

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

October 3, 2024

The following committee members attended said meeting:

PRESENT:

Cris Schlanser, Chairperson
Valerie Donelson
Jay Smith
Theresa Jones Zarour
Wanda Averhart-Collins
Kelly Privitt
Ookie Voong
Sharon Ehrig
Johnnie Martinez

STAFF:

Jesse Weller, Executive Director
Lucina Galarza, Deputy Executive Director
Jaime Anabalon, Quality Assurance Specialist
Lisa Cipres, Housing Specialist
Elba Moreno, Assistant Communications
Department

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Alyssa Zubia
Jesse Silva

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 September 5, 2024, were reviewed and approved. **M/S/C (Voong & Ehrig) The Vendor Advisory committee approved the minutes.**

B. New Members were welcomed.

C. MOST PRESSING CONCERNS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

The following concerns were raised:

- Delays in POS Authorizations were expressed, a better understanding of the process might be beneficial by providing training and/or a flow chart of the process to vendors with contact information of who to escalate concerns to. Ms. Galarza reminded the committee that if there are ongoing delays it is important to communicate the concerns to the regional center.
- There are still difficulties for some vendors in meeting the requests from Gallagher to be compliant with the insurance requirements. Ms. Galarza and/or Mr. Travis are the point of contact for waivers or to resolve challenges. There are also concerns with Gallagher's response time to voicemails being more than was expected, some have experienced a lapse of up to two weeks or do not receive a response.
- Individuals in ILS/SLS programs are losing their jobs making it difficult to pay their rent. A joint meeting between the Vocational, ILS and SLS subcommittees to further discuss this matter was mentioned.

D. VENDOR CATEGORY REPORTS

Adult Programs

Vocational – (1 Vacancy) Alyssa Zubia was not present.

Adult Day – Johnnie Martinez did not have anything to report. Their first subcommittee meeting will be on October 24, 2024.

Infant & Children Services

Infant Development Program – Wanda Averhart – Collins reported that Governor Newsom signed a bill, AB-2423, that secures funding for increases in rates for Early Start SLP's. The funding rates will be reviewed every two years. A meeting is being coordinated for the subcommittee to take place before the November Holiday, a flyer with the meeting details will be shared.

Transportation

Theresa Jones Zarour was not present.

Independent Living Services

ILS – Sharon Ehrig reported that the DDS website has a breakdown of the new rate reform according to specific vendor categories, to assist in figuring out the updates. The Everbridge system has been important during the recent fires and earthquakes. San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center is currently working on improving the emergency response communication, fine tuning its methods of reaching the community such as Everbridge and Constant Contact.

SLS Services – Jesse Silva was not present.

Residential Services

Specialized – Chris Schlanser

CCF – Jay Smith shared that the Residential Subcommittee had a meeting on Tuesday 10/01/2024 with SG/PRC staff member Mr. Kelly, Residential Services II Manager, & Ms. Galindo, Placement Coordinator. The meeting was a follow-up meeting to continue the previous month's conversation about placement. Looking at different possible options such as form 653 which is a face sheet with high level relevant information on the referral or creating a proactive forum where vendors can present themselves to the Living Options Committee to increase the awareness of what they do to SG/PRC staff as well as new hires.

ICF- Ookie Voong reported that the ICF Subcommittee Meeting was held on 9-12-24. CalAim issues were discussed. The cost of reimbursements are not lining up with the true costs of administration. TAR authorizations are expiring in as little as two months, in the past they expired in two years. Some providers are nervous about LAG funding ending in December. An All-Plan letter went out from the California Department of Health Care Services for ICF providers dated 9-16-24, APL24-011 credentialing information was included. A copy of the letter was provided to the committee. The next ICF subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for 10-10-24 at 2pm.

Other Vendored Services- Beba Saba had nothing to report. The first subcommittee meeting will be on October 22, 2024, at 10:00 am.

At Large- (1 Vacancy) Kelly Privitt had nothing to report.

RECRUITMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The following applicants were interviewed and recommended to the VAC for membership :

- Jaime Currie for At Large
M/S/C (Averhart-Collins & Smith) The Vendor Advisory committee approved the membership of Jaime Curry, effective immediately.

Currently recruiting for the following for FY 24/25:

- Vocational (1)

To apply, please email elba.moreno@sgprc.org or egomez@sgprc.org

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kelly Privitt volunteered to take on the role of updating the committee with legislation.

M/S/C (Voong & Buth) The Vendor Advisory committee approved Kelly Privitt to present the Legislative Update effective immediately.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Jesse Weller, Executive Director, reported on the following:

- AB 2423 starting July 1, 2025, and every other year after, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), shall review and update rate models.
- AB 1147 - Regional Centers would be subjected to the Public Records Act as of January 1, 2026, was just signed into law by Governor Newsom. Another part of the bill states that Regional Centers must establish a policy that states that senior leadership staff is prohibited from hiring family members. Regional Center staff are not to accept gifts to exceed \$15 a year, another area is requiring the department to work with subject matter experts as it relates to the Master Plan process.

SG/PRC UPDATES

Lucina Galarza, Deputy Executive Director:

- Rate Implementation
- Statewide Provider Directory
- HCBS Trainings
- Future HCBS Projects
- Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Update
- Direct Support Professional (DSP) Internship Program
- Social Recreation Services, Camping Services, Non-Medical Therapies
- CPP Vendorization
- Payment Assistance for ICFs during transition to Managed Care
- DSP Training Stipend Program
- New Process for Review of Vendor Insurance

PUBLIC INPUT

None

MEETING ADJOURNED

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