

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

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS/  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 18, 2021 MEETING**

The following committee members were present at said meeting:

**PRESENT**

Penelope Fode  
Julie Lopez  
Joseph Huang  
Rachel McGrath

**GUESTS**

Sofia Benitez

**STAFF:**

Anthony Hill, Executive Director  
Salvador Gonzalez, Director of Community  
Outreach and Compliance  
Yvonne Gratianne, Manager of  
Communications & Public Relations  
Xochitl Gonzales, Community Outreach  
Specialist  
Amos Byun, Community Outreach Specialist  
Willanette Satchell, Executive Assistant  
Erika Gomez, Executive Assistant - BOD

**ABSENT:**

Natalie Webber  
Georgina Molina  
Ardena Bartlett

**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS**

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

None

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Penelope Fode, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. A quorum was established. Ms. Fode introduced Julie Lopez as a new member and as her co-chair. She also announced that Gisele Ragusa has stepped down from this committee and Ardena Bartlett has joined.

The minutes from July 21, 2021, were reviewed and approved.  
**M/S/C (Huang & McGrath) The committee approved the minutes.**  
**Abstain: Lopez**

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

None

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

Xochitl Gonzalez and Amos Byun, Community Outreach Specialists, presented the monthly Outreach Report for July 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

### **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES & OTHER INFORMATION**

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

- Flexible Office Space/Telecommunications - The vision of a flexible workspace is being further supported through a new telecommunications partner that will enable staff to use a desk-phone, lap top soft-phone, teleconferencing, and text messaging. Additionally, all staff will share the same prefix (710) with new extensions. The main phone number, (909)-620-7722, and the after-hours system will remain the same. It is anticipated that the transition will be completed on September 1, 2021.
- Provisional Eligibility 3-4 Year of Age- Effective July 1, 2021, children three through four years in age are eligible for regional center services under the Lanterman Act, without the need for a diagnosis of developmental disability. However, the disability cannot be solely physical. Also, the child must demonstrate significant functional limitations in at least two areas of life activity; including self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, and self-direction. During June 2021, SG/PRC made internal adjustments to the staffing

resources to be prepared to serve children and their families. Since, July 1, 2021, staff have found thirteen children provisionally eligible for regional services. These children and their families are receiving services

- Vaccine Mandate/ Verification/Healthcare Workers - During January 2021, SG/PRC staff were designated as healthcare workers fitting within the essential workforce infrastructure and were eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine within that tier grouping. Recently, Governor Newsom declared a mandate that all healthcare workers are fully vaccinated or demonstrate a legal exemption within guidance of the Equal Employment Opportunity before November 1, 2021. Currently, 97% of SG/PRC have been vaccinated.
- Legislation Binder – Each member of this committee will receive an information binder with the upcoming bills and proposals that could impact the individuals served by the regional centers. This committee will start digging deeper and become familiar with legislation.
- Caseload Ratio/Plan of Correction/Public Meeting - Regional Centers are underfunded by at least 921 Service Coordinators statewide, anticipated to be offset through budget policy in the amount of \$61 million to be allocated during Fiscal Year 22/23. Staff are optimistic funding is forthcoming based on a per capita allocation approach. According to the March 2021 survey, SG/PRC did not meet caseload all the ratio requirements for individuals served. Because, SG/PRC did not achieve full compliance, SG/PRC is required to complete a plan of correction and submit its plan to DDS.
- Costco Incident Update - Charges were filed against the police officer that killed an individual with a developmental disability while the individual was shopping with his family at Costco. This shows that change is happening, and progress is being made in that the value of life for people with developmental disabilities are equal to the value of life of all people.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The next meeting is on September 15, 2021.