

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

May 15, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: 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: Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs.

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

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of April 17, 2023: M/S/C Clarke/Delgado.

1. **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported her group met last week. Independent Options presented on employment opportunities with their company. City Way presented on PIP's. The group feels there is a lack of resolution on issues presented at the VAC. Another concern is Transportation authorizations are late and can take months to be set up. There are issues with finding transporters due to special hours.
2. **Health Facilities:** Ms. Clarke reported Cal Aim has asked the providers to input their contact information into a server list so that it is there for whoever takes over. They discussed Medi-Cal billing consolidation. They are having issues with emergency Covid allowances between Cal-Osha and The Department of Health. Cal-Osha wants to isolate those who contract Covid, but most do not have the space to isolate. Chino and Montclair hospitals are closing their isolation wards.
3. **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported on the Pre-Vac of April 24th. The Early Start Program Managers were on the call to give updates. Early Start is going from four units to eight so there will be lots of movement. They discussed the Parent Training Subcommittee. The next training will be June 12th on community safety. If anyone would like to be on the panel, let Ms. Caicedo know. Next meeting will be next Monday.
4. **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
5. **Residential Service L4:** No Report
6. **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported there are no new updates. They will meet again on June 15th at 10:30. If you are not on Jenn's email list and would like to be, please give her your email address.
7. **SLS:** No Report
8. **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown reported his group did not meet but the providers know they can contact him at any time via email with issues or concerns.

9. **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported they met last month. The rate issue is ongoing. They are talking to DDS about it. Many providers have concerns about taking on new clients due to the rate issues. The cost of fuel, maintenance etc. has gone up significantly. They want to transport but cannot if they are losing money. Next meeting will be on May 19th.
10. **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported they met last Wednesday. They had about 26 providers in attendance. April is working on changing the date of the VAC. The agenda was not followed at the last VAC meeting, and many did not get to hear Vince's report. They discussed wanting to have IRC at all Pre-Vacs. They would like a copy of the by-laws. They want follow-up on all issues brought up at previous meetings. Next meeting will be on June 14th.
11. **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. De Anda reported the Behavioral Modification providers met with the Day Program providers for their Pre-Vac, so the issues were the same.
12. **Member At Large:** Ms. Goodsell had nothing to report.

Committee Reports

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

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

1. We have added an assessment to the social recreation program for children. Beginning June 1, 2023, an individualize assessment that is not to exceed two hours, per client, will be allowed for the 028 children's program only. This is a one-time assessment, and it is optional. The vendors must request the assessment and communicate with the Service Coordinator if they need additional hours on initial review of the case. This is not for the adult 055 program.
2. The change is the vendors do not report directly to Disability Rights anymore, but to DDS at Restraintreportingform@dds.ca.gov. specifically for the crisis services, residential providers (all) and SLS providers. More information on the Service Provider page on the IRC website.
3. Coordinate Family Services (CFS) – This program is really limping out of the gate. We have 10 Letters of Intent, but only one program design that has been submitted. We are hoping that we can have a vendor on board by or around August. We have held off on training the Service Coordinators for now but will need to complete one in the next month or so.
4. The \$500K DDS set aside for training of the Early Start staff has had a slow start. We have paid out approximately \$12K since we promoted the training stipend program. The program ends on September 30, 2023.
5. AB639 will curtail our ability to fund Work Activity Programs and Supported Employment, by January 1, 2025. There are three vendors with WAPS paying sub-minimum wage (SMW) for a total of 440 clients that will need to transition to other programs. There are six vendors paying SMW in Group Supported Employment with 570 clients that will need to transition. IRC has been in discussion with the Department of Rehabilitation to create a program that is provided in the high school workability programs that will serve as a training option, when we do not have SMW anymore.

Financial: No Report

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: None

Next meeting is scheduled for June 12th, at 9:00 am via Zoom.