

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

March 20, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Johana Caidedo, Infant & Children's Programs: Marie Chatman, Vocational Programs: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Jenn Delgado, Respite Programs: Rachel Steward, Behavioral Mod Program.

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

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of February 13, 2023: M/S/C Delgado/De Anda.

- 1. Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported about 50 vendors attended the March 8th Pre-Vac. They have questions about TDS. Amanda McGuire is the main contact for TDS. Vendors are asking for an informal training on the vendorization process. They providers are having issues with finding the current CSC for a consumer as regional center is hiring a lot and the CSC keeps changing. They are asking for a list of PM's showing the area they cover and the age breakdown so they can contact the PM. Of concern to the group is not being notified when a client terminates services. They are still providing services many times and are then notified afterward that services have ended. Next meeting is April 12th.
- 2. Health Facilities:** Ms. Clark was having connectivity issues at the meeting so she submitted her report via email. This is what they discussed: Staffing continues to be a concern but it is improving. The guidelines for masking for the state are different than for the Federal government. So the deadline ending in April may not apply to our facilities. We are requesting clarification on this issue between CMS guidelines and California Dept of Health guidelines. COVID pay ended in December but there are still a lot of individuals who are coming up positive at least in our industry. We are waiting to see if there will be a change on the state level but with end of the state of emergency I don't think it will happen. This is also something we are monitoring. Cal-AIM is pushed back to 1/1/2024 which is a good thing but we continue to participate in the state meetings so that providers can be aware of what is happening.
- 3. Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo shared about 45 attended the February 27th Pre-Vac. Early Start has three new PM's and is hiring lots of new staff. The vendors receive updates from the Early Start PM's at the Pre-Vac. They discussed the Early Start Provider Training Initiative. There is still some confusion. Each training request must include the information on the individual. The group will allow five minutes at the beginning of each Pre-Vac meeting for questions/discussion to help identify issues. They discussed the Infant Development Association survey for payment cancellation. Last day to fill out the survey is March 22nd. Next meeting is March 27th at 8:30.
- 4. Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
- 5. Residential Service L4:** No Report

6. **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported there are no new concerns since the last meeting. They are sorting through Covid hour terminations. They also would like a list of PM's to contact to ask about current CSC and for POS. Next meeting is April 5th at 10 am.
7. **SLS:** No Report
8. **Specialist/Support Programs:** No Report
9. **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported they met on February 13th. They have concerns with the Burns & Associates rate study. They need help to understand the breakdown. They have questions on the calculations because they do not add up and things are missing from the calculations. They would like a representative from DDS to help clarify. If these rates go into affect in 2026, transporters will not be able to transport consumers over 5 miles. Next meeting is March 23rd.
10. **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported her group met last Thursday. They discussed the billing issues and communication with IRC. They are asking that concerns brought up at the current VAC meeting, when needing time to check into, be followed up at the next VAC meeting. Next meeting is April 12th at 11 am.
11. **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Steward reported they met with the Day Program providers for the Pre-Vac. They have the same issues as the Day Program providers such as struggling with CSC changes and not being able to find the current CSC. They are asking for a PM list also.
12. **Member At Large:** No Report

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** No Report
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** No Report

Regional Center Update: The Directors introduced themselves. Vince thanked Ms. Arnold for chairing the meeting today. The DSP stipend is expected in the next month. Once it comes, a training will be provided for those who are a part of it. They are hoping for positive movement on the Early Start Quality Incentive program. Enhanced social rec is being worked on. There are eight new community partners. Medical Therapies are still being worked on. We need to get back to the format the Pre-Vacs and VAC was set up as. Questions should be asked at the Pre-Vac meeting. The QA liaison is at the meeting and can answer the questions or forward it to Vince and the Directors. It was noted that the decision makers are not at the Pre-Vac meetings and that is why the questions are now asked at the VAC meeting. Give Vince 5 days to get back to the provider. Vince reminded the providers that Inland had no input for the Burns & Associates rate study. Providers need to put together data to present to Burns and DDS. Lobbying needs to continue. There is a form to fill out if a provider disagrees with the rate. Ms. Johnson noted that Vince is a decision maker but he cannot answer questions that pertain to Case Management or Financial etc. Those questions need to go to the appropriate Director. The Directors have decided to join the VAC in this manner so they can all be on the call. Questions that are specific to a vendor go to QA and/or Vince via email. Back billing questions can be sent to asdquestions@inlandrc.org. Other issues can be sent via email to Ms. Johnson and she will work with the Directors to resolve. There is no timeline for back billing but a team has been created to review, analyze and resolve them. Mr. Beckett said a motion is set for the next Board meeting to amend the by laws to allow for a third term if there is sufficient reason for it. It will go back to March to include the extensions put forth at that meeting. It was noted the quickest way to find the current IRC CSC is on the IRC website, there is a contact form which gives a list of PM's, the area they cover and the ages they serve.

Financial: No Report

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: There are lots of items to watch in the Governor's budget.

Public Input: None

Next meeting is scheduled for April 17th, at 9:00 am via Zoom.