

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER  
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**MINUTES**

**December 16, 2019**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Johana Caicedo, Paul Castanedo, Marie Chatman, Shelly Dawson, Lynn De Anda, Jenn Delgado, Donna Gimm, Bob Horrigan, Donna Norum, Donita Remington.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Anthony Akers, VIP: Florence Arneccillo, OPARC: Naomie Arroyo, People's Care: Jessica Carbenaro, CBEM: Shannine Crockett, OPARC: Tracy Fakhouri, Pathway, Inc.: Moheni Gaji, Ability Counts: Sharon Han, People's Care: Tammi Hernandez, CA Mentor: Karen Jones, VIP: Darshena La Grone, CA Mentor: Kayava Lenoir, CA Mentor: Angelica Lopez: Kristen Maddox, Ability Counts: Vivian Martinez, Morning Star: Lilliana McDonough, CA Mentor: Bob McGuire, Pathway, Inc.: Jose Mendoza, People's Care: DaShaun Parker, CA Mentor: Terri Perkins, Anthesis: Mya Quechi, CBEM: Yvonne Rodriguez, In Roads: David Satterwhite, Morning Star: Jennifer Senee, OPARC: Erin Stream, ARC Riverside: Andrea Wells, OPARC: Lucy Yamas-Cortez, Anthesis.

**IRC STAFF PRESENT:** Christina Gonzalez-Peralta, Lindsey Haussamen, Lavinia Johnson, Amanda McGuire, Don Meza, Leilani Nguyen, Vince Toms, Kevin Urtz.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Ms. Remington called the meeting to order at 10:06 and introductions of the committee and the attendees were made.

**MINUTES:** Motion made to approve minutes of October 21, 2019: M/S/C Gimm/Horrigan and Ms. De Anda abstained.

**Vendor Category Report:**

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported on the Pre-Vac of last Wednesday. The Day Program group met with the Transportation group. There were over 50 providers in attendance. They talked about issues and concerns and got some clarification from regional center regarding responsibilities and expectations. They found there was lots of miscommunication between day programs and transportation like closures and start and end times. They are based on program design and it is what regional center expects. Next meeting has not yet been set but Ms. De Anda will let everyone know when it is.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Ms. Dawson reported on the Pre-Vac of November 20<sup>th</sup>. They discussed November's Annual conferences hosted by DSN and CAHF. They talked about Title 22 regulations, AB 5, the move from Medi-Cal fee for service to managed care for long term care, licensing trends and issues with OSHA. Brian Tremain and Brooke Chambers attended and gave updates within IRC and provided the current openings with ICF's. Next meeting will be on January 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 3:00 at IRC.
- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported they met on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Early Start PM's and the Director attended. They were told a form is being developed so that providers can fill it out to let Program Managers know of openings and availability. The Program Managers will send it to the case

managers. They discussed the 805 programs not being included in the rate increase. Providers are encouraged to write letters to legislators to advocate for their service category. There is a session at the Pre-Vac meeting where success stories are shared. If anyone has any success stories to share, let Ms. Caicedo know. The Early Start Interagency group will be hosting a training on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> on Understanding Behavior. Next meeting is January 28<sup>th</sup>.

- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report.
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** No Report.
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported on the meeting of November 12<sup>th</sup>. Andrea Gonzalez presented on Another Way and how providers can get involved. They discussed funding and how it can be difficult to bring workers on board. Ms. Banda attended and will help the providers with communication with the CSC's. The Respite liaison will be changing. Next meeting will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January.
- 7) **SLS:** See Mr. Castanedo's attached report.
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** No Report.
- 9) **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported there was no meeting held due to not having a representative at the time. They will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of even months. The next meeting will be February 5<sup>th</sup> instead of the 12<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday.
- 10) **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Norum reported there was no meeting held. She will connect with her liaison to schedule the next meeting.
- 11) **Member At Large:** Ms. Remington had no report, Ms. Gimm had no report, Ms. Delgado had no report nor did Mr. Horrigan.

## 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 an application for the Health Facility position was received. He will send it to the committee. The Membership committee will meet in January to discuss the by-laws and determine which positions are open. Terms were adjusted so there would not be too many experienced representatives leaving at the same time.

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

**AB5 – Independent Contractors.** If any vendor uses a system where they pay independent (sub-contractors) to do the vendored work, then the vendor must review the bill and determine the relationship with the person they are contracted with. The following must apply for a person to be a contractor: Contractor is free from the control and direction of the hiring entity, contractor performs work outside of the usual course of the hiring entity's business and the contractor is normally engaged in an independent trade or business of the same nature as the work done for the hiring entity. Again, review the bill and make a determination to the extent of the relationship and if the person should be a contractor or employee.

**Burns Rate Study** – Burns has finished reviewing all of the input and comments. The updates, comments and final study will be provided with the Governor’s Budget in January. Check the DDS website around the time of the Budget presentation for more information and detail. No other details have been offered, so those vendors that had rates which were negatively affected by the initial study must take time to review what is in the final study.

**HCBS – CMS-FR** – There has been a great deal of movement in the last month regarding the Final Rule. A provider self-assessment tool is in draft form will be forthcoming from DDS. It will be automated like the ABX2-1 survey and the DDS target date for it to be online is 1-3-20. The trainings for all parties on the assessment will begin on 1-13-20.. IRC has been using the federal assessment tool with most vendors for almost three years now, so IRC will shift to the upcoming tool once it is out. The assessment tool must be completed by some 9000 service provider programs throughout the state by the Md-March of 2020. DDS has to post the results by 4-1-20 on their website. Site assessments will be done by a pending contractor that DDS is in the midst of posting an RFP for on their website. The target date to award the contract is February, with site visits starting in March of 2020. Sites will be either picked randomly, from vendors not completing the assessment, from providers not consistent in answering the assessment and from those where heightened scrutiny is questionable. It appears that they will do site assessments for around 10% of the 9000 programs, initially. It is important to note that PCG and DDS want to see clients input and the methodologies of Person-Centered Thinking be detailed in the assessment response. It looks like the contractors and DDS will spend the later part of 2020 determining how to meet heightened scrutiny framework, which is what IRC and the vendors really need to understand. 2020 will be a busy year for residential and day service vendors. For those vendors providing individualized or in-home services, it does not appear that you will need to do an assessment. Initial discussion is that those programs will be in compliance, but more to come.

**SLS update** – The task force has revamped the IRC POS Policies for both SLS and ILS and the Board has approved them in November. The task force/committee is going to review the internal policies and procedures for SLS and ILS and the target date for completion is the end of December into early January. The committee is also looking into rebranding the assessment tools into one functional assessment. Once the committee is done, the tool and the guidelines will be shared with the vendor community and then a training will be rolled out to the vendors and IRC management and staff. The timelines and processes will not be changed from the guidelines which were initially created by the 2011 SLS Committee. QA is under a large restructure and Christina Gonzalez will be the new liaison to the program.

**2020 Minimum Wage increase** – Check the DDS website, as there was no new direction from them, as of last week. IRC vendors subject to the increase will work with the IRC Auditing Department for submissions and they are the IRC connection with DDS. Check the DDS website for more and update information.

**Provider 8.2% rate increase in January of 2020** - The DDS update is that they are waiting on CMS to approve the federal fund match for the increase. Once we get some information and movement on this, IRC will post on the website. No other information available as of last week.

Ms. Johnson reported the Toy Drive was a success. Over 400 gifts were provided for the children. There were also bags of food to hand out. There was a petting zoo, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Clause, food and games.

**Training Offering:** Understanding Behavior on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Early Start Interagency group.

**Resources:** None

**Financial:** Ms. Steuwer reported the rate increase for the providers that will take place in January will be paid in January after invoices are paid. They are working out how to do this. They are waiting for final instructions from DDS but anticipate it will go through. Please do not call POS. This will hinder the process. When filling out the worksheet for the minimum wage increase for January, please make sure it is completely filled out. Incomplete worksheets cannot be accepted. Please submit 3 month- worth of payroll with it. We ask for your patience with these processes. Fiscal year 17/18 late billing is due by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Public Input:** Mr. Jose Mendoza reported an event will be held sponsored by the Tim Tebow foundation called "A Night to Shine." This event allows people with intellectual abilities to participate in prom. Those 14 and older will be provided clothes, makeup, hair styling, limo ride and their families can get pampered while the event is going on. Volunteers are needed. Mr. Mendoza's email is [jmendoza@peoplescare.org](mailto:jmendoza@peoplescare.org). If anyone is interested, please let him know right away as background checks for volunteers need to be completed.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2020 at Inland Regional Center, 1425 S. Waterman Ave., San Bernardino. Check in at building 3.

**SLS Pre VAC Meeting - Minutes**  
*12 December 2019 - 9:30am - 10:30am*  
*IRC Conference Center*

**ATENDEES:**

A total of 20 individual participants; increase of 33% from our last meeting, 11 vendors; increase of 10% & 2 IRC employees.

**IRC/SLS Committee on Standards & Protocol:**


The vendors asked if any headway or communication has been received from IRC regarding our recommendation - from last June 2019 regarding this matter.

**LUNCHEON:**

We recognized and thanked our SLS/ILS Liaison, Lynette Banda. Vendors expressed appreciation for her (04) years of outstanding devotion to duty. She approached her job teaching vendors better practices, learning the regs, and working to improve communication and understanding between IRC & the Vendor Community. Further, she brought conviction, honesty and worked tirelessly to 'bridge the gap' that has existed. She will be missed...

Ms. Banda thanked us vendors for all the cooperation and respect she received working with our community.

The meeting was then adjourned and we all enjoyed our "pot luck" luncheon. Good opportunity to 'meet and greet' with both IRC and the other vendors. By the way, the selection and abundance of refreshments was excellent! We wish to thank IRC personnel for setting up the room for our use.



**PAUL A. CASTANEDO**  
IRC Vendor Committee; SLS/ILS Rep

**12 December 2019**  
**DATE APPROVED:**

