

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER  
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**VIA ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**May 20, 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: April Stewart, Member at Large.

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

**MINUTES: Motion made to approve minutes of April 15, 2024: M/S/C Arnold/De Anda.**

1. **Day Program:** Ms. De Anda stated they met and discussed the QA annual, unannounced that audits will begin soon. Mershawnt Collins has a tool used for client files during the audit, but it is limited. If anyone would like a copy of the tool, contact Mershawnt. They talked about HCBS validation and not receiving anything to show they are in compliance. The providers would like a form for their records. Some providers reported they are still having issues with DSP incentive reimbursement payments. The Day Program providers along with Behavioral Management providers and Vocational providers compiled a letter with all the questions and concerns they have had for the last year. The letter was sent to QA so they could get answers to their questions. Next meeting will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of June.
2. **Health Facilities:** No Report
3. **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported on the Pre-Vac of April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The providers were reminded to be diligent with confidential information, especially with children in the foster care system. Providers are asked to please write instructions for confidential information on the progress reports, so it is not shared. Providers were reminded if parents are divorced, to give report to whoever has educational rights. If both parents have those rights, both parents should be given the report. They talked about Quality Improvement Plan and meetings which is being back dated to January 1, 2024, for Early Start. Providers are encouraged to keep up to date with the DDS website. Provider Reimbursement Training is still available. The training on Engaging Native American Families with Early Start provisional services will be held June 10<sup>th</sup>. Today at noon the Infant Development Association will be providing information on the May Revise as it pertains to Early Start. If anyone would like to attend, they can register with the Infant Development Association.
4. **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
5. **Residential Service L4:** No Report
6. **Respite Program:** Ms. Delgado gave updates on the Pre-Vac of April 23<sup>rd</sup>. They met via Zoom and had about 20 in attendance. Marylou Paras from POS was on the call. She answered questions and gave clarity regarding issues some providers were having with billing. They talked about the escalation and

chain of command procedures with POS. They discussed DSP training incentive and how it relates to the Early Start QIP initiative. Next meeting will be an in-person meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

**7. SLS: No Report**

**8. Specialist/Support Programs:** Mr. McKown had nothing specific to report. The providers know they can send questions and/or concerns to him via email.

**9. Transportation:** Ms. Arnold said they met in March. She went to Sacramento to meet with legislators to talk about amending the law regarding transportation rates. There was good news as the law will be amended, hopefully in July. They are still having issues with the stipend. TSR's are still a challenge as all information is not being filled out on the form. Next meeting will be on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**10. Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman said she was not able to attend the Pre-Vac, but Ms. Andrea Wells chaired the meeting. They talked about the letter that was written and sent to QA with questions and concerns the Day Program, Vocational and Behavioral Management providers have been having for the last year. They discussed TDS and it being a stand-alone service. Next meeting will be on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**11. Behavioral Mod: No Report**

**12. Member At Large:** Ms. Andrade had no report. Ms. Stewart said the May Revise came out early and there are already summaries out. The increase in funding is being proposed to be held off until 2025. There is a push by the community to get that increase this year since the state is going into a recession, the increase could be held off until 2026 due to the budget. There are rallies being held. If anyone receives information on a rally, please let your VAC representative know so that person can give the information to April so she can send it to the VAC. Everyone was reminded to please check out and follow the guidelines for signs etc. so we have a peaceful rally.

## **Committee Reports**

1) **Legislative Committee Report:** No Report

2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Chatman reported there have been 3 applications submitted for Member at Large. The vote has been tabled until the next meeting to give the committee time to interview the candidates.

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

1. DDS is targeting January 1, 2025, for the completion of the statewide IPP and intake process. Both are in development, currently.
2. A new Early Start Quality Incentive payment will be made available. The intent is to secure rapid service delivery for early intervention services and pay vendors for the start date of the service. It will develop into the performance measure and standard for the early start vendors, going forward. There is a three-tiered payment structure that incentivizes quick service delivery. The incentive period is from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. It will be based on the initial starting date of the authorization and the date of initial service provision by the vendor, as determined by purchase of service, e-billing, and the client master file.

If the initial service is provided within the range of 0-10 days, then the provider gets a \$300.00 incentive. If within 11-15 days, they get a \$200 incentive. If within 16-20 days, they get a \$100.00 incentive. The

vendor must meet all vendorization criteria, meaning having valid insurance and business documentation on record with IRC. They must also not be on a current corrective action plan or have any open sanctions.

Due to a lag in e-billing, some payments may not appear on the DDS record for several months. DDS will calculate payments on a quarterly basis and inform the regional centers of the vendor number, service code and amount per the three tiers to pay. An example of the quarterly payments is as follows: For quarter one (January 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024), DDS will calculate and process the amounts in June of 2024. The intent is that the regional centers then pay the vendors in July of 2024, for the first quarter of service for 2024. This is a DDS driven incentive, so please review all documentation on it, at the DDS website. Questions can be directed to [QIPquestions@dds.ca.gov](mailto:QIPquestions@dds.ca.gov).

IRC is still in the implementation process of this.

**Financial:** No Report

**Training Offering:** None

**Resources:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Public Input:** Per Ms. Stewart, we are still looking into see if we need to change meeting format or not. The June meeting will still be held via Zoom. The policy on how to escalate questions was sent out.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2024, at 9 a.m. via Zoom.