

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

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS/
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2021, MEETING

The following committee members were present at said meeting:

PRESENT

Julie Lopez
Joseph Huang
Rachel McGrath
Natalie Webber
Georgina Molina

GUESTS

Sofia Benitez

STAFF:

Anthony Hill, Executive Director
Salvador Gonzalez, Director of Community
Outreach and Compliance
Xochitl Gonzales, Community Outreach
Specialist
Amos Byun, Community Outreach Specialist
Willanette Satchell, Executive Assistant
Erika Gomez, Executive Assistant - BOD

ABSENT:

Ardena Bartlett
Penelope Fode

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS

The Community Relations/Legislative Committee recommends the following:

None

CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of the chairpersons when the meeting started, Natalie Webber called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

The minutes from August 11, 2021, were reviewed and approved.

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

Abstain: Molina

PUBLIC INPUT

None

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MONTHLY REPORT*

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

(The report is attached to these minutes.)*

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES & OTHER INFORMATION

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

- Assembly Bill 445 - this bill was supported by SG/PRC and ARCA, sponsored by Assemblymember Calderon, removes the requirement of collection of sensitive information when individuals with developmental disabilities secure eligibility assessments and delivery of critical services. It was signed on August 31, 2021.
- Assembly Bill 580 – this bill, sponsored by Assemblymember Rodriguez, amends existing law, requiring a standardized emergency management system for use by all emergency response agencies including the appointment of representatives of the disabled community to serve on committees that will help develop policy related to the system. On September 10, 2021, ARCA submitted a formal written request for Governor Newsom to sign.
- Senate Bill 14 (SB 14) - Senator Portantino and others introduced this bill to amend Education Code Section 48205, to include accommodations related to the behavioral health needs of students, expanding the term (illness) to include mental or behavioral health for the purpose of excused absence. On September 13, 2021, ARCA submitted a formal written request for Governor Newsom to sign.

- Senate Bill 224 - Senator Portantino and others introduced this bill, that will require school districts and charter schools to include mental health instruction within health educational courses. This bill affirms that mental health is critical to overall health, well-being and academic success. It recognizes that mental health challenges affect all age groups, races, ethnicities and socioeconomic classes. On September 9, 2021, ARCA submitted a formal written request for Governor Newsom to sign.
- Public Policy Initiatives – DDS issued 26 initiatives. Mr. Hill and Lucina Galarza, Director of Community Services, form a part of the workgroup that will help determine how the initiatives will be measured.
- DDS Guidance Regarding Alternative Non-Residential Services – DDS is requiring that Service Coordinators, Service Providers and the individuals served have a conversation to get feedback about what services they feel are working, what is meeting their needs and what needs to change. This must be completed by November 1, 2021.
- Recap- Recall Election- Impact on FY 22/23 Budget Agreements - The recall of Governor Newsom was not supported. There is not much legislative action happening right now. There is hope that the January budget will include the funding that was already approved for more services coordinators.
- Vaccine Mandate/ Verification/Healthcare Workers - Effective August 9, 2021, all SG/PRC employees were mandated to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or provide proof of a valid exemption allowable under the guidance of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. SG/PRC has achieved 100% compliance in that all staff are either fully vaccinated or have an allowable legal exemption. SG/PRC employees are required to disclose vaccination status immediately when conducting agency business at residential facilities, intermediate care facilities, skill nursing facilities, adult family homes, supported living arrangements, schools and any setting where an individual served lives, and upon request at jails, homeless shelters or other community or governmental agencies that might require disclosure. SG/PRC employees were designated as healthcare workers from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) during February 2021. Service

providers are also considered healthcare workers and as such, are being encouraged to apply this mandate to their staff.

- 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. The binders have been ordered and the members will receive them soon.
- COVID 19 Update -
 - Beginning September 13, 2021, all Service Coordinators and Client Service Managers are scheduled workdays in the office at a minimum of 1 day weekly. Directors, and staff with the Fiscal, Human Resources, Intake & Eligibility, Information Technology, Records/Indexing, and Administrative Teams are working primarily in the office.
 - Currently there are 5 hotspots. “Hotspots” are operationally defined as at least one COVID-19 positive test outcome for either an individual served that resides in a residential facility or a staff that delivers care and supervision. SG/PRC is ensuring that there is a registry in case there’s a surge of hotspots. Additionally, staff are also ensuring that there is a registry in place for staffing shortages.
- SG/PRC Logo- SG/PRC is in the final stage of the new logo concept project. Staff and the Board of Directors will vote on their favorite.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting is on October 20, 2021.