

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

May 18, 2020

INTRODUCTIONS: Ms. Remington called the meeting to order at 8:58.

Introductions of the committee were made, and the opportunity was given to those in attendance to introduce themselves if they wanted to.

Vendor Category Report:

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported they have been emailing between the providers. They have concerns with the DDS directive and about reopening. They have questions about telehealth and billing, and liability. Ms. De Anda is participating on the IRC task force to reopen. She has emailed the providers for feedback.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Mr. Heaslip reported the ICF providers were given a temporary 10% increase due to Covid-19. They have concerns about the governor's budget and about the impact of the tobacco tax which is due to be rolled back in July as they are receiving funds from that tax. They talked about the uniform holiday schedule as it pertains to staffing and billable days. Ancor is highlighting the work of the caregivers called #forgottenfaces on social media.
- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported on the meeting on May 11th. Marylou Paras of POS and Ms. Merissa Steuwer joined the call to answer POS questions and discuss billing. They have concerns with the DDS guidelines. Referrals are down and they are working to let families know they are providing telehealth services. Telehealth services may be used in the future for those living in outlying areas or who have health issues. They are meeting twice a month and continue to share success stories.
- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report.
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** No Report.
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported on the meeting of May 12th via Zoom. The providers are working with QA and Christina Gonzalez when they have questions and about their plans. They were asked if more PPE was needed. They had no major concerns.
- 7) **SLS:** Mr. Castanedo reported he emailed providers for questions and feedback. One vendor is requesting more surgical masks. Christina Gonzalez of QA is looking into the matter. They have question regarding average vs actual hours to bill. They have concerns with the DDS directive and changing things mid-month as well as with the PPP loans. Mr. Castanedo attended the remote meeting for SGPRC on 05/14/2020. They have the same issues Inland does. They have concerns with the budget cuts coming.

- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** Ms. Remington reported the group has not had a formal meeting. They continue to email and share information which Ms. Remington shares with the committee and asks they share with the providers. She reminded providers to share information, questions and concerns. Providers are concerned about the budget cuts and DDS guidelines.
- 9) **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported they have concerns with the new DDS directive and the fact that it changes things in the middle of the first directive. They are concerned with funding after being told they would be funded and now being told to seek other forms of funding such as PPP which has run out of money already. There are concerns with add-on costs for PPE gear and potential modifications for vehicles to accommodate social distancing as well as increases to worker's comp rates to cover employee illness.
- 10) **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported they met April 22nd via conference call. Department of Rehab joined the call. They talked about innovative ways to provide service and job prep via Zoom. Dept of Rehab will not support jobs for consumers if they are advertised as temporary. Andrew Burdick of QA joined the call and gave updates. He said providers can email him, Beth Crane, or QA with any questions. They received an update on CIE payments: it had been reported the clock starts over if consumer loses job due to Covid-19, but this has been retracted. They pick up where they left off when they return. The State Council on Developmental Disabilities will join the next Pre-Vac call on June 10th at 9:30 and at 10:00 for the Coalition meeting. She advised providers to send questions to their liaison.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Norum reported the providers have been emailing back and forth. Their concerns are Governor's Budget, DDS Directive, how to reopen and the lack of funding.
- 12) **Member At Large:** Ms. Delgado had nothing to report.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** Ms. Remington on the Governor's May revise. Updates are sent to the VAC committee so they can share with the providers. We hope the Senate to pass the Cares Act, so the shortfall is not so painful.
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Remington reported the Membership Committee needs a chair. If one of the VAC representatives would like to volunteer just let Ms. Remington know. There is one application outstanding for Member at Large.

Regional Center Update: Ms. Johnson reported Last Thursday, Gov. Newsom released the May Revise to the January Budget. This year, the May Revise is factoring in billions of dollars of lost revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(This document normally revises earlier financial estimates to reflect taxes received in April, and to also address any new or changing policy goals.)

*Newsom described a Budget reflecting a 22.3% revenue decline, due to lower tax revenues which are sales tax, personal income tax, and corporate taxes. It anticipates an 18% unemployment rate in California. The May Revise is 9% lower than the Budget enacted June 2019. California's Budget is always a combination of the General Fund and federal funding. A combination of new program cancellations, use of the Rainy-Day funds, some funding reductions, and trigger cuts are being used to minimize the extent of cuts proposed. Without the federal bill being signed the state will bear extreme cuts

*There are a number of major changes to our system the May Revise is proposing. First, there are a number of new ideas, proposed in January, that are being cancelled:

- Performance Incentive Program for regional centers
- Enhanced caseload ratio for children ages 3-5
- START Training to benefit dually-diagnosed individuals
- Provider rate increases for Early Start, Infant Development, and ILS

*Second, a number of cuts are being proposed. These cuts will not happen if the federal government provides additional money to California by July 1:

- Cost-sharing for higher-income families
- \$300 million (General Fund) in provider rate cuts
- \$30 million (General Fund) in cuts to regional center operations, increased to \$55 million in the 2021-22 fiscal year
- Uniform Holiday Schedule (a series of mandatory closure days).

*PPE:

We've received PPE from ASIE and will be receiving more from DDS this week. The Team will be distributing to consumers in residential facilities and SLS. Please email Dalila Balderas.

*Return to our offices:

We're discussing plans to return, and specifics are still pending.

Mr. Toms reported:

1. DDS directive to March 12th initial State of Emergency Declaration and funding for C19 related absences for non-residential services.
 - a. Northern California, there is litigation against the order. DDS has stated that they will be sending out further guidance or FAQs on the directive, middle of last week was when they stated.
2. May Revise – Please review if you have not. Much of the deep funding cuts may be lessened with the passage of the Hero's Act, currently with the House for approval.
 - a. DDS rate augmentation over the last year will be considered for reduction to the stated amount of \$300M
 - b. Uniform Holiday Schedule will be reinstated.
3. Day Service Task Force – Will meet Wednesday for continued development on reopening guidance.
 - a. Must be based on State and local ordinances, CDC, CDPH, insurance requirements and best practice.
4. Transportation Task Force – finished last week and came up with some general guidance. Need to formalize a checklist and then can be sent to providers as a standard to follow.
 - a. Masks use is the cornerstone of the guidance. Question surrounding a client refusing or inability to wear a mask and how it relates to client rights. Thus, guidance must meet the CDC, CDPH standards.

Financial: Ms. Steuwer reported on the budget cuts addressed in the May revise. There are proposed cuts to providers, and regional center. The uniform holiday schedule will go into effect July 1st. While workers are working from home, they can be temporarily reclassified as administrative and will be charged a lower worker's comp rate. New DDS directive says providers should seek money from the federal government before billing regional center. Providers will be paid soon for April. May billing will be processed the same as April unless new directives come from DDS.

Ms. Webster talked about open communication; keep asking questions and expressing concerns. Regional center will pass along information as soon as we have it.

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: Mr. Horrigan talked about the need for communication between transportation, day programs and group homes in order to adjust routes. He talked about the fact that some consumers may not be able to wear a mask. Consumers residing in the same home can be transported together to lessen exposure. There are concerns with workers comp and the Covid-19 provision and related costs. It was reported that San Bernardino county had a Readiness and Reopen Plan training for small businesses. Grants of up to \$2500 are provided to local businesses to train on health and safety. A sticker will be provided to each business that takes the training to show "This business partner is Covid-19 compliant." Ms. Remington reminded everyone to stay in contact with each other and with their liaison. She will send any pertinent information to the committee members and they in turn can share with their providers.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2020 at 9:00 am via Zoom.