



Vendor Insights

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

Upcoming Events

December 19, 2011

January 3

EBT/EFT Provider Training
Auditorium
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

January 4

EBT/EFT Provider Training
Auditorium
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

February 20

VAC Meeting
Auditorium
10 a.m. - Noon

PRE-VACS STREAMLINE MEETINGS

The relationships IRC has with you are critical. You are a very important part of the success for people of all ages who have developmental disabilities.

For the past year, IRC has communicated with vendors one-on-one, at community meetings, at the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) meetings, and other events. As part of that communication, IRC has listened to you and worked to begin incorporating your comments and suggestions to further improve our relationships with vendors.

Many of you have expressed a desire to streamline reporting for the VAC meetings so they are run in a more timely and efficient manner. To help make this a reality, pre-VAC meetings were scheduled so detailed topics can be addressed and brief reporting can be made to the VAC.

Pre-VAC meetings are made available for the following areas of service a few weeks leading up to the VAC meeting:

- Family Training Vendors
- Supported Living Vendors
- Residential Vendors
- Day Program Vendors
- Respite Vendors
- Transportation
- Health Facilities

We appreciate all of your help in attending these pre-VAC meetings so we can continue to make improvements. To keep informed about when these meetings are held, please check our online calendar for dates, times and locations.

As always, we look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions so that we can have a great relationship with you and provide the best services possible to people with developmental disabilities.

Carol Fitzgibbons

Carol Fitzgibbons, Executive Director

Board of Trustees Meeting Recap

On Monday, Nov. 14, the IRC Board of Trustees gathered for the agency's bi-monthly meeting and the community attended to learn the latest about the agency and its operations. For those unable to attend, below is a meeting recap:

DDS Audit and Probation Update

On Oct. 21, IRC received a response from DDS regarding the latest on the agency's probation as well as the final audit report. As part of the agency's ongoing probation communication with DDS, IRC was required to submit its latest response to inquiries no later than Dec. 5, 2011. The submittal has since been compiled and sent to meet this timeline.

DDS also shared their final findings report of the audit and the results aligned with the findings from the Bureau of State Audits report. DDS' audit requires IRC to repay approximately \$10 million, which the report states IRC improperly spent. Since the meeting, IRC has looked closely at the report and the Board of Trustees filed an appeal on Nov. 21.

Events Recap

From Aug. through Oct., IRC hosted nearly a dozen community meetings to communicate directly with vendors, consumers and their families. More than 250 of you attended and provided worthwhile ideas and recommendations.

VAC and CAC Updates

The Vendor and Consumer Advisory Committees have progressed so much this past year. Both have worked hard to strategize and implement new ways to run effective programs.

Following a thorough evaluation process, IRC is prepared to meet with vendors to identify issues and come up with solutions together. In the coming weeks and months, details will be shared on when and where we can meet to have this discussion.

What's more, the CAC listened to consumers on the types of events they wanted - and it showed with an increase in attendees. The CAC recorded 786 participants at meetings and events this past year, up more than 200 last year, while volunteers more than doubled from 300 to 700 people.

Policies Posted Online

As part of the agency's goal to keep everyone informed, the Board of Trustees voted that all draft policies be listed on the website with a date of when they are expected to be finalized and posted.

Staff Trainings

To date, the "Catch the New Wave" staff trainings have proven to be great opportunities for IRC staff members to gather and learn from each other. Staff trainings will continue through the new year covering a variety of important topics including IRC's background, staff roles, interconnectedness, and internal and external conflict resolution.

The next IRC Board of Trustees' meeting is scheduled for Jan. 9, 2012.

Family Library Changes Start This Month

As you may know, the Family Library will undergo some changes. As a result of the latest state audit findings, there is a need for IRC to reallocate funding for the library, which will shift the current structure to be in compliance with DDS starting Jan. 1, 2012.

During this transition, the Family Library will go through a full inventory tally during the month of December. As a reminder, all materials out on loan will need to be returned no later than Dec. 19. To accommodate these returns, the library will remain open during special hours of operation: Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As we move into the new year, we promise we are working diligently to keep the Family Library open to a capacity similar to the level it's been open this year. In the meantime, we appreciate and thank you for your assistance in the return of materials to the library for inventory.

Independence - Inclusion - Empowerment

cfitzgibbons@inlandrc.org