

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

February 1, 2024

The following committee members attended said meeting:

PRESENT:

Cris Schlanser, Chairperson
Jay Smith
Christina Buth
Sharon Ehrig
Brenda Baldeon
Kelly Privitt
Ookie Voong
Jeanette Cabrera
Theresa Jones Zarour
Jose Meraz
Charmayne Ross

STAFF:

Jesse Weller, Executive Director
Lucina Galarza, Executive Deputy Director
Dara Mikesell, Chief Financial Officer
Tim Travis, Associate Director, Community Services
Tricia Vannucci, Associate Director, Adult Residential Services
Yvonne Gratianne, Communications & Public Engagement Officer
Monique Gallindo, Placement Coordinator
Jaime Anabalon, Quality Assurance Specialist
Erika Gomez, Liaison – BOD & RDDF

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Valerie Donelson

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

None

A. CALL TO ORDER

Cris Schlanser, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. A quorum was established.

The minutes of the meeting on January 4, 2024, were reviewed and approved.
M/S/C (Smith & Ehrig) The committee approved the minutes.

B. MOST PRESSING CONCERNS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

Nothing was discussed.

C. VENDOR CATEGORY REPORTS

Adult Programs

Vocational – (2 Vacancies) Those interested in applying can email egomez@sgprc.org

Adult Day – Christina Buth and Jose Meraz shared they had a subcommittee meeting where they conducted a poll about how service providers feel about HBCS. Tammy Evrard joined and provided information. Tri-Counties developed animated videos to help individuals served and vendors better understand the HCBS final rule. <https://www.youtube.com/@tri-countiesregionalcenter/playlists>

Infant & Children Services

Infant Development Program – Charmayne Ross shared there will not be a rate increase this year, perhaps there will be one next year. She provided the following updates from the LICA meeting:

- Service providers are hopeful that the DDS 10% quality incentive program will be pushed through.
- DDS is looking to merge code 116 to code 805 and she believes it will create significant challenges.
- DDS is looking to do reimbursements for missed appointments.

Transportation

Theresa Jones Zarour shared she is working with legislators to make changes to how transporters are compensated.

Independent Living Services

ILS – Sharon Ehrig shared the following:

- She will coordinate a subcommittee meeting soon.
- She reminded those in attendance of the minimum wage increase.
 - Providers who have a negotiated rate must go to the regional center to work with staff.
 - Providers who have fixed rates must complete the sheet posted on the DDS website.

SLS Services – (1 Vacancy)

Residential Services

Specialized – Chris Schlanser reported that the group planning the upcoming job

fair had their first meeting. Yvonne Gratianna, Communications & Public Engagement Officer, attended and shared that the group decided, tentatively, to hold it on Friday, May 3, 2024, inside the Assembly Room at SG/PRC. A proposed flyer with an application will go out soon.

CCF –Jay Smith spoke about the following:

There was a subcommittee meeting. Marilou Garcia, and Luis Macedo, HBCS/ Resource Developers, attended and spoke about their role. Scott Kelley, Adult and Residential Services Manager, also attended and provided reassurance. The group reviewed the tenant agreement line by line. The DSP stipend also came up in discussion and it was reported that most providers feel it is working.

ICF- Ookie Voong shared the following:

- The ICF subcommittee meeting was held on January 17, 2024. Providers expressed concerns regarding the census, lack of referrals, having day programs follow COVID-19 protocols as expected of ICFs, and transportation dropping off individuals served earlier than pre COVID-19 standards.
- Since CalAim went live, providers face challenges with cancelled appointments, stopped medical supplies, inaccurate eligibility portals, billing and payment issues, and disenrollment issues. Providers discussed multiple cancelled health appointments and the discrepancies in the portals on eligibility. The assigned MCPs change weekly and are not consistent.
- She attended the ICF workgroup meeting. Many providers are still unable to bill effectively. LAG funding for providers is available from regional Centers. To obtain it, providers are to sign the agreement, attestation, and submit the current business license. Providers wonder how soon LAG funding can be issued.
- SG/PRC shared that there is reimbursement available for stopped medical/incontinence supplies. To receive, providers must send a statement to the service coordinator of what was purchased, who the individual served is, the amount paid, and anticipated frequency of the supplies.

Other Vendored Services- Jeanette Cabrera had nothing to report.

At Large- Brenda Baldeon is concerned about the impact that changing code 1126 to 805 will have.

RECRUITMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Vacancies in: Vocational and SLS. To apply, please email egomez@sgprc.org

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Theresa Zarour shared that transporters are working with Willy Amstrong to make

changes to how transporters are compensated.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Jesse Weller, Executive Director, reported on the following:

- Mr. Weller shared he will continue have “Coffee with Jesse” sessions. Anyone who would like to host him can reach out to his assistant, Willanette Satchell.
- ARCA is opposed to the pushback of rate increases.
- Regional centers are providing comments on the barriers and issues that are coming up about care management issues.
- DDS evaluated SG/PRC’s Board composition and it is out of compliance in Hispanic representation. Staff are doing outreach efforts, including translating recruiting materials.
- Mr. Weller thanked the committee for their feedback on the Strategic Plan. The plan is being fine-tuned, and the design is being worked on.
- SG/PRC developed a draft Vendor Policy for the use of agency and personal mobile devices and asked that the committee review it and provide feedback. It is important for service providers to ensure the privacy and security of sensitive information for the individuals being served and their families.

SG/PRC UPDATES

Lucina Galarza, Executive Deputy Director, and Tim Travis, Associate Director of Community Services, reported on the following:

- CRDP Awards
- Rate Implementation – 10% Incentive
- Adjustments to ILS Rate Models and Provider Rates
- Minimum Wage Increase 2024
- HCBS Formal Monitoring of Final Rule
- 2023 Funding to Support Compliance with HCBS Final Rule
- HCBS Trainings
- Payment Assistance for ICF’s during transition to Manage Care
- DSP Training Stipend Program
- Remote Services
- Self-Directed Supports (099)
- Coordinated Family Supports (076)

The referral report was not presented. There was discussion about having it presented at the residential subcommittee meetings and only presenting it at the VAC if it needs further review. Jay Smith will ask his peers about their

preference.

PUBLIC INPUT

Susan Stroebel shared about the Tri-City “Community Wellbeing Grant,” a grant of up to \$10,000 to fund a project that enhances the mental and emotional wellbeing of their members.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next regular meeting will be held on March 7, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.