

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

October 18, 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: Kedra Creer, Residential Level 4: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Jenn Delgado, Respite Programs: Ruth Goodsell, Member at Large: Abdullah Koudsi, Residential Level 2 & 3: Rachel Steward, Behavioral Mod: April Stewart, Member at Large.

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

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of September 20, 2021: M/S/C De Anda/Delgado.

Vendor Category Report:

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported the day program providers met last Wednesday. The meeting time was changed due to a scheduling conflict with a CCS call. Vaccinations were discussed on the CCS call. All providers must follow the mandate even if they are not meeting in person with consumers. All need to be vaccinated or test weekly if they have an exemption. Andrew Burdick, Beth Crane, Dan Moore and Monica Siegers were on the call. They discussed the changes to PIP's. Some providers are having billing issues. Some case managers are telling providers they need to bill ASD when they are providing Traditional services. Another concern is the minimum wage increase vendor rates. The providers continue to meet monthly. Ms. Steuwer gave some information regarding the billing. For an ASD rate, the provider needs to submit an ASD certification. If POS does not have the certification, they are not able to process the billing. Providers need to follow the directive. When going from ASD to Traditional or from Traditional to ASD, an IDT meeting must have taken place and the IPP must be added. If there is an error on billing, providers can call POS. If the authorization is missing, they should call the case manager. Monthly spreadsheets need to be in by the 15th of the month and can be sent to askpos@inlandrc.org.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** Ms. Clarke reported they did not have a Pre-Vac meeting last month because California Association for Health Facilities was having a symposium at the same time. Ms. Clarke sent out to providers, the information from Greenwich Bio Sciences regarding training on the use of Epidiolex as an anti-seizure drug. Rohida Khan from US Department of Homeland Security provided a training on Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Vulnerable Populations. She is available for trainings with other organizations. Her email is rohida.s.khan@ice.dhs.gov. DocuSign is having a training on Beyond Security – The Importance of Vendor Trust and Data Protection on October 20th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Project Firstline, through CDPH and CDC, is having a training on skin integrity, Perineal and Urinary Catheter Care. Staffing shortages was discussed. The shortages have created problems with getting consumers back to day programs. The providers have a question regarding aides on vans for those going back to traditional

services. More discussion is needed on this issue so Michelle and Felicia will reach out to Lindsey Haussamen. Next meeting is on the 20th at 1:30.

- 3) **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported on the Pre-Vac of September 27th. They discussed referrals. More referrals are coming in, but some families do not want virtual or hybrid services. Some providers are not back to traditional services. Some families with older children who attend school, get exposed to Covid at school and the family chooses to quarantine instead of testing. The providers are not able to go into the home when this happens. This is where a hybrid model is beneficial. Inland emphasized using the coaching model when providing services. Everyone needs to follow safely precautions so the providers cannot be doing hands on. Another issue is making sure families, if exposed to Covid, test 3 to 5 days after exposure and not sooner for safety purposes. Family Resource Network will be having a workshop on October 26th in English and on the 27th in Spanish. Information is on the IRC calendar. Next meeting is October 25th.
- 4) **Residential Service L2-L3:** Mr. Koudsi reported they talked about the vaccination exemption for religion. If anyone has questions, they can email him
- 5) **Residential Service L4:** Ms. Creer introduced herself. She has not had a meeting yet since this is her first VAC meeting.
- 6) **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported she continues to stay in contact with providers and send out information via email. She sends emails to keep providers informed of DDS and CDPH Directives and meetings for stakeholders. She has been receiving emails with questions/issues on complying with the mandates of being vaccinated or weekly testing. She will send an email out today asking for feedback on having a live meeting.
- 7) **SLS:** No Report
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** No Report
- 9) **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported the transportation providers did not meet last month. They will meet this month on the 28th. Their issues are billing and not being invited to IDT meetings; because they are not at the IDT meeting, they do not know consumers are returning to program and are having scheduling issues. They are having challenges when programs provide services for 2.5 hours, either in the morning or afternoon. It creates scheduling issues going back and forth to the program. Another issue for the group is not being informed of new CSC or POS liaison. They send an email not knowing of the changes so their email is not received nor answered. Ms. De Anda said she would remind the day program providers that transportation must be at the IDT meetings in order to have transportation services.
- 10) **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported they met on the 13th. They have a concern with billing and authorizations. There are inconsistencies and many providers are owed back pay. They have a concern with lack of referrals from DOR. Joyce from DOR noted they will be back to presenting at IRC unit meetings to keep CSCs informed and up to date on what they offer consumers. There are now 5 interns in state internships. Andrew Burdick updated on PIP's and CIE caps. Information was shared regarding a training on Disability Awareness and Etiquette. Next meeting is November 10th.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Steward reported they did not meet this month due to CCL training and other conflicts. They will meet next month with the day program providers. She has not received any emails with concerns or questions. If anyone has questions, they can email her.
- 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 10-18-2021.
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Goodsell reported the VAC committee is completely full. The Committee will begin looking at openings and extensions that may happen in February. A report will be present at the next meeting.

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

1. Senate Bill 639 was signed into law and will phase out subminimum wage in California, over the next three years. Multiple stakeholders will now draft a plan to complete the transition from subminimum wage to minimum wage employment opportunities or other types of day service models. The plan is to be submitted to the Legislature by January 1, 2023. The end date for day service providers to pay clients subminimum wage is December 31, 2024. January 1, 2025, SB 639 makes it illegal to pay less than the legal minimum wage.
2. PPE from IRC – DDS is no longer supplying the RCs with free PPE. IRC has a limited supply for the vendor community and staff and will offer it at no cost, until it is gone. At this writing, we have approximately 25,000 N-95 masks, 2,000 surgical masks, 20,000 gowns and 16,000 face shields. All other forms of PPE are gone. With PPE being readily available and no longer cost prohibitive, we will be asking the vendors to purchase what they think is appropriate, unless we have something still in stock in the four previously mentioned categories.
3. Booster shots for Pfizer – The federal program where the CCF and ICF clients were vaccinated at the facility will not be utilized for the booster shots, so vendors will need to work with the client's physicians or go to the California Department of Public Health's "My Turn," page to find walk-in clinics and other places that are administering the shot www.myturn.ca.gov. To find out who qualifies for a booster and the underlying medical conditions and age range related to qualifying, please visit www.CDC.gov/coronavirus.
4. California's Public Health Office issues a Public Health Order on September 28, 2021, at www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19. The order mandated all Regional Center Vendor staff to get fully vaccinated by November 30, 2021. The order does allow for exemptions based on qualified medical necessity or religious belief. If a worker is exempted, they must test weekly for Covid-19. The employer (vendor) must create a record of each worker who is exempted as well as the record of their weekly test results. They must maintain the record and for each employee. Other employer related record keeping needs are in the Public Health Order. It is critical that all vendors review the order. Records are subject to review by the California Public Health Office, the California Department of Social Services, or their designee (not currently named). DDS has a summary of the order on their website and it is also on the IRC Service Provider page.

At this time the only vendor staff that are not covered by the order are the in-home direct care services workers who only provide services to a client with whom they live or who are a family member of the client they provide services for, which would be a portion of our preferred providers of respite.

5. IRC is in the process of developing purchase of service policies for social recreation, camp, educational services for clients 3-17 years of age and nonmedical therapies. They must be submitted to DDS by December 15, 2021.
6. The Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Provider Compliance Funding Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 are on the Service Provider page of the IRC website. The budget for the year is again \$15 million across the state. Completed concepts must be submitted to Dalila Balderas, Quality Assurance Program Manager, at Dbalderas@inlandrc.org. **The final date to submit completed concepts will be the close of business on November 12, 2021.**

Financial: No Report

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: None

Next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2021, at 9:00 am via Zoom.