



Vendor Insights

Welcome to the latest issue of Inland Regional Center's Vendor Insights. This is a bi-weekly communication to all of our partners, intended to provide more frequent information about IRC.

Upcoming Events

August 15, 2011

August 16	August 19	August 19	August 19, 20 & 21
Coalition Meeting for Work Programs Auditorium 10 a.m. - Noon	TASK Special Education Workshop Auditorium 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.	IRC Orientation Auditorium 10 a.m. - Noon	Back to School Autism/Asperger's Conference Pasadena Convention Center Cost \$195

COMMUNITY MEETINGS COMING SOON!

One of the most important components for IRC to make a long-term, positive change is listening to feedback provided by everyone we serve. As such, we're planning to meet in person with you, IRC consumers, and their families to address concerns and answer questions related to IRC including overall agency operations and local resources.

A total of 11 community meetings are being planned and will be held starting in late August through Fall. For the convenience of you and consumers, these meetings will be held throughout our service area of Riverside and San Bernardino counties and will be scheduled for different times and days of the week to best accommodate your schedule.

Currently, locations being considered include the following: Temecula, Yucca Valley/Twenty-nine Palms, Palm Desert/Indio, Central Riverside, Corona/Norco, San Bernardino, Victorville, Blythe, Needles, Ontario, and the San Bernardino Mountains.

In preparation of the community meetings, Area Board 12 formed a needs assessment task force with IRC. The group met regularly to develop a survey that will gain information on the needed types of services you think may be missing in our community.

Please be on the lookout for electronic notifications of the upcoming community meetings and be sure to mark your calendar! As dates, times and locations are determined, details will be emailed to you and posted on the website.

We look forward to hearing and addressing your comments and questions at the upcoming community meetings.

Board Update & New Member Welcome

During the July 11 board meeting, the Board of Trustees approved three new members and accepted the resignations of two current members.

The Board is pleased to welcome IRC's new members who will help our agency continue to do business on behalf of you and your families. Below is a brief description of each of their backgrounds.

Peter Asten: Parent of a son with Down Syndrome; Coached various Special Olympics sports since 1997; Financial advisor in Rancho Mirage

Leanett Loury-Smith: Parent of two sons with developmental disabilities; Holds Master's degree in Education; Protective service provider through IHSS

Marybeth Feild: Parent/Legal guardian of several adult consumers; Parent/child advocate for 28 years; Riverside County SELPA board member for eight years; Law officer manager/paralegal

In addition, two current board members submitted their resignations. The board thanks both Martha Ramirez, who served more than 15 years, and Esther Farmer, who served nearly seven years, for their contributions to the agency and the consumers we serve. Their work is greatly appreciated and we wish them the best.

IRC Policy and Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) ByLaws Changes

At the recent board meeting, revisions were introduced and approved to the Whistleblower Policy and VAC bylaws.

With the latest changes to the Whistleblower Policy, the sources in which a complaint can be filed have expanded to include managers via email at managers@inlandrc.org and the investigation process now clearly outlines the steps of a complaint and the role of confidentiality.

In addition, the recent approvals to the VAC bylaws increased the number of members to 18 and changed the maximum number of years a VAC board member can serve to two years. The VAC board has worked hard to achieve a broader representation of vendors. Their new, elaborate process to identify new members will help create an active environment where more vendors can provide valuable input.

DDS Tech Teams

As part of IRC's probation status, DDS assigned a team of professionals to come to the agency the week of July 18 and throughout the coming months to evaluate the agency's progress and provide input.

The team's future visits will continue to provide recommendations to support us as we move toward positive change.

Calling All Vendors: Attend the VAC Meetings!

We want to hear from you! Be a part of the conversation by attending Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) meetings. These quarterly meetings provide a forum for you to meet with IRC employees to address needs, issues and concerns and are great opportunities to meet with other vendors to discuss experiences.

What's more, the VAC meetings are a way to learn the latest regarding the agency. At the meeting this morning, I provided an overview on our probation, budget, and the updated trailer bill language.

Want to learn more about your specific area of service? You're welcome to attend any Pre-VAC meetings that are held the week before VAC. If you have questions about the VAC meetings, please contact Sandra Guzman at (909) 890-3416 or email her at sguzman@inlandrc.org.

Join us October 17 for our next VAC meeting. We hope to see you there!