

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
IRC Conference Center, Auditorium A**

MINUTES

December 19, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Sharon Barton-Maggio, Day Programs; Kelly Snellings, Health Facilities; Barry Solomon, Level 2-3; Tena Meinders, Level 4; Elisha Hall, Respite Programs; Donita Remington, Specialist/Support Programs; Bob McGuire, Dennis Mattson and Tammi Simpson, Members At Large

GUEST PRESENT: Joan Mossman, Mentor; Johana Caizada, Creative Home Programs; Nancy Martinez, Maxim Healthcare; Trupti Mody, MVC; Sachin Mathur, St. Mary's Home; Jim Stream, ARC of Riverside; Edie Parreno, Mattie; Francisco Chavez; Maria Chavez; Rite Lear, New Living Options; Sylvia Anderson, ISS; Sandy Ward, Ward/Cobb; Ken Cobb, Ward/Cobb; Rich Yodites, BOT; Yvette Caldwell, SVS; David Torres, BRIA; Therese Kragness, IBP, Inc.; Karen Jones, PVW; Julia Valleria, In-Roads; Mitzi and Richard Yodites, BOT; Charles Chudabala, Creative Solutions for Hope; Shawn Wright, Maxim Palm Desert; Patty Santillan, Inland Respite; Eric Santillan, Inland Respite; Melody Amaral, The Wylie Center; Michael Hall, SLB, Inc.; Dana Mehemauer, Young, Inc.; Vicki Smith, AB 12; Mike Foster, Shella Care; Jodi Irvine, Exceed; Cheri Christensen, TLC; David Yim, BRIA

STAFF PRESENT: Carol Fitzgibbons, Georgia Lowry, Tesa Patterson, Teresa Cano, Jennifer Cummings, Christina Gonzalez-Peralta, Patricia Voss, Jennifer De La Fuente, Leilani Nguyen, Robert Mendes, Sylvia Wackerman, Liz Conley, Don Meza, Kathy Decoud, Rosa Jackson, Sandra Guzman

INTRODUCTIONS: Donita Remington called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. and introductions were made.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of October 7, 2011 meeting as presented: M/S/C McGuire/Meinders

REGIONAL CENTER UPDATE: Ms. Fitzgibbons welcomed and wished everyone a Happy Holiday. Ms. Fitzgibbons reported as of the end of November our report to DDS shows a deficit in OPS of \$380,000 and in our POS of \$31.2 million. The regional center had a growth in ABA and Autism services and will be working with staff to develop a plan to put our budget in line. Many approved services still need to be encumbered which might level us out. The regional center is currently replacing staff that have left or retired and we are hoping not to have to implement a hiring freeze. We do not know exactly how the state trigger cuts will be affecting us yet. We do know that the State will need to save approximately 100 million dollars this fiscal year and about 200 million dollars next year. Ms. Fitzgibbons advised everyone to visit DDS's website weekly for any updates. In the next several months, you will see a push throughout all regional centers for Medicaid Waiver cases. Every time a regional center adds a case to the waiver program it generates Federal money. We all need to work together and come up with some strategies. Ms. Fitzgibbons also reported that the board is currently working on IRC's Purchase of Service and Transparency Policies and they will be discussed at the January Board of Trustees meeting. Ms. Fitzgibbons announced that the board currently has a couple of opening for consumers. If anyone knows of a consumer who would be interested in serving on the board, who has their own form of transportation, can contact her office.

Dennis Mattson stated that with all the cuts everyone is facing right now, the 4.25% cuts currently in place will not be going away anytime soon.

VENDOR CATEGORY REPORTS:

DAY PROGRAM: Ms. Barton-Maggio reported her email address has changed to .net instead of .org. Ms. Barton-Maggio reported that a small group of vendors met with Sylvia Wackerman to discuss the half day billing. Some of the questions asked were: Does the day start when the consumer arrives at the program or when the program starts? What happens when they have an appointment in the middle of the day? How will this be monitored? How about when a consumer gets sick in the middle of the day or has a behavioral problem? If the consumer is in the program 65% of the day, that is consider a full day. IRC will not be keeping track of times for you. Vendors will be reporting based on the honor system. This vendor group had their pre VAC meeting on December 7 and it was well attended. Robert Mendes, Program Manager for RDTU was present and welcomed to the meeting. William Ames from Southwestern attended the meeting and he shared with everyone the process on how referrals are made. The group had an opportunity to address concerns about pick up and drop off times with Mr. Ames which was very helpful. The next pre VAC meeting for this group is scheduled for February 1, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

HEALTH FACILITIES: Ms. Snelling reported that ICFs are facing a possible 10% cut, but are hoping for the proposed 5% cut. Ms. Snelling reported that CMS should be making a decision soon but regardless of the decision it will be devastating.

INFANT/CHILDREN PROGRAMS: Ms. Remington reported that Sharon Young, representative for this category submitted her resignation. Ms. Young had to relocate to Oregon. Anyone interested in filling in for the rest of this term may contact Ruth Goodsell, Membership Committee Chair at rgoodsell@desertarc.org.

RESIDENTIAL LEVEL 2-3: Mr. Solomon reported that at the last pre VAC meeting for this group they only had 9 people in attendance. Items discussed were: 1) 40% vacancy rate and the impact this has on the vendors. a) IRC having approximately 26,000 consumers and out of that only a small amount is requesting placement. Ms. Fitzgibbons explained that the regional center can not place a consumer in a home if they are not requesting to be placed. Placement is based on consumer/family's desire, needs of consumer and type of support they need. b) What is going to happen to vendors if they continue to have vacancies and why does the regional center continue to vendor homes with all of these vacancies? Ms. Fitzgibbons stated each vendor will have to evaluate their situation for themselves. IRC can not refuse to vendor someone based on the number of vacancies we have, it is an open market. We are upfront at the very beginning and it is up to them if they wish to continue. 2) Vending homes for four even though they are licensed for six. Vendors that are vendored for six are wondering if they will remain at six or if they will be reduced to four? Ms. Wackerman stated that if a vendor is vendored for six, they will remain at six. If a new vendor is licensed for six, they will be vendored for four. 3) Electronic billing and possibly getting a 1:1 training. Contract person for this training is Marylou Paras. John Hunt can also be another contact person. 4) The possibility of scheduling an educational session for this group regarding the Housing Foundation and, 5) Hardship impact based on audit requirements.

RESIDENTIAL LEVEL 4: Ms. Meinders reported that level 4 providers met for the first time on November 28 and a regular meeting was set for the second Tuesday of every odd month. Some of the items discussed or shared at this meeting were: 1) IEHP will be having a How to use IEHP training on December 13. 2) Better communication with b-mod and day programs and to invite b-mod programs to the January 10 level 4 meeting. 3) Work at improving communication with transportation services. Overall it was a good meeting and very productive. Ms. Meinders wanted

to make a minor correction to her email address. It should all be in lower case:
tmeinders@salemchristianhomes.org.

RESPITE: Mr. Hall reported that this group had a meeting on December 13. The regular meeting date for this service group is the second Tuesday of every even month. Next meeting will be in February. Mr. Hall reported that they had a good meeting and the following items were discussed: 1) Respite vendors asked if authorizations can be made available on a weekly basis? 2) They discussed the use of routine respite versus preferred provider. Preferred respite is used 85% to 95% of the time. It cost the agency more and the reimbursement rate is lower. 3) The possibility of vendors reporting fraud in a confidential manner without the fear of retaliation. A vendor reported a situation to their IRC liaison and that liaison forward the email to the CSC who became upset with the vendor. 4) Less billing errors was also discussed.

SLS: Mr. McGuire reported that the SLS group met on December 8. Ken Willits and Norma Jones attended this meeting and audit requirements were discussed. Mr. McGuire reported that the cost of hiring auditors will cost somewhere around \$9,000 - \$15,000. Discussion regarding cost and consequences of not going through with audit requirements were discussed. Many vendors expressed they will not be hiring an audit firm since there are no penalties, sanctions or consequences for not doing it. One CPA called the department to find out the requirements and could not get an answer for them. Question: Under Title 17 are they still doing staffing audits? Answer: Yes, with some vendors. Mr. McGuire suggested that vendors shop around and get different bids since the price of these audits vary so much.

SPECIALIST/SUPPORT PROGRAMS: Ms. Remington reported they had a small group at their meeting. The regular meeting for this group is the second Wednesday of every even month at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Remington reported that the CDER training they had at their meeting was very helpful. Discussion regarding vacancies was also discussed but mentioned that it is across the board and not affecting one particular group.

TRANSPORTATION: Ms. Remington reported that this service group had a good pre VAC meeting and there were no major issues to report.

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS: Ms. Remington reported the membership committee has not received any interest in filling this position and committee has decided to table this position for now.

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Mr. Mattson asked about guidelines for P & I funds in regards to Community Care providers. Mr. Mattson asked Tena Meinders if she could present a summary at the next VAC meeting. Ms. Meinders agreed and we will add it to the agenda.

Tammi Simpson asked when a consumer in a facility passes away, is there a plan in place? Yes, Sylvia Wackerman will send the procedure to Ms. Simpson.

Committee Reports

- 1) Legislative Committee Report: Barry Solomon reported that this committee has decided to meet one hour before the level 2-3 pre VAC meeting. Mr. Solomon reported that this committee will look into the licensing regulations. He also stated that some issues are not from the regional center but from the direction of the State. Those things need to be addressed in Sacramento. Vendors must have some contacts in Sacramento they can reach

out to for support. The next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on January 19 and will be mentioned on the Vendor Insight and posted on the website calendar.

Training Offerings: Question: Would it be possible to be informed in advance when a new form or procedure is put into place. At times, CSC show up with a new form and wants vendors to sign it but cannot explain what the form is or what it is for. CSC should be trained prior to using any form. Answer: This will be address with the program managers. If anyone is interested in trainings on a particular subject, you can contact your representative or your liaison. Anyone interested in IEHP providing training can contact Miguel Lujan, Director at (909) 890-2000.

Resources

Ms. Remington mentioned our new “Resources” section on the agenda and welcomed anyone with information to share at this time.

Elisha Hall provided information on a CPA firm. Ahern Adcock Devlin, LLP (951) 683-0672.

Old Business

- Membership Committee Report – Ms. Goodsell was not able to attend this meeting. No report.
- Performance Contract – Ms. Fitzgibbon stated that the Performance Contract is posted on the website. The board reviewed and approved it but asked that we place measures/stats for 2009, 2010 and 2011. The Performance Contract is based on calendar year and the goals are from the department.

New Business None

Public Input

Question: What is that update on IRC’s probation status? Answer: The probation continues. Terri Delgadillo, Mark Hutchinson and Brian Winfield met with the board in November. We will continue to communicate and respond to them every 90 days.

Question: Has IRC filed an appeal on the audit? IRC will be filing an appeal. We have until the 21st of this month to file it.

Question: If IRC loses the appeal, where is the money coming from? Will services be cut to make up some of the money? Answer: We do not have the money and will wait for the appeal decision. We are not allowed to use POS dollars for anything but services.

Next Meeting: February 27, 2012 (February 20, 2012 is a Holiday) at 10:00 a.m.