

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

MINUTES

August 19, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Johana Caicedo, Infant/Childrens Programs: Paul Castanedo, SLS: Shelly Dawson, Health Facilities: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Robert Horrigan, Member at Large: Mumbi Kairu, Residential Services Level 4: Donita Remington, Member at Large: April Stewart, Respite Programs.

GUESTS PRESENT: Dianna Anderson, Desert ARC: Naomi Arroyo, People's Care: Darlene Bujanda, AOK-SLS/ILS: Molissia Butler, People's Care: Jessica Carbonaro, CBEM: Marie Chatman, Exceed: Jenn Delgado, Inland Respite: Tracy Fakhouri, Pathway: Charles Fisher, People's Care: Mo Gaji, Ability Counts: Gloria Gonzalez, ACI: Ruth Goodsell, Desert ARC: Jose Guzman, People's Care: Adrianna Harbin, People's Care: Tim Heaslip, Rockcreek: Tammi Hernandez, CA Mentor: Karen Jones, VIP: Kayava Lenoir, CA Mentor: Ana Lorenz, LCS Behavioral Health: Kristen Maddox, Ability Counts: Liliana McDonough, CHP/CA Mentor: Donna Norum, OPARC: Sade Ogunleye, CA Mentor: Conrad Osby, Osby Care Services Inc.: Tammy Osby, OCS Inc.: DeShawn Park, CA Mentor: Jessica Paz, Peppermint Ridge: Terri Perkins, Anthesis: Cindi Raimondi, A.B.L.E., Inc.: Fred Robinson, ARC Riverside: Isabel Rojo, Desert ARC: Melissa Seinturier, Borrego Health: Elise Smith, 24 Hr. Home Care: Kim Totten, CA Mentor: Elizabeth Tunner-Mann, Salem Christian: Andrea Wells, OPARC: Lucy Yamas-Cortez, Anthesis.

IRC STAFF PRESENT: Dalila Balderas, Jennifer Cummings, Jamie Garcia, Lilliana Garnica, Lindsey Haussamen, Lavinia Johnson, Terrell Johnson, Rosie Martinez, Amanda McGuire, Vince Toms, Kevin Urtz.

INTRODUCTIONS: Ms. Remington called the meeting to order at 10:01 and introductions of the committee and the attendees were made.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of June 19, 2019: M/S/C DeAnda/Horrigan.

Vendor Category Report:

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported the day programs met on August 14th. Collen Tejada from IRC provided SIR training and discussed HIPPA regulations and how to report a breach. Ms. Tejada offered to come to individual vendors to do a training. The committee suggested a joint meeting with Transportation to have a forum to discuss issues. Next meeting is October 16th at 2 pm at IRC.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Ms. Dawson reported the health facilities met on July 17th at IRC. They had 14 people attend. Two were new providers. They discussed operations of the home, maintaining staff, recent earthquakes and proper emergency preparedness, licensing surveys, day programs and transportation. There were issues brought up that it can take up to 2 months to find day program and transportation. Brian Tremain discussed openings in health facilities. They discussed having a vendor fair to help better educate CSC's on the differences in types of health facilities. IRC's vendor fair will be September 4th. Next

meeting will be September 19th. Ms. Dawson is stepping down from the VAC and asked interested health facilities representatives to apply to be on the VAC.

- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported the infant and children programs met in June. They did not meet in July. There are changes taking place in unit caseloads for Early Start and a new organizational chart will be sent out to vendors. They have put together a parent training sub-committee with PM's and vendors. Ms. Caicedo invited vendors to join the sub-committee meetings. The sub-committee meets the same day as the Pre-Vac. The Infant Development Association of California has asked 805 and 116 programs to complete a survey by today, August 19th, on clean-up language for the rate adjustments. The goal is to try to get Early Start included in the 2020 rate increases. The next meeting will be August 26th at 9:30 am in Rancho Cucamonga.
- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report.
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** Ms. Kairu reported the group met on August 25th. They discussed the HCBS Final Rule and everyone was encouraged to attend trainings. The group was happy about the pending 8.2% increase. They discussed creating a resource blog for the vendor group. They reached out to CJ Cook about adding a vendor blog to the IRC website. Mr. Cook responded suggesting that instead the group create a FaceBook page. There were concerns about HIPPA from the group in making a FaceBook page. They also discussed concerns about referrals not being appropriate for the setting or needing more services. They discussed how to bring this up with CSC's so the person can get the support they need. The group discussed the "payee" role and issues with various groups that are payees. Concerns were brought up that when a Day Program cannot be identified, it is hard on the residential homes. The next meeting will be on August 29th at IRC after the provider enrichment training.
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Stewart reported that the Respite group did not meet in July and communicated via email between meetings. Ms. Jenn Delgado from Inland Respite will facilitate the Respite Committee Meetings from November through April while Ms. Stewart is on leave. Ms. Stewart has arranged presentations on the following topics for meetings during her leave: IRC's Another Way, Self Determination and Special Incident Reports. The next Respite Committee meeting will be September 10th at 9:30 am at the IRC conference center.
- 7) **SLS:** Mr. Castanedo reported on the SLS Pre-Vac of last month. The group wants to thank Vince Toms and his team for the training done and for working closely with DPSS. They discussed CalFresh and AB1811 that went into effect in June 2019. Mr. Castanedo thanked DPSS and IRC for the time they spent at the last committee meetings. He reported there will be a 5 hour increase for meal planning and buying food to accommodate the new law that will be federally funded. Mr. Castanedo reported that Mr. Toms shared with the group that there is a committee, including different levels of team members at IRC, reviewing policies and procedures for ILS/SLS clients with various levels of need. Their recommendations will be sent to IRC management for review and official revision implementations. They will meet next in October at IRC.
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** No Report.
- 9) **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported the transportation group met in July. They discussed safety awareness for consumers due to the summer heat. They focused on making sure all consumers are assisted in and out of vans. They went over the TSR and issues they continue to have with accuracy on the form. They will speak more about the TSR at the next meeting. They discussed air conditioning in vehicles to make sure everyone is in compliance. There can be issues with wheelchair van's AC when they are in idle, but it kicks on when the van is in drive. The next meeting will be September 27th and they hope to have an IRC representative to discuss the TSR.

- 10) **Vocational Programs:** No Report. Open position. Ms. Remington asked for applications.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** No Report. Open position. Ms. Remington asked for applications.
- 12) **Member At Large:** Ms. Remington reported that the VAC had the first planning meeting. The group discussed the implementation of the new by-laws. No other members at large had a report.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** A detailed legislative report was handed out which was prepared by Ms. Cummings. If anyone has any questions about the report, they can email Ms. Cummings.
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Mr. Horrigan reported that there is an upcoming opening in Health Facilities when Ms. Dawson steps down. Mr. Horrigan suggested that Ms. Dawson facilitate the group choosing a representative due to this being a vital position on the VAC. He also reported that the membership terms start March 1st and end February 28th as a 2-year term with a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. If someone comes in mid-term, the partial year will not count against the 2, 2-year terms. Many members are terming out February 28, 2021. The committee is able to extend terms by an additional year. The group will be looking at who can be extended so that there are seasoned members. Ms. Stewart has volunteered to stay an additional year and she will assume the Co-Chair. There will be a need for a Membership Committee Chair and Secretary to join the VAC Executive Committee starting March 1, 2020. There is 1 application for Vocational. There are openings in the Vocational Programs and Behavioral Modification as well as Residential Level 2-3.

Regional Center Update: Mr. Toms provided the following updates:

1. **Home and Community Based Services-Final Rule (HSBS-FR) Trainings-DDS** hired a consulting firm called Public Consulting Group (PCG) and a Person-Centered Trainer (PCT) provider called Support Development Associates (SDA), to assist with educating and supporting vendors and stakeholders in coming into compliance with the HCBS-FR. There is a series of trainings proposed (first one was August 1, 2019) and will be posted on the DDS website. The DDS website is the primary vehicle for all communications with community. PCG will record all trainings and webinars and they will be posted on the DDS website, as well as Frequently Asked Questions. An RFP will be posted on their website for agencies to implement the onsite assessments of vendors.
2. **Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)** has been gaining momentum. DDS has periodic conference calls and we recommend that all vendors of Respite, Supported Living Service (SLS), Homemaker Services and Personal Assistance listen in on the calls. The state is requesting an extension from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the implementation date from January of 2020 to January of 2021. Currently there will be six areas of data that will be part of the EVV system to include: Type of service, individual receiving the service, date, location, individual providing the service and the time it starts and ends. Check the DDS website for more information and updates.

EVV will not apply to caregivers who live together with the beneficiary, according to current federal clarification, but states one can choose to implement it in those situations. Most states currently use a landline or GPS system, but web-based timesheets are gaining momentum, though they are not capable of providing data that can be audited.

Phase I of the EVV process is for IHSS beneficiaries and the pilot for this is starting in Los Angeles County. Phase II includes the DDS services, so providers should focus on that portion, when reviewing the DDS site for updates.

3. **Budget Trailer Bill** including the increase funding-DDS will be issuing its summary of the Trailer Bill Language to regional centers.
4. **Rate Study**-Input and comments on the models are being reviewed and analyzed and by Burns and DDS with a target date of October 1 for any modifications to the rate models and a summary of the comments.
5. **DDS Employment Fair**-DDS held an employment fair at Fairview two weeks ago. They are starting to implement hiring for the new SoCal branch. This will lead to more oversight and review for both regional center community services and vendors. This will include auditing, contracts, SIR's, investigations, etc. There are 54 openings and vendors should be prepared in case some staff join the DDS team.
6. **Recreational Marijuana Policy During Services**-DDS has left it up to the regional centers to develop a policy on recreational use of marijuana. IRC is taking a conservative approach. Recreational use of marijuana during services will not be allowed because the federal government does not allow for the selling, buying, or use of marijuana. IRC understands the importance of consumer choice but ultimately has made the decision to restrict recreational marijuana use during services due to programs receiving federal funding and federal law that could put funding at risk if not followed. IRC will not allow any use of recreational marijuana as part of programs or vendored services funded by IRC. This includes having marijuana on the premise during services such as in a backpack or on a person during services. Vendors can deny service due to service provisions based on presence of marijuana. Recreational marijuana use will not be allowed in the IPP under any circumstances. The medical marijuana cards will still be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for potential allowances if prescribed by a legitimate doctor/medical professional.
7. **Zero Tolerance Policy Update**-IRC will be updating their vendor Zero Tolerance Policy to have a statement on recreational use of marijuana specifically not allowing it as part of vendored programs due to the federal funding issue. There will be a new form for vendors to sign and policy for vendors to train staff. IRC will provide information and training at following VAC meetings to prepare vendors.

Training Offering: Ms. Caicedo shared there will be training by a speech therapist at IRC on Communication Success for 805 programs on September 9th from 10 am to 12 pm. They can take up to 3 people per agency. They are encouraging speech therapists to attend. The Infant Development Association is hosting a training on September 23rd on leadership including best practices and early childhood in Los Angeles.

Ms. De Anda shared there is one more HCBS Final Rule webinar tomorrow, August 20th. There will also be a video posted to give information on the final rule if you cannot attend.

Resources: Daisy Quiroz from IRC Community Outreach spoke about the Fall Festival. It will be in Riverside this year. It will be open to craft and food vendors this year. Examples of craft vendors were given as woodworking, painting, candle making, essential oils, etc. They want to make this both an educational resource event and a fun time to get to know the community. The group was also asked not to report the IRC Newsletter as spam. You can unsubscribe or reduce frequency if needed. Reporting the newsletter as spam causes negative repercussions to IRC.

Financial: No Report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: A community member asked why the VAC is only open to current vendors per the new by-laws. Ms. Remington explained that the VAC meeting is for current members and it is relevant to current members. The IRC Board Meeting is still an open and public meeting. The VAC Committee can make exceptions and did allow one person to sit in as a guest for this meeting. The community member was encouraged to attend the IRC Board Meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2019 at Inland Regional Center, 1425 S. Waterman Ave., San Bernardino. Check in at building 3.