

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

June 17, 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Johana Caicedo, Infant/Children's Programs: Marie Chatman, Vocational Programs: Jenn Delgado, Respite Programs: Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: Rachel Steward, BMod Programs: April Stewart, Member at Large.

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

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of May 20, 2024: M/S/C McKown/Chatman.

1. **Day Program:** No Report
2. **Health Facilities:** No Report
3. **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported on the Pre-Vac of May 20th. They talked about the Quality Incentive Program for Early Start providers from DDS that is retroactive back to January. It will be a tiered bonus dependent on how soon services were provided after referral has been received. The group had their training on Engaging Native American Families. They had about 60 to 70 participants. Preparations have already begun for the next training, which will be held in September. Pre-Vacs are held the 4th Monday at 9:30 but will be dark in June.
4. **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
5. **Residential Service L4:** No Report
6. **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado said she had nothing new to report. A Pre-Vac meet and greet will be held on June 24th. Ms. Delgado will send out a flyer regarding the meet and greet. If anyone is not on the email list and would like to be, let Jenn know.
7. **SLS:** No Report
8. **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown had nothing new to report. The providers know they can send questions and/or concerns to him via email.
9. **Transportation:** No Report
10. **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported the providers met last Wednesday. Joyce Hauser from DOR discussed the rates for job coaching. They are still waiting for the final budget. She reminded everyone if they have any heat related impact to services, please let Matthew know. DOR asked for patience as they are inundated with new cases due to summer and services growing. Erin Stream presented on DSP workforce shortage. The group talked about PIPs. DOR will cover job coaching if there is intent to hire

the consumer. If no intent, they will look to regional center to cover the job coaching. Beth Crane discussed Coordinated Career Pathways and the meeting amongst regional center staff. They are waiting for more information. They discussed the letter sent to regional center a while back with questions. There was disappointment in some of the responses.

11. Behavioral Mod: Ms. Steward reported Day Program and Behavioral Modification providers met June 12th. Several IRC staff attended. Amanda McGuire updated on Transportation 880. The deadline is July 1st. They discussed the answers to questions they received from IRC and the disappointment in some of the answers. Erin Stream of ARC Riverside presented on the state survey being conducted with some focus groups on July 29th. They talked about the IRC audits and how they are now a team approach and were wondering what that will look like. They talked about HCBS audits. There is an issue when contacting IRC with questions or when needing clarification. The providers are made to feel they are bothering IRC staff when they just need to communicate with regional center.

12. Member At Large: Ms. Stewart encouraged everyone to participate in any lobbying involving rates. There was a joint agreement between the state assembly and state senate that rejects the delay for the rate increase. This does not mean it is fully approved as negotiations are still needed with the governor. There will be last-minute pushes of rallies, emails, etc. ARC Riverside will be hosting focus groups and has asked the VAC to distribute information. If there are those who speak Spanish who would like to participate, let them know well in advance so they can secure an interpreter. Minors can also participate but they need a parent in attendance.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** No Report
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Chatman reported three applications have been received for Member at Large positions. The committee met, went over the applications and interviewed the candidates. A vote will be conducted via email. If approved, it will then go to the IRC Board for final approval. The candidates were asked to present unofficially at the next meeting since Board approval will take longer as they meet every other month.

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

The 862s with mileage component have been taken care of. The 880s are the sick leave policy which is SB 616. The information is on the service provider web page if needed. It details each service code that is mandated to increase sick leave if not already increased.

He thanked Johana for talking about the Early Start QIP. This one is still up in the air because we need to get the service codes from DDS. Waiting on the data to come from DDS on e-billing for the quarter for Jan 1 through March 31 2024. It should be coming in the next couple of weeks. No new updates have come in since the update at the last VAC meeting.

DDS is creating a statewide Service Provider Directory. There will be a consultant, Robert Haff, that deals with data, HR solutions. They will work with DDS and the vendor community to figure out all the data points going into the directory. When completed, it will go to the regional center to approve. There has been some talk of an incentive for doing this but there are no specifics yet.

Budget items DSP internship programs have been reduced by 20 million. DSP stipend program will be ending soon. Tribal engagement and outreach monies have been reduced by .8 million for Early Start services.

Inland is still working on DSP stipend payments. No funding was given for the initiative so Inland has taken staff from their regular positions to run the program. Vince apologized for the delay in payment. It has been a huge process.

Regional center staff have been directed to meet in person in the community if the consumer needs or wants it.

The Burns Rate Study was to get better rates for the vendors but also to clean up the service codes and make them more efficient and consistent across the regional centers. Those needing the most work are the clinicians, 055, 875, CCFs mostly with Level 3s with consulting hours, arm rate structure, FHA will change to be paid under ARM rate. This is a preview as to what is coming but we have no guidance yet. They will come in layers. It will be a lot of work. May have to change program designs and re-vendor which means a new authorization from the CSC

Financial: No Report

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: None

Next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2024, at 9 a.m. via Zoom.