

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

February 13, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Audrey Andrade, Member at Large: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Johana Caidedo, Infant & Children's Programs: Marie Chatman, Vocational Programs: Michelle Clarke, Health Facilities: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Jenn Delgado, Respite Programs: Ruth Goodsell, Member at Large: Rachel Steward, Behavioral Mod Programs: April Stewart, Member at Large.

Ms. Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:09

Mari Rodriguez of the Community Engagement unit gave a presentation of POS expenditures for 2021/2022.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of October 17 and January 9: M/S/C De Anda/Clarke:

- 1. Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported on the Pre-Vac of last Wednesday. Beth Crane said there is a 30 day lead in time for authorizations. She asked that any start changes to PIP's be sent to her so she can amend it. Some vendors are frustrated because they have not been paid and with the delay in contract renewals. There are concerns that some CSC's are telling families that programs are back to 5 days in person and they no longer have to mask. This is not true for all providers. Many are not back to 5 days due to staffing and the programs also have to follow guidelines from CCL. Next meeting will be on March 15th at 1:00 pm.
- 2. Health Facilities:** Ms. Clark reported they have been getting more staff. They have been having meetings with Day Programs to get consumers back to their programs but there are issues with Transportation and staffing. Cal Aim has been delayed until January of next year which is a good thing. A request was put out to have the facilities invite the Managed Care groups tour their facilities so they can see what they do, and the services offered. Many still do not understand what the Health Facilities do and offer. Some facilities have volunteered to have them tour the facility. The process was explained at the last two Managed Care meetings although they were not able to get through the whole booklet. There are still many questions. The providers are still trying to spread the word on virtual activities as well as in person activities. Next meeting is next Wednesday at 1:30.
- 3. Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo stated the providers met on January 30th. She congratulated the three new Early Start Program Managers. Early Start is working hard to hire Program Managers and Case Managers. They discussed the trailer bill regarding Quarterly Reviews. They have questions on how it will affect providers. They are still waiting on DDS guidelines. The State Interagency Coordination Council on early intervention held their quarterly meeting. Lots of information was shared especially on caseloads and referrals. Data is still being collected. Caseloads and referrals are up. Early Start is expecting 6% in growth which leads to concerns with workforce and workforce development. They talked about the DDS Directive on the American Rescue Plan and the Provider Training Directive. Five million dollars has been allocated to regional centers to reimburse them for early intervention service provider training as well as to help recover from the pandemic. This money is a one-time grant for Part C. It is time limited, and

providers are waiting for regional center guidance, specifically on how providers will be paid. There will be a training on the 16th on the Quality Incentive Program for early intervention. Next meeting will be on February 27th.

4. **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
5. **Residential Service L4:** No Report
6. **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported on the Pre-Vac of February 2nd. They had 15 attendees. IRC was not present due to scheduling conflicts. They do not have too many issues. They discussed getting back to receiving updated IPP's and CDER's from CSC's. They also discussed Covid hours. There is some concerns about authorizations not being in the system. Sometimes they are not in e-billing for months. They are working with POS and CSC's to rectify. Next meeting will be on April 5th at 10 am via Zoom.
7. **SLS:** No Report
8. **Specialist/Support Programs:** No Report
9. **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported they met on January 20th. They talked about Traditional and Remote Traditional services and would like more information. They still have concerns with the hours for Day Programs and what shows on the TSR. There are lots of last-minute changes happening. The transporters are trying to fully open and transport consumers but the last minute changes make it hard. They need time to plan their routes. There are concerns with Remote Traditional: if a consumer goes back 3 days, then later on can go 5 days, it cannot be changed and the transporter will only get paid for 3 days even if they transport 5 days while a new transporter can get paid for 5 days if the consumer changes transporters. If a new transporter can get paid for the 5 days, it should be able to be changed so that the existing transporter can also be paid for the 5 days. It was noted that some are having wheelchair lift issues and the costs for service and parts has skyrocketed. A lift that is 5 years old is now obsolete and costs \$15,000 to replace. Tie downs have tripled in cost. Next meeting will be on February 15th.
10. **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported they met on February 8th. DOR and IRC were present. DOR said they have changed their rates to reflect the rate increase from regional center. DOR gave updates on their IPS Pilot program, student services and the Cal DOR payment cards. DOR will provide a cross training for DOR and IRC staff on the processes of DOR. Joyce has asked if anyone has ideas for the training, to let her know. IRC has updated the CIE page on their website. Providers should check often for updates. Andrew and Beth asked that CIE and PIP face sheets be sent to them right away. Providers can reach out to Beth and Andrew for LPA meeting information. They discussed the frustration providers are feeling due to not getting paid. Next meeting will be on March 8th.
11. **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Steward reported there was some confusion and conflicts with the last Pre-Vac but they are going to continue meeting with Day Programs. If anyone has questions or issues, please contact Ms. Steward.
12. **Member At Large:** Neither Ms. Andrade nor Ms. Goodsell had anything to report.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** No Report
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Goodsell reported the person who applied to be the Residential Level 2 & 3 representative has resigned. There are representatives who will term out this month, but each has agreed to stay for another 2 years. There are members who have completed their first term and are willing to do their second term. These are the recommendations made:

- 3) Extend April Stewart for an additional 2-year term and remain as VAC Chair
- 4) Extend Felicia Arnold for an additional 2-year term and remain as Co-Chair
- 5) Extend Lynn De Anda for an additional 2-year term
- 6) Extend Johana Caicedo for an additional 2-year term
- 7) Extend Kedra Creer, who's first term expires, for a second 2-year term
- 8) Extend Michelle Clark, who's first term expires, for a second 2-year term
- 9) Extend Doug McKown, who's first term expires, for a second 2-year term
- 10) Extend Audrey Andrade, who's first term expires, for a second 2-year term
- 11) Extend Ruth Goodsell, who's first term expires, for a second 2-year term and remain as Membership Committee Chair

Motion made to accept the above recommendations M/S/C: Goodsell/Steward.

April, Felicia, Jenn and Ruth will work together as a team over the next two years with IRC category liaisons to recruit individuals who have an interest in joining the VAC as a vendor representative to provide training so that they will be ready to step into roles in 2025.

Regional Center Update: Ms. Alloway thanked the providers for sending in their Retention of Record paperwork. Ms. Alloway and Ms. McGuire are both willing to attend Pre-Vacs if needed. Ms. Goodsell thanked Ms. Alloway for being so easy to work with and for sharing information.

Financial: No Report

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: It was noted that some providers are concerned with the CSC's telling families that providers are open 5 days per week and are not requiring masking. This is not true for all. It was noted that a TDS plan was approved by the RDTU unit but not Vendorization. The provider has been calling Vendorization for an update for 2 months but had not received a call back until 2 months later.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 20th, at 9:00 am via Zoom.