

**INLAND REGIONAL CENTER  
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**VIA ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**August 19, 2024**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Audrey Andrade, Member at Large: Felecia Arnold, Transportation: Johana Caicedo, Infant/Children Programs: Marie Chatman, Vocational Programs: Rachel Stewart, Behavioral Mod Programs: April Stewart, Member at Large.

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

**MINUTES: No Quorum**

1. **Day Program:** No Report
2. **Health Facilities:** No Report
3. **Infant/Children's Program:** Ms. Caicedo reported on the Pre-Vac of July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Some vendors commented on IFSP dates versus POS for the QIP bonus in place for Early Start vendors. Payments should have been received by July but there were setbacks. They are waiting for more information from DDS. The Early Start Program Managers were in attendance and answered some of the questions. The last parent training on Engaging Native American Families was a success and they are now planning for the next parent training set for September 9<sup>th</sup> on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education and Resources for community. Next meeting will be on August 26<sup>th</sup>.
4. **Residential Service L2-L3:** No Report
5. **Residential Service L4:** No Report
6. **Respite Program:** No Report
7. **SLS:** No Report
8. **Specialist/Support Programs:** No Report
9. **Transportation:** No Report
10. **Vocational Program:** Ms. Chatman gave an update of the Pre-Vac last week. DOR was in attendance as well as regional center although regional center had no updates. DOR is looking for feedback from vendors regarding rate structure and CARF. DOR is seeking new providers for customized employment. DOR gave clarification on paid internships. They are willing to fund coaching as long as the intent is to hire. New team members were introduced from the Ontario and Temecula offices. They have a question that was sent to Georgia last week via email asking about Coordinated Career Pathways program design

template. Ms. McGuire from the RDTU unit said she has a checklist. If interested, submit and LOI to resource@inlandrc.org. They also shared there are new Day Services liaisons for QA.

- 11. Behavioral Mod:** Ms. Steward reported Day Program and Behavior Management Pre-VAC was held on 8/14/24 last week. There were 32 in attendance. Rachel held both vendor categories and agreed to continue holding both categories until the Day Program position is filled. IRC was in attendance but had no new updates. Areas of concern/challenge were brought up: 1. Staffing challenges- not just DSPs but other positions as well. 2. Vendorization Process- vendors explained that it is taking more than the 45-days but up to 3-5 months to get through the program design process. They feel there is a lot of push back with questions multiple times. Vendors made suggestions to speed up the process such as changing some of the processes like a call/Zoom with the Program Director to clear up questions or address items that can lead to getting the process moving faster. Next Pre-VAC will be Wed Sep 11.
- 12. Member At Large:** Ms. Stewart reminded everyone about the trailer bill that is looking at rates and updating every couple of years. Please support the effort. She also mentioned the by-laws allow for a closed-door meeting once per year with regional center to collaborate and plan goals etc. They would like to do this in October. Mr. Toms said regional center supports the VAC and the by-laws and will plan with the committee.

## **Committee Reports**

- 1) **Legislative Committee Report:** No Report
- 2) **Membership Committee Report:** Ms. Chatman reported the three who have submitted an application for Member at Large position, Robert Guzman, Sofia Benitez and Lorraine Von Deauxplette, have been approved by the Membership committee and are just waiting approval at the IRC Board meeting in September. There are still open positions for Day Program, Residential Level 2 & 3, Residential Level 4, Respite and SLS. If anyone is interested, please contact Ms. Chatman or Ms. Andrade for an application.

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

1. SMW transitions continue with Ability Counts, VIP and Desert Arc having to transition clients from the SMW APS and Group Employment in the next 5 months.
2. The Burns Rate Reform will have the final rates implemented by January 1, 2025. There will be numerous DDS directives coming that will be shared with each vendor group. Some service codes will require changing program designs and service codes to best meet the definition of the new service descriptions created by the study. Day Programs and clinical services will have most of the new service code changes.
3. For the next two fiscal years, vendors will get 10% additional funding from the 90% base, by participating and completing the information that will go into the statewide provider directory. IRC has done an extensive amount of information emails, media blasts and website placement for the vendors to understand the process. Once each vendor is validated, they will be eligible for the 10% payment, also known as the Quality Incentive Program payment. Protiviti is the DDS consultant that will be working with each IRC vendor to collect data for the directory. Vendors have until 10-31-24 to participate.

**Financial:** No Report

**Training Offering:** None

**Resources:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Public Input:** None

Next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2024, at 9 a.m. via Zoom.