

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

October 16, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Audrey Andrade, Member at Large: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Marie Chatman, Vocational Programs: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: April Stewart, Member at Large.

Ms. Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:04.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of September 18, 2023: M/S/C De Anda/McKown.

1. **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported on the Pre-Vac of October 11th. IRC was present. They talked about the DSP incentive payments and are hoping for an update. Amy Alloway shared her unit is updating insurance information so they will be contacting those needing updated paperwork. Meredith Gage is working on the DSP stipend. It was reported that providers and families are having trouble communicating with CSC's. They do not respond. They are asking if Program Managers can attend Pre-VAC meetings. Before Covid, CSC's would see the consumer at home and at the program. Now CSC's only see the consumer at home and ask the consumer to stay home from program. This causes the consumer to miss work, pay and incentives. Can we go back to seeing the consumer at program also? The Day Program Pre-Vac meeting date will be moved so it is not so close to the VAC meeting date so they can get answers from regional center.
2. **Health Facilities:** No Report
 - **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo was not able to attend the meeting but submitted the following report via email: Early Start resource fair will take place on November 2nd at IRC. There are still a couple of spots available. Vendors can register at [\[Inland Regional Center\] IRC ES Vendor Fair Registration 11-2023 \(seamlessdocs.com\)](#)
 - The Parent Training Subcommittee will be putting a training together on November 13th on Community and Home Visit Safety
 - The Early Start Family Resource Network will be hosting IEP Overview training on October 24th in English and October 25th in Spanish. These trainings are posted on the IRC calendar.
 - We had a brief discussion on the Quality Incentive plan being tied to the Rate increase, however we are still awaiting more information from DDS.
 - I reminded all vendors that this is the last month to utilize funds from the Provider training program. Next meeting will be held on October 23rd at 8:30 am.
3. **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
4. **Residential Service L4:** No Report

5. **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado was not able to attend the meeting but sent a report via email: Respite vendors have not met since the last VAC but have been updating via email. A survey was conducted among the vendor group to determine what main concerns or support needs are at this time. Consensus from response was that most vendors are having difficulty receiving 100% of their fiscal year authorizations as well as have multiple back billing issues to be resolved. Vendors have been informed that IRC is creating a task force to handle these concerns & we look forward to working together with IRC to resolve these issues. Additionally, vendors are inquiring about the process in connection with IRC to process the DSP Stipend program payments. Vendors have submitted questions and are awaiting a response to the group. The next zoom meeting for Respite vendors is TBD. We will assess the need for live discussion in the coming weeks.
6. **SLS:** No Report
7. **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown reported they have not met as they meet as needed. An issue was reported to him regarding the lag time between approval and the official authorization is taking longer and longer which creates billing issues.
8. **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported on the Pre-Vac of September 28th. They discussed costs such as gas, insurance, repairs etc. have gone up a lot and they would like to inquire if the regional center has any ideas or emergency measures for this issue.
9. **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported her group had their Pre-Vac last Wednesday. They discussed the DSP survey with Beth Crane. She had no further information for them, but they did get the okay from Vince to begin training. Beth also let them know that Andrew had been promoted so a replacement is being looked for. Next meeting will be November 8th.
10. **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Kayava reported there were no new reports to give. Ms. Steward received some emails and will forward them to Ms. Stewart.
11. **Member At Large:** Ms. Andrade had no report.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** Legislative report emailed out.
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** SLS and both Residential programs need a representative. If anyone is interested, let Ruth or April know.

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

1. Guidance on the social recreation program has not been issued, but there were changes made to the program in the trailer bill language. We are waiting for DDS to give further guidance.
2. A universal respite assessment is being finalized by DDS and ARCA.
3. DDS has created a Direct Service Provider registry with a contractor called All's Well Health. The intent is to create a statewide database/registry for RC vendors to use as staff. It has been created as an internship program. They will market, hire, and train the staff. The goal is to build the DSP workforce. There will be a second contractor who will act as the employer of record and pay wages and insurances. They are interns, so will not count in the staffing ratios. The internship is for up to 3 months with the hope that they can be hired in that timeframe. The project is being piloted by four RCs. A retainer fee will be paid to the vendor for hiring the intern and keeping them employed for six and then twelve months.

4. AB1147 has been pushed out a year. In the bill there are proposals related to RC boards and the Public Records Act for RCs.
5. DDS will be creating a communication for RCs and the vendor community explaining the rate conversion from daily/monthly models to a system-wide hourly model. This will impact day services.
6. As of 9-2-23, DDS was exploring the transportation rate models and deciding if they need to extend the current directive on funding, past 2023.
7. DDS has stated that they will begin creating regulations to place Corrective Action Plans on vendors not meeting the HCBS-FR. This will assist with the continuous compliance efforts. IRC was funded for three additional Quality Assurance staff.

SCDD gave a presentation on the NCI project.

Financial: No Report

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: None

Next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2023, at 9:00 am via Zoom. The VAC meeting will be dark in December. After December, we will meet again on January 8, 2024, at 9 a.m. via Zoom.