

Vendor Advisory Committee Minutes September 27, 2005

Attendance: Lance Parker, Beth Atton, Carin Lawrence, Mick Woodson, Stan Higgins, Don Morgan, Edith Thomas, David Mauger, Nary Callison

Absent: Nicky Boyette

Guests Present: Laura Cepoi, Marilyn Halloran, Darelyn Pazdel, Donna Feingold, Richard Ruge, Carolyn Thompson, Liz Sutton, Nancy Gardner, Sheri McNamara, Jami Davis, Candace McGuire, Carol Gonsalves, Sue Wakerley, Terri Rowland, Cami Weaver, Bob Phillips

Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Minutes of the August 23, 2005 meeting were amended to reflect the attendance of Nicky Boyette. The minutes were approved as amended.

REPORTS

- **Best Practices:**
 - ✓ Best Practices will remain a subcommittee of VAC rather than pursue development as a separate entity.
 - ✓ Friday March 3, 2006 will be an all day Autism conference.
 - ✓ More collaboration with NBRC is needed. Some vendors from Solano County expressed difficulty in attending planning meetings held in Santa Rosa.
- **Sonoma Vendor Group** - no report
- **Napa/Solano Vendor Group** - no mtg.
- **Legislative:**
 - ✓ CRA Group: A conference was in order to set goals, including developing a simple, brief, consistent message. It was noted that direct care workers in California are receiving 54% of the average state wage for workers in similar jobs.
 - ✓ ARCA: Nancy Gardner reported on current bills in the legislative process. Priorities for the year include:
 - DDS authorizing Regional Centers to use purchase of service funds for development of residential housing and rental assistance.
 - Statewide disaster preparation plan for vulnerable populations including developmental disabilities.
 - Expand ICF-DD/CN statewide.
 - Modify qualifications for children's group home administrators.
 - Extend term limits for Regional Center board members to ten years.
- **Budget:** The top priority and initiative is towards appropriate living wage for direct care staff. A question was raised as to what determines a "living wage". Nancy thought it would be dictated by geographic area, probably counties.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES UPDATE - Supported Living Service policy is still under review. Those concerned should review draft regulations on DDS website.

PRESENTATIONS

- The Performance Contract was reviewed and feedback was submitted regarding the need to be specific regarding full initiative for a living wage for direct care workers.
- The consumer satisfaction surveys from Resolution are available on the NBRC website.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Live Scan** – some vendors are experiencing delays in getting appointments to have fingerprints taken. It seems that this is more prevalent in Solano County.

- ***VAC Development***
 - ✓ A training calendar for VAC meetings is being developed.
 - ✓ Contacts for a presentation on self-directed services are anticipated.
 - ✓ The website continues to be developed. Clarification was made regarding the charge for voluntary participation of vendor links and brochures. A vendor link and posted brochure is strictly voluntary and a \$35 “contribution” is requested. Links to ARCA and CRA were suggested. Follow-up on distribution of VAC fliers to vendors will be made since all vendors did not receive the flier that was mailed with the last NBRC billing.
- ***Board Representative Selection*** – discussion was held regarding NBDDS board request for residential provider representation on the board and clarification of nomination process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Napa/ Solano Vendor Fair: October 6th, 9:30 – Noon at Napa NBRC Office.
- NBRC Board site visits are scheduled for early October.
- Minor revisions to the NBDDS Board Bylaws.

Submitted by Stan Higgins