

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

May 18, 2020

INTRODUCTIONS: Ms. Remington called the meeting to order at 9:02.

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

Minutes: MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of May 18, 2020: M/S/C DeAnda/Norum.

Ms. Remington announced that April Stewart is back from leave. Donna Norum will be the Chair of the Membership Committee and Felecia Arnold will be a member of the committee. If any other VAC committee members would like to be on the membership committee, let Ms. Norum know,

Vendor Category Report:

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported the providers have been staying on contact via email. Questions have been sent to the QA liaison and to Vince Toms. They discussed the Day Program Checklist. They have concerns with reopening: Will the residence pick the consumer up if they get sick at program? They also have concerns with the policies and procedures; What happens to those consumers who do not wish to return to program? Will they get absentee funding for those? What happens if there is a surge in cases? They are working closely with QA to reopen.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Mr. Heaslip reported the Prop 56 funding was rejected by the Senate. The 10% funding for ICF's is temporary and will be ending. They have concerns with their population returning to program as they are medically fragile. They will be assessing individually. ICF's may be the last to return
- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported they last met on June 8th. They continue to meet twice a month to answer questions via Zoom. The Early Start program managers told them that Inland is involved in a DDS audit so please have patience with the case managers. Ms. Steuwer was on the call to answer POS questions. They were encouraged to submit late billing. Please do not wait more than 60 days. Genii Greco was also on the call. They talked about program design addendums. Some providers may need to submit addendums. Telehealth will continue to be an option for programming. They have concerns with reopening and with the budget. They are sending reopening plans to regional center.
- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report.
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** Ms. Kairu reported they have not met but they are posing questions. They have questions: For those consumers not going to program, will there be extra funding for 1:1? If the facility transports consumers to program, can they get funding? What about consumers who have health conditions? Are providers able to get more PPE? Will there be provider enrichment training online?

- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Stewart reported they met via Zoom. Providers were quiet. They are looking for ways to engage the providers. They are concerned with the budget cuts. They have questions on absentee billing.
- 7) **SLS:** Mr. Castanedo reported he was having technical issue on the call but he did submit the notes from the Pre-Vac. They continue to email and have telephone conversations. Some providers have been meeting their consumers face to face following CDC guidelines and more have begun providing face to face contacts. They want to know when regional center CSC's will be back in the field. Some consumers do not want face to face contact as they are worried about the virus. They have concerns about the budget, workers comp, EDD claims, bearing excessive exposure to liability, potential lawsuits, billing being cut by up to 23% or more and the minimum wage increase.
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** Ms. Remington reported the providers continue to stay in touch via email. They continue to send out updates to the providers and to the VAC committee. Mr. McKown conducted a presentation for the Upland Chamber of Commerce and Resiliency during Covid-19 which was very beneficial.
- 9) **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported there have been lots of back and forth with day programs and facilities on reopening and transportation. They have concerns with consumers not returning to program, funding. They have questions on how things will reopen: different dates, all together. There is still so much that is unknown. They need dates so they can implement transportation. They thanked regional center for the masks. Next meeting will be June 18th.
- 10) **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported on the Zoom meeting on the 10th. They have a question regarding WAP's and billing. WAP's cannot provide remote services. Will they get paid for a full day? They have concerns with reopening and high-risk consumers; Can they provide services if consumers wish to return? They had a discussion on how to make the reopening work amid social distancing, masks, consumers with behaviors, medical concerns. They were told there is some trailer bill language to allow for remote services. Tamika from State Council offered assistance to all vendors with PPE. If anyone needs PPE, email sanbernardino@scdd.ca.gov. DOR reported that most vendors are still providing services for mutual DOR/IRC consumers that are working or looking for work.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Norum reported on the Pre-Vac of May 27th. They have all the same concerns that have already been reported by the other committee members. They have concerns with the budget, funding, reopening and authorizations for service. Ms. Norum thanked regional center for their advocating. Next meeting is June 29th.
- 12) **Member At Large:** Ms. Delgado had nothing to report.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** No Report.
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Norum reported she had a briefing with Ms. Remington on expectations. There are 2 applications that need to be interviewed. There is an opening for a representative for Residential Level 2 & 3.

Regional Center Update: Mr. Toms reported working on reopening. Day Services will be the most difficult. Any change to traditional services such as telehealth will need an addendum. DDS Directives will be coming out by the end of June. There is a draft version on DDS' website. Requirements will include a risk assessment and must follow CDC and County guidelines. San Bernardino county has been placed on a watch list due to an increase in

the number of COVID-19 cases. Vendors must write a plan for each phase, include remote services and submit to IRC for review. ARCA has presented recommendations to DDS and is encouraging DDS to continue to support vendors to maintain the progress that has been made regarding COVID-19 in the DD system. It appears that absence funding under the SOE will end at the end of June. IRC has some masks available and will be providing the masks to vendors based on vendor category priorities. It is likely that the DDS checklist will be similar to the Day Programs checklist developed by IRC, but DDS is now taking the lead. The backbone of the checklist is the need to communicate with individual consumers and families, other vendor groups and to focus on Person Centered Planning. Plans must take individual concerns into account. IRC estimates that 30% or more of consumers may not want to return to programming due to concerns about safety. Vendors are encouraged to rebrand and to emphasize that they have a safe, appropriate plan for reopening that meets the individual needs of clients. Vince announced that the DDS meeting about to begin should provide additional information about the DDS Protection Plan.

Meeting was ended early due to the DDS meeting starting at 10:00 so that everyone could join if they wanted to.

Financial: No Report.

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: None

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