

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER  
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**VIA ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**February 8, 2021**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Audrey Andrade, Member at Large: Jasmin Botello, SLS: Marie Chatman, Vocational Programs: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Jenn Delgado, Member at Large: Ruth Goodsell, Member at Large: Timothy Heaslip, Health Facilities: Mumbi Kairu, Residential Level 4: Donita Remington, Specialist/Support Programs: April Stewart, Respite.

Donita thanked Coby for the minutes. She reminded everyone they should be on the email list of their representative to ensure they received all updates and information that is sent out. VAC meetings will continue monthly via Zoom. Next meeting is March 15<sup>th</sup>. As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, April Stewart will be the new Chair of the VAC. April gave a few instructions on how to use Zoom: to unmute, tap screen or microphone. If calling in, to mute/unmute is \*6 and to raise hand is \*9. CJ has been sending out vaccine updates. He is also updating the IRC website with new information. CJ has a contact for San Bernardino county that is willing to work with regional center. Riverside county has been more challenging.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Ms. Remington called the meeting to order at 9:03.

**Minutes: MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of January 11, 2021: M/S/C Delgado/Andrade.**

**Vendor Category Report:**

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. Goodsell reported they met February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dan Moore and Emily Ensign were on the call. There is some frustration regarding the Mitigation plan that CCL is requesting. CCL says it needs to be submitted if providing in person services or planning for the future. Providers feel it is geared more toward residential providers. There is also frustration with CCL's request for Surveillance Testing as it also appears to be geared more for residential providers. They talked about vaccines. Billing was an issue for January, and they were not notified there was an issue. They are requesting to be notified if there is a problem. The ASD workbooks were emailed to vendors last week. IRC created a power point regarding ASD billing. It was forwarded to day programs that are on the list. Providers were reminded to check the IRC website often for updates.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Mr. Heaslip reported the ICF's have started to receive vaccines. Some staff are hesitant to receive the vaccine. Most consumers are getting it. There will be an informational call regarding the protocol for senior care and Covid after vaccines have been administered. Covid is not going away. How can we get back to normal? The call will take place on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:15. The Public Health Emergency (PHE) was extended for 90 days which extends the 6.2% federal Medicaid assistance. It may be extended through the end of the year. Next meeting not yet scheduled.

- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** No Report
- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** Ms. Kairu apologized for missing a couple of meetings. She was out of the country dealing with an emergency. She has been in contact with the providers. They appreciate being able to get the vaccines at the facilities. The majority have been vaccinated. They are having some issues with consents when there is no family involvement. They also have concerns with the re-admission process. Do they follow the process if admitted to the hospital? What if they only go to the emergency department for a couple of hours but are not admitted? The hospital will not give a Covid test if they are only there in emergency for a short time. Mr. Toms answered that the re-admission process should be completed even if they only go to the emergency room and are not admitted. Ms. Kairu is working on setting up the next meeting.
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Stewart reported they have not met. They continue to email. They are focused on recruiting. Vaccine information and minimum wage information has been emailed.
- 7) **SLS:** Ms. Botello reported they met last month. They discussed the vaccine, ASD delivery and the temporary increase for ILS/SLS. They are having issues getting appointments for the vaccine. She has received the power point from IRC and will forward to those on her mailing list. She is working on scheduling the next meeting.
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** Ms. Remington reported her group continues to send out updates and other information via email. The next zoom meeting date has not been scheduled. Ms. Remington introduced Mr. McKown as the new representative for the Specialist/Support group as of March 1<sup>st</sup>. They talked about the vaccine and when, those who have had Covid and recovered, should get the vaccine. There have been reports saying if those who have had Covid within 90 days and they get the vaccine, they may have much stronger reactions. The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose may give cause stronger reactions. Those getting the vaccine are encouraged to rest, drink a lot of water.
- 9) **Transportation:** No Report
- 10) **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman more people are needing mental health support and the group is looking for resources: Pauline Pina send resources for mental health. The group would like to know if they are required to complete an SIR if they get a report that someone was positive for Covid a week or two ago: yes, continue to complete SIR's and add the date illness or diagnosis began. DDS in a memo dated January 27<sup>th</sup>, said providers did not need to complete the daily drop downs indicating alternative services provided for each served and they are asking if regional center is aware of this: yes, IRC confirmed this. Andrew gave updates on PIP's. Andrew, Beth and Joyce reported on upcoming LPA meetings. Grit and Flow is offering free trainings to job developers. Penn Emblem has committed to a full-time resource onsite to help fill openings. DOR is getting a VR Connections portal online so that communication/connections are more efficient. There will be a CIE/SE Coalition Workgroup on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am on TEAMS. If interested, email Joyce.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** No Report
- 12) **Member At Large:** Neither Ms. Delgado., Ms. Andrade nor Ms. Goodsell had anything to report as Members at Large.

## Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** No Report
  
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Goodsell reported the Membership Committee did not meet. She thanked the IRC liaisons for their help. There are openings for Residential Level 2 & 3 and for Behavioral Modification. If anyone is interested, please let Ms. Goodsell know.

**Regional Center Update:** Mr. Toms thanked Ms. Remington for her leadership, for being a champion for the providers and for her collaboration with regional center. Mr. Toms also welcomed Ms. Stewart who is also an advocate for providers. She and regional center have collaborated on many issues together. Mr. Toms reminded the providers, if they have specific questions, they should email their liaison. Providers are also reminded to check the DDS website often for updates. DDS is taking charge of the rates and audits. A secondary vendor meeting was created to talk about vaccines and Covid. They meet every other week. Riverside County has upped the age for priority for the vaccine to 85 years old and is still having trouble meeting the demand. CJ Cook has good communication with San Bernardino County, and they are willing to work with us. Kaiser is having some problems and availability is hit and miss. It is a good idea for facility staff to stagger those getting the vaccine so that not everyone is experiencing the side effects all at one time. Those getting the vaccine may need a couple of days to rest and feel better. The Johnson & Johnson only requires one shot so it may be a better option for consumers who are reluctant to get a shot. Those getting the vaccine will still need to wear a mask, wash hands and social distance as we do not know if they can shed the virus after getting the vaccine, since some consumers may not be able to get the vaccine and the vaccine may not be effective against the new strains. We still need to use caution on how we provide services. We are not ready for traditional services just yet. ASD billing must have certifications. The new DDS Directive from last week requires the case managers to call each consumer each week to get information about Covid diagnosis, vaccine information etc. They will collect the information such as date received vaccine and the type received. Case managers also need to know as soon as a consumer goes into the hospital in order to work on the discharge plan.

**Financial:** No Report.

**Training Offering:** None

**Resources:** Easter Seals received a grant from DDS for training on alternative services. The webinar will be presented on February 10<sup>th</sup> through December and will have two meetings per month on navigating alternative services. The website for information is [Disabilitythriveinitiative.org](http://Disabilitythriveinitiative.org).

ARCA is planning a virtual Grassroots day. More information to follow.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Public Input:** It was noted there is a lag time to develop antibodies after the vaccine: 12 days for the first vaccine and 20 days after the second dose. Website NADSP gives information on vaccine hesitancy. Experts bread down what it is, how it works, side effects, when the vaccine takes affect etc.

There were many, many comments left for Ms. Remington, thanking her for her leadership and service to consumers and providers.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2021 at 9:00 am via Zoom.