

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

July 18, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Johana Caicedo, Infant/Children Programs: Lynn De Anda, Day Programs: Jenn Delgado, Respite: Doug McKown, Specialist/Support Programs: Rachel Stewart, Behavioral Modification: April Stewart, Member at Large.

Ms. Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:03.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of June 13, 2022: M/S/C De Anda/Delgado.

Vendor Category Report:

- 1. Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported they met last Wednesday. Staff from IRC attended and discussed the system changes and issues that have come up, There could be delays with authorizations. They talked about the program manager portal which providers can use to help find the CSC for a case. QA also helps with this. They talked about the CCL Infection Control plan that was due 6/30. CCL has all stipulations in place still; nothing has been removed. They had a question about a consumer who went back to Traditional services and in the same month needed to go back to ASD again. Is an IDT needed in that case? The IPP must be added again as that is the contract with the state.
- 2. Health Facilities:** Ms. Clarke was having computer issues but sent her report in via email: Contacts were made with the various providers with a request of what topics they would like to have discussed during the 2nd week of July. Primary – Increasing COVID positive cases. The big question is what to do with consumers going back to day program because the exposures seem to be happening there and coming back into the homes. Secondary – Even with staffing pay rate increases the staff are still difficult to find and keep, third – there are a number of openings. Testing continues to be difficult for staff who have filed for exemption and/or not totally boosted. We have shared contacts to aid with this process. Recreation opportunities continue to be shared.
- 3. Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported they did not meet last month but will meet the end of this month. They have been emailing back and forth especially about changes coming due to the budget; the change from 33% delay in one area to 25% delay in one area of development which will make an impact for Early Start. A survey was sent out to all providers from Early Childhood Personnel Center who is conducting the survey about the Early Childhood Special Education Workforce. They are asking all providers to fill out the survey. Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Children are having a Spanish webinars series on July 20th and additional ones will be held the third Wednesday of every month
- 4. Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
- 5. Residential Service L4:** No Report

6. **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported she had no new updates. They met in June and will meet again in August.
7. **SLS:** No Report
8. **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown reported he has no updates. If there are questions, providers can email him, and they can meet if needed.
9. **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported her group had a question: If a consumer goes back to Traditional for 2 to 3 days per week but now wants to attend 5 days per week, is an IDT needed? Everyone need to be notified including the IRC Transportation unit. The authorization and IPP need to be updates.
10. **Vocational Program:** Ms. Wells reported for Ms. Chatman. The providers met July 13th. IRC and DOR were on the call. DOR updates: discussed changes to their service codes, if anyone is having issues getting the correct job coaching rate, they can contact Matthew; They are starting on IPS pilot which will focus on people with dual diagnosis; They are looking for ideas for new services that would help improve CIE outcomes; They will be going paperless as of July 1st and at the end of July their phones will transfer over to Teams. Beth Crane let the providers know IRC is changing systems which may cause delays with authorizations. The transition will take place in August. Dan Moore reported providers should hear from IRC this week regarding HCBS Final results. IRC will work with each provider. The March 2023 deadline may be extended. Next meeting is August 10th at 11 am.
11. **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Steward reported they met with the Day Program providers. There were not many questions or concerns. Beth Crane and Dan Moore discussed the HCBS deadlines. They talked about the Infection Control Plan and ASD rates. There are concerns about individuals coming back to program who were not vaccinated and cannot wear a mask and how to handle. They were told to make sure to have an IDT meeting to address it and to put a plan in place for what it will look like for the individual and the program.
12. **Member At Large:** No Report

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** No Report
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Stewart reported there are openings in Residential Level 2 & 3 and SLS/ILS. Reach out to Ruth or April if interested or to nominate someone.

Regional Center Update: Mr. Toms gave the following report:

1. For the Fiscal Year 2021-22 the following data is available regarding employment services:
 - a. 84 PIPS and 3rd in the state.
 - b. 114 CIEs and 1st in the state.
2. The social recreation Request for Need has been up on the IRC website.
3. AB136 added \$10M in funds for organizations to apply for grants to increase competitive integrated employment. Go to the IRC website and follow to the DDS site or simply go to the DDS website and apply through their GrantVantage system. Deadline is the close of business on August 24, 2022. They are looking for strategies and practices to increase paid work and employment. All FAQs and directions will be on the DDS site.
4. A descriptive cover page and fillable PDF program design addendum will be sent to the vendors, by our Lynette. Lynette, who will then send to all respite vendors. The vendors will email the signed form back

to the NSRPO email address that will be in the cover letter. The RDTU unit will review, approve it and send it to the IRC vendor file for finalization on our end. The vendors should put the addendum into their current program design, for their records.

5. IRC QA liaisons will be reaching out to the residential and day program vendors that are in the validation process with the Home and Community Based Services – Final Rule (HCBS-FR). This will be priority for July. There are about 840 total vendors for IRC and about 450 are in the validation phase. Once the validation phase is complete, we will begin working with the 250 vendors in the remediation process. We expect to begin working with those vendors in August.
6. I will be working with the Early Start vendors, via our VAC Chair, this week on the initial discussion and planning for the January 2023 implementation of the EVV system. We just received the first of the DDS details last week.

Financial: Ms. Steuwer had no updates to give.

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Input: None

Next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2022, at 9:00 am via Zoom.