

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER  
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**VIA ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**April 19, 2021**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Audrey Andrade, Member at Large: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Jasmin Botello, SLS: Johana Caicedo, Infant/Children Programs: Marie Chatman, Vocational Programs: Ruth Goodsell, Member at Large: Timothy Heaslip, Health Facilities: April Stewart, Respite.

Instructions for Zoom and for calling in were given. 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.

Ms. Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:03.

**MINUTES:** Motion made to approve minutes of March 15, 2021: M/S/C Arnold/Heaslip.

Ms. Lilliana Garnica presented on POS. There is a link to a survey if anyone would like to fill it out. Ms. Garnica stated that people can email her with feedback or even call her if they choose to give feedback that way.

**Vendor Category Report:**

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. Goodsell reported Monica Siegers will be their liaison until they get a replacement as their liaison is no longer with the agency. The task force for re-engagement plans is underway. They are still hoping for some direction from DDS. She stressed including transportation in the reopening plans.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Mr. Heaslip reported SB95 has been reinstated back to January 1<sup>st</sup> which gives 80 hours of Covid sick time to employees. They still have no clear direction for visitation at ICF's. They continue to be safe and allow visits outside. Most consumers have been vaccinated but not all staff have been. BPH and Life Safety Code are both out doing annual surveys. Mr. Heaslip talked about AB650 which requires hazard pay for employees. Others may want to follow this bill.
- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported they had their Pre-Vac on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Merissa and representatives from the POS department attended to give information and answer questions. They talked about retro billing. It was recommended if providers receive an increase mid-month and the authorization has not been processed by the end of the month, it would be better to defer services for that child until the following month. They discussed ASD. The Early Start providers have not needed to use ASD as the waivers to provide tele-intervention have been extended through May 6<sup>th</sup>. The waiver that allows the providers to continue services for children over 3 if the school district is backed up has also been extended until May 11<sup>th</sup>. They continue to reach out to community partners reminding them Early Start services are still open and they can refer to them. Next meeting is April 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30.
- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report

- 5) **Residential Service L4:** No Report
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Stewart reported for Ms. Delgado that there were no significant updates for the Respite group. There were questions regarding the minimum wage worksheet, and they were referred to POS and to QA liaison Christina Gonzalez.
- 7) **SLS:** Ms. Botello reported they did not meet last month but they will be meeting next week on Thursday. Ms. Stewart shared a picture of Ms. Botello's new baby girl, Phoenix. Welcome Baby Phoenix!!
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown was absent but sent an email. His group did not meet but they are concerned about transitioning to some in-home face to face services. They have heard of other Behavioral Modification providers already making the transition, so they are looking for the latest information and guidance. He will have one of the providers on the call to get the updates.
- 9) **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported they met on April 15<sup>th</sup>. She thanked Merissa for the training on the new monthly billing for transportation. Ms. Stewart addressed the concerns transportation has with how the rates are being calculated and the caps. She will be meeting with California Disability Services Association today and will share those concerns with them.
- 10) **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported they met on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Workforce Development for Special Populations Committee attended and talked about putting together a work group to get people with IDDD employed and they talked about the transportation issues. They met with San Bernardino but are reaching out to Riverside to collaborate as well. The providers discussed in person services, what that will look like and how it will affect billing. They asked if they could be notified when LPA meetings are held, and they were told meetings are on the IRC website. Department of Rehab attended and discussed the state internship program. If anyone is interested, they should email Matthew at DOR. They stated that care providers were asking about vaccination plans before sending consumers back to program so they are asking if they can get guidance from IRC on vaccine expectations or will DDS address? They asked about the outdated DDS directive from 3/2020 and asked if DDS will address or send new guidance as they are still following the CDPH guidance.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** No Report
- 12) **Member At Large:** Ms. Goodsell reported she participated in a number of vendor group meetings including day program and transportation as well as IRC's reopening task force and she encouraged others to remember to include transportation providers in the reopening plans. It will look very different when we reopen, and they need to be included in the process.

## Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** No Report
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Goodsell reported the Membership Committee did not meet. There are currently openings for Residential Level 2 & 3 and Behavior Modification. They had some interest in both positions, but the individuals could not commit at this time. If anyone is interested in either position, please let Ms. Goodsell know.

**Regional Center Update:** Mr. Toms gave the following report:

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

The date for vendors to comply with the FR has been extended to March of 2023. Site visits have been transitioned into virtual site visits, based on the survey data sent by Evolution Consulting LLC. The intent of the virtual site assessment is to validate the data in the assessment. The DDS contractor providing the virtual assessments is Public Consulting Group (PCG) and Heather Fladmark will be the Regional Center Liaison for the project and will work with the vendors and the IRC Quality Assurance members to work through assessment. 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 training and letter they intend to distribute to the RCs soon.

### **Day Service Reopening-**

DDS will be providing a reopening plan with guidelines in the future. Currently there are guidelines that have been provided by the California Department of Public Health, which are general directives. A substantial set of guidance has been provided by Community Care Licensing for all center-based day programs. All licensed day programs must complete and submit their completed plan, prior to reopening. **Although it is a good idea to start reviewing the plan, IRC and the community are still not ready to have face to face/traditional programming.** Interdisciplinary Team Meetings will be necessary and the foundation for each client and the continuation of service provision. We will be recommending that all members of the client's circle of support be included in the meeting. This means the family, the residential facility, the transportation company, etc. Both Inland Counties have recently made all citizens eligible for the vaccine, which means all providers are finally eligible. There was a subset that was not eligible for the vaccine until now (ex: transporters). Programs will need to determine how they will work within their own vaccine policy and HIPPA concerns with staff and clients. CCL has mandated that day service providers may not terminate services for a client, due to the client not being able or willing to be vaccinated.

Further guidance on the general health and safety of running a program can be found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17 § 56718 (a)(4) and (g)

(g) A vendor may exclude a consumer from participation in the program during periods when the vendor determines that the consumer is a threat to the health and safety of other individuals in the program. Such exclusion shall be followed by a meeting scheduled by the vendor within three working days to include the consumer program coordinator, the consumer and authorized consumer representative to discuss the basis of the exclusion and any program changes that may be required. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to exclusions that are made in accordance with a prior written agreement with the regional center pertaining to the individual consumer.

Although a vendor cannot discriminate and decline a client from attending based on the vaccine alone, there will need to be consideration given to all clients and their ability to appropriately wear a mask and distance. It is recommended that vendors start thinking about how they can provide service to two distinct cohorts, namely those vaccinate and those not vaccinated.

**Financial:** No Report

**Training Offering:** None

**Resources:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Public Input:** None

Next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2021 at 9:00 am via Zoom.