

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

**MINUTES**

**February 27, 2012**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ruth Goodsell, Day Programs; Barry Solomon, Level 2-3; Tina Eyraud, Richard Yodites, Sharon Barton-Maggio, Day Programs; William Ames, Transportation; Donita Remington, Specialist/Support Programs; Tena Meinders, Level 4; Bob McGuire, and Tammi Simpson, Members At Large

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Joan Mossman, Mentor; Melody Amaral, The Wylie Center; JJ Johnston, Wylie Center; Catherine Bennage, People's Care; Therese and Maurice Kragness, IBP; Quinn Matthews, People's Care; Julia Valterria, SWTMS; Jodi Irvine, Exceed; Justin Trott and Randy Mariano, Premier Healthcare; Nicolette Smith, Westview; Joe and Bonita Williams, Williams Family Daycare; Michael Brletich, In Unison; Tina Smith, Mentor; Karen Jones, PVW; Hazel Delgado, AFN; Tracy Fakhouri, Pathway; Sharon Guillary, Genesis ARF; Cindi Ramandi, ABLE; Vicki Smith, Area Board 12; Solomon Doitshte, Hill Rehabilitation; Marie Chatman and Sydnie George, OPARC; Colleen Hernandez, Sunny Days; Andrea Wells, Exceed; Lucy Esquero, ABLE; Mike Foster, Shella Care; Jeanne Harrell and Aurora Arzate, Benson House; Dana Mehemauer, Young, Inc.; Alisa Vasquez, ; Tori Mohmand, Alliance Human Services; Dolores Moon, Adult Community Independence. Inc.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Leilani Nguyen, Meredith Gage, Regina Kuruppu, Patti Harrold, Ceil Dickens, Christina, Pat Voss, Kathy DeCoud, Rosa Jackson, Erika Applegate, Ken Willits, Don Meza, Jennifer Cummings, Robert Mendes, Liz Conley, Sandra Guzman, Coby Carwile

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Donita Remington called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and introductions were made.

**MINUTES:** Motion made to approve minutes of December 19, 2011 meeting as presented: M/S/C McGuire/Goodsell

**REGIONAL CENTER UPDATE:** Ms. Johnson gave the following report: 1) Regional Center is showing a deficit of about \$230,000 in Operations and about \$35 million in POS. 2) Employee morale is down due to implementation of change and holding people accountable for their work. 3) Community relations have improved primarily due to the work of the vendors who sit on the Vendor Advisory Committee. 4) Inland's Board of Trustees trainings continue and there are 4 vacancies on the board at this time. 5) IRC filed an audit appeal and has not heard back from DDS. 6) IRC is in the last phase of the implementation of the various changes to the Lanterman Act and the cost saving measures required in this fiscal year's budget. The process is expected to be complete by the end of February. 7) The Medicaid Waiver audit began on February 21. The audit team reviewed records and interviewed staff last week and will begin their site visits this week. 8) The library is open Monday and Wednesday 2 to 6 and Tuesday and Thursday 9 to 1. 9) IRC is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012. There will be a number of events

throughout the year at IRC and at various locations in the community. A Family Fun Festival will be held at IRC in October.

**Financial Update:** No Report

**Vendor Category Report:**

- 1) **Day Program:** Ms. Barton Maggio met on February 9<sup>th</sup> with Robert Mendes who attended the meeting to give more information regarding the authorization process dealing with transportation. Mr. Ames attended previous meeting and explained the process as well. Mr. Mendes explained that if it is taking longer than 30 days for a consumer to start receiving transportation, vendors can e-mail him or call him. The meeting was very informative. The FUTA tax was discussed. Vendors are very concerned about this increase in their state unemployment contributions. This tax was imposed because 20 states were not able to repay the loan that is connected to unemployment taxes so it fell to vendors to pay. Vendors have to pay to renew their license, for insurance and they have many other expenses and they want Carol to know another entity is also taking money from them. They would like clarification. Is this a legal responsibility? Can they do anything about it? Can the audit date be extended? The next meeting will be held April 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 at IRC. Vendors are encouraged to attend.
- 2) **Health Facilities:** No Report
- 3) **Infant Children Program:** No Report
- 4) **Residential Service 2-3:** Mr. Solomon reported that the Level 2-3 Pre-Vac met on January 24<sup>th</sup> and it was not well attended. It was decided that since so many of the issues for level 2 and 3 homes overlapped with the issues of the level 4 homes, the meetings should be held jointly to allow for increased cooperation and participation. One of the major concerns is the IRC referral process and the 39-40% vacancy rate in the facilities. Other regional centers have a 12-18% vacancy rate. They will come up with some suggestions and will be submitting a proposal to IRC.
- 5) **Residential Service 4:** Ms. Meinders Level 4 met with a small group regarding vacancies. They would like to form a task force of IRC staff and residential vendor representatives to explore vacancy issues and the referral process. This task force is designed to be similar to the task force that successfully addressed P & I issues last year. The request for the formation of a task force will be made this week to the residential liaisons and Carol Fitzgibbons. Another issue is the repeated request for the same paperwork that was previously submitted. Particularly for vendors who have multiple vendor numbers and the renewal dates are not applied to all the vendor numbers. IRC also is requesting insurance renewals when the current policy is still in effect. Vendors cannot get these renewals ahead of time. Renewals are issued when the current policy expires and the renewal premium is paid. CSC's have reportedly stated that a vendor is out of compliance and they will not make referrals when IRC may have misplaced original paperwork or is requesting renewal insurance information that does not yet exist. Renewal information should be faxed to vendorization for updating. The next level 4 residential meeting will include representatives from B-Mod programs to work on communication issues. Any interested vendor is invited to attend. It will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 in the IRC auditorium.

- 6) **Respite Program:** No Report
- 7) **SLS:** Tina Eyraud reported that the training with Kathy DeCoud and Vince Toms went well. A question was asked regarding IHSS and the 20% reduction and how it will affect consumers. The community care based services waiver will not be affected. The question also came up about the IRC referral process for SLS services. Referrals are made on a rotational basis unless there is a specific need that may be best served by a particular vendor. Three vendors receive each referral. The question was asked if the referral process could be posted on the website but due to confidentiality it will not be posted. The referral process is in writing and has been provided to all SLS vendors.
- 8) **Specialist/Support Programs:** Donita Remington reported the 102 meeting was held February 8<sup>th</sup> and it will continue on the 2nd Wednesday. There are no scheduled site visits on the audit. Concerns were raised regarding cuts in authorized hours for specific children with no apparent pattern, the need to document specific deficits and goals to justify recommended hours and the step down referral process for consumers who have completed an ABA program and may benefit from referral to a 102 program. Also raised was the potential and unknown impact of private insurance funding for autism programs and the pending change in the DSM autism diagnosis.
- 9) **Transportation:** Mr. Ames reported that the quarterly transportation meeting was held in January and it was well attended. The Pre-Vac was held on February 8<sup>th</sup> but not well attended. Cost of fuel is affecting the operating cost and is the primary concern. Next Pre-Vac meeting will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 10) **Vocational Programs:** Ms. Goodsell reported that the coalition meeting was held on January 24<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. The program is transitioning with DOR and IRC. Kevin Haynes attended and discussed the IRC side and someone from DOR was there as well to discuss their side. Kevin explained the timelines and notifications needed for successful transitions. TRN, Training Resources Network is a site that provides some vocational trainings for staff in the field of job development, career development and job coaching if anyone is interested. The next coalition meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. This is a long standing meeting. If you are not receiving the information, please see Ruth after this meeting and she will give you the contact person's name and information.
- 11) **Behavioral Mod:** Dr. Yodites thanked Sharon for all she has done. On March 19 the first Pre-Vac meeting will be held at 10 a.m. They will be discussing CPP placements, homes, regional center and Developmental centers. If you have a particular topic you would like discussed, please email to Richard. Richard will be participating with the level 4 meeting to address common concerns and explore possible solutions.
- 12) **Member At Large:** Mr. McGuire posed the question for preferred providers regarding a cost difference. He noted one of the impacts of preferred providers is that the vendors have to follow all applicable requirements and regulations as they would with a regular employee and that this may not be in line with family expectations. Scheduling hours has become complicated.

## Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** Ms. Jennifer Cummings submitted a report on legislation that may impact vendors. The committee drafted a mission statement. Mr. Solomon has requested Ms. Remington contact other regional centers' VAC's so that all legislative committees can meet. Once the VAC takes a position on an issue they will take it to the board. There should be a weekly update to get information out to vendors. If you know of something that needs to be placed on the weekly update send it to Donita and she will forward.
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Goodsell reported that the Membership Committee met this morning but unfortunately will not be able to make any recommendations because not everyone has been interviewed. She provided a written report regarding the current positions that require the committee to take action on prior to July 1. Her position as the Vocational Programs representative and Bob McGuire, Member At Large will be vacant in July. Ms. Goodsell thanked the committee and has offered to assist in forming a new committee.
- 3) **California Service Advisory Committee Chairs (CASACC):** Ms. Remington reported that the CASACC is a new committee that has been formed and Tony Anderson is the chair. Ms. Remington will be participating in their monthly conference calls and will be reporting back to this committee.

**Training Offering:** Ms. Patti Harrold announced that in 2012 IRC will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. IRC open the doors in February, 1972. At the March 12 Board of Trustees meeting some of the founding board members and or their loved ones will be honored and presented a Servant Leadership Award. The IRC Anniversary Task Force Team will be planning more activities throughout the year.

**Resources:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- 1) **P & I Funds in regards to Community Care Providers:** Ms. Meinders reported the P & I guidelines are on the website. At the P & I Committee meeting, Ms. Debra Mannon went over the meal limits, reimbursement amount, use of funds for vacation, spenddowns and how they are done so vendors can help consumers with layaways versus providing the money up front and then waiting to get reimbursed. The committee worked really hard and Ms. Meinders encouraged everyone to visit the website and read the guidelines. This was an issue that was brought up in a Pre-VAC meeting and this is why these meetings are so important.
- 2) **Medicaid Integrity Notification Mass Mailing:** Ms. Shirley Martin went over the form. Vendors are required to complete this initial disclosure now and a subsequent disclosure form every two years. If anyone has questions they can direct them to Ms. Martin.
- 3) **Affordable Health Care Act:** Ms. Debbie Mannon provided information on the Affordable Health Care act. She stated there is no Part D copayment for Medi-Medi consumers. The program is effective 01/01/2012. Consumer must be eligible for HCBS Waiver (Medicaid Waiver). Individuals who qualify in any month will be deemed qualified for the entire plan year. Ms. Mannon has verified that the State of California notified CMS in December of 2011 of individuals

who were on the state files as qualifying but because implementation requires modifications to state reporting, there could be some problems. Consumers who are eligible can ask for refunds of any copayments that were paid after 12/31/2011. Consumers who enter the Part D donut hole this year will receive a one- time \$250.00 rebate check if the consumer is not already receiving Medicare Extra Help. Over the next ten years there will be additional savings until the coverage gap donut hole is closed in 2020. Ms. Mannon will put together a fact sheet by the March Board Meeting and will also try to determine how to prove eligibility and how to report those showing ineligible.

Public Input:

- 1) Ms. Therese Kragness –Thanked everyone for this forum of inclusion. The system doesn't work if we do not all work together. She asked how many vendors present were notified of the special board meeting that was held on February 13<sup>th</sup> regarding the new POS policy. She said some vendors were notified and some were not. She said she was not notified and she does not believe that it was an accident. She said in 2003 she was asked to take a temporary rate reduction and as of this date the rate reduction is still in effect but knows of a vendor that is receiving CPI increases annually while others are receiving a 4.25% reduction. She stated she know for a fact that Inland is using POS money to fund a contract position that should be funded by OPS money. She said there is abuse and waste in the system and we need to look at the abuse and fraud. She said there is discrimination instead of collaboration and inclusion. Mr. Solomon stated that it is his understanding that those types of issues happened with the previous administration but if they are continuing to happen, they should be investigated.

Ms. Remington reminded the committee members to send their Pre-VAC minutes to Coby Carwile.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2012 at 10:00