

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER  
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**VIA ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**September 20, 2021**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Audrey Andrade, Member at Large: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Johana Caicedo, Infant/Children Programs: Marie Chatman, Vocational Programs: Michelle Clarke, Health Facilities: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Jenn Delgado, Respite Programs: Ruth Goodsell, Member at Large: Abdullah Koudsi, Residential Level 2 & 3: Dr. Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: Rachel Stewart, Behavioral Mod: 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 August 16, 2021: M/S/C Arnold/Delgado.

Ms. Alejandra Rivera from SCDD introduced herself to the attendees and gave an overview of what services SCDD provides.

**Vendor Category Report:**

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported on the Pre-Vac of September 8<sup>th</sup>. They had 52 participants. They discussed changes to the PIP program and noted that incentive payments for CIE have increased. Many providers are having staffing issues and they talked about recruitment and incentives.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Ms. Clarke reported their Pre-Vac meeting was planned for September 15<sup>th</sup>, but the California Association for Health Facilities conference was on the same day. At the conference there was a presentation regarding Epidiolex. They communicated during the month via email about the Great Shake Out and the fires in the area. They talked about staffing shortages, Covid testing and the federal mandate.
- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported on the Pre-Vac of August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Vince Toms attended and explained the DDS Directive for alternative services and answered questions. They talked about vaccine mandates and noted that some families only want vaccinated providers coming into their home. Other families don't want to follow the mandates and are asking for a new provider thinking that a new provider will not follow the mandate. Inland is not changing providers if this is the reason and would like all providers to be on the same page with mandates. They discussed receiving referrals for children in foster care and the need to review the information because even though the child is in foster care, the biological parent may have educational rights. Last week the Parent Training Subcommittee put together a training called "Let's Play." It was all about playing with your children. They provide 4 trainings per year and the next one will be in November. Ms. Caicedo reminded the providers to not forget about using California Early Start Network as a resource. Next meeting is September 27<sup>th</sup>.

- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** Mr. Koudsi introduced himself to the attendees.
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** No Report
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported they continue to update via email. They are not having meetings unless requested or needed. They did send an update regarding EVV and connecting with Vince for the master list. They have a new QA liaison and are now working with Lynette Banda. If any providers are not on the email list and would like to be added, please send an email to Ms. Delgado.
- 7) **SLS:** Ms. Botello reported on the Pre-Vac of September 16<sup>th</sup>. They discussed concerns with the rollout of the EVV system. They also talked about the ASD rollout and issues that come up. They talked about staff shortages, the minimum wage increase, cost of living increasing, vaccinations and policies as well as the need for PPE. Their next meeting will be in October the week before the VAC meeting.
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown reported they did not meet but continue to send updates and pertinent information out via email. If providers have any issues, they should email Mr. McKown or program coordinator Nancy.
- 9) **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported they haven't met since July. They have been discussing fuel reimbursement. They would like clarity on who to send their monthly client lists to. They were originally told to send it to the POSASD@inlandrc.org email but have recently been told to email them directly to their POS liaison. Marylou from POS answered this and said they can be sent directly to POS liaison, or they can be sent to the POSASD email address. Just make sure to not send them to both places. Next meeting is September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 10) **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported the providers met on the 15<sup>th</sup>. They had 20 in attendance. They discussed vaccinations and the effects on the programs. They are not sure if they fall under federal or businesses over 100. They decided to wait until OSHA has the policies in writing since they could also be considered health care workers depending on the Medicaid language. Some providers are already requiring vaccination or weekly testing. They may reach out to CDPAH to have staff trained in order to provide onsite testing at facilities. Next meeting is October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Steward reported they met on September 8<sup>th</sup> with the day program providers since their concerns and information are the same. They are concerned with staffing challenges. Some have been able to retain employees while others are short staffed. They discussed offering incentives and recruitment bonuses.
- 12) **Member At Large:** Neither Ms. Andrade nor Ms. Goodsell had anything to report.

### Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** A legislative report prepared by Jennifer Cummings was emailed on 09-16-2021.
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Goodsell reported the VAC committee is completely full. In October, they will begin looking at openings that may happen in February due to some members, last year due to Covid, had agreed to extend their term another year.

**Regional Center Update:** Mr. Toms thanked Ms. Goodsell, the Membership Committee, Dalila Balderas and the QA team for their work on getting the VAC completely filled. He welcomed Abdullah Koudsi and Kedra Creer to the committee. He thanked Jenn Delgado and Jasmin Botello for their work on the timelines with the DDS directive for EVV. He also thanked Johanna Caicedo for taking a last-minute call, after hours on a DDS Directive.

He thanked Christina and Monica from the QA unit for making all the follow calls to the providers that had not submitted their information as well as the whole QA unit for PPE distribution.

The key changes to **Paid Internship Program (PIP)** include but are not limited to:

1. The intent of the internship continues to be the acquisition of skills and experience for paid employment and/or for the PIP to lead to full or part time employment in the same job
2. Internships cannot exceed 1040 hours a year
3. Must be paid at or above minimum wage
4. Must be used to pay any employer related costs
5. PIPs that originated before July 16, 2021, will be subject to the maximum hours of 1040 a year, to include the hours already completed
6. Vendors who place clients in a PIP on or after July 1, 2021, will be paid \$750.00 once the client has completed 30 consecutive days.
7. Vendors who place clients in a PIP on or after July 1, 2021, will be paid an additional \$1000.00 once the client has completed 60 consecutive days.

The key changes to the **Competitive Integration Employment (CIE) payments** include but are not limited to:

1. The incentive payments for keeping a client engaged in Competitive Integrated Employment have changed for placements initiated and secured after July 1, 2021, until June 30, 2025, or until further notice
  - a. \$2,000.00 for 30 consecutive days
  - b. \$2,500.00 for 6 consecutive months
  - c. \$3,000.00 for 12 consecutive months.

### **EVV**

DDS needed a point of contact from SLS, respite, homemaker and respite vendor, so they can work with that person to do the initial onboarding process to the EVV solution/system. I asked for emails and the QAL followed up with phone calls to get the following from each vendor:

1. First and last name of your point of contact for onboarding.
2. Their title
3. Their email address
4. Their office phone number

Out of the 77 vendors, 71 complied with submitting the information or were exempt due to having their own EVV system.

**DSP Cultural and Linguistic Training** will be developed by DDS, soon. The intent is to create a curriculum and training that promotes services that are person centered and culturally/linguistically sensitive and improves outcomes. Increase the knowledge of the DSP staff on improving quality of services. The training will be competency based, with tiered training and certifications, as well as continued education and outcome measures all defined by DDS.

Mr. Toms will be updating CSC's and providers on the visitation policy, so everyone is on the same page. HCBS visitation to CCF's and Day Programs has started to slow down. Providers should stay up to date on the federal vaccine mandates.

**Financial:** No Report

**Training Offering:** Greenwichbiosciences is going to do a presentation on 9/22 for Ability Pathways on Zoom regarding Epidiolex. Ms. Clarke attended a presentation they at a conference and felt the information was beneficial. They can be contacted if interested. They also did a presentation on an art format and will be sending some art kits to Ability Pathways. Nicole Long is the contact nlong@greenwichbiosciences.com.

**Resources:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Public Input:** Comment by Mr. CJ Cook asking for public input and ideas on how Inland can reduce caseload ratios since the budget did not include money for reducing regional center caseloads.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2021, at 9:00 am via Zoom.