

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

May 17, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Audrey Andrade, Member at Large: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Johana Caicedo, Infant/Children Programs: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Jenn Delgado, Respite Programs: Dr. Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: April Stewart, Member at Large.

Instructions for Zoom and for calling in were given. Everyone will be muted. If anyone has a question, they can unmute to ask or ask in the chat. Ms. Arnold will monitor the chat. If calling in, use *6 to unmute and mute and *9 to raise hand.

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

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of April 19, 2021: M/S/C Arnold/Andrade: Lynn De Anda and Dr. Doug McKown abstained.

Vendor Category Report:

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported the day program providers met last Wednesday. They discussed their mitigation and reopening plans. Effective May 10th licensing will be conducting onsite inspections. They are using Inspection Control Domain to ensure guidelines are being followed. They will begin full inspections this Summer whether an agency has reopened or not. They will be calling for appointments. They discussed vaccines and whether providers are able to ask consumers if they have been vaccinated. Providers cannot force an unvaccinated client to wear a mask nor social distance. If the consumer becomes a health and safety risk to others, document, have an IDT meeting prior to removing the consumer from program.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** No Report
- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported her group met on April 26th. They discussed some providers have started doing some in-home visits or have started training staff. The programs have stated that most staff have been vaccinated. They discussed whether DDS will still allow for some virtual meetings especially for families out of the area. DDS wants to hear from families regarding how virtual services have supported them. Extensions were given until June on the directives allowing for virtual services and to continue to provide services to children over 3 who have not yet transitioned to school services. California State Screening Collaborative and 1st 5 Association will put on a workshop called Voices of Native America on May 20th to find out what this population has found helpful and what needs improvement. The providers have started again sharing success stories at their meetings and are asking providers to ask families for stories to share. Next meeting is May 24th at 8:30.

- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** No Report
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported the Respite providers have not met formally but have been emailing, sharing emails, and answering questions.
- 7) **SLS:** No Report
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown reported his group has not met since he was on vacation. His staff have been compiling emails lists for all providers to be in contact. If you are not on the list and would like to be included, please reach out to Mr. McKown.
- 9) **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported they met on May 20th. They are having issues with the billing. Also having issues with the fuel/mileage expense worksheet. They need to know who it goes to and they are not getting answers. Another problem is ASD billing. If they have 1 that is ASD and 20 others that are traditional, all are billed at ASD. There is no incentive to get back to work. There are issues with the transportation rates also. Mr. Horrigan added that the baseline period doesn't fill all vendors especially those who came on after March 2020 because they may have had a couple of clients at that time but now have several more. Their rate is still based on those original two even though they are providing services for many more. There is no appeal on this either. He reiterated the issue of having 1 ASD consumer and 20 traditional but they are all billed as ASD. He also stressed they need direction for the fuel/mileage worksheet. Enclosure B is needed for every subcategory. Providers did not know this and are losing money. Ms. Stewart will meet with them to advocate for better systems.
- 10) **Vocational Program:** Ms. Stewart gave the report Ms. Chatman submitted via email. The Pre-Vac was held on May 12th. They had a lengthy discussion regarding reopening. They talked about the 25% capacity. Also discussed was the June 15th reopening for California and what that will look like for vocational providers. More guidance from DDS is needed but they will have a plan in place. They discussed cohorts and how separating may cause some to feel isolated especially if someone wants to go with their friend and is told no due to vaccine status. Concerns are not being able to provide enough services due to staff shortage if all staff do not get vaccinated. Next meeting will be July 9th at 10:30 and the Coalition meeting with DOR will be at 11:00.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** No Report
- 12) **Member At Large:** Neither Ms. Andrade nor Ms. Stewart had anything to report.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** Ms. Stewart reported on some of the highlights of the May revise. Being proposed is the elimination of the suspension of the provider supplemental rate increase of 8.2%. If it goes through, they will not lose the 8.2% increase. Also being proposed is elimination of the uniform holiday schedule and not having it revisited in the future. Included is 4 million to the general fund for one time planning resources to create outcome, focused regional center operation of funding beginning in 22/23; an increase of 61 million for general funds; to look at creating a workforce training and development with staff increase tied to it; a bilingual staff differential; money for self-determination; proposal to keep Early Start funding going for provisional Lanterman eligibility through age 5; money for crisis teams; special caseload ratio's for those who don't have POS; keeping IHSS 7%.

- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Stewart reported 2 applications were received which were approved but 1 is being held pending re-evaluation as the person does not cover level 2 & 3 for residential. Rachel Steward from California Mentor has been approved by the committee to be the representative for Behavior Modification Programs.

Motion made to approve Rachel Steward as Behavioral Modification Programs representative: M/S/C Arnold/De Anda.

Regional Center Update: Mr. Toms encouraged everyone to look at the May reviews on the DDS website. Some employee supports were added, and some are getting ready to sunset. One important item is bilingual differential pay. Inland put out a letter for residential, licensed facilities opening back for visits with IRC CSC's and families starting next week. The letter augments the CCL and DDS guidance for what visitation should look like at each model. It was sent to ICF, CCF, Family Home agency and the SLS model. QA will still complete most of their annuals remotely but that are starting to go out also. CDC guidance was updated to say those fully vaccinated do not have to wear a mask nor social distance. Providers are still able to decide if they want to continue to enforce those safety measures or not. The reopening committee met and discussed the day programs and transportation going back to traditional as of 7/1. The state may fully reopen on 6/15 and the state of emergency may be dropped. The committee created a 2-page checklist and Inland created a 3-age program design addendum template to be completed and submitted first. An IDT meeting will be needed for each consumer. Mr. Toms recommended having the consumer, day program, the family or residential provider, transporter and service coordinator at the meeting to decide what should happen for the consumer. Transporters need to be included because they will need to model their day to these needs. Please be patient with the CSC's and IDT meetings. Some CSC's have as many as 70 consumers in program on their caseload so they will be busy having these meetings. Mr. Toms stressed really looking at cohorts and keeping vaccinated and non-vaccinated separate. A non-vaccinated consumer, if able to make informed decisions, may decide they want to return to program. It is discrimination if we don't allow it, but we need to keep them safe. If at the IDT meeting, a non-vaccinated consumer able to make informed decisions, wants to be back with those that are vaccinated, that is their right to choose. CCL has been out doing reviews so we are assuming CCL may do the reviews. When the state of emergency was declared, that allowed federal money to be used for ASD. If the state of emergency is dissolved, the ASD rate may also be dissolved. Will DDS allow forms of alternative services moving forward for those not able to get the vaccine? We don't have the answer right now. We don't know when to expect formal guidance from DDS. A few weeks ago, case managers called facilities and found that about 90% of consumers had been vaccinated. Providers can ask residential providers about vaccine status on consumers if needed.

Financial: Ms. Steuwer cautioned everyone that the May revisions are proposals only. Subcommittees will decide what stays and what is eliminated. She hopes that ASD will cease as of 6/30 and traditional resumes as of 7/1. She reminded everyone that ASD is auditable. Questions are starting to be asked of regional centers about what they have done. The 8.2% increase may become permanent, and the uniform holiday schedule may be suspended permanently.

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: None

Next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2021 at 9:00 am via Zoom.