

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER  
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**VIA ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**January 10, 2022**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Audrey Andrade, Member at Large: : Johana Caicedo, Infant/Children Programs: Marie Chatman, Vocational Programs: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Jenn Delgado, Respite Programs: Ruth Goodsell, Member at Large: Abdullah Koudsi, Residential Level 2 & 3: Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: April Stewart, Member at Large.

**Ms. Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:05.**

**MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of November 15, 2021: M/S/C De Anda/Andrade.**

**Vendor Category Report:**

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported their pre-vac was held 1.5.22 in the afternoon with a great turn out. Vince attended as well & shared info regarding increase in COVID-19 cases. It was reiterated that IRC is not being prescriptive about services provided, & agencies are encouraged to follow local guidelines. POS & Authorization issues are still being experienced by some vendors. Staffing crisis is very present for many vendors. Losing many staff & are unable to retain new staff members.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** No Report
- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported the Pre-Vac meeting was held on 11/22/21. Conversation continues to be around new mandates of vaccine & booster. For Early Start providers, there was a committee meeting & there is discussion about whether or not there will be directive to go back to tele-intervention services and withhold the in-person service. We will continue to be talking about this. There was an extension from DDS for the Early start related items including the tele-intervention services until June. Shared upcoming training opportunities in the plan. Next meeting will be the last Monday of January.
- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** Mr. Koudsi reported the last meeting was held on 1/4/22. Questions discussed were: Day Programs: When will the day programs be available for residents to attend in person? Transportation: When will transportation be available for residents that are ready to attend the day program in person? COVID-19 (Vacation Safety): How to prepare yourself during the pandemic? Please visit the website and follow the guidelines from CDC with information on Omicron Virus as well. CPI TRAINING: Which options do vendors have when it comes to CPI Training? Monoclonal Antibody Infusion: Where is the closest clinic to visit in the area and to learn more information on the Monoclonal Antibody Infusion? Please visit the website [Monoclonal Antibody infusion](#) and type in your zip code for the nearest

clinic location. Hiring (what's working and what's not?): Minimum wage vs. Living wage. N95 Mask Fit Testing Resources regarding the N95 Mask Fit Testing sites were shared with all vendors. Thanks to several members of the vendor group for always providing input.

- 5) **Residential Service L4: No Report**
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported the Pre-Vac meeting was held via Zoom on 12.9.2021 with approximately 26 attendees. The EVV mandates were discussed. A few questions that came up: (1).Preferred Provider's are not all "live-ins", what position is IRC taking in regards to preferred providers and the exemption? (2) Is there any insight on how the upload of information will take place from the third party vendors? (3) What is the expectation for the agencies to have all staff transitioned onto the EVV solution by the deadline? What will occur for those agencies still working on the transition? – Questions were given insight via email from Mr. Toms & communicated to the group. Another main topic was COVID-19 Vaccine mandate. Agencies identified & shared some struggles in meeting the mandate. Some agencies are seeing staff quit because of this requirement. Agencies are incurring high level of cost to enforce and monitor the requirements to be in compliance. Next meeting will be held via zoom on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am.
- 7) **SLS: No Report**
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown reported the vendor group continues to stay in touch as needed via email. No meeting or information otherwise to report.
- 9) **Transportation: No Report**
- 10) **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman there is no report of anything new at this time.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Steward was not in attendance, but Ms. De Anda reported the Behavior Modification providers met 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:** No Report
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Goodsell reported she is putting together the report of what we need to vote on in February for the new membership year starting in March. She will be sending it first to the membership committee to approve recommendations and then bringing to the February VAC to have everything voted on prior to March.

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

1. EVV implementation has begun and there was that sprint to the finish line by DDS and Sandata. I want to commend our vendors for all their work and patience, as this was not an easy process that was compounded by the rush to get up and running. We understand how difficult new protocols and rules can be, especially when unfunded. Great job to the vendors having to implement the solution. DDS is creating a universal document for vendors to tally the live in providers that are exempt. More information and direction will be

offered soon, but for the meantime, all vendors should be keeping a list of all exempt providers, considered live in.

2. The Omicron variant is taking a toll on our clients and vendors. We are seeing the numbers rise dramatically in the day programs and ICFs, for positive cases with clients and staff. Please ensure that you promote the vaccine and the booster, as well as testing for all staff. The booster is currently one of the best shields you can have in lessening the intensity of this variant. The week of the 29<sup>th</sup>, IRC had 60 positive cases in the 5-day period and the week of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, we had approximately 150. All vendors should do their best to keep clients out of the community and out of unnecessary environments that could pose a risk.
3. PPE – IRC is currently in receipt of 100,000 N-95 masks from the Department. If a vendor requires additional supplies, please contact your Quality Assurance Liaison. This applies to all vendors. For vendors who are licensed through Community Care Licensing, please contact them for your supply, prior to calling or emailing your liaison.
  - a. For all congregate care, it is an IRC mandate that any direct care service provider wear an N-95 type of mask. For all non-congregate levels of care, it is highly recommended. Any information on fit testing can be found on the IRC website or discussed with your Quality Assurance Liaison.
4. ICF – The Public Health Office issued a new visitation order that went into effect on January 7<sup>th</sup> and for any indoor visitation, visitors must be vaccinated and provide evidence of a negative SARS-CoV-2 test within 1 day of visitation or within two days of visitation a PCR test. Exceptions to the order and frequently asked questions can be found on the California Department of Public Health Website.
5. Day Programs – IRC will support day programs continuing with traditional services if they are done in the most appropriate and safest manner. We are recommending though those programs move back to an off-site Alternative Service Delivery (ASD) model. There are two things that are critical for any movement from traditional to ASD services:
  - a. Send the list of clients to include name, UCI# and Service Coordinator to your Quality Assurance Liaison. They will then send the information to the case management team, so they change the authorizations.
  - b. Have an Inter-disciplinary Team (IDT) meeting with all parties to include the client, parent, residential home, transportation provider and service coordinator. If any party cannot make the meeting, please make sure they are communicated with, so they know how to proceed.
6. Vaccines/Boosters/Testing – Due to the rapidly changing nature of the guidance, I am opting to not put anything in writing. We do recommend that all vendors follow the guidance of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) regarding the topics. Links have been updated on the IRC Website, under the Covid-19 Update tab. That can be a universal sight to gather the most updated information from the sites mentioned.

**Financial:** No Report

**Training Offering:** None

**Resources:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Public Input:** None

Next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2022, at 9:00 am via Zoom.