

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

MINUTES

February 10, 2020

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Dianna Anderson, Desert ARC; Jordin Anderson, CA Mentor; Naomie Arroyo, People's Care; Elsa Castro, CDI; Ann Clark, VNL ARF; Tracy Fakouri, Pathway; Charles Fisher, People's Care; Ruth Goodsell, Desert ARC; Sharon Han, People's Care; Tim Heaslip, Rescare; Mark Hendren, CIN; Sharon Jones, Home Instead Sr. Care; Kayava Lenoir, CA Mentor; Vivian Martinez, Morning Star; Liliana McDonough, CA Mentor; Bob McGuire, Pathway; Alysha Medina, Total Life Care/Evolve; Jessica Montesinos, Total Life Care; Brenda Najjar, Salem Christian Homes; Dashawn Park, CA Mentor; Desmond Prescott, UDW; Ingrid Rangel, Morning Star; David Satterwhite, Morning Star; Garrett Schwerdt, CDI; Atiyah Simpson, SVS; Kim Totten, CA Mentor; Kayla Tucson, CA Mentor; Elizabeth Tunnesmann, Salem Christian Homes; Nadia Valencia, CA Mentor; LaRonda Whitaker, SVS;

IRC STAFF PRESENT: Dalila Balderas, Emily Ensign, Christina Gonzalez-Peralta, Lindsey Haussamen, Lavinia Johnson, Rosie Martinez, Leilani Nguyen, Monica Siegers, Merissa Stewuer, Vince Toms, Karina Torres, Treva Webster.

INTRODUCTIONS: Ms. Remington called the meeting to order at 10:03 and introductions of the committee and the attendees were made.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of December 16, 2019: M/S/C De Anda/Dawson.

Vendor Category Report:

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported they met on the 5th. They talked about the QA liaison changes. Rosa Jackson and Lynette Banda attended and answered questions from the providers. CBEM gave a presentation on Creating Behavior & Educational Momentum. They are a new vendor to the area and provide Critical Intervention Services. If anyone is interested in the presentation, let CBEM know: email info@cbemllc.com or phone (925) 283-9000. They talked about law enforcement and escalated behaviors. Next meeting is April 15th.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Ms. Dawson reported they met on January 15th. Brian Tremain and Brooke Chambers attended. They provided current openings and talked about potential ICF placements. Rosa Jackson and Lynette Banda from QA attended also and answered QA questions from the providers. They discussed IPP's and CDERS not being sent to them in a timely manner. The QA liaisons are helping with this. They discussed Tim Tebow's event "A Night to Shine" for consumers, annual survey licensing trends, SIR complaint visit trends, Life and Safety survey trends, transportation and day program/work programs. Next meeting is March 18th.

- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported on the January Pre-Vac. They discussed the budget which now includes Infant Programs for the 8.2% increase starting in January 2021. Ken Armstrong attended and went over the new monthly update form. Vendors will be able to send out current openings when it is finalized. They talked about the opening on the executive committee for Co-Chair. It is a 2-year position and the first year is Co-Chair and the second year is Chair. Voting will be held on March 9th. A parent training sub-committee was implemented to put together trainings. Last one was on Understanding Behaviors. A survey was taken on topics. Next training should be in June. Next meeting is February 24th.
- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report.
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** Ms. Kairu reported they had a conference call and six providers participated. Ms. Kairu is still working on collecting contact information for the providers in her service category. They started a FaceBook page, but it was not set up the right way, so it is still a work in progress. They talked about vacancies as there are a lot at this time. IRC has put on their website, that they cannot guarantee referrals for level 4 homes if new ones are opened. Next meeting is February 28th.
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported on the Pre-Vac of January 14th. They discussed the rate study and the Governor's budget. Christina Gonzalez-Peralta attended as the new QA liaison for the group. She talked with them about timing of authorization requests for DOR cases to try and shorten the length of the wait time for services to begin. Colleen Tejada gave a presentation on the SIR process. Next meeting is March 10th.
- 7) **SLS:** See Mr. Castanedo's reported his group will meet on Thursday. They didn't have a Pre-Vac before the VAC due to the holiday and the VAC meeting a week earlier. They discussed hiring and having people stay. People are job shopping and it makes it difficult to retain staff. They talked about workman's comp rates rising due to the number of claims submitted. Some vendors have told Mr. Castanedo, they have had to stop doing intakes because of it.
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** No Report.
- 9) **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported they met January 23rd. They discussed ABS Independent Contractors, rate increase, minimum wage, TSR's. Next meeting is March 19th.
- 10) **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported on the February 5th Pre-Vac. Concerns brought up: DOR referrals taking 2 to 3 weeks before getting scheduled; let the unit manager know if this is happening, difference in the handling of PIP's, due to not having clear direction. They talked about how to be more collaborative. Ideas were to have vendors involved as partners in planning, having CSC's and DOR attend meetings, CSC's and DOR counselors getting more training on employment expectations and processes. They talked about LPA's. Andrew Burdick attended. He shared that IRC would sponsor a Vocational Vendor Fair. Let Ms. Chatman know if interested. Vince Toms attended to give updates regarding the HCBS survey, DDS visits and the Burns Study. Next meeting will be April 7th at IRC at 9:30.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Norum reported she is still working on gathering contact information for the providers in her service category. She is gathering feedback on whether to meet virtually or face to face. He is hoping to have a meeting in March.
- 12) **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 his term and Mr. McKown's term on the committee is up and Ms. Dawson will also be leaving. An application was submitted for the Health Facilities position. Ms. Remington will move to the Specialist/Support Program position which will leave an opening for Member at Large.

Motion made to accept Tim Heaslip as the Health Facility Representative: M/S/C Horrigan/Gimm.

Motion made to approve Ms. Remington as chair, Ms. Stewart as Vice-Chair, Ms. Delgado as Secretary and Ms. Gimm as Membership Committee Chair: M/S/C Horrigan/Caicedo.

Motion made to adjust term limits to match By-Laws to March 1st to February 28th: Horrigan/Caicedo.

Ms. Gimm reported they now have a formalized process for applicants who want to join to committee. They will meet face to face to go over background information, review by-laws. The by-laws will be covered in orientation as well and expectations will be reviewed with new members. They need one more member on the Membership Committee. Let Ms. Gimm know if interested. Residential Level 2 & 3 position is open as are several Member at Large positions. If anyone is interested, email Ms. Gimm.

Regional Center Update: Ms. Johnson reported she and Mr. Urtz attended the Inland Empire Caucus Breakfast last Friday. This event is facilitated by Ms. Karen Jones and she does an amazing job. Sponsors were Anthesis, Exceed, Options for All, CA Mentor, FRW/ISS, The Roland Center, Desert ARC, Lincoln Training Center, VIP and OPARC. Ms. Johnson thanked the VAC committee members for the candidness on their needs and concerns. We must work together for the benefit of our consumers. She thanked everyone for their dedication to the consumers. An update on the budget was given.

Mr. Toms thanked Mr. Horrigan, Mr. McKown and Ms. Dawson for their service on the committee. He welcomed Ms. Chatman and Ms. Norum to the committee. Mr. Toms gave the following updates:

Home and Community Based Services – Final Rule (HCBS-FR) Trainings –

Dates provided for the Vendor self-assessment

- 1-3-20 is the target for the assessment to be available on-line. It will be set up like the ABX2-1 survey. Each provider will get a link to the platform. Each RC will have an administrator assigned. A survey is going out to determine who is going to be the contact for each RC.
- 1-13-20 the self-assessment trainings will begin.
- Middle of March will be the target for the providers to have the assessments done and submitted.
- 4-1-20 DDS must post the results of the assessment on their website.

There will be a total of 5 trainings, and one will be recorded for the DDS website. The intent is to discuss content and completion of the assessment. Web access for this training will be provided. RCs and providers will have access to FAQs, training videos and information on a portal. Link for providers will be provided.

Services provided by vendors that are eligible for HCBS funding will be required to complete the assessment. The self-assessment is required for approximately 9,000 providers state-wide and on-site visits will then be determined. The surveys were emailed by Evolution Consulting LLC., the last

week of January. The intent of the on-site assessment is to validate the data in the assessment. The DDS contractor providing the on-site visits will use the vendor's self-assessment to drive the on-site visit.

Site assessments will be determined in the following fashion: Randomly, providers not completing the assessment, providers that gave inconsistent answers within their assessment or within the service code and if there are questions regarding heightened scrutiny. There are thus, multiple ways to determine which providers get the site assessments, which will begin in March of 2020.

Providers will be asked to provide the data they used to complete the assessment and then used by the site visit contractor to validate the assessment. Documentation can include, program design, interviews, etc. Input from the clients will be required for completing the self-assessment. DDS will give input to providers on how to do this during the upcoming assessment trainings.

Governor Newsome's proposed State Budget Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-21:

Vendor Specific:

1. The 8.2% rate increase for the vendors documented at the onset, will not see it sunset on 12-31-21 but extend to 7-1-23. An added 1.5 years.
2. Starting 1-1-21, three added service codes will get the 8.2% (a year from now) – 116, 805 and 520; Early Start Therapeutic Services, Infant Development and Independent Living Service. There is the same sunset date of 7-1-23.
3. The sunset on the Uniform Holiday Schedule will be extended from 12-31-21 to 7-1-23.

Regional Center Specific:

1. DDS and the DS Task Force will reform the financing of the service delivery system to a Performance Incentive Program (PIP) that will incentivize the RC payments for an increase in the quality of services, addressing both disparity, competitive integrated employment, data collection demonstrating value, integrated services and person centered thinking. There will be measures not only tied to the Performance Contract but also meeting advanced measures that will be coming.
2. Reducing the caseload ratio for clients under the age of 5.
3. Funding for training on PCT and TIC for those dually diagnosed with DD and MH.

These are all proposals that will need to be approved by the Legislature. More information on the DDS site.

Burns Rate Study:

Hearing held on January 22, 2020. As a result of the extended public comment period, there were three areas that were changed/updated. Cost Data and program use estimates, external costs such as mileage rates and actual rate models in some cases. Senator Pan, who chaired the hearing is requesting the final plan on implementation of the study or parts of it in time for the March Budget Hearings. Monitor the DDS website for the updates and changes.

SLS/ILS Update:

The IRC Operations Guidelines have been updated. The intent was to keep the integrity of what IRC and the Vendor Committee created in 2011, intact. The IRC referral form was condensed from three

separate documents into one that can be used for both SLS and ILS. A uniform Individual Service Plan is in creation but may take at least 6 months to complete.

Training Offering:

Resources: None

Financial: Ms. Steuwer reported they finished the temporary rate increase. If it was not on the January invoice, call POS. The rate adjustment will be completed April 30th. Bridge funding is in place. For those requesting the minimum wage, worksheet is due by March 31st. Inland is on target with the POS budget. Fiscal year 17/18 is closing. To submit any billing for the fiscal year is due by March 10th. DDS will be at Inland for an audit on March 2nd. We need financials. They are due yearly unless a waiver is in place.

Old Business: The Membership committee did meet.

New Business: According to by-laws, a planning meeting should take place in March. Please email availability to Ms. Remington.

Public Input: Has there been thought to having a Specialized Residence representative? Yes, we want all vendor groups represented. Have interested party email Ms. Gimm. Ms. Remington thanked Mr. Horrigan, Mr. McKown and Ms. Dawson for their service on the committee.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2020 at Inland Regional Center, 1425 S. Waterman Ave., San Bernardino. Check in at building 3.