

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

November 20, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Johana Caicedo, Infant/Children's Programs: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: April Stewart, Member at Large.

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

MINUTES: No Quorum.

1. **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported on the Pre-Vac held on the 8th. Concerns are: waiting on updates regarding the DSP training reimbursements; they are paying out to those that have attended the training, but they have not been reimbursed by the regional center, needing clarification on the hourly billing change; is it comparable to the daily rate, questions about the sick pay increase and if there will be a rate adjustment as there was when sick pay took effect, waiting on updates regarding traditional/remote services because some families like remote, issues with transportation taking up to 90 days to implement, issues reaching CSC's so they are asking if PM's can attend Pre-Vac's for open communication, having site visits resume at programs as they were before Covid.
2. **Health Facilities:** No Report
3. **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported they met on October 23rd. The transition guideline book has been updated; vendor feedback is requested. It was announced that Treva Webster is retiring in January. The provider training for Early Start providers has been extended to November 2024. Quarterly training was held with San Bernardino Police Department who presented a video on Community and Home Visit Safety which was discussed. Next meeting will be on November 27th.
4. **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
5. **Residential Service L4:** No Report
6. **Respite Program:** No Report
7. **SLS:** No Report
8. **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown reported they do not meet unless they have a need. Providers have Doug's email for issues/questions.
9. **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported they did not meet in November but will meet in December. They are trying to get answers regarding TMR; is the TMR ending at the end of January and if so, did IRC get any information regarding the Burn's rate for Transportation? Our concern is as follows; since 2013 Commercial auto insurance went up 60%, fuel 70%, payroll 35%, Worker's Comp 65%, vehicle purchase 55% and Maintenance/Parts 55%. Burns recommends a 50% pay decrease. What is IRC doing to facilitate

solutions for Transportation? Why hasn't IRC lessened insurance requirements for transportation vendors to lessen the burden? 1 million dollars is the industry standard. Providers have concerns about not receiving notification from programs when days or hours change. They are trying their best to accept TSR's. They are still waiting for information regarding the new rate from Burns & Associates.

10. Vocational Program: Ms. Chatman was not at the meeting but did send her report via email which Ms. De Anda read: Met on 11/8 with 28 people in attendance. DOR- Still working through some new services, specifically, IPS pilot and Student Services. Contact Matthew if you're having issues with receiving payments that are more than 2-3 months late. DOR funded ACRE training is full, and emails will be sent out to those that signed up. Another training will be scheduled soon. Let Matthew know if you're interested in the next round of ACRE training. Joyce reported that she is still going to set up the SB639 workgroup. She is trying to get some funds to help support vendors more in their transition and for those that would like to explore Customized Employment. IRC- Beth reported that she is still covering both Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Amy reported that the DSP stipend will be tracked on a spreadsheet in the training unit, then it will go to Amanda McGuire and then Amy will pay it out to the vendors. Vendors will NOT get invoices or be required to "Bill." Vendors should be getting their vendor approval letters for the DSP stipend payments. A question was asked regarding clients that are no longer a part of the program still showing up in the e-billing. Even after calls to the CSC's and POS. Amy Alloway suggested that vendors "defer" the billing for those clients, not mark "no service." Also, in the upper right-hand corner on the e-billing page there is a "bubble" like symbol. Click on that to put a comment under the client stating they are no longer in the program. That should help POS. There was still overwhelming consensus across the group that issues from the previous month are not addressed in the current month. That allows IRC 30 days to prepare answers for response. We want to see "Old Business" addressed on the agenda with topics that are brought up in the previous month.

11. Behavioral Mod: No Report

12. Member At Large: No Report

Committee Reports

1) **Legislative Committee Report:** No Report

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. Quality Incentive Programs will become a component of the rate instead of funds paid in addition to the rate. A vendor directory is being created with the use of a portal by DDS and vendors will have to enter and update their data. The goal is for all vendors to validate their data by January of 2024. The directory will be used to monitor the 10% incentive payments that will be in July of 2024. The intent is to provide an incentive to vendors to participate and update/validate their data.

2. Quality Incentive Programs (QIP) Prevention and Wellness is on the IRC and DDS website. It is for our FHAs, RCFEs, EBSH and ARFPSHN facilities. This is for the calendar year of 2023 and the goal is for the vendors to send DDS data on preventive measures that they have done for the clients this year. The real

positive of this QIP is that it incentivizes the providers to meet some good health standards for our client care. This QIP has very good intentions and can be a mechanism to better serve our clients. The actual DDS directive is on the IRC and DDS websites.

The data collection is on page 2 of the attachment and is specific for males and females and specific to age. The vendors can get \$1000.00 per client for meeting all the data collection elements. There are some exemptions noted for ARPSHNs and some different incentives to the \$1000.00 incentive for the other three residential categories.

3. The providers will get an email from DDS in January of 2024, and it will include a link to the reporting form. They have 30 days to complete it. DDS will tally the data and tell RCs who to pay and how much. This is a lot like the DSP data survey that gave an \$8000.00 incentive for provider data. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is continuing the Medi-Cal changeover from Fee for Service to Managed Care Plans, with the January 1, 2024, date for ICF changeover. ICF will be getting notices from DHCS in November and December. ICF providers are encouraged to go onto the DHCS website. There you can search for "Key Documents." It will take you to the CalAIM Long-term care carve-in transition page, where you can begin the research on the changeover. Guidance on billing and invoicing will be found there. There are also multiple training dates and past webinars on the site.

Financial: No Report

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: A question was asked about the best way to inform transporters of changes. Answer: If the change is ongoing, it should start with the CSC so changes can be made to the TSR. This is what the transporters use to plan their routes. If it is a one time thing, the program should communicate with the transporter to see if the change can be accommodated.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2024, at 9 a.m. via Zoom.