

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

May 2, 2024

The following committee members attended said meeting:

PRESENT:

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

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
Elba Moreno, Department Assistant, Communications

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

None

A. CALL TO ORDER

Cris Schlanser, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. A quorum was established.

The minutes of the meeting on April 4, 2024, were reviewed and approved. **M/S/C (Zarour & Buth) The Vendor Advisory committee approved the minutes.**

B. MOST PRESSING CONCERNS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

Executive Director, Jesse Weller, held a conversation about the concerns that have been raised about insurance requirements. Mr. Weller assured service providers that he will look further into the challenges and asked that vendors email him and Deputy Executive Director, Lucina Galarza, about the issues that are coming up.

C. VENDOR CATEGORY REPORTS

Adult Programs

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

Adult Day – Jose Meraz and Christina Buth shared that there was a subcommittee meeting on April 30, 2024. The topics mostly discussed were regarding the lack of notifications/invites to IPP meetings and lack of notifications when there is a change of Service Coordinators.

Infant & Children Services

Infant Development Program – Charmayne Ross shared that she continues to wait on the initiative of DDS working on an incentive for Service Providers who allow for their information to be posted on their website as part of their provider directory. She also shared that there was a Quality Incentive Program yesterday that has been posted to the website.

Transportation

Theresa Jones Zarour reported that transporters went to Sacramento in April to meet with legislators and talk about the importance of rate increases and issues that affect the individuals served. There is a follow up meeting scheduled for next week. Lastly, she will ask legislators to join the proposed vendor rally.

Independent Living Services

ILS – Sharon Ehrig shared about the challenges of finding affordable housing for individuals served. Individuals served who are making \$20/hour are losing their Section 8 benefits. She also reminded the committee that after May 7, 2024, if someone wants to travel by flight, they must have the “Real ID,” issued by the DMV.

SLS Services – (1 Vacancy)

Residential Services

Specialized – Chris Schlanser had nothing to report.

CCF – Jay Smith was no longer present for this portion of the meeting. Valerie Donelson shared that most providers passed the HCBS and it was not as difficult as they had anticipated.

ICF- Ookie Voong reported the following:

- ICF Subcommittee Meeting was held on April 11, 2024
- Providers continue to share concerns about delays in payments across all MCPs, receiving paper checks 30-45 days after submitting claims. The paper checks do not include any details about service dates or which individuals were served, thus delaying the LAG repayment process. Many providers are still not paid by MCPs and are having issues with setting up and accessing claims portals. Without being fully contracted, there could be delays in gaining full access to portals to track claims and/or troubleshoot errors. Providers are grateful for the LAG funding resource.
- At a recent DHCS office hours call, there was a mention of billing fee-for-service for new admits for the first month, which is yet to be confirmed.
- ICF providers are encouraged to have staff take advantage of the DSP training for stipend through June 2024.
- The next monthly ICF subcommittee meeting will be on May 9, 2024.

Other Vended Services- Jeanette Cabrera was not present for this portion of the meeting.

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

RECRUITMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Currently recruiting for the following for FY 24/25 (effective July 1, 2024):

- Vocational
- SLS
- Infant and Children
- At Large
- Day Program (2)
- Other

To apply, please email egomez@sgprc.org

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nothing to report.

SG/PRC STAFF UPDATES

Yvonne Gratianne, Communications and Public Engagement Officer, reported on

the following:

- The Vendor Job Fair, scheduled for tomorrow, reached capacity with 50 vendors participating. The job fair will be held at SG/PRC and staff have ensured that everything is ready for a successful event.
- SG/PRC is supporting its service providers in coordinating a rally to *Keep the Promise to the Lanterman Act*, specific to the uninterrupted Implementation of disability service provider rate increases, along with unfunded mandates and rising costs of doing business, while being committed to providing quality services. Staff are in the process of securing legislative support and aiming to hold the rally on Friday May 31, 2024. There is a “save the date” flyer available. There was a discussion about the logistics of the event, items needed, social media, and promotional materials. The VAC unanimously agreed to support this effort. Four other regional centers have shown interest in participating.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Jesse Weller, Executive Director, reported that the Strategic Plan and design was approved by the Board of Directors. Copies of it will be distributed, it will also be posted to the SG/PRC website and will be sent as an eblast to the community.

SG/PRC UPDATES

Dara Mikesell, Chief Financial Officer, shared that service providers can require a rate increase adjustment to help cover the additional costs of the new “Sick Leave” mandate which requires that employees accrue 5 sick days. If a vendors’ rates are set by DDS, they must go to the DDS website where they will need to fill out a form. Vendors with negotiated rates are to submit their form to SG/PRC. The deadline to submit the forms is July 1, 2024.

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

- Coordinated Career Pathways
 - Career Pathways Navigator
 - Customized Employment
 - Vendorization
- New Process for Review of Vendor Insurance
- Rate Implementation
- HCBS Formal Monitoring of Final Rule
- HCBS Trainings
- Requests for Proposals
- Vendor Rate Adjustments for Employee Sick Leave
- Minimum Wage Increase 2024
- Payment Assistance for ICF’s during transition to Manage Care

- SDP – SDP Acceptance Flag
- SDP Training Stipend Program
- Quality Incentive Payments – Employment Access and Capacity

Yesenia Orozco, Mental Health Specialist, announced that she will be hosting a presentation on May 22, 2024, for service providers regarding mental health and behavioral supports.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next regular meeting will be held on June 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.