

SAN GABRIEL/POMONA DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
(A California Corporation)

February 22, 2023

ATTENDANCE

The following members of the Board of Directors were present at said meeting:

PRESENT:

Gisele Ragusa
Susan Stroebel
Mary Soldato
Bruce Cruickshank
Joseph Huang
Julie Chetney
Wendy Lai
Karen Zarsadiaz - Ige
Jaye Dixit
Bill Stewart
Trish Gonzales
Preeti Subramaniam
Richard Centeno
Karen Zarsadiaz - Ige
Natalie Webber

STAFF:

Jesse Weller, Executive Director
Lucina Galarza, Director, Community Services
Dara Mikesell, Chief Financial Officer
Daniela Santana, Director of Client Services
Salvador Gonzalez, Director of Outreach & Compliance
and Team
Tim Travis, Associate Director, Community Services
Jessie Lagos, Manager, Specialized Services II, Special
Projects
Yaned Busch, Specialized Services Manager & Team
Yvonne Gratianne, Manager, Communications/P.R.
Steve Mouton, Clinical Psychologist / Policy Liaison
Hortencia Tafoya, Director of Clinical Services
Willanette Satchell, Executive Assistant – Exec.
Director
Erika Gomez, Liaison BOD & RDDF

ABSENT:

Tina Wright

GUESTS:

Albert Feliciano, SCDD
Nikisia Simmons, DDS
Nada Saleh
Nancy Bunker
Jay Smith
David Bernstein
Ali Dorri

INTERPRETERS:

Eduardo K (Spanish)
Shelley Hash (Spanish)
Charlene Shih (Mandarin)
Ken Chen (Mandarin)
Kateri McGuire (ASL)
Ron Shields (ASL)

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Gisele Ragusa, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. Roll call

was taken, and a quorum was established.

The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed.

The minutes for the January 25, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved by the Board, with one correction: 2023 instead of 2022.

M/S/C (Stewart & Subramaniam) The Board approved the minutes.

B. PUBLIC INPUT:

- Mr. Carl Argila reminded the Board that he records the entire meeting and uploads the video of the meeting to his personal blog. He spoke about a meeting he had with Jesse Weller, Executive Director, in December and his dissatisfaction with the follow-up he received. He also requested that his son's conservatorship be terminated and that more details of his input be added to the minutes.
- Albert Feliciano, SCDD, shared information regarding a series of trainings. He provided the flyers. He also shared that Self Determination orientations continue statewide. Lastly, SCDD facilitates a monthly independent facilitator round table session.

C. EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Contracts for Review

Tim Travis, Associate Director of Community Services, presented the following contracts:

- *ICO North*
(M/S/C – Soldato & Gonzales) The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.
Abstain: Stroebel
- *People's Care Montellano*
(M/S/C – Stewart & Chetney) The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.
Abstain: Stroebel, Oppose: Centeno
- *Reliable Contract*
(M/S/C – Centeno & Karen Zarsadiaz - Ige) The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.
Abstain: Stroebel

D. SG/PRC UPDATES

Staff provided the following updates on the following:

- Social Recs Grants and Technology Lending Library – All 12 Requests for Proposals were submitted to DDS and SG/PRC anticipates hearing back in the beginning of March. The service agreement must be submitted by the end of March 2023.
- All Board and committee members are invited to the upcoming meetings of the Advisory Committee For Individuals Served and Their families, where the following training topics will be provided:
 - March 22, 2023 – Changes to the appeals process
 - April 26, 2023 – Training Approaches and Strategies for Service Coordinators

E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Jesse Weller, Executive Director, discussed the following (for the complete, detailed Director’s Report, please see attachment)

- *COVID – 19 State of Emergency Status* - On October 17, 2022, Governor Newsom, announced that the COVID-19 State of Emergency will end on February 28, 2023.
- *Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Request for Applications FY 2023-24 through 2025-26* - This grant funding is aimed to expand and transform California’s behavioral health system to better serve individuals with, and at risk of, serious mental health issues, and their families. Applications are due by March 17, 2023, at 5:00PM.
- *Purchase of Service (POS) Expenditure Meetings* - The 2023 Annual Purchase of Services (POS) Expenditure Data Community Meetings schedule is completed and posted on the SG/PRC website.
- *AB 649 (Wilson) – Developmental Services* - This bill would remove the generic service appeal mandate. Per the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), current law prohibits regional centers from purchasing any service that would otherwise be available from Medi-Cal, Medicare, and private insurance, among other sources, when an individual served or their family meets the criteria of this coverage but chooses not to pursue that coverage. Current law also prohibits regional centers from purchasing medical or dental services for individuals 3 years of age or older unless the regional center is provided with documentation of a Medi-Cal, a private insurance, or a health care service plan denial, and the regional center determines that an appeal by the individual or their family does not have merit. This bill would delete both of those prohibitions on regional center purchases.

- *AB 1147 (Addis) – Disability Equity and Accountability Act of 2023* - The bill has framework on eliminating disparities, providing equitable access to services, increasing accountability, service consistency, transparency, and regional center governance. The bill would require an evaluation of regional center performance by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), which would be implemented using a common set of performance measures. The bill would require the assessments to use performance measures in seven specific domains: community integration, employment, equity in access, case management, client and family choice, experience and satisfaction, human and civil rights, and health and safety. The bill would require the department to establish standards for these performance measures, as specified, by July 1, 2024.
- *Department Guidance on Extension of Waivers, Modifications, and Directives due to COVID-19* - This Directive extends the provisions of former extensions, waivers, and modifications until the end of month.
- *Coordinated Family Supports Pilot Program for Adults Served who Reside with Their Family* - Coordinated Family Support (CFS) is a new service designed for adults with developmental disabilities who choose to live with their families. This new service will be tailored, individualized, and flexible to meet the needs and preferences of the individual being served along with their family. It is also designed to assist the individual served and their families with coordinating/scheduling services and supports. This service is for adults (18 years and older) who live with their family.
- *Funding to Support Compliance with the Home and Community-Based Services Final Rule* - \$15 million for all regional centers (FY 2022-23) to assist providers in complying with the HCBS Final Rule, and to support broader work in each community that promotes and sustains ongoing compliance. Regional centers must submit their plan for use of these funds to the Department for review and approval, utilizing Enclosure A, by March 1, 2023.
- *Staffing Statistics* - As of January 31, 2023, SG/PRC has 424 authorized positions. This total number includes 404 full time employees and 20 vacancies.
- *Individual Served Statistics* - As of January 31, 2023, SG/PRC served 15,771 individuals.
- *Self-Determination Program (SDP)* - As of January 31, 2023, SG/PRC enrolled 99 participants to the Self-Determination Program. The SDP Team attends monthly meetings with DDS and actively disseminates information and updates to SG/PRC community. In collaboration with DDS, the SDP

Team hosted a DDS-Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) training on January 17th. The team also attended a statewide Financial Management Services (FMS) focus meeting hosted by DDS on January 19th. FMS providers report a significant waiting period to enroll SDP participants and solutions were discussed. The team continues to collaborate with Local Voluntary Advisory Committee (LVAC) to develop training opportunities and support groups to further enhanced the implementation of SDP. The SDP Training Series: The Financial Management Services (FMS) and The Waiting Room support group are well attended.

- *SG/PRC Office Hours & After-Hours Response Team* - SG/PRC’s business office hours are Monday through Friday (8AM to 5PM). SG/PRC has an after-hours response team ready to support after regular business hours, including weekends & holidays by calling the main telephone number and an operator will connect with a response team member.
- *Weekly Meetings for Vendors Update* - SG/PRC Weekly Meetings with Vendors will now be held once a month (instead of weekly) beginning March 2023. This meeting will occur on the third Monday of each month. This meeting will be *in addition* to the regularly scheduled Vendor Advisory Committee (which is a formal committee of the Board) that occurs the first Thursday of each month.
- *Weekly Meetings for Community Updates* - SG/PRC Weekly Meetings with the Community continues to occur every Tuesday. Staff are currently reviewing the results for the recent survey to hear from community members on the frequency of these meetings.

F. BOARD TRAINING

“Understanding Needs, Resources, and Services for Addressing Mental Health”

Steve Mouton, Clinical Psychologist/Policy Liaison presented on the following:

- His background and current role
- Resources
- What a crisis is to a family member, Department of Mental Health (DMH), police and hospitals
- DMH Hotline: 800-854-7771
- Suicide and crisis lifeline – 988
- Behavior health carve out
- Evaluation of needs
- Options

- Outpatient resources needed for mental health disorders
- Behavioral health and Medi-Cal
- College hospitals and unique features
- P. E. C. S. Evaluation

Hortencia Tafoya, MPA - Director of Clinical Services and Daniela Santana, Director of Client Services, presented on the following:

- SG/PRC Clinics
- Biobehavioral consultation clinic in (BBCC)
- Benefits
- Multidisciplinary team
- Initial evaluation
- Topics discussed at first BBCC
- Recommendations
- Follow up visits
- Discharge
- Medication review clinic
- What the medication review team provides
- Considerations success story of a 15 year old male diagnosed with Autism and ADHD
 - Services
 - Clinical course
 - Recommendations for risk mitigation
- Success story of a 55 year old lady with a diagnosis of intellectual disability
 - Services
 - Clinical course
 - Recommendations for risk mitigation

Salvador Gonzalez, Director of Service Access and Equity, presented on the following:

- SG/PRC partnerships with mental health agencies in the Los Angeles County
- Insurance companies

- Partnership with LA county Department of Mental Health
- LA county department of mental health workshops
- Partnerships with Foothill Family Services, Alma Family Services, and Pacific clinics

G. OTHER BOARD & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susan Stroebel, VAC Chairperson, announced that on February 28, 2023, the vendors are going to have an advocacy meeting and would like the participation of other committees.

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was a closed session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Next meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 7:15 p.m.

BOARD MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 22, 2023 MEETING

Submitted by:



05-17-2023

Gisele Ragusa, Board President

Date