

VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 28, 2005 meeting

VAC Members Present: Phyllis Peterson, Carol Fremault, Louis Chiofalo, Lance Parker, Nicky Boyette, Stan Higgins, David Mauger

Guests Present: Rizza Santos, Darelyn Pazdel, Marilyn Halloran, Deanna DuPont, Donna Feingold, Claire Narlock, Carolyn Thompson, Nary Callison, Edith Thomas, Michi Gates, Nancy Gardner, Carol Gonsalves

- I. Introductions and Acceptance of Minutes** - Moved by Carol F. and seconded by Stan H. to accept the minutes of May 24, 2005 meeting.
- II. Agenda Changes or Additions** - Added V.2. Staff recruitment
- III. Group Reports and/or Clarifications**
 - A) Best Practices Training Update – Carol F. reported Best Practices will meet within two weeks. The group continues to plan a conference on autism in March. They are looking for new members and new ideas/suggestions.
 - B) Sonoma Vendor Group - no report
 - C) Napa-Solano Vendor Group - no report
 - D) Legislative
 - 1) Louis reported that the California Rehab Association (CRA) is experiencing discontent amongst the membership. Donna F. noted that members have concerns they want to bring to the attention of Executive Director. Nancy G. noted she was aware of an “internal rift” that has, unfortunately, become too politicized. She noted that possibly the results from the CRA lobbying do not match the cost.
 - 2) Bay Area Caucus - Donna F. noted the group is a place for grassroots networking.
 - 3) ARCA - Nancy G. noted that there is currently no State budget.
 - 4) Budget & Bill Update – Highlights from Nancy G’s presentation on legislation
 - IHSS bill - looks like no cuts
 - SSI/SSP two-year COLA freeze will go through
 - MediCare Part D - changes on the horizon
 - Self-determination/self-directed service - questions of quality assurance, allocation methodology, risk pool, etc. Implementation will depend on success of CADDIS
 - Agnews State Developmental Center closure is going well
 - SB791 (Chesbro), a bill which was going to remove the sunset clause on the continuous nursing care bill, has been made a two-year bill. The sunset will be dealt with in budget language.
 - Nancy noted caseloads are growing at a slower rate and that statewide 57% of intakes involve persons with autism. Typically these persons are 2.5 – 5 years of age. The increase in autism intakes has become a national/international crisis.
- IV. Policies and Procedures Update at NBRC** - no report
- V. New Business**
 - A) VAC Term Limits
 - Louis reported four VAC positions available, three of which are between July 1 and October 1, 2005 and another currently vacant. Carol Fremault and Phyllis Peterson’s terms will end June 30, 2005, Cami Weaver’s term ends August 30, 2005, and Louis Chiofalo’s term ends September 30, 2005. As of July 1, 2005, the following vacancies are available: Living Arrangements for Sonoma County, Living Arrangements for Solano County, and Skill Development for Sonoma County. As of September 1, 2005, a Support Services vacancy for Sonoma County. As of October

1, 2005, Skill Development in Solano County. Louis noted the procedure for VAC application is to submit to the attention of Kathy Newman of NBRC who then returns completed application(s) to the VAC Chair for distribution. The VAC submits nominations to the NBRC Board for final approval.

- There are two persons interested in becoming members of VAC, i.e., Nary Callison of Community Access Plus for Skill Development for Solano County, and Carin Lawrence of BI-Sonoma for Skill Development for Sonoma County.
 - It was suggested that VAC strategize ways to prevent four members from terming out in such short succession.
 - Kathy Newman distributed a one-page document identifying three and six year terms for current VAC members. There was discussion regarding recruitment, i.e., using surveys, by subcommittee, etc.; who would be an acceptable candidate and why said candidate would decide to become a VAC member.
 - Carol F. suggested inviting Community Care Licensing to make a presentation in hopes community vendors will attend. Carolyn T. agreed to contact CCL in an attempt to schedule such a presentation. David M. noted that NBRC mailings are also a convenient way to advertise and once the VAC website is up and running advertisements and recruitments can be listed on the site.
 - Lance P. noted the need for VAC members and guests to conscientiously fulfill their responsibility as vendors.
 - A strategy for helping new VAC members get acquainted with fellow VAC members was suggested.
- B) The VAC training calendar will be a key agenda item at the July 25 VAC meeting.
- C) Staff recruitment: Carol F. expressed concerns regarding staff recruitment as she is facing a shortage of staff for the first time. A discussion ensued around recruiting strategies. Carol G. noted the difficulties parent vendors have with hiring and retaining good employees.

VI. Announcements

- A) Nancy G. reported that Bruce Andersen, Chief Operating Officer of NBRC, resigned as of last Thursday; a search for a replacement is underway.
- B) Deanna D. of Area IV Board made announcements regarding two upcoming meetings.
- C) Donna F. announced an upcoming workshop Monday 10/10/05 featuring Rick Lavoy.
- D) Donna F. acknowledged Louis C. as the recipient of an award at the recent NISH conference. Louis noted that one of his consumers also received an award. Congratulations to both of them

VII. Vendor Support Time – No requests for assistance were received.

Next meeting: July 26, 2005

Minutes taken by Nicky Boyette