

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

August 16, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Audrey Andrade, Member at Large: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Johana Caicedo, Infant/Children Programs: Marie Chatman, Vocational Programs: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Jenn Delgado, Respite Programs: Ruth Goodsell, Member at Large: Dr. Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: Rachel Stewart, Behavioral Mod: April Stewart, Member at Large.

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 9:05.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of July 19, 2021: M/S/C Goodsell/Steward.

Vendor Category Report:

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported they met last Wednesday along with the Behavioral Modification providers. They had about 55 on the call. They discussed safety concerns with in-person services due to the rise in cases of the virus. Many are considering going back to ASD services but are concerned about what this would look like to regional center. Regional center supports any provider who wants to go back to ASD due to safety concerns. Providers are having issues with being notified when sending emails to CSC's who are no longer with the agency. Emails are sent, they get no notification that the CSC no longer works at regional center, and they get no response. They were told they can reach out to the program manager. The program manager is listed on the IPP, and they can go to the IRC website under service providers if they have the UCI# and search program manager by UCI#. CJ Cook also let them know they can send an email to contact us on the website for a quicker response. Please give consumers full name, DOB and UCI# and they can look to see who is covering the case. They can also email his staff at community@inlandrc.org. CJ will also check with the IT department to find out about the automatic responses for staff no longer at the agency. There are also concerns with Department of Health wanting to monitor meetings with ICF consumers. Previously, they would observe for about 15 minutes or so but now want to observe longer, and the providers are concerned with other consumers privacy. They would like to know what the requirements are for Department of Health. It was reported the CCL Adult Day Program meeting was rescheduled for this Wednesday. Next Pre-Vac meeting will be next month via Zoom.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Ms. Clarke was not in attendance but did send her report. Notes from Pre-Vac: they discussed vaccinations for staff or the need to test twice per week, the need for everyone to wear N95 masks for safety, clients going into the community for outings, staff shortages and hiring, Inland going back to working remotely, Plum Lane opening at 25% capacity and VOICE is open. They asked if regional center has more N95's and if there is going to be an official directive that will spell out options for Day Programs.

- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported on the Pre-Vac of July 26th. They continue to meet monthly and have a good turnout. Their biggest concern is the spreading of the virus since they serve babies and who cannot be vaccinated because they are too young. Families are given the option of having teleintervention if they choose to. The providers continue to follow all safety guidelines. Many have just started in-person services and they are monitoring the situation to see if they need to go back to teleintervention. The budget has allowed teleintervention services to continue through June 2022. Ms. Caicedo thanked the Early Start program managers and Treva for always attending the Pre-Vac meetings. It is much appreciated. Their concerns are addressed, and questions are answered at the Pre-Vac. Next Pre-Vac is August 23rd.
- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** No Report
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported she has no new updates. They have suspended regular meetings as they have been able to address concerns and stay in contact via email
- 7) **SLS:** No Report
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown reported they did not meet last month. They continue to stay in contact via email. If interaction is needed, they will set up a Zoom meeting.
- 9) **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported the providers met August 5th. She thanked regional center for the support. They talked about the directives. They are having an issue finding out who the new CSC is on the TSR. Also, the TSR doesn't have the correct dates and times for day program or work listed. They have been meeting sporadically. They may have a meeting next month.
- 10) **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported they met August 11th. They had 22 in attendance. A question that came up is will DDS or regional center let them know if they fall under the Health Care Workers category mentioned in the directive? They discussed the Governor's Directive and what other organizations are doing. Some are mandating vaccinations or weekly testing. They talked about the drop in referrals over the last 6 months. Some programs have job openings that are unable to be filled due to not having consumers ready to work. Andrew Burdick gave an update at the meeting and said the latest directive is on the IRC website. LPA meetings will take place this month. The information will be posted on the website. It was mentioned that providers can schedule to attend the virtual IRC unit meetings if they would like to present at those meetings to talk about the services they offer. DOR gave an update about CIE/SE, Person Center Planning meetings and a service called Adult Work Experience. Next meeting is September 15th.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Rachel Stewart reported she was not able to attend the Pre-Vac meeting. The Behavioral Modification providers attended the Pre-Vac with the Day Program providers.
- 12) **Member At Large:** Neither Ms. Andrade nor Ms. Goodsell had anything to report.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** A legislative report prepared by Jennifer Cummings was emailed on 08-15-2021.
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Goodsell reported the committee received 2 applications for the Level 4 position. Both are very qualified. The committee will meet this week to review both and decide on a recommendation. It will then be forwarded to Ms. Stewart for a vote of the VAC so it can be

presented at the next IRC board meeting. There has been no interest still in the Residential Level 2 & 3 position. Please let Ms. Goodsell or Ms. Stewart know if interested in that position.

Regional Center Update: Mr. Toms gave clarification on billing: if going back to ASD from traditional, try to do it by the 15th of the month so it is easier. If after the 15th, please note on the billing for the consumer that went back to ASD. The check may be late, but it can be done. If a vendor is providing the same services as before Covid but they are Zoom, that is Traditional. If the vendor adds safety instructions for Covid to the programming, that would be considered ASD. If the ISP changed and there are goals for Covid, that is ASD. Inland supports providers going back to ASD due to safety reasons. Have a short IDT meeting, make sure all parties are in attendance so everyone is informed, and the billing can be completed appropriately. The Day Services Team went out to programs, took pictures of what the providers have set up for health and safety and everything is very well done. Mr. Toms thanked IBP and OPARC for going over and above on their safety precautions. If visits are not mandated, Inland will not be doing them due to safety precautions at this time. Only Quarterly visits are mandated. CSC's will not be going into the homes. The vaccinated can transmit the virus. QA will respond to SIR's but will not be doing annuals. Burns rate change: will happen over 5 years and will start April 1, 2022. DDS gave guidance on how to return to Traditional services. Inland and the work group had already created a reopening guide and checklist. The checklist hit about 40% of the questions DDS asked. Providers that have not gone back to Traditional Services, need to look at the DDS guidance in order to go back to Traditional Services. Vince will have more information out after Wednesday. Inland had put out on their FaceBook page that providers would be going back to Traditional Services. Now with going back to ASD due to safety, it was asked if Inland would post this on the FaceBook page because consumers and families wonder why the providers are doing this when regional center said they would be reopening for in person services.

Financial: No Report

Training Offering: The Infant Development Association has been having a "Lunch Bag Social" for Directors, Administrators or others who are interested to talk and share information such as Covid 19 impacts, fiscal and budget questions and personnel issues. The next three dates are September 23rd, October 19th and November 18th.

Ms. Steuerer introduced Amy Alloway as the new manager for the Vendorization unit. She will be working on updating provider insurance, CPR, workers comp to get them up to state regulations. She will also be working on getting the vendor portal up and running which will streamline many vendor processes as well as allow vendors to track their paperwork. The vendorization unit works closely with POS and RDTU. If a provider needs to go back to ASD from traditional, please let POS know by the 15th of the month so the correct billing can be sent. If after the 15th, can not on the billing for the consumer that went back to ASD and defer the billing for that consumer.

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: None

Next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2021, at 9:00 am via Zoom.