

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

March 3, 2022

The following committee members were in attendance at said meeting:

PRESENT:

Susan Stroebel, Chairperson
Valerie Donelson
Grace Kano
Olaf Luevano
Brenda Baldeon
Jeanette Cabrera
Charmayne Ross
Nicole Mirikitani
Nancy Bunker
Vanessa Besack

STAFF:

Anthony Hill, Executive Director
Lucina Galarza, Director of Community Services
Jaime Anabalon, Manager of Quality Assurance
Yvonne Gratianne, Manager of Communications and
Public Relations
Willanette Satchell, Executive Assistant – Management
Erika Gomez, Executive Assistant – Board of Directors

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Baldo Paseta
Jose Mendoza

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

None

A. CALL TO ORDER

Susan Stroebel called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. A quorum was established a few minutes after roll call.

The agenda was reviewed.

The minutes from the February 3, 2022, meeting were approved.

M/S/C (Mirikitani & Luevano) The committee approved the minutes.

B. VAC VACANCIES

There are vacancies in the following categories:

- Residential (Specialized)
- CCF
- Adult Day Program

Anyone interested can email egomez@sgprc.org for an application.

C. **IMPACT OF COVID 19 – AREAS OF CONCERN**

There was a consensus that the biggest issue for providers right now continues to be staffing shortages. The following points were discussed:

- COVID-19 Pay – There's no funding to pay this but perhaps it can fall under Title 17 Unanticipated Costs.
- Gas prices – Staff will contact DDS to ask if the Health and Safety Waiver can be used to fund/reimburse for services for high-risk individuals that live alone.

D. **SG/PRC STAFF UPDATES**

Anthony Hill, Executive Director, and staff provided the following updates:

- Rate adjustment – SG/PRC sent an email with the link to the website where the information was posted. There was confusion about the information and Lucina Galarza, Director of Community Services, clarified. ARCA asked DDS to explain it to the vendor community. Homes with 7 beds or more, as well as 113 Service Codes were not included.
- Residential Vacancy Report – Grace Kano requested that additional information be included in the report. Staff continue to put this together.
- HCBS – SG/PRC will send a letter. Providers will have to submit a remediation plan. DDS wants to receive them in 600, this will apply to 300 vendors.
- Transition Fair – Providers were reminded to submit their materials.
- Virtual Dance – SG/PRC will host another event intended for individuals served 18+ next Friday.
- Grassroots Day – April 5, 2022, via videoconference.

E. **VENDOR CATEGORY REPORTS**

Adult Programs

Vocational – Olaf Luevano shared that they will plan a subcommittee meeting for March 31, 2022. He also encouraged the members to register for the Abilities Expo. Olaf's program is being watchful about the mask mandates. Lastly, he thanked SG/PRC for their support.

Adult Day – Jose Mendoza was not present.

Infant & Children Services

Infant Development Program – Charmayne Ross reminded her peers that the DDS extended their directive that allows remote services to April 1, 2022. Early Intervention remote services were extended to April 6, 2022, but only for unique circumstances. Alternative location services were extended to April 7, 2022.

Transportation

Baldo Paseta was not present.

Independent Living Services

ILS Services – Nicole Mirikitani expressed that the high prices of gasoline are affecting ILS. There also continues to be challenges with hiring. She is looking forward to the rate increase.

SLS Services – Nancy Bunker reported that vaccination mandates no longer continue to be an issue. She strongly encouraged her peers to rally together and do advocacy for money for the mandates that are imposed but not funded.

Residential Services

Specialized – **One vacancy in this category**

CCF – Valerie Donelson (**one vacancy in this category**). Mrs. Donelson expressed frustration and concern with the many PINs providers continue to receive.

ICF- Grace Kano shared that there was a subcommittee meeting on February 24, 2022. The following was discussed:

- Rate Study
- Staffing challenges
- Referral process – she requested the following information: how many vendors are leaving, how many inquiries from other regional centers
- Criminal clearance – the process is taking too long and causing additional challenging when hiring
- Guardian system glitches
- Level or age group changes
- The LA County Department of Public Health announced one can wait 90 days after testing positive for COVID 19 to get the booster vaccine.

Other Vendored Services- Jeanette Cabrera reported that individuals served have transitioned back to campuses as they reopened. While some are struggling with anxiety and depression brought on by the demands of society, most are excited and

adapting really well.

At Large- Brenda Baldeon and Susan Stroebel encouraged their colleagues to reach out to legislators and do advocacy. Legislative updates are in the meeting materials folder. Attendees were encouraged to reach out to Susan if they want to participate in a mental health event.

Recruitment Subcommittee

An interview was conducted this morning with the following applicant and a recommendation was made for his membership in the VAC:

- Jose Meraz for Adult Day Program

M/S/C (Mirikitani & Bunker) The committee approved the membership of Jose Meraz, representing Adult Day Program, effective immediately.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following topics were discussed briefly by members of the public/committee:

- RDDF Golf Tournament – September 12, 2022
- RDDF Scholarship Program – Finalizing application process
- Vendors should speak up when having informal meetings. They should also do their own advocacy and not rely or wait on regional centers

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next regular meeting will be held on April 7, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.