

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

November 3, 2022

The following committee members attended said meeting:

PRESENT:

Susan Stroebel, Chairperson
Jeanette Cabrera
David Bernstein
Olaf Luevano
Nicole Mirikitani
Charmayne Ross
Jay Smith
Jose Meraz
Christina Buth
Grace Kano
Brenda Baldeon
Chris Schlanser

STAFF:

Jesse Weller, Executive Director
Lucina Galarza, Director, Community Services
Yvonne Gratianne, Manager, Communications/P.R.
Dara Mikesell, Chief Financial Officer Apprentice
Lupe Magallanes, Associate Director, Early Intervention
& Intake
Rosa Chavez, Associate Director, Family & Transition
Services
Scott Kelley, Manager, Client Services (Residential II)
Lourdes Sanchez, Program Evaluator
Jaime Anabalón, Quality Assurance Manager
Erika Gomez, Executive Assistant - BOD & RDDF

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Theresa Zarour
Nancy Bunker

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.

The minutes from the meeting on October 6, 2022, were reviewed and approved.
M/S/C (Smith & Mirikitani) The committee approved the minutes.

B. MOST PRESSING CONCERNS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Some ICF are testing kids every day for COVID-19 because they are being notified daily from the schools that they're being exposed.
- There continues to be a long wait for background check results from licensing and this makes it challenging when hiring staff.

C. SG/PC STAFF UPDATES

HCBS Project Partners - In collaboration with its Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC,) San Gabriel / Pomona Regional Center (SG/PRC) has enlisted three consultants to aid in developing a comprehensive approach to assist and support our vendor community in aligning their practices with the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule. Lucina Galarza, Director of Community Services, introduced them and they each spoke about their role:

- MaryBeth Lepkowsky - Helen Sanderson and Associates, USA, will focus on the development of Communities Of Practice (CoP) for service providers to create a learning environment to foster learning and sharing of best practices. HSA will collaborate with members of the VAC to provide the initial infrastructure and facilitation support for a monthly CoP with a long-term goal of identifying local contributors who will be coached to self-organize and sustain the CoP.
- Tammy Evrad – Tammy Evrad Consulting, will focus on person-centered training, advocacy training and formation of an advocacy group, including the creation of an Empower Now group. The goal is to collaborate with individuals with disabilities, families, and providers to improve the quality of personal, professional, and system-change in person-centered practices.
- Darlene Hanson – Kindred Communication - will assist in increasing the participation of individuals with complex communication needs in planning the supports and services to enhance person centered planning. Kindred will train direct service providers on how to recognize non - spoken communication, acknowledge the communication, and support the individual to express themselves. Participants will receive definitions and explanations of multi-modality communication, assistive technology and augmentative and alternate communication.

Lucina Galarza and staff provided the additional updates:

- Social Connections Workshop Series – Saturday Workshops from January 28, 2023 – March 18, 2023

- Request for Proposal (RFP) – Social Recreational Grants for Integrated and Inclusive Programs - San Gabriel /Pomona Regional Center (SG/PRC) is looking to offer grants to existing community partners to develop programs / services for children and adolescents with intellectual and developmental disabilities served by SG/PRC. These grants will fund projects that enhance and develop integrated and inclusive social and recreational programs for families, children and adolescents with intellectual and developmental disabilities in underserved communities.
- Quality Incentive Program for Vendors – The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is implementing a voluntary Quality Incentive Program (QIP) for service providers designed to improve consumer outcomes, Service Provider performance and quality of services. Participating Service Providers that meet quality measures developed will be eligible for incentive payments such as:
 - The first incentive received was of \$8000
 - ARFPSHN incentives
 - Webinars offered by DDS
- Self Determination – There’s going to be a training on November 10, 2022 for Independent Facilitators and the changes that will impact them in February 2023. A link to the training was sent to those that will be affected.
- HCBS – Not everyone submitted their mitigation plan by the deadline.
- SG/PRC will transition back to holding the weekly meetings via the regular Zoom format.

D. VENDOR CATEGORY REPORTS

Adult Programs

Vocational – Olaf Luevano shared that the VAC has a vacancy for vocational. He also shared that there are many employment opportunities for individuals served due to the holidays and they should have their resumes ready.

Adult Day – Jose Meraz and Christina Buth reported that a subcommittee meeting took place. They shared that they would like to partner with Mt. Sac and Chairperson, Susan Stroebel, to help create a curriculum that would educate students about this field. They would like it to be a onetime training that they would like to host next year.

Infant & Children Services

Infant Development Program – Charmayne Ross shared the following updates:

- The Early Intervention Department will have one Service Coordinators for 40 families
- School districts can now hold IEPs 6 months prior to the birthday but SG/PRC does it 3 months prior to the birthday.
- Alternative Services ends on December 31, 2022.
- Everyone should have a form that every caregiver can sign into the system when providing services.

Transportation

Theresa Zarour was not present.

Independent Living Services

ILS – Nicole Mirikitani shared that they are facing staffing issues. Most programs have to start waiting lists or pick and choose who to serve. The prices of gasoline are also problematic and because of inflation, individuals served must get creative with their groceries.

SLS Services – Nancy Bunker was not present.

Residential Services

Specialized – Chris Schlanser had nothing to report.

CCF - Jay Smith shared the following:

- The Residential Subcommittee meeting was not well attended, and he encouraged his peers to participate.

David Bernstein

- DDS, ARCA, and the Governor should be aware of the delays of the background checks and the impact felt when trying to hire new staff.
- He would also like there to be a statewide recognition that ICFs are hurting due to the lack of referrals

Scott Kelley, Manager, Client Services (Residential II), presented the new Residential Referrals/Vacancy Report.

ICF- Grace Kano reminded her peers to keep up to date with their vaccinations. She also shared that starting in July 2023, the fee for medical will be eliminate and they will have to contract with a managed entity.

Other Vended Services- Jeanette Cabrera is getting creative to prepare those

that have not wanted in-person classes for the new year.

At Large- Brenda Baldeon is looking forward to a subcommittee meeting and shared that families want a variety of in person and online services.

E. **RECRUITMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

Vacancy in Vocational, to apply please email egomez@sgprc.org

F. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The meeting materials were referenced.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next regular meeting will be held on December 1, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.