

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

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS/ LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF JULY 19, 2023**

The following committee members were present at said meeting:

PRESENT

Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige
Joseph Huang
Tina Wright

ABSENT

Paula Rodarte
Rachel McGrath

GUESTS

Jeanie Toon

STAFF

Jesse Weller, Executive Director
Yvonne Gratianne, Communications & Public
Engagement Officer
Salvador Gonzalez, Director of Service Access and
Equity and Community Outreach Team
Erika Gomez & Nereyda Barba Executive Assistant -
BOD & RDDF
Willanette Steward Satchell, Executive Assistant –
Exec. Director

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS

The Community Relations/Legislative Committee recommends the following:

None

CALL TO ORDER

Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

The minutes of the June 21, 2023, meeting were reviewed.

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

PUBLIC INPUT

None

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES & OTHER INFORMATION

Jesse Weller, Executive Director, and Yvonne Gratianne, Manager, Communications/Public Relations, presented the following:

Statewide/ Local Updates:

- Emergency Management Coordinator– Myisha Aban, Emergency Management Coordinator, started with SG/PRC on May 10, 2023. Her responsibility in her role is making sure things follow CAL OSHA requirements and developing an emergency preparedness plan for emergency drills/evacuations. DDS put forth an initiative to provide individuals who are dependent on battery-operated equipment such as a CPAP or feeding tube, with back-up batteries in case of an emergency. There is a unified statewide command to coordinate efforts to support individuals served and neighboring regional centers. Charging stations are available to individuals where they can go to charge their equipment in case of a power outage or when they are not in their home. Ms. Aban also conducts on-going trainings.
- SG/PRC Backpack and School Supply Debrief– On July 14, 2023, the Backpack and School Supply giveaway event was held. The event was hosted by SG/PRC staff and volunteers. The Richard D. Davis Foundation donated \$10,000 for backpacks and supplies. Bazic, the company the school supplies were purchased from, donated a pallet of supplies for the event. The event was by invite only for individuals served and their family. Positive feedback was received. Salvador Gonzalez, Director of Service Access and Equity, shared it was great being able to engage with families and with staff.
- SG/PRC Website Update– Jesse Weller, Executive Director, entered into contract with a web design company, Digital Deployment, to help modernize the SG/PRC website. He shared an idea of what it could look like and how it would benefit the community by making it user friendly. The renovation of the website may take 6 months to a year.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH-UPDATE- Community Outreach Specialists.

The Community Outreach/Compliance Department staff shared where their efforts have been and presented their monthly report. Updates for the following areas were provided:

- Monthly Report – June 2023-Maria Vargas, Manager of the North Region of Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program, shared they have 23 Senior Companions serving at day program sites and 10 foster Grandparent volunteers serving at school sites serving a total of 66 students/individuals. For the Volunteer Recognition Event, the volunteers were taken to see Disney’s The Little Mermaid at El Capitan Theater followed by lunch at the Hard Rock Café. In the month of June, they also held their in-service training at SG/PRC

where volunteers were provided with program updates as part of the training. Volunteers also received a recognition certificate. Volunteers Grandma Dorothea Untalan and Grandma Teresita Ecube were recognized for serving 17 years, the longest to serve in the program. The program is looking to recruit more volunteers.

- Mr. Gonzalez reported that his staff have been working closely with the Independent Consultant “Bridging Voice” to organize Listening Sessions to better understand the language and culture needs of the community.

*(The full report is attached to these minutes) **

ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting will be on August 16, 2023.