

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

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS/
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 17, 2021 MEETING

The following committee members were present at said meeting:

PRESENT

Penne Fode
Joseph Huang
Gisele Ragusa
Natalie Webber
Georgina Molina

GUESTS

STAFF:

Anthony Hill, Executive Director
Lucina Galarza, Director of Community Services
Joe Alvarez, Associate Director of Clinical Services
Carol Tomblin, Director of Compliance
Yvonne Gratianna, Manager of Communications &
Public Relations
Xochitl Gonzales, Community Outreach Specialist
Amos Byun, Community Outreach Specialist
Willanette Steward-Satchell, Executive Assistant
(Management)
Erika Gomez, Executive Assistant - BOD

ABSENT:

Rachel McGrath
Daniel Rodriguez (Chair)

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS

The Community Relations/Legislative Committee recommends the following:

None

CALL TO ORDER

Penne Fode, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. A quorum was established.

The minutes from February 17, 2021 were reviewed and approved with the following correction:

- Licensed Day Programs will have to let pharmacies know that they have participants who live at home that will need to be considered *for the*

vaccine because they will be in a congregate setting when attending the program.

M/S/C (Ragusa & Webber) The committee approved the minutes.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MONTHLY REPORT*

Carol Tomblin, Director of Compliance, presented the monthly Outreach Report for February 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 information forum with the community to talk about POS Expenditure Data took place last month.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES & OTHER INFORMATION

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

- Governor Newsom's Budget - The budget was passed. There was a reduction in caseloads for regional centers. 21 positions for emergency coordinators were added. ARCA is advocating for caseloads to go from 175 to 162 and that would require 850 additional Service Coordinators and \$56 million. Also, the temporary rate increase for vendors will continue through January 1, 2023.
- There is a proposal to make April 2nd World Autism Day.
- AB 445 – ARCA supports this bill. It would make it so that sensitive information, such as residency status, is not collected during the intake and eligibility process.
- Cesar Chavez Day – SG/PRC will observe this day on March 29, 2021.
- Chris Littlefield “Being Resilient in the Pandemic” – This was presented to the community on March 9, 2021. Families were appreciative to have been included in the presentation that had a focus on self-care. This presentation will also be given to staff on April 7, 2021.
- Virtual Dance Party- Joe Alvarez shared the flyer announcing the upcoming virtual dance, “Bring Back the 80s,” scheduled for March 19th.

- Dental Clinic- Joe Alvarez reported that the Dental Clinics will resume and the first one will take place on the weekend outdoors to reduce the risk of exposure to Covid 19.
- Subscribers – Yvonne Gratianne shared that since switching from the previous email blast system to “Constant Contact,” and having a pop-up screen on the website’s homepage that encourages people to subscribe, the amount of sign ups have doubled. She believes the 8,000 mark will be met soon.
- Tenant Improvements – The mural for children and families to leave their painted handprints has been completed and the first participants were a member of the Client Services Committee and her son.

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. Numbers continue to rise and almost reach pre-Covid 19 stats.
- DDS Directive 1-29-2021- Planning COVID-19 Activities – This requires that service coordinators contact individuals served 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 were required to submit a plan to DDS within the 30 days of when the letter was written.
- Vaccine Prioritization/Individuals Served- As of March 15th individuals with developmental disabilities were given access to the vaccine. SG/PRC provided a letter for those in the categories eligible. The total amount of letters issued was 4,000.
- Vaccine Letter- SG/PRC Employees- A letter was issued under the “healthcare worker category.” 60% of staff have had at least one dose.
- Vaccine Place of Distribution-
 - SG/PRC is working with a private pharmacy to get 200 slots at their site.
 - Staff are working with Albertson’s Pharmacy, if they do a clinic it would be in the middle of April.
 - Staff are working with Western University; they will provide links a couple of days before being released to LA county.
 - Staff are working with LA county and SG/PRC will possibly serve as vaccination site. They want a walk-in vaccination site, and staff will figure out if that can be accommodated.

- Staff are trying to get mobile opportunities for those that are home bound.
- Staff will keep sensory needs in mind when working with all the different entities.
- COVID-19 Testing Site SG/PRC- In partnership with Valencia Laboratories SG/PRC will be a testing site with a soft opening planned for the first week of April targeted for staff, individuals served and providers. Staff are currently at San Diego Regional Center observing their process of their clinic.
- 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 there continue to be surge homes available, but no one is there at the moment. The registry is also not being used but is available.
- Day Programs were told it may be too soon to open right now. Licensed programs must submit a program plan that has to be approved by a licensing worker, but that process was put on hold when the surge happened. When returning, if someone isn't vaccinated, they have to continue to practice social distancing and mask wearing.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting is on April 14, 2021.