

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER  
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**VIA ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**January 8, 2024**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Audrey Andrade, Member at Large: Johana Caicedo, Infant/Children's Programs: Marie Chatman, Vocational Programs: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Jenn Delgado, Respite Programs: Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: Rachel Steward, Behavioral Mod Programs.

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

**MINUTES:** Motion made to approve the minutes of October 20,2023 as amended: M/S/C McKown/DeAnda Request to amend the minutes by removing the mention of a transportation meeting in December. No meeting was held.

1. **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported that the group met last month. Vendors are still struggling to connect with CSCs and duty officers. This has been reported many times before. Some vendors are not getting reimbursed for the DSP training stipend. The guidance provided does not address this situation. Some vendors have asked about billing traditional remote services. A reminder that it will be the same as its not ASD, its traditional remote & it has been extended to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Also have some concerns with residential providers picking up consumers. We ask IRC what a favorable time slot for them is to be picked up if there is a need, however there is not a stance by Regional Center, and this is dealt with on a case by case basis.
2. **Health Facilities:** No Report
3. **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported that the group did go dark in December. There will be a meeting again this month. The group has their first training of the year promoting family engaged developmental monitoring. There is a great guest speaker from 10:00-12:00 from Hobby Grove in Santa Barbary County. It's going to be a great training. Some feedback was received from DDS regarding Early Start monitoring of services and documentation of parent's no-shows. These topics will be discussed in the next pre-VAC meeting. Vendors are encouraged to attend and join the discussion.
4. **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
5. **Residential Service L4:** No Report
6. **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported the respite providers continue to update via email. Vendors have noticed some inconsistencies with referral qualifications. Some CSCs are unaware of situations that could make a referral not a good candidate for respite or a given program. The group has been doing some education around that on an independent basis. We plan to have a meeting within first quarter.
7. **SLS:** No Report

8. **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown said he has nothing new to report. Providers have his email to ask questions or report issues.
9. **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold was not present, however provided an update via email. The TMR got extended until 2025. This is great news for transportation vendors as they are struggling with continually increasing overhead costs. As they enter the new year, and the Burns rate is pending implementation, there are no answers from the TPS regarding solutions. A meeting was held with Transport, Vince, and Amanda to try to go over some different ideas about advocacy for transportation. Felecia and Lorraine will be owning this because the regional center typically does advocacy through ARCA, they typically will not step into direct advocacy except in rare cases that are approved by the board.
10. **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported that the next meeting for Vocational Programs will be this Wednesday, January 10, 2024. The group was looking forward to hearing back from Lavinia on questions and concerns raised a couple of months ago.
11. **Behavioral Mod:** Board Member, Rachel, was not able to attend the Day Program group in December. The vendor group was advised that they were welcome to attend the Day Program group despite the Board Members absence. Behavior Management will continue to do Pre-VAC alongside Day Program at the next meeting in February. We hope to get some answers to questions that Lynn has submitted to IRC.
12. **Member At Large:** Audrey Andrade had no report.

### Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** No Report
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** No Report

### Regional Center Update:

Mr. Toms gave the following report:

1. The system needs more Financial Management Service (FMS) vendors, to meet service provision requirements. The recent growth of SDP, Participant Directed Services and Social Recreation have created a need for new agencies to be developed.
2. ILS rate changes have been updated by DDS.
3. DDS created legislation for intake and eligibility vendors to take mandatory Implicit Bias training, which averages about a full day or training, over about five do-it-yourself computer modules and a half day or live training. How to fund and set aside time for those agencies is still being determined. This would affect IRC's 785 and 056 vendors and will include just about all the agency staff to complete the training.
4. Sub-minimum Wage Employment (SMW) employment remains targeted for ending at the end of the calendar year. We will be working with VIP, Desert ARC, OPARC and Ability Counts to update the DDS SMW tracker monthly, as they transition clients to a different service modality of at least off SMW payments.
5. There will be more direction coming from DDS on the standardized vendorization process and how we will reclassify the 055 and 113 service codes. There could be necessary updates required from these vendors to include vendoring for a new service code(s), updated program designs, IPP/ISP updates, and authorization changes. We expect with the timeframes dictated by DDS that this will be a very expedited process.
6. DDS is in the process of starting to develop a unified and statewide Service Provider Directory (SPD). This will be a single portal for vendor contact information. It will be standardized and centralized by

DDS to encompass all 21 Regional Centers vendor information. This is in the initial phases and DDS is discussing the possibility of vendors getting an incentive to enter their correct data.

7. There was a second survey offered by DDS last year for a second incentive payment. DDS will be sending the vendor data to the RCs, in layers. That means that some vendors may get payment sooner than others. IRC cannot pay, as this is dependent on DDS approving the survey and letting us know. The last survey was over approximately 4 to six months. Once you are determined to receive the payment, by DDS, a member of the Resource Development Unit will send you a rate agreement to sign, so we can develop the billing information.

**Financial:** No Report

**Training Offering:** None

**Resources:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Public Input:** None

Next meeting will be on February 12, 2024, at 9 a.m. via Zoom.