

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

August 15, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Audrey Andrade, Member at Large: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Johana Caicedo, Infant/Children Programs: Marie Chatman, Vocational Programs: Kedra Creer, Residential Level 4: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Rachel Steward, Behavioral Modification.

Ms.Arnold called the meeting to order at 9:04.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of July 18, 2022: M/S/C De Anda/Caicedo.

Vendor Category Report:

- 1. Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported on the Pre-Vac of last Wednesday. The group talked about HCBS Compliance Validation. IRC staff were on the call and talked about PIP's. They had a question about the 2021 Day Program audit waiver, but no answer was given. They are still questioning the end date for ASD. They continue to have POS issues. Staffing issues are still a problem. They talked about asking consumers for vaccination proof. There will be a CCL call this Wednesday. They meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Contact Ms. De Anda to be added to the mailing list.
- 2. Health Facilities:** No Report
- 3. Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported They discussed the new bill and the impact it is having due to the change in developmental delays dropping to 25%. Referrals increase in July. The Early Start Program Managers were on the call. They discussed all the CSC changes due to hiring. They are preparing for the Transition Summit that will address the changes occurring for children between 3 and 5 years old. Case Managers are supposed to meet with the family on a quarterly basis which will impact the way they are assessing children. They are not sure if they will need to add more assessments or maybe progress reports. They discussed EVV starting in January. So far the designated service codes do not seem to be impacting many attending the Pre-Vac meetings so they will hold off having Vince attend the Pre-Vac to talk about EVV. Next meeting will be August 29th at 8:30.
- 4. Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
- 5. Residential Service L4:** Ms. Creer reported her providers continue to meet with the Level 2 & 3 providers. They meet the 1st Tuesday of every month. They had a presenter at the last meeting on Crisis Prevention Intervention. Georgia Lowrey and Sharon Slaughter from IRC attended the call and answered questions. They have concerns with placements as there are still many empty beds and the need is lower at this time. They continue to wait on referrals.

- 6. Respite Program:** Ms. Slaughter gave the following report for Ms. Delgado: Vendor group meeting was held on 8/10/22 via zoom. Approximately 24 individuals were in attendance. We were joined by Lynette Banda, Vendor Liaison & Lindsey Haussamen, from IRC Resource Dept. Ms. Haussamen introduced herself to the group & shared that she is the person reviewing our submitted addendums, etc. She is available to the group for any questions upcoming that would normally go through the resource dept.

The main topic of discussion was the new initiative rolled out for respite to be provided at an alternate service location that is not the consumer's home. While the group is overall receptive to this, there are some details have unknown navigation.

Clarifications provided:

- This change does not include transportation. Respite employees should not provide transportation & parents should understand this is their responsibility.
- It is not mandatory for vendors to include themselves in this initiative. Vendors should decide if they are able to accept alternative service locations & submit the addendum if they plan to do so.
- Vendors can choose to place an addendum on file with IRC for both Routine and Preferred Provider or just one program as they chose.

Some questions/comments from the group are:

- Vendors expressed that they are not being asked to attend IDT meetings. Addendums are being received without prior conversation or meeting.
- Vendors are not seeing a specific address on the IPP addendum. This is preferred to ensure legitimate location of the client & employee during services.
- Vendors do have a concern in meeting a need with multiple alternative locations. This can be difficult to maintain ETV compliance when service address is changing between multiple locations.
- If alternate address for Routine Program is the employee's home, how should mileage reimbursement be handled? Are vendors still expected to reimburse milage when services are in the employee's home?
 - Vendors are encouraged to conduct discovery on their own liability in this situation. Explore needs for training and or documentation.

- 7. SLS:** No Report

- 8. Specialist/Support Programs:** No Report

- 9. Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported the Transportation providers continue to work with the Day Program providers to transport consumers to the programs as they open up. Sometimes it is challenging for Transporters to attend every IDT meeting, so they are willing to accept an email with the information. They ask for a couple of days in order to get transportation in place.

- 10. Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported her group met last Wednesday. They talked about the issues they are having with receiving current fiscal year authorizations. Some providers were told they need to get the authorizations themselves, but they are not sure how to do it. They discussed PIP's and issues with Cityway. They talked about DOR Adult Work Experience being an alternative to the PIP program. Next meeting is September 14th.

- 11. Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Steward reported she has no updates as she was not able to attend the Pre-Vac meeting. She will attend next month. If anyone has any questions, they can contact Ms. Steward. Anyone not on her mailing list can reach out to be added.

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 to everyone this morning.
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Goodsell reported there is an opening for Residential Level 2 & 3 and SLS/ILS. She will talk with QA and Dalila Balderas about meeting with the liaison for these programs to possibly get some recommendations for the positions.

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

Vendorization will review all vendors information with the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) and the Secretary of State (SOS) every six months, going forward:

1. Vendorization will give the vendor 30 days to respond to their request to comply with the FTB/SOS and will email the vendor what is needed to comply.
2. If there is no response, then Vendorization Program Manager emails Legal Affairs Program Manager who will specify the vendor information and dates within a Notice of Action (NOA).
3. The Notice of Action is forwarded to the Director of Community Services for signature and then it is forwarded to the Vendorization Unit Program Manager.
4. Vendorization Program Manager will be the point of contact for the vendor and mail out the NOA via regular mail and certified mail, as well as in email format. The mailing of the NOA will start a 60-day clock for the vendor to come into compliance with FTB/SOS.
5. 30 days from the mailing of the NOA, a team meeting must be held with Vendorization, Quality Assurance, Fiscal and the vendor to discuss timelines and work on a possible plan to relocate clients in the next 30 days.
 - a. Case Management should have Inter-disciplinary Team (IDT) meetings with all clients to discuss options and possibly the need to relocate.
6. Vendors will be notified of IRC reviewing their status with the FTB/SOS on the program design template and/or the vendor approval letter

The DDS Directive on July 29, 2022, Waiver Extensions and Modifications changed the directive on Half Day Billing that was described initially in the DDS directive of August 31, 2020. Starting July 1, 2022, half day billing for traditional day services has been repealed (WIC Section 4690.6).

Day program updates: HCBS -FR is very active and moving towards the implementation date of March of 2023. We still have five agencies that use QAP as a service. Two, Ability Counts and Goodwill have made tremendous progress in lowering the numbers to a combined total of 33 clients. OPARC and Desert Arc are at 117 and 106, respectively. VIP has the most work to do and has three WAPS for a total of 340 clients.

	June 2021	July 2022	# of Vendors
950 – SEG	630	754	22
954 – WAP	840	596	9

The table above is for the 14C programs that will be phased out in January of 2025. Not all clients in the 950 group are under the 14C certificates, as they make minimum wage. DOR and IRC are in initial talks to determine a plan of action to get all remaining IRC clients working under the 14C certificate to transition to alternate programs. Although the numbers state that there are 1350 clients under the 14C, the real numbers might be closer to 1100. Each 950 vendor will have to be surveyed to determine the actual numbers. The IRC Employment Specialists and the Day Service Quality Assurance Liaisons will be sending out a survey that they created. Thank you to Andrew and Beth for creating it!

CDC guidance on Covid-19 restrictions has eased, as of August 20, 2022. Guidance is now better aligned with the current reality. Masking guidance remains unchanged, but social distancing, although recommended is not required at six feet anymore. Those exposed to the virus do not have to quarantine but should wear a mask for 10 days and test on day 5 from the initial exposure. Finally, if a person tests positive, they should isolate for 5 days, with those with moderate to severe symptoms and/or immunocompromised should isolate for 10 days.

Financial: Ms. Steuwer had no financial updates to give. She reminded everyone that invoicing starts with the CSC. To get correct invoicing for ASD to Traditional and vice-versa, the CSC must initiate the change. If there is a true POS issue, providers can email Mary Lou in POS.

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: None

Next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2022, at 9:00 am via Zoom.