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Department of Developmental Services
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

March 6, 2024

Lavinia Johnson, Executive Director
Inland Regional Center
P.O. Box 19037
San Bernardino, CA 92423

Dear Ms. Johnson,

Thank you for submitting the Inland Regional Center (IRC) Fiscal Year 2021-22 Annual Purchase of Service (POS) report dated April 3, 2023, to the Department of Developmental Services (Department). Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code, section 4519.5(i)(1) requires that each regional center annually report the following:

- Actions the regional center took to improve public attendance and participation at stakeholder meetings.
- Copies of meeting minutes and attendee comments.
- How the data indicates the need to reduce disparities in POS.
- Regional center recommendations and plans to promote equity and reduce disparities in POS.

Recognizing equity goes beyond POS expenditures, the Department requests in future years regional centers also include information during POS meetings about other indicators of the overall experience of individuals and their families with regional centers. Effective July 10, 2023, Assembly Bill 121 requires regional centers to report on the number of instances when the written copy of the individual program plan was provided at the request of the individual and, when appropriate, the individual's parents, legal guardian or conservator, or authorized representative, in a threshold or non-threshold language, if that written copy was provided beyond the legal standard, pursuant to W&I Code sections 4519.5(a)(6-7).

The Department has reviewed the POS report from IRC and most statutorily required elements of information have been met. Notably, IRC engaged in planning and preparation to ensure participation from community representatives, community based organizations, individuals served and their families, for the POS data meeting presentations and collaboration with partners to obtain feedback from the public. This resulted in an increased number of meeting participants compared to the number of meeting attendees in 2022, and valuable information obtained by surveying participants.

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In addition, efforts to incorporate community feedback into the IRC's plan to reduce disparity are commendable.

The Department provides the following recommendations to support improvements in IRC's POS disparity meetings and annual reports:

1. Input from the public and community partners was utilized in developing recommendations for IRC's plan to reduce disparities. As a result of the public and community input, a need was identified for an increased service provider network. The Department recommends including planned strategies by IRC to increase the pool of providers in identified areas of need.

If you have questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Alma Janssen, Secondary Regional Center Liaison, Office of Community Operations, at (916) 654-3265, or by email, at alma.janssen@dds.ca.gov.

Thank you,



ERNIE CRUZ
Deputy Director
Community Services Division

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