

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

March 7, 2024

The following committee members attended said meeting:

PRESENT:

Cris Schlanser, Chairperson
Sharon Ehrig
Brenda Baldeon
Kelly Privitt
Jeanette Cabrera
Jose Meraz
Charmayne Ross
Valerie Donelson

STAFF:

Jesse Weller, Executive Director
Lucina Galarza, Deputy Executive Director
Dara Mikesell, Chief Financial Officer
Tim Travis, Associate Director, Community Services
Hortencia Tafoya, Director of Clinical Services
Lupe Magallanes, Associate Director, Early Childhood Development Services
Yvonne Gratianne, Communications & Public Engagement Officer
Jaime Anabalon, Quality Assurance Specialist
Erika Gomez, Liaison – BOD & RDDF

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jay Smith
Ookie Voong
Theresa Jones Zarour
Christina Buth

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

None

A. CALL TO ORDER

Cris Schlanser, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. A quorum was established.

The minutes of the meeting on February 1, 2024, were reviewed and approved.
M/S/C (Ross & Ehrig) The committee approved the minutes.

B. MOST PRESSING CONCERNS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

ILS and SLS had individuals served that were switched to Molina unexpectedly.

C. VENDOR CATEGORY REPORTS

Adult Programs

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

Adult Day –Jose Meraz shared there was not a subcommittee meeting and will hold one later this month.

Infant & Children Services

Infant Development Program –Charmayne Ross shared the following:

- There might still be an incentive for the first day of service occurring within 31 days of the regional center authorization. SG/PRC has not yet received the directive but once it is received, staff will provide direction.
- The SG/PRC website is now hosting the vendor list under the “Transparency” section.
- LICA had an in-person meeting last month that was well attended. A topic of discussion was what an inclusion setting should look like.

Transportation

Theresa Jones Zarour was not present.

Independent Living Services

ILS – Sharon Ehrig shared the following:

- The fast-food minimum wage is \$25/hour and that makes it difficult to recruit and maintain staff.
- Vita Income will do taxes for free for those that made \$60,000/year or less. This is a great resource for individuals served.
- Rent continues to increase, impacting individuals served. There was a discussion with Lisa Cipres, Housing Specialist, about resources that are coming up.

SLS Services – (1 Vacancy)

Residential Services

Specialized – Chris Schlanser did not report but contributed to the conversations.

CCF – Valerie Donelson reminded her peers that they must be HCBS compliant by August 2024. There was discussion among the committee members and staff

about what must be done to be ready.

ICF- Grace Kano, on behalf of Ookie Voong shared the following:

- The ICF Subcommittee meeting was held on February 8, 2024. A topic of discussion was that regional centers are asking for monthly attestations for LAG funding. At the time, providers had not been very successful with getting paid by MCPs yet. There is some progress in getting expiring TARs extended upon request. Other regional centers (not SG/PRC) are taking a long time to process LAG funding.
- There are slight increases on ICF/DD-H rates, (not DD-Ns) as of January 1, 2024. DSN is working to advocate for DD-Ns rate increases. MCPs are following a calendar year. Providers are encouraged to include the expenses and administrative time required to carry out the CalAIM transition and reflect it in their cost reports. Providers would like to be able to track their claims but some programs have added cost/extra charges associated in trying to doing so. The portals can be limited in what is shared and there are discrepancies on eligibility still (between what doctors see and what we see as an ICF).
- There is a possibility for an upcoming meeting with Nancy Bargmann, Director of the California Department of Developmental Services, to talk with ICF providers. More information will be available in the future.

Other Vended Services- Jeanette Cabrera had nothing to report.

At Large- Brenda Baldeon and Kelly Privitt had nothing to report.

RECRUITMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

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

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Theresa Zarour was not present.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Jesse Weller, Executive Director, reported on the following:

- Mr. Weller is working with the IT team to make the staff directory accessible on the SG/PRC website. He would like to find a balance with it being available while avoiding phishing issues.
- 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.
- The Strategic Plan has been completed. Staff is collaborating with a graphic designer on the design elements. He reviewed the updated SG/PRC Vision,

- Mission and Values. Staff are working on a communication strategy.
- ARCA and the California Living Network are advocating on the rate issue delay.
 - Mr. Weller reviewed the Grassroots Day materials. SG/PRC will send a delegation to Sacramento for this event in April. The delegation will include representatives from the VAC.
 - Gavin Newsom, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim March 2024, as “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.”
 - There has been an increased amount of make-up authorizations cancelations and it is creating a workload issue. Make-up sessions are important as every moment counts. He would like make-up authorizations to be honored within the 30 day period. He would like to start implementing this effective May 1, 2024. There will be more conversations about this matter.

SG/PRC UPDATES

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

- New Process for Review of Vendor Insurance
- Rate Implementation
- HCBS Formal Monitoring of Final Rule
- HCBS Trainings
- Remote Services
- Requests for Proposals
- Minimum Wage Increase 2024
- Payment Assistance for ICF’s during transition to Manage Care
- Self-Directed Supports (099)
- Coordinated Family Supports (CFS) (076)
- CFS Implementation Incentive Program
- DSP Training Stipend Program
- Quality Incentive Payments – Employment Access and Capacity

The referral report was not presented. The committee decided to have as part of the Residential Subcommittees if the members would like. It will no longer be on the agenda unless it’s requested.

Yvonne Gratianne, Communications & Public Engagement Officer, presented the draft flyer for the upcoming Vendor Job Fair.

M/S/C (Privitt & Ross) The committee approved the Vendor Job Fair flyer.

PUBLIC INPUT

Grace Kano shared that the Richard D. Davis Foundation is recruiting for more representation from parents and individuals served. For more information, please

contact Erika Gomez, Liaison to the Board of Directors and the Richard D. Davis Foundation.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next regular meeting will be held on April 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.