

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

April 15, 2024

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

Ms. Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:02.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of February 19, 2024 and March 18, 2024: M/S/C Arnold/Chatman.

1. **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda reported they met last Wednesday. Regional center staff were in attendance. They discussed old business. They have questions regarding HCBS compliance validation: Will there be a form letting them know if they are in compliance or not? They have questions regarding DDS incentive payment. Next meeting will be May 8th.
2. **Health Facilities:** No Report
3. **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported on the Pre-Vac of March 25th. Regional Center PMs and Director attend the meetings, so they usually get answers to questions at the meeting. If anyone has questions to send to IRC, please send them to Ms. Caicedo. The providers are working with QA on record keeping and make up visits. Next parent training will be on June 10th and will cover Engaging Native American Families. Next Pre-Vac will be on April 22nd.
4. **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
5. **Residential Service L4:** No Report
6. **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado reported they met in person on March 27th. Providers shared information on struggles and needs at their agencies. They shared suggestions for training topics. Some are still having issues with DSP reimbursement, timelines and onboarding. They will next meet on April 23rd and will have POS present for a training. This meeting will be virtual. The following meeting will be in person on June 23rd and they will have an SIR training at that time. If anyone has questions, please send them to Jenn.
7. **SLS:** No Report
8. **Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown had nothing specific to report. The providers know they can send questions and concerns to him via email.

9. **Transportation:** Ms. Arnold reported they met on March 28th. They discussed one of the laws regarding rates they want to have amended. Ms. Arnold will be going to Sacramento on the 24th to meet with legislators to talk about the rates for Transportation and how inflation and costs are up. Next meeting is yet to be determined.
10. **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman reported the providers met last Wednesday. DOR and IRC were present. DOR requested when a vendor moves, to please let them know. They discussed student services: if anyone is interested in providing those, reach out to Matthew at DOR. Customized Employment was discussed as well as the cross training with DOR and IRC. They talked about the training with SCDD, and they are waiting for a flyer for that training. They discussed the HCBS audits and reporting. How will they know if they are in compliance or not? They received some answers at the Pre-Vac meeting but are awaiting answers for others. There are concerns about the DSP Stipend reimbursement as vendors must pay staff within 90 days and many have not been reimbursed yet. Also discussed was the DDS Directive regarding the 956-service code. They know regional center has no new information yet, but they hope to have more at the next meeting. Next meeting will be on May 8th.
11. **Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Steward reported the Behavioral Modification vendors continue to meet with the Day Program Providers. They have questions about HCBS and the DDS Incentive. They are still having issues with CSCs not attending IDT meetings. If anyone has questions to send to IRC, please forward them to Ms. Steward and she will send them in. Next meeting will be on May 15th.
12. **Member At Large:** Ms. Andrade had no report.

Committee Reports

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** No Report
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Stewart reported Ms. Chatman and Ms. Andrade have both agreed to co-chair the Membership Committee.

Motion made to accept Ms. Chatman and Ms. Andrade as Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee: M/S/C Arnold/McKown.

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

1. (Initial Report on this topic was 10-2023) The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has created a Direct Service Provider registry with a contractor called All's Well Health. The intent is to create a statewide database/registry for RC vendors to use as staff. It has been created as an internship program. All's Well Health will market, hire, pay and train the staff. They will also pay for the worker's compensation insurance. The goal is to build the DSP workforce. There will be a second contractor who will act as the employer of record and pay wages and insurances. They are interns, so will not count in the staffing ratios. The internship is for up to 3 months with the hope that they can be hired in that timeframe. The project is being piloted by four RCs and as of last week, two DSPs interns were hired. A retainer fee will be paid to the vendor for hiring the intern and keeping them employed for six and then twelve months. We will keep you updated as the pilot rolls out to more regional centers.
2. SCDD received grant funding for a three-day training course that will be offered to our providers of Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE). It will be a no cost training specific to Job Coaches and Direct Service Professionals in the CIE programs. More information can be obtained on the SCDD website.

3. DDS is in the final draft stages of the statewide Individual Program Plan (IPP) template. The document will be universally used in the system.
4. There are workgroups currently meeting and making recommendations for improving the Early Start Intake processes.
5. IRC is currently working on a system that will translate IPPs to Spanish, so we stay within the 45 day timeline.

Financial: No Report

Training Offering: None

Resources: None

Old Business: Ms. Stewart said the format of the meeting has not changed yet. She is working with the IRC Board and legal counsel to see what path needs to be taken.

New Business: Ms. Stewart reminded everyone to watch for the May revise. She talked about lobbying for rates and encouraged all to get involved in what they can.

Public Input: None

Next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2024, at 9 a.m. via Zoom.