

**SAN GABRIEL/POMONA VALLEYS
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, INC.
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

August 5, 2021

The following committee members were in attendance at said meeting:

PRESENT:

Susan Stroebel, Chairperson
Olaf Luevano
Valerie Donelson
Jose Mendoza
Nicole Mirikitani
Grace Kano
Brenda Baldeon
Charmayne Ross

STAFF:

Daniela Santana, Director of Client Services
Dara Mikesell, Associate Director of Community
Services
Rosa Chavez, Associate Director, Family & Transition
Services
Jaime Anabalón, Quality Assurance Manager
Yvonne Gratianne, Manager of Communications &
Public Relations

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Nancy Bunker
Baldo Paseta
Vanessa Besack

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

None

A. CALL TO ORDER

Susan Stroebel called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. A quorum was established after roll call.

The agenda was reviewed.

The minutes from the July 1, 2021 meeting were approved.

M/S/C (Kano & Ross) The committee approved the minutes.

B. VAC VACANCIES

Jeanette Cabrera from College Connect agreed to apply for VAC under “Other” category.

C. IMPACT OF COVID 19 AREAS OF DISCUSSION

A discussion was held about 109 authorizations, specifically about prioritizing getting the payments out and working on catching any oversight. Discussion was also held and comments were made about the low pay rates and the fact that finding qualified employees is incredibly difficult. Almost all vendors have vacant positions. Vendors were asking to get some idea of the timeline for rate increases. Currently, many are having to pay staff overtime to cover vacant positions and the extra pay cuts deeply in to staffing budgets. Vendors requested that regional center staff advocate for rate increases as soon as possible.

Concerns mentioned about weekly testing for staff – Discussion was held about staff refusing vaccinations and the extra burden on vendors and their staff for weekly testing. Vendors are doing their best to retain staff and this could be a deal breaker for a few employees. They would like to see a better system for testing and there was information shared about companies that would provide in house testing. Some vendors would prefer testing every 2 weeks rather than weekly. Comments were also made about on how for some providers are being successful with their weekly testing for their staff.

Some resources that were shared during discussion were as follows:

- <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/>
- <https://la.fulgentgenetics.com/appointment/screen/landing>
- Innova Bio Lab - Free COVID-19 testing on your site. Contact Herbert Manabat at 562-229-4435

Also, a comment was made about staff working in multiple sites. Some concerns were shared about using the term “served” as opposed to providing quality of life.

Discussion was held about the idea of having a uniformed protocol – professional language or having SGPRC HR provide assistance in their strategy for their employees. Due to the fact that providers are independent contractors, SGPRC cannot provide that guidance. Mr. Hill recommended finding a resource that may be able to support them as a group their professional organizations.

A recommendation was made to invite CCLD to have a meeting with providers to share what challenges they are going through. Possibly having them scheduled to attend during an already scheduled VAC meeting. Mr. Hill and Susan Stroebel will

follow-up.

D. **VENDOR CATEGORY REPORTS**

Adult Programs

Vocational – Olaf Luevano reported that they are open and successfully running programs and are very busy. Also mentioned an In-home check which has been working great. Trainings are offered to staff about the directives and changes so staff are informed. Mr. Luevano offered to assist other programs on some of the techniques and processes they are doing (e.g., temperature checks, training materials, forms, etc.)

Vanessa reported Vocational has not been able to meet. They will schedule a meeting to take place next month on the 4th Thursday of the month.

Adult Day – Jose Mendoza reported that a day program sub-committee will be scheduled soon.

Infant & Children Services

Infant Development Program – Charmayne Ross has established a sub-committee group and will have their first meeting August 30th at 4 p.m. She also shared that another Infant Program wanted to bring up a concern about not being allowed co-treatments. Also shared that this provider shared a question about how the POS is written and the number of times service delivery are stated on billing per month.

Transportation

Baldo Paseta was not present.

Independent Living Services

ILS Services – Nicole Mirikitani spoke about the DDS Directive on 7/29 and wanted some clarification regarding the audits. She will be trying to schedule a sub-committee meeting soon.

SLS Services – Nancy Bunker was not present.

Residential Services

Specialized – One vacancy in this category

CCF – One vacancy in this category.

ICF- Grace Kano reported that there was a residential sub-committee meeting. She

shared some information about upcoming webinars. Also reported that for ICF providers make sure you are implementing the new AFL 21-30 which is specific for ICFs and addressed the CDPH Health Order. Reported on possible policies about N95 for unvaccinated. She also shared about COVID fatigue with providers.

Grace Kano asked about the possibility of having SGPRC assist with sending out a survey out to residential homes about vacancies.

Other Vendored Services-

At Large- Brenda Baldeon reported that there is a sub-committee meeting soon.

E. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Susan Stroebel provided the link for the Trailer Bill meeting. ARCA updates were provided in the attachments.

F. SG/PRC STAFF UPDATES

Daniela Santana shared that there is a training on August 16th for vendors about the Self-Determination Program.

Announcement of new Manager of Client Service, Martin Mercado.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Grace Kano made an announcement on behalf of the Richard D. Davis Foundation for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc. announcing the upcoming golf tournament on October 25th. **Save the date!**

Board President, Penelope Fode introduced herself to the group.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next regular meeting will be held on September 2, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.