

Attachment 5 b – 3/5/2020 Meeting of SG/PRC Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC)

Number of Participants: Ten (10) of the VAC members were present, along with 60 providers and SG/PRC staff in the audience, plus two representatives of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

SG/PRC Staff Persons Present: Carol Tomblin, Director of Community Outreach and Compliance, was the presenter.

Translation Provided: There was no translation. The short presentation was done in English.

Materials Provided: Providers were given copies of a list of languages with the frequencies of individuals served (and families) by SG/PRC who primarily spoke that language. Copies of the Community Meeting flyer with the listing of meetings featuring complete presentations were also available.

Meeting Summary: The formal VAC Meeting started 9:30 a.m. As very little time was provided during the VAC meeting for this presentation, the focus was to increase the awareness of providers regarding the trends in languages used by the individuals and families in the SG/PRC service area, the languages that had the greatest disparities in access to services due to the limited number of direct service providers who speak those languages, such as Mandarin and Vietnamese, and to encourage providers to do what they could to attract and retain service workers with those language proficiencies.

It was noted that Arabic, although only spoken by a few families in the SG/PRC service area, was the second highest NO POS language group of any language group with more than 30 individuals. It was pointed out that this was a new trend and that currently, SG/PRC does not have any staff who speak Arabic as their primary or native language.

In addition, members of the VAC were invited to participate in one of the meetings coming up later in the month for a complete presentation of the disparity data and a review of SG/PRC's current equity projects.

Comments: Providers commented that it was difficult to hire and retain direct service providers/workers who had language proficiencies in languages other than English and Spanish.

The VAC meeting continued after this brief presentation.