Jennifer Cummings, Jamie Garcia, Lindsey Haussamen, Lavinia Johnson, Rosie Martinez, Amanda McGuire, Don Meza, Monica Siegers, Merissa Steuwer, Vince Toms, Kevin Urtz.

INTRODUCTIONS: Ms. Remington called the meeting to order at 10:04 and introductions of the committee and the attendees were made.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of February 11, 2019: M/S/C Stewart/McKown.

Vendor Category Report:

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. Remington read the report submitted by Ms. De Anda. The providers met April 3rd. Vince Toms attended to discuss the rate study. The providers have concerns with the survey; wanting to change to hourly billing; study was based on 90% attendance which most vendors do not experience; the drastic impact on transportation providers would mean many small transporters would have to close and consumers would not have transportation; there are impacts on other service areas also. The group was encouraged to challenge the rate study assumptions. They also discussed the amount of time it takes to pick-up clients when an incident occurs. Next meeting is June 12th and the group would like to invite a residential representative to the meeting.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Ms. Dawson reported the ICF providers met March 20th. They discussed current licensing trends. Some providers noted unfair, unjustified deficiencies on the surveys. Providers are urged to report the issues to the L & S supervisors. Some ICF providers have been using ABLE accounts for consumers that have excessive financials. Those using the accounts like them and say they are beneficial to the consumers. Brian Tremain and Brooke Chambers attended the meeting to discuss issues and

openings. They discussed the rate study, minimum wage and the ripple effects it causes. The re-negotiated rate is better but still does not include the ripple effect due to the minimum wage increase. There are no funds to increase the wages of staff that have been with the company for years and thus new staff are making the same or close to those who have worked with the company for years. Next meeting is May 15th.

- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Remington read the report submitted by Ms. Caicedo. Next meeting is April 22nd at 9:30 at Creative Home Programs.
- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report.
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** No Report.
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Stewart reported they met on March 12th. They had a long discussion on the rate study. The impacts will be harder on the preferred providers because they will have to switch to the financial management service model. The requirement of 35 hours of training will be hard for them as well. Many only work, 8 hours per month but they will still be required to complete 35 hours of training. Also, many live out in rural areas which will make it hard to attend the trainings. Workers compensation is also a big concern.
- 7) **SLS:** Mr. Hendren reported on the meeting of April 11th. He reported the Mr. Paul Castaneda has agreed to assume the ILS representative opening. They talked about hiring difficulties, the workers comp audit and how it dove tails liability and exposure due to the types of referrals. The providers are being asked to handle more serious situations. The providers do not learn of issues until after the case has been accepted. They are being exposed to higher liability situations. Next meeting is June 13th.
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown reported his group has not met. They did discuss via email the rate study and the issues with it.
- 9) **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported on the March 21st meeting. They discussed the rate study and all the issues it causes for transporters. It will put many transporters out of business. They created a spreadsheet to counter the assumptions.
- 10) **Vocational Programs:** Ms. Remington read the report submitted by Ms. Partida. They met April 10th. They discussed the rate study, the 8% increase and the new CMS guidelines. They have a question to ask: Is there an official position from IRC on the discontinuation of WAPS? Mr. Toms attended and talked about Self Determination and CMS final rule. Andrew Burdick attended and talked about setting up Vendor/employer panel to meet with IRC for discussion on supported employment challenges, the status of the paid internship program, CIE and customized employment. DOR attended to talk about potentially eligible student services and local partnership agreements. Next meeting will be on June 12th.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** No Report
- 12) **Member At Large:** Mr. Horrigan had nothing to report. Ms. Remington reminded everyone of the Ability Sports Festival on October 6th at Cal State San Bernardino. She thanked the regional center for being proactive in writing a letter of concern to Legislator Reyes regarding the rate study. She reported Grassroots day went well and was successful.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** Detailed legislative report handed out. Ms. Cummings stated 18 regional centers had staff, consumers, family members and board representatives attend the Grassroots Day to talk about the rate study and other important issues. All are asking legislators to not vote on the rate study too quickly. Funding has been overlooked for many years. She mentioned keeping an eye on SB 412. There are bills to restore social rec and camp, regarding uniform holidays and half day billing.
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Mr. Horrigan reported there is an opening for Residential Level 2 & 3 representative and there will be an opening for ICF. Mr. Paul Castaneda submitted an application to assume the position of SLS representative and the membership committee has accepted the it.

Motion made to accept Paul Castanedo as the VAC SLS representative M/S/C Horrigan/Stewart.

- 3) **By-Laws Committee:** Mr. Horrigan reported the group finished rewriting the by-laws. He thanked the committee and the VAC for their help. The VAC has approved the by-laws and they are ready to be presented to the Board for approval.
- 4) **Training Offering:** None

Resources: None

Financial: Ms. Steuwer reported Inland received an additional allocation which covered the deficit with for March and April. Inland is hoping to not have a deficit at the end of the fiscal year but if it happens, hopefully DDS will make it whole. Billing for fiscal year 16/17 is now closed. DDS wants billing earlier. Last day to submit late billing for 18//19 is March 2020. Reminder: June is the end of the fiscal year and year end activities will delay authorizations with a July 1st start date.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ms. Johnson thanked the VAC for sending the letter to Ms. Reyes. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Urtz will be meeting with her this afternoon to discuss rates. A public hearing will be held on May17th to discuss concerns with service delivery rates. Inland has a hard time getting and maintaining vendors due to their rates as it is underfunded. They want to speak to Ms. Reyes as Fazier has 7 bills and Garcia has 3 and some are concerning.

Mr. Toms thanked Mr. Hendren for his service on the VAC committee and he thanked Mr. Castanedo for taking over the representative position for SLS. Mr. Toms talked about the rate study and all the concerns with it. Inland cannot afford to lose even one vendor. All vendors were encouraged to look at the rate study and challenge the assumptions that do not work. The rate study was supposed to get rid of the median rates. Inland is third for funding and has different rates for different vendors. IRC administration met with the VAC Executive Committee to write letters to legislators regarding the impact of the study. They also met with Day Program and Transportation Pre-Vacs. There were 35 submissions to Burns and DDS. We are asking that the rate study not be implemented yet, so we have time to review the formulas in order to challenge them. DDS is worried about disparity, yet the rate study will impact Spanish speaking families as they tend to use preferred providers to provide the respite. He discussed CMS and heightened scrutiny. Center based programs will be affected but we do not know how much they will be affected. Staff will be trained on person centered planning and then the vendor community will be trained. A timeline of July 1, 2020 was given. The full rate study is on the DDS website and the condensed version is on Inland's website.

Public Input: There are several items that will hurt vendors and set them back. The May 17th hearing will allow public input to address concerns. We want the 8% while the study is being looked at. We need to contact legislators and keep the pressure on. Ms. Remington reminded everyone to take action and contact legislators. Ms. Barton-Maggio thanked Vince and April for their work on the rate study. Many thought the rate study would give an increase and instead many providers are being set back. She is wondering what type of care the providers will be able to pay for to care for the consumers. It is unfair and will create a harmful environment for our consumers.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2019 at Inland Regional Center, 1425 S. Waterman Ave., San Bernardino. Check in at building 3.