

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

**July 7, 2022**

The following committee members were in attendance at said meeting:

**PRESENT:**

Susan Stroebel, Chairperson  
Grace Kano  
Brenda Baldeon  
Jeanette Cabrera  
Jose Meraz  
Charmayne Ross  
Chris Schlanser

**STAFF:**

Joe Alvarez, Interim Executive Director  
Lucina Galarza, Director of Community Services  
Jaime Anabalon, Manager of Quality Assurance  
Lourdes Sanchez, Program Evaluator  
Erika Gomez, Executive Assistant – Board of Directors

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

None

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Susan Stroebel called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. A quorum was established.

The agenda was reviewed and Chairperson, Susan Stroebel, asked that the recruitment report be moved up.

The minutes from the June 2, 2022, meeting were approved.

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

**B. RECRUITMENT**

Members who termed off on June 30, 2022, were asked if they would like to serve one more year if their category had not been applied for, allowed by the most

recent modification of the Board Bylaws. The following are recommended to return for one more year:

- Nancy Bunker – SLS
- Nicole Mirikitani – ILS
- Olaf Luevano – Vocational

**M/S/C (Ross & Cabrera) The committee approved the returning members to serve one more year.**

The following members are being recommended for VAC membership:

- Jay Smith – CCF
- David Bernstein – CCF
- Christina Buth – Day Program

**M/S/C (Schlanser & Kano) The committee approved the new members to serve on the VAC.**

The following categories have one vacancy: Transportation and Vocational. To apply, please email [egomez@sgprc.org](mailto:egomez@sgprc.org)

## **C. VENDOR CATEGORY REPORTS**

### **Adult Programs**

*Vocational* – Olaf Luevano welcomed Jay Smith and Christina Buth

*Adult Day* – Jose Meraz welcomed everyone who joined. He would like to have a subcommittee meeting this month and provided his email address so that those that would like to join let him know. He will work with staff to coordinate it. He is looking forward to working with Christina.

### **Infant & Children Services**

*Infant Development Program* – Charmayne Ross said there will not be a LICA meeting this month. She is hoping for a networking event soon.

### **Transportation**

Vacant

### **Independent Living Services**

*ILS Services* – Nicole Mirikitani asked a question regarding billing and Lucina Galarza clarified: For Tailored Day Services (TDS), SB188 will now allow adults to be served by a Day Program and receive TDS, but not on the same day. Prior to SB188, individuals could not receive day program services if they were receiving TDS.

*SLS Services* – Nancy Bunker shared the following:

- Concerns on staffing issues as hiring and retaining staff continues to be challenging. They are receiving applications, but people don't stay.
- Staff are expressing concern about the rising cost of gasoline.
- Numbers of positive COVID-19 cases are rising. Companies are receiving letters asking that employers comply with the rapid tests' expiration date.

### **Residential Services**

*Specialized* – Chris Schlanser would like to reiterate what others have expressed on staffing issues. A lot of people are coming in but leaving quickly. Also, staff members are getting covid at a rapid rate compared to individuals served. He also shared he is excited to work with Jay Smith.

*CCF:*

Jay Smith shared he provides surge support and they too have staffing challenges. He suggests pairing experienced staff with inexperienced staff and staying consistent in making sure the work environment is such that people want to work in.

David Bernstein reported the following:

- The Workforce Survey was completed by only 40% of vendors eligible, which puts SG/PRC at 14<sup>th</sup> place.
- Information was released that \$250 million for relief grants for those with up to 150 employees will be funded to offset the cost of COVID 19 sick pay.
- Regarding the rate acceleration, in July 2023, vendors should receive double what was received in April 2022.

*ICF-* Grace Kano continues to be concerned with the staff shortages and believes younger people are not interested in this field. There was a 10% pay increase effective July 1, 2022 and the medical bump will remain. She also shared that the license fee for Los Angeles County went up. She asked that her peers email her so she can better represent them.

**Other Vendored Services-** Jeanette Cabrera reported that individuals are doing great. There is a lot of registration activity and hopes for community integration as students prefer in-person learning.

**At Large-** Brenda Baldeon shared that DDS emailed a survey to providers that morning. She will forward it to Charmayne Ross.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Please see the materials.

## **MOST PRESSING CONCERN FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS**

No one provided input.

## **CRITICAL STAFF UPDATES**

- Staff presented the Monthly Referral Report and listened to the suggestions of the members about what else to add to their data
- SB188 Highlights:
  - Rate adjustment has been accelerated and next adjustment is January 2023 instead of July 2023. Third adjustment will be July 2024 instead of July 2025
  - Family Fee elimination through June 2023
  - Early Start Eligibility is expanding
  - SCs will have lower caseloads in EI division
  - DDS is implementing a pilot program for those exiting post-secondary education
  - Half day billing requirements are being repealed
  - Alternative services will end at the end of the year.
  - Individuals can receive both TDS and Day Program services, but not on the same day; this was not allowed prior to SB188
  
- COVID 19 – most staff are working remotely
- Roy Doronila, CFO, is retiring at the end of the month. Dara Mikesell, is the CFO Apprentice and will be learning the job, Pete Tiedeman providing mentorship.
- SG/PRC contracted with SCIL to have a Social Connection Workshop series for adults, information will be forthcoming.
- SG/PRC is developing a home for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals served.
- Staff met with providers to talk about their HCBS remediation and validation plans.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Grace Kano announced the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Richard D. Davis Foundation Golf Tournament, scheduled for September 12, 2022, and encouraged her peers to participate and/or sponsor.

Valerie Donelson shared that when she spoke last week, she did so out of love and is praying that everyone gets through this time respectfully and remembering the

individuals served.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

The next regular meeting will be held on August 4, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.