

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

April 18, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Johana Caicedo, Infant/Children Programs: Marie Chatman, Vocational Programs: Kedra Creer, Residential Level 4: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Jenn Delgado, Respite Programs: Ruth Goodsell, Member at Large: Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: Rachel Stewart, Behavior Modification: April Stewart, Member at Large.

Ms. Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:03.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of March 21, 2022: M/S/C Delgado/Caicedo.

CJ Cook gave a presentation on IRC Caseload Ratios and the need ideas on how to reduce caseloads.

Vendor Category Report:

- 1. Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported the day program providers met last Wednesday. Staff from IRC and the Transportation providers were on the call. Andrew Burdick reminded everyone to make sure they are going through the FMS company for PIP's and to have the FMS face sheet before authorization. The transporters shared the difficulties they are having planning routes when they are not invited to the IDT meetings. They also shared split days are hard on routes when some consumers go in the morning and others in the afternoon as they have consumers to transport to other programs as well. They reminded the day programs that they are not responsible to transport a consumer home from program if the consumer gets sick. The residential staff/care provider should pick up the consumer. Transporters are struggling with staffing issues and the high gas prices. CCL Infection Control Plans were discussed. All licensed programs will need to have a plan in place by 6-30-2022. This is in addition to the Mitigation Plan already submitted to CCL. They talked about regulations not being lifted but there is a call on Wednesday at 1:00.
- 2. Health Facilities:** No Report
- 3. Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported on the Pre-Vac of March 38th. Treva Webster and the Early Start Program Managers were on the call. Treva reminded the providers to update their availability on the IRC website so the CSC's can check to see who has openings. The providers were asked if IRC or Early Start was planning any vendor fairs. They talked about the CDC guidelines and the lack of updates. A 30-month milestone was added to hopefully catch more children who need support, but the providers fear parents may wait. The Infant Development Association will hold a virtual event to discuss early intervention, advocacy, and the California budget May revise on May 17th. The DDS Directive for telehealth was extended until May 4th. The Family Resource Network will provide a sensory training for parents on April 20th. IEP workshops will be held in English on April 26th and in Spanish on April 27th. Next meeting will be April 25th.

4. **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
5. **Residential Service L4:** Ms. Creer reported they met on April 5th and had a productive meeting. She is combining Residential Level 4 with Level 2 & 3 until that position is filled. They will have a presenter in June and would like to have one at each meeting.
6. **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported she had no updates to share.
7. **SLS:** No Report
8. **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown reported he has no updates to share. If anyone has any concerns, they can email him.
9. **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported the Transportation providers met with the Day Program Providers. She thanked Ms. De Anda for inviting them to the meeting. The Transportation providers are still having issues with not being invited to the IDT meetings. They need to be there so they can plan their routes and to discuss any behavioral issues the consumer may have and how to mitigate those for safety reasons. She mentioned some Day Programs are splitting days for the consumers, but it makes it difficult with transportation routes because they do have other programs to transport for. She wanted to remind staff that there is a 30-minute window for pick up and drop off. They try to make it on time, but it is impossible to be there at the same time everyday due to traffic. Some consumers have disability issues and behaviors, and they need to be able to transport safely. They are doing the best they can as they work to get back to fully open. Ms. Stewart reminded the vendors they will be getting an increase on 4/1 but Transportation is getting less. Some transporters may have to drop routes and consumers. The question was asked how the rate was calculated in the study? Transportation has a lot of rate models to assess, and it looks like things are moving to a per trip rate in 2025 which means they would get paid the same rate to go 100 miles as they would get paid to go around the block. Ms. Steuwer reminded everyone that as POS receives the rates, they are posted on the website. They just got batch 3 and are still waiting for batch 4. Providers need to return their worksheet and answer any questions on it. If IRC is asking the question, it is because Burns is asking the question. Hopefully, the Transportation rates will be posted this week. For disputes send to burnsratestudy@inlandrc.org. Providers do not have to accept a rate. It will go into effect automatically if not disputed.
10. **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported they met on the 13th and had 10 people attend. They have questions on rate implementation and when it will be seen in POS. DOR has already updated their rates to match DDS rates. They discussed HCBS assessments and wanted to know if any had been returned. They have not seen their assessments and want to know how to get into compliance with HCBS. The Vocational Program providers also attended the Day Program meeting with Transportation. Next Pre-Vac will be May 11th.
11. **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Steward reported she has started splitting her Pre-Vacs with Residential and Day Program. She attended the Residential meeting on April 5th. They discussed Covid testing, N95 masks and Covid enhancement rates. She attended the Day Program meeting on April 13th. No other updates from what Ms. De Anda and Ms. Arnold reported. An issue that the Behavioral Modification providers talked about was how to transport those consumers with behavioral issues. It needs to be addressed at the IDT meetings. When a 30-day notice is given by a transporter, it needs to be thoroughly discussed why they cannot transport in order to problem solve.
12. **Member At Large:** Ms. Goodsell had nothing to report.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** No Report
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Goodsell reported there is an opening for Residential Level 2 & 3 and for SLS. She is willing to attend the Pre-Vac meeting for those service categories to talk about the positions.

Regional Center Update: Mr. Toms reminded when going back to Traditional services, an IDT meeting must be held and it is important to invite Transportation, Residential, client's natural supports and the CSC.

1. IRC will be rolling back most of the pandemic directives in the upcoming months. At this time, we will start requiring that direct staff, who must be CPR certified, complete the course in person versus on-line. If there is a health and safety requirement to do the course on-line, then it must be discussed on a case-by-case basis.
2. Health and Safety Waivers for Non-English-Speaking Clients. DDS has given the RCs very basic direction in this and is asking for each RCs Strategic Plan to be developed for the promotion and use of H&S waivers to meet the unmet needs of clients. IRC is in the process of developing the plan.
3. As we enter the endemic stages, IRC will have our last mega-PPE distribution tomorrow. After that, if a vendor needs PPE, they can contact their QAL. IRC will not be restocking PPE and will be looking to disperse the last of it, over time.
4. Reminder to all day programs with the ASD programming component to have the IDT meeting with all parties to include the client, the residential program, transporter and SC, prior to moving client to traditional services. Make the change to traditional at the start of a month. If ASD programming is provided for one day in a month, the vendor bills ASD for that whole month, so that still applies.

Question: Will IRC receive the HCBS Outcome Reports first? Yes. When we receive them we will get them out to the providers. Question: CSC's are saying there will be no ASD authorizations issues past June. Is this true? We don't know what DDS will do. We have not been given a date. We will talk to the CSC's. Vendors can call the Program Manager to ask these questions when it happens. Question: Is there any word on the future of Telehealth and remote services? We have not received direction from DDS. They don't seem to be pushing it yet.

Financial: Ms. Steuwer stressed what Vince had already addressed that CSC have not been given a date as to when ASD services will cease. We are awaiting directives from DDS.

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: None

Next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2022, at 9:00 am via Zoom.