

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

February 28, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Goodsell; Donita Remington; Bob McGuire; Kelly Snellings, Sharon Barton, William Ames

GUEST PRESENT: Tracy Fakhour, Pathway, Inc.; Matt Bauer, B.OT.; Mitzie Yodites, B.O.T.; Sarbjit Mann, Isher Care Home; Karen Jones, PVW; Hazel Delgado, People Care's; Catherine Bennage, People's Care; Anthony Wilson, International Family Care; Philip Brown, ARC Mid-Cities; Sharon Young, Young Interventions, Inc.; Don Nicolas, Royal Palm Home; Mark Antenucci, Independent Options; Johana Caicedo, Creative Home Programs; Robin Jacome, California Mentor; JJ Johnston, Wylie Center; Andrea Wells, Exceed; Ben Davidson, Premier Healthcare; Mark Hendren, Community Integration, Jasmine Coca, HLP Professionals; Dwight Jones, HLP Professionals; Chizujo Altemus, Lillianna Residential Home; Peggy Unruh, Canmore House; Bill Unruh, Canmore House; Dawn Bright, Canmore House; Alan Schwerdt, Ability Counts; Audrey Turner, Peppermint Ridge; Vicki Smith, Area Board 12; Sue Buffun, Independent Options; Boyd Bradshaw, HCDD; Maria Blaya, Maria M. Blaya; Angel Blaya, Maria M. Blaya; Ruth Kantorowicz, Samaritan Counseling Center; Anita Thomas, GG's Guest Home; Gloria Corbin, GG's Guest Home; Therese Kragness, IBP, Inc.; Michelle Mainez, California Mentor; Claire Williamson, California Mentor; Carol Santa Cruz, Able; Richard Yodites, B.O.T.; Dan Copeland, Salem Christian Homes; Carol Grosso, Grosso's ARF; Bonita Ramos, Ability First; Wilson Akinmulero, Divine Residential Home; Melody Amaral, The Wylie Center; Lucy Esquero, Able; Sharon Ehrig, Unlimited Potential; Tanna Westling; Julie Martin, Ability First; Michael Kaiser, People's Care; Gregory Alcantra; Cornelia Todor; Sofia Campos, UCP; Bharti Mathur, Mathur Care Home; Stephen Aulman, In Unison; Tina Eyraud, V.E.W.; Cheryl Cay, D & D Homes; Roxana Tijji, Ability Counts; Kenny Sengke, CWH; Sharon Guillany, Geneses; Irasema Fore; Colleen Hernandez, Sunny Days, LLC; Michelle Clarke, Ability Pathway; Jeanine Harrell, Benson House; Aurora Arzate, Benson House; Gloria Francisco, Moreno Valley Guest Home; Greg Alcantra, Inland Respite; Bolaji Akinmulero, Divine Residential Home; Anthony Stallworth, Peppermint Ridge; Eljah Hall, Maxim Healthcare; Delores Moon, Ability Counts; Dominic Marlia, Brother's Home; Rosalind Ford, SVS; Mary marlin, CVH; Lisa Pierce, Pierce Optimum Care; Tammi Simpson, Cole Vocational Services; Sachin Mathur; Mathur Care Home; Jean Collins, Crenshaw Town & Country

STAFF PRESENT: Leilani Nguyen; Ceil Dickens, Meredith Gage, Carol Fitzgibbons, Tiki Thompson, Sylvia Wackerman, Janet Goehring, Patti Harrold, Sandra Guzman

INTRODUCTIONS: Ms. Remington called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and announced that Public Input will be moved to the end of the agenda in hopes that we will cover any concerns in our committee reports. We will also be addressing the proposed revisions to Bylaws under New Business. This meeting's agenda contains the wrong meeting date for our next meeting. The correct date is April 18.

Carol Fitzgibbon distributed copies of the Vendor Insight that was sent out on our list serve. If you did not receive a copy, please sign up for the list serve to ensure you receive the latest information.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of November 3, 2010 with corrections, corrections being under Public Input Ms. Kragness wanted to record to show that she was not complaining about the rates but only pointing out the disparity in the rates. M/S/C Goodsell/Snellings

FINANCIAL REPORT: Janet Goehring reported we do not know much on the budget. We just received the B2 allocation. With this allocation we are still in a deficit. We are expecting 1 or 2 more allocations so our POS budget should look good. Regarding the 4.25% decrease and the additional 1.25% reduction which we did not know about until October and is retroactive to July 1, we have not yet collected. We understand there is a court case on this matter. At this point this regional center has no plans on collecting. Question: If we already paid it how will you (the regional center) handle it? Our software will calculate and show that you have already paid. It is unclear what DDS will be asking us to do, when they want us to collect or how they want us to collect.

DAY PROGRAMS: Ruth Goodsell reported they had a Day Program Forum but attendance was not great. These meetings are a great place to voice your concerns to your representative. She encourages day program vendors to attend the next meeting that is scheduled for April 14 at 1:30. Regarding the Vocational aspect our DDS representative Jimmy Williams retired this month and DDS has informed us they will not be replacing him. Ruth Johnson will be our contact person up in DDS. Ruth thanked the team that put together Jimmy's retirement party, they did a great job.

Sharon Barton reported she has been meeting with vendors and appreciates the liaison providing a venue and the opportunity to meet. She reports that everyone is experiencing difficulties and we are all going through the same things. We calculate our rate and compare it to what it used to be while not compromising consumer's care. She recently received information from an insurance company that worker's comp went up about 100%. The reason for the increase was apparently the state came up with another formula which came up with those rates. In general all insurance rates are going up. Rent and utilities have gone up as well. These are the basic concerns day programs are reporting to her. We are all very concerned and scared. Sharon shared with everyone an article that was in the Press Newspaper regarding our consumers and what will happen to them if we have further cuts. She stated that consumers always had a voice in the regional center and now they want to cut that voice. She encouraged everyone to contact their legislatures and voice their concerns. Question: Are minutes being kept and distributed to everyone at these meetings? Answer: Not at this time but will start taking minutes.

Karen Jones knows of this self insurance group for Worker's Comp insurance that is willing to work with vendors. Contact information: Anne Marie Will, Workers Compensation Group, Non Profits' United, 6221 Westbrook Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 925621 (916) 764-0056 or email her at annamarie@nonprofitsunited.com.

SPECIALIST: Donita Remington reported they had a very productive meeting of the 102 service code vendors. Our concern as everyone is the budget. Everyone is just trying to stay afloat. Sylvia Wackerman was able to set up a meeting which was very informative. During this meeting Trailer Bill AB9 was discussed and compared to other behavioral programs in regards to autism. Another big concern, not just for our vendor group but for everyone is the cost of expenses going up.

TRANSPORTATION: Donita Remington reported that an area that needs clarifications and guidelines on is reimbursement on property damage. Transportation is being effective with the cost of non reimbursable repairs.

RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES: Donita Remington reported this position is currently vacant. She attended the care provider's meeting at the end of January and announced that the Residential Care Facility representative position was vacant at this time on the VAC Board. Concerns brought up at this meeting were regarding our budget. Sylvia Wackerman did a presentation on capacities and opening. She explain how there are more openings than capacity needs. She did a wonderful job. The VAC Committee along with some vendors met to revise the VAC's By Laws. The new By-Laws will include more representatives.

Sylvia Wackerman handed out a report by demographic area that shows current capacities, occupancies and vacancies by service codes. This report was generated based on authorization so it does not include ICFs or children placed out of home. The next Residential Provider's meeting is scheduled for March 28th from 10:00 to 12:00. Notice of this meeting will be placed on the internet. We will also send out a notice through the list serv. We encourage anyone not on the List Serv to sign up. Information that may be important to you is sent out via List Serv.

Question: At the last Residential Care meeting we discussed our concerns regarding the number of vacancies one has versus the number of homes licensing keeps approving. Is the regional center obligated to vendor a home even though there are many vacancies in that area? Answer: We will invite someone from licensing to attend our next Residential Care meeting. The regional center cannot deny anyone based on the number of vacancies we have in an area. We have to operate as a free enterprise. We tell the person from the beginning the needs and vacancies in the specific area and they decide for themselves. Comment: This list that Sylvia handed out is helpful and may educate those wanting to open homes so they know what to expect. Question: Would it be possible for the regional center to make a proposal to Sacramento regarding the number of vacancies and the possibility of placing facilities that want to open on a waiting list. They can provide the information in a fiscally approved manner. The State of Florida is doing business this way. Anthony Stallworth stated California could not do that since it is a Free Enterprise State. He has information on the procedure in Florida and will forward it to Carol Fitzgibbons.

Question: Insurance premiums can be real pricey especially with all the vacancies. SGPRC sets your insurance requirements based on the number of consumers you have in the home. Is there any way this regional center would consider doing the same. Answer: Carol will be happy to talk to SGPRC. This would be a policy the Board would have to review.

HEALTH FACILITIES: Kelly Snellings reported ICFs are still concerned about vacancies and the amount of referrals that are coming in. ICF vendors want to know the procedure for ICF placements. Some vendors are concerned because they see some vendors receive referrals and other do not. Another question that was brought up was what is being done to place consumers in an ICF from Skilled Nursing Facilities.

SOCIAL RECREATION: Bob McGuire reported they have not had a Social Rec meeting in 6 months. SLS had a meeting in January. One thing discussed in the SLS meeting was what happens when a consumer gets authorization for services. CSCs will request the service but the reports are not matching what the CSC is requesting. There are discrepancies in what we are reporting. Some examples are: Teaching Parenting: we are not authorized to provide parenting classes. We can help find a generic resource for parenting classes but not provide ourselves. Medical Services: To go to doctors twice a year and consumer goes twice a year. Where are the rest of the hours going? IHSS hours are being cut. We need to be more resourceful and if we want to get our services approved, we need to communicate better with our CSCs. The next SLS meeting is scheduled for April 22 and Social Rec meeting is scheduled for March 8.

Question: What can you do for consumers that live independently and do not have enough money for food? Answer: this is very common. If they live independently they have a choice on how they spend their money. Consumers that want to live independently do struggle and do not always make the best choices. SLS hours can be put in place but ultimately it is their decision.

Question: How can one get information about these meetings? Answer: You can sign up for the List Serv or contact Leilani Nguyen for meeting information.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Carol Fitzgibbons reported that the budget situation is not looking any better. She encouraged everyone to contact your Legislatures like Gloria Negrete, Bill Emmerson and BobDunton and let them know what we are facing. Carol also mentioned some Bills to be aware are: SB 382 authored by Liu and Emmerson. This is in regards of the outcome of the BSA audit. It would put language into law in regards to RFPs, Whistle Blower and complaints. The detailed language was lifted right out of Title 17. AB 170 This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would divide this regional center into two separate regional centers. We are following this one but have not seen any activity on it.

Question: Some of us went to Dunton's office several weeks ago and he refused to meet with us. SGPRC is doing a Rally on March 7 from 10:00-12:00 at the Chase building. Flyers will be sent out as soon as it is confirmed.

TRAINING REPORT: Patti Harrold reported that they have been working diligently in centralizing information and getting it out to you. List Serv is the best way to get the latest and most up to date information. You have to fill up the sign up form since it is managed by an outside party. There will be forms available to anyone who wishes to sign up after the meeting. We also try to put everything on the master calendar that is on our website. If you can not find a meeting or have any questions please contact Diane Kimble at Dkimble@Inlandrc.org or by telephone (909) 890-4778. There is information on the table on some of our upcoming events.

We have to change some of the dates of the CAC to Saturdays. We are not sure how that will work. If you think a CAC meeting in your area will be beneficial, please let me know. You can contact me at Pharrold@Inlandrc.org.

OLD BUSINESS:

E billing - DDS wrote a new software in late December. Vendors that were using the old version have been converted to the new software. Those of you who are not on it, we encourage you to try it out. You can call Mary Lou Paras at 890-3440 and she can tell you when the next E Billing will class will be. The new program gives the administrator the capability to assign signing and user rights to your staff. You no longer have to contact the regional center to do this. Those who were on the old program were not designated an administrator role. The system administrator is the only one that can submit the billing and it can only be done once a month. Janet had a few applications available for anyone interested in signing up for E Billing. The application requires you to provide confidential information such as your banking information. We ask that you return your application in a sealed enveloped marked "personal and confidential" addressed to the attention of Barbara Bogle. There is also a signup sheet in case we run out of application, we can mail you one. Pay date is on a first come first serve basis. Residential pay date comes first. We have a pay dates on the 10th, 15th, 20th and end of the month. If you want the 10th as your pay date your billing must be submitted by the 4th. Question: We were part of the E Billing last year and we submitted our billing early but would not receive payment by the 10th. Answer: We have modified our program and it will not hold it, it will go out with residential payments. Question: If we submitted an application in November do we need to submit another one? Answer: No, we have not processed all the applications we received. Question: If we are already doing E Billing with another regional center do you still have to train us? Answer: No, it is the same program. Question: Will all billing be eventually converted to E Billing? Answer: No, it is a faster method but it is not a requirement. Question: Once we submit our billing will we get a confirmation email? How would we know you received it? Answer: The system will send you a confirmation.

The new system has many improvements. You are now able to attach scan documents. The system does require you change your passwords every 90 days. You may get a paper check on your first payment but after that you will get paid electronically. It all depends on it is processed.

Kern and San Gabriel/Pomona regional centers are piloting a program called Service Provider Protor. This program will allow regional centers to push out paperwork out to vendors. This will also be something you need to apply for. We have a signup sheet if anyone is interested in trying this out when it becomes available to us.

NEW BUSINESS:

Regional Center Probation – Carol Fitzgibbons reported that Inland's Board has been placed on probation. Although this has never happened to this regional center, this is not a unique situation. The Board has a contract with DDS. The areas that Inland has to be in compliance in are not new areas. They are the same areas identified in the BSA and DDS Audit in August, 2010. At the end of this week we will be meeting with the auditors from DDS. Once we meet with them

we will have a clearer picture of this probation. Some of the areas we know of deal with procurement, conflict of interest, Request for Proposals, policy has been placed on our website. Other things we were asked were about CPP going back to 2001. Housing Plans we need to provide a consistent plan to the department. The Bill I mentioned earlier regarding regional centers to employ auditors every 5 years. Reporting is another thing the department is looking at. The Special Contract Language was attached to the letter that was sent to you. In the Special Contract Language it list all the requirements we have to do and by a specific time. We had some things that we had to submit by February 15 which were done and the rest are due by March 31st. The State will meet with us every 90 days. Another thing we want everyone to understand is that the regional center is not going anywhere. The contract can change, the Board can change but by law we have to have a regional center here. We are not going out of business we are just changing the way we do business. Carol wanted to thank everyone for working alongside us.

By Laws - Donita Remington went over the revisions made to the VAC By Laws: 1) number of representative, we need more 2) term of service were reduced from 4 years to 2 years, not to exceed two consecutive terms. We will be staggering the two year terms. We do not want everyone starting at the same time. We are also requesting that Bob McGuire and Ruth Goodsell not leave this June so that they can help the new members.

Question: What is the requirement for a position? Answer: You must be available to attend your representative's and VAC's meeting. Anyone interested in serving on this committee, send a letter of interest to Ruth Goodsell at rgoodsell@desertarc.or or Sandra Guzman at Sguzman@Inlandrc.org.

Motion made to accept the revise By Law and present to IRC's Board of Directors for approval:
M/S/C Goodsell/McGuire

Motion made reappoint Kelly Snellings as Health Facilities representative for two more years
M/S/C Goodsell/McGuire

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mr. Crenshaw wanted to thank the committee for their work and putting all these changes together. He also thanked Carol for all she is doing as well.

Meeting adjourn at 11:55 a.m.

Next Meeting: April 18, 2011

sg:IRC/3-31-11