

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

March 15, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Audrey Andrade, Member at Large: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: 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: Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: April Stewart, Respite.

Instructions for Zoom and for calling in were give. Everyone will be muted. If anyone has a question, they can unmute to ask or ask in the chat. Ms. Arnold will monitor the chat. If calling in, use *6 to unmute and mute and *9 to raise hand.

A presentation was given by Barry Jardini on the Disability Thrive Initiative. Their purpose is to support providers with alternative services. They offer Webinars, trainings, resources and consultations. They will offer 2 webinars per month through 2021. The webinars are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 3:00 at Webinar.disabilitythriveinitiative.org. Email is info@disabilitythriveinitiative.org.

Ms. Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:06.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of February 8, 2021 with correction to section “Committee Members Present”, Ms. De Anda was not present: M/S/C Heaslip/Arnold and Ms. DeAnda abstained.

Vendor Category Report:

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported on the Pre-Vac of the 10th. They discussed the CCL Mitigation Plan and vaccines. It was asked if Inland was going to create a task force for reopening. Vince answered this: Inland is not there yet but will look at it. Last summer, a task force was created, and comprehensive guidelines were created. He may ask the group to come together at some point to look at it again.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Mr. Heaslip reported they met last month on the 24th. They discussed challenges with staffing, visitation and vaccines.
- 3) **Infant/Children’s Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported her group met last month on the 22nd. They discussed vaccines as well as training and educating staff about them. They are concerned about referrals as the number has dropped significantly. DDS shared a link to a video discussing the importance of the Early Start program and the resources they offer. Ms. Caicedo asked others to share the video to help the Early Start program. Next meeting is March 22nd.
- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** No Rep0ort

- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported they did not have a meeting but have kept in contact via email and continue to address concerns.
- 7) **SLS:** Ms. Botello reported they did not meet last month, so she had no report.
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown reported his group did not meet. He will be going through the email list to update. He asked providers to send him their email if they needed to be added to the list.
- 9) **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported they met last month but nothing new has been reported. They are waiting on rates and billing from DDS, and they know this is being worked on. They discussed reopening and alternative services.
- 10) **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported they met on the 10th. Amazon attended to talk about their program to hire people with disabilities and provide them with accommodations. They discussed the consumer employment page on the IRC website. They had concerns about lack of response to ASD appeal emails sent to the IRC website. Ms. Steuwer addressed this and said they had no emails that had not been addressed. It was suggested to look in SPAM folder. They had concerns with case managers not providing authorizations for the new rates. They asked if there was new information on PIP's. Can 24 Hr. Home Care still be used for PIP's? Can providers that do not have 12 months of history and have not been provided a rate still provide services? Their next meeting will be on April 14th.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** No Report
- 12) **Member At Large:** Neither Ms. Andrade nor Ms. Goodsell had anything to report as Members at Large.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** Legislative report, prepared by Ms. Jennifer Cummings, was emailed 03-12-2021.
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Goodsell reported the Membership Committee did not meet. There are openings for Residential Level 2 & 3 and Behavior Modification. She and the QA liaisons are working to identify those who may want to step up and assume the positions. If anyone is interested in either of the open positions, please let Ruth know.

Regional Center Update: Mr. Toms reported:

ASD rates:

To provide ASD services, there must be a certification on file with the Quality Assurance Liaison, the IDT meeting has been held with all participants, the ISP must be updated, as well as the IPP. We ask that if ASD services are to begin, it is done at the start of the month. IRC also asks that the services not change from traditional to ASD from month to month. Please do your best to remain one of the two types of service provision going forward. Rates for transporters and supported employment groups are with the federal funding agency and they are working out the final details. This was as of late last week.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) update:

- The 21st Century Cares Act requires that all service delivery in the client home, by a provider, must have 6 data elements verified through an EVV system. The six areas are the type of service, client receiving the service, date of service, location of service, provider of the service and the time the service begins and ends.
- The services include Respite, Supported Living Service (SLS), Personal Assistance and Homemaker Services. EVV is only necessary for the portion of service that is provided in the home.
- DDS is moving into Phase 2 and they will be selecting a contractor to develop a state EVV system by May of 2021. They intend to have stakeholder meetings throughout the process and provide trainings on the EVV state system, by the fall of 2021.
- Full implementation by regional center vendors is expected by January of 2022.
- Vendors can use the state EVV system to collect and report the required data or use a EVV system of their choosing. There will be a DDS requirement on the data and format required to submit the data. The EVV system will require safeguards to ensure the client's private information will be protected and confidential. IRC recommendation to the vendors is to use the EVV system provided by the state.
- At this time, DDS does not anticipate EVV being required for ABA based services.

REOPENING DISCUSSION:

IRC recommends all vendors still hold off on providing face to face services, for the time being.

For a county to move into the red tier (examples of spaces and the percentages for capacity):

1. Museums, restaurants, and movie theaters – can open at 25% capacity or 100 people total.
2. Gyms – 10%
3. Stores and malls – 50%
4. ***indoor gatherings still discouraged but allowed for a maximum of 3 different households.

San Bernardino moved into red yesterday, with Riverside expected on Tuesday.

CDC updated their guidelines for "visitation," by people who are all vaccinated:

1. Can congregate and visit if all others are vaccinated.
2. Can visit with a person who is not vaccinated, if they are only from one additional household and unless that person is not a risk of a severe reaction to the vaccine. ***this one is key.
3. If in a group home and the vaccinated person is around a person who is covid positive, then that person must still be quarantined for 14 days and tested. ***key with day service staff who may not want to be vaccinated. Will cause quarantine issues in the residential facility if the site and/or staff are found positive. For this reason, we are not wanting the day programs going back to face to face service, until there is movement or more clarity on this portion of the guidance.

IRC will offer guidance and a basic reopening standard(s) in the future, but will not provide an overlying policy on how vendors reopen. It is up to all vendors to create a reopening plan based on the CDC and local DPH guidance and the county tier level. Reopening is going to be a very detailed issue. It is not just service provision that you have to look at, but also HIPPA standards for clients, family and vendor staff. Also, not all clients and their circle of support will want an unvaccinated person around others not vaccinated (@40 – survey). The plan will need to be detailed as to how the vendor will handle situations with their families, clients and staff.

VACCINES: Working with both counties to get clients vaccinated. Currently in talks to use IRC as a mega-site for drive up vaccinations. Will be based on the cities with zip codes that have the highest rates of covid positivity.

Both Riverside and San Bernardino Health Departments have confirmed that self-attestation of disability or high-risk health condition will be accepted at their vaccination sites. Inland Regional Center CSCs will still provide eligibility letters to consumers as back-up proof, but they should not be required. San Bernardino specifically asked that consumers be aware that nobody should copy or keep the original IRC eligibility letter at the vaccination site. If the letter is reviewed, it should be given back to the consumer before leaving the vaccination site. Please keep in mind that acceptance of self-attestation only applies to eligibility through disability or high-risk

health conditions. Vaccination sites may still require health care workers, including paid or unpaid caretakers, and other eligible tiers to provide documentation to prove eligibility. Each individual receiving the vaccine requires an appointment. IRC is working with San Bernardino to setup a pop-up clinic at IRC's San Bernardino location. This will be done on a Saturday (not this Saturday).

Vaccines Approved for Emergency Use:

*You *might* be able to see which vaccine is offered at the site during scheduling but will likely not be offered a choice at your appointment as most sites (possibly all) only have 1 vaccine manufacturer available

- Pfizer: 16 and older, 2 doses
- Moderna: 18 and older, 2 doses
- Johnson & Johnson: 18 and older, 1 dose (This is in limited supply for the next few weeks.)

Financial: No Report

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: None

Next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2021 at 9:00 am via Zoom.