

**SAN GABRIEL/POMONA VALLEYS  
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, INC.**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS/  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 17, 2021 MEETING**

The following committee members were present at said meeting:

**PRESENT**

Daniel Rodriguez (Chair)  
Penne Fode  
Joseph Huang  
Rachel McGrath  
Gisele Ragusa  
Natalie Webber

**STAFF:**

Anthony Hill, Executive Director  
Daniela Santana, Director of Client Services  
Joe Alvarez, Associate Director of Clinical Services  
Carol Tomblin, Director of Compliance  
Yvonne Gratianna, Manager of Communications &  
Public Relations  
Isabella Jimenez, SG/PRC Intern  
Willanette Steward-Satchell, Executive Assistant  
(Management)  
Erika Gomez, Executive Assistant - BOD

**GUESTS**

**ABSENT:**

Georgina Molina

**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS**

**The Community Relations/Legislative Committee recommends the following:**

None

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

Daniel Rodriguez, called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. A quorum was established.

The minutes from January 20, 2021 were reviewed and approved.

**M/S/C (Huang & Fode) The committee approved the minutes.**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH MONTHLY REPORT\***

Carol Tomblin, Director of Compliance, presented the monthly Outreach Report for January 2021. The Community Outreach Specialist have focused on the following projects:

- Progress/Status of Continuing POS Equity Projects Funded by DDS FY 19-20 Disparity Program Grants
- Ongoing Projects Previously Funded
- Other Equity-Related Activities not supported with Disparity Grant Funds.
- Family Support/ Training

She also shared that the first information forum with the community to talk about POS Expenditure Data will take place next week.

## **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES & OTHER INFORMATION**

Anthony Hill, Executive Director, and staff reported the following:

- Governor Newsom's Budget Proposal- The budget was passed. There was a reduction in caseloads for regional centers. 21 positions for emergency coordinators were added. ARCA released their positions paper. ARCA is moving forward with advocating for caseloads to go from 175 to 162.
- McCullough V. DDS- The Disability Rights of California is suing DDS regarding allegations that services for those that are deaf and hard of hearing are denied equal access. There are settlement negotiations going on right now.
- Virtual Dance Party- Isabella Jimenez, intern from Azusa Pacific, shared the flyer announcing the upcoming virtual dance, "Bring Back the 80s," scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- An overview on Covid 19 Vaccines by Dr. Yin – The members and the community are invited for this event taking place on February 25, 2021.
- Being Resilient in a Pandemic by Chris Littlefield - The members and the community are invited for this event taking place on March 9, 2021.
- Infographic put out by ARCA- This was sent out; it shows how are regional centers support the community during the pandemic.
- Job Fair Event- A virtual job fair will take place on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Staff are partnering with school districts. The flyer is in the works.

## **COVID-19 UPDATE:**

Anthony Hill, Executive Director, and staff reported the following:

- Intake and Eligibility-SG/PRC remains the only regional center that offers in person intake and eligibility. For Early intervention, there were

141 new referrals in January. There were 112 eligibility reviews (via zoom), 107 children were found eligible and 387 existed EI services. For Lanterman intake, there were 32 referrals, 17 were found eligible and 40 that exited.

- DDS Directive 1-29-2021- Planning COVID-19 Activities – This requires that service coordinators contact individuals served in the next 30 days if contact has not already been made. Regional centers must also keep contact with hospitals. And it requires each regional center to have a communication plan on testing and vaccines. All regional centers are required to submit a plan to DDS in 30 days.
- SG/PRC has had a check in program and a focused check in program that started a month ago. Staff also started to check in twice a week with individuals living independently with supports. The check in program also includes emails for those that prefer that method. Staff will contact those with behaviors. Staff will send letters if calls and emails are not successful. Staff will document the check ins and collect data about vaccinations. There was a script to be used developed by client services directors across the state.
- Vaccine Prioritization/Individuals Served- The course of advocacy has helped. On March 15<sup>th</sup> individuals with developmental disabilities will have access to the vaccine. SG/PRC will provide a letter for those in the categories eligible. Those eligible should anticipate having the letter ready before March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Vaccine -Letter -Family/Health Care Workers – SG/PRC has been providing letters, and SG/PRC is the only regional center that has not had a letter rejected. Staff used the language that LA County Department of Health uses.
- Vaccine Letter- SLS/ILS Participants- A strategy was created for individuals that receive ILS/SLS services. They were categorized as living in a congregate living setting.
- Vaccine Letter- Family Home Agency – The 49 individuals received their letters.
- Vaccine Letter- Non-Residential Services- Nonresidential providers got a letter that used verbiage that indicated they were healthcare workers, there have been no issues with anyone using the letter.
- Licensed Day Programs will have to let pharmacies know that they have participants who live at home that will need to be considered because they will be in a congregate setting when attending the program.
- Vaccine Letter- SG/PRC Employees- A letter was issued 3 weeks ago. Staff have had difficulty with accessing appointments. 32% of staff have had at least one dose.

- Vaccine Place of Distribution-SG/PRC has enrolled to become a vaccination site through the State Council and FEMA. Staff have partnered with a pharmacy in Artesia to accommodate 4 or 5 potential vaccination clinics.
- COVID-19 Testing Site SG/PRC- In partnership with Valencia Laboratories SG/PRC will be a testing site with a soft opening planned for March targeted for staff, individuals served and providers.
- COVID -19 Report – Joe Alvarez provided individual stats on COVID-19; spoke about the spikes, presented information on the DDS report to the Committee.
- COVID-19 Surge/Resources – Lucina Galarza shared that two surge homes will be lost in the month of March, but numbers are going down and hopefully staff will not have another surge.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The next meeting is on March 17, 2021.