

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

November 6, 2025

The following committee members attended said meeting:

PRESENT:

Kelly Privitt, Chairperson
Valerie Donelson
Jay Smith
Johnnie Martinez
Janee Blackburn
Christina Buth
Beba Saba
Theresa Jones Zarour
Jazmine Ulibarri
Christopher Trevilla
Ookie Voong
Jaime Currie
MEMBERS ABSENT:
Sharon Ehrig

STAFF:

Lucina Galarza, Deputy Executive Director
Daniela Santana, Director of Client Services
Jaime Anabalon, Quality Assurance Specialist
Lisa Cipres, Housing Specialist
Yvonne Gratianne, Communications & Public
Engagement Officer
Elba Moreno, Assistant Communications
Department

GUEST:

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

None

A. CALL TO ORDER

Kelly Privitt, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. A quorum was established.

The minutes of the meeting on October 2, 2025, were reviewed and approved.

M/S/C (Donelson & Zarour) The Vendor Advisory Committee approved the minutes.

B. MOST PRESSING CONCERNS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

A question regarding the E.I. Rate Reform letter that was previously presented to the VAC, the E.I. vendors want to know if it can be presented to the San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center Board of Directors to get their backing and

support. Ms. Privitt, VAC Chairperson, will make a recommendation at the next Board of Directors meeting. The concerns with SNAP and food security were also brought up, research has been done to identify the families and individuals that depend on CalFresh, resources and information has been shared such as food banks.

C. **VENDOR CATEGORY REPORTS**

Adult Programs

Vocational – (1 Vacancy) Christopher Trevilla Work Experience/Internships (Adults & Students) via DOR/DDS-RC On 8/21/25 DOR discontinued funding for WEX for Adults (only allowing for unpaid internships or volunteer experiences) while also limiting Students WEX (one work experience up to 100 hours) with no additional WEX allowed for approval. DDS/RC maintains no funding for PIP for school age IDD due to generic resource requirements of accessing Sp Ed services. Likewise, DOR upholds an approach that aims at not duplicating services, where equivalent resources are available through other means to help the individual advance their employment and career development goals. It appears that these new reduction of options for paid internships/WEX will increase the number of PIPs RC will be asked to undertake for IDD adults exiting/out from school, a group disproportionately represented in unemployment numbers in CA and nationally. On 9/15/25 DDS approved for introduction of subcode/rate for Job Development for SEP IP. Providers have signed up for this eagerly to increase the opportunity to gain access to funds for this service outside of the usual DOR fee for service structure. However, providers are finding out that some sort of agreement is pending between DOR and RC as to how to issue guidance on how and when RC can fund for this service. On 9/15/25 DDS approved for introduction of subcode/rate for Job Development for SEP IP. Providers have signed up for this eagerly to increase the opportunity to gain access to funds for this service outside of the usual DOR fee for service structure. However, providers are finding out that

Adult Day – Christina Butth shared that they had a subcommittee meeting on October 30th, they went over the transportation survey that is due on November 23rd. On November 13th there will be a fishing with friends' trip, on December 10th in the city of Irwindale there will be a Jolly Jam.

Infant & Children Services

Infant Development Program – Jazmine Ulibarri nothing to report.

Transportation

Theresa Jones Zarour shared that she and other transportation vendors met with the aide to James Malone under assembly member Michelle Rodriguez, to discuss their efforts to refine the transportation reform proposal for the January session.

Independent Living Services

ILS – Sharon Ehrig was not present.

SLS Services – (1 Vacancy)

Residential Services

Specialized – Janee Blackburn shared that the online yoga sessions was a success.

CCF – Valerie Donelson shared that the Residential subcommittee met on November 4 with Monique Galindo, Placement Coordinator at the San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center, she explained the process there was a lot of questions and answers regarding the vacancy report.

ICF- Ookie Voong shared that for ICF, are into the second year of Cal-Aim, the managed care plans are in DHCS is really encouraging, getting contracts signed. Also, in November, the Medi-Cal asset limit rules were changed, the new asset limits are \$130,000 for one person.

Other Vended Services- Beba Saba had nothing to report.

At Large- Jaime Currie shared that the concerns that we talked about, by speech, OT, and ABA, mental health providers, limitations on SDP providers if they are also traditionally vended. Also, providers and FMS' are wondering why there are such rate differentials among rates on spending plans. There needs to be accountability and oversight for providers who accept SDP in the areas of licensed and certified personnel- for example ensuring appropriate supervision is occurring and SIRs are appropriately filed.

RECRUITMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

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

- Jazmyne Robinson for Vocational
- Mario Escobedo for SLS

M/S/C (Buth & Currie) The Vendor Advisory committee approved

Currently recruiting for the following for FY 25/26:

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

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Jamie Currie shared that as the federal government shutdown enters its second month, millions of Californians face severe impacts from the suspension of food assistance programs, including CalFresh (SNAP), which halted on November. Last week, two federal judges ordered the Trump administration to release contingency funds to sustain SNAP benefits. One ruling required the USDA to distribute \$5.25 billion “as soon as possible” toward the estimated \$9 billion needed to support over 40 million Americans in November.

On Monday, the USDA announced it would release the remaining \$4.65 billion covering about half of current allotments for eligible households. The agency said it will issue guidance to states later this week to help calculate reduced benefits but warned that system changes could delay SNAP payments. She also shared that, Disability Rights California (DRC) will have its last webinar on the Medicaid Changes on Monday, November 17, 2025, from 5:30 - 6:30 pm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Jesse Weller, Executive Director, shared that the Irwindale office is hopefully going to open in February 2026. Reminded all of AB-1147, states the limit of gifts that can be received by Regional Centers. He also shared that regarding the Public Records Act; there has been concern as to the increased cost for providers as it relates to legal counsel and what that consultation may look like. He is tracking carefully to see if there's any kind of training, relevant service providers that are coming statewide. Lastly, he encouraged providers to get involved in the Local Volunteer Advisory Committee with Self-Determination. Each regional center is required to have a committee on SDP. It's a good platform in which the volunteer advisory committee gives recommendations, ideas, training needs, and support needs.

SG/PRC UPDATES

Elisa Herzog, Advocacy Liaison shared that The Advocacy Connection is requesting the input of the community to plan for the 2026 TAC sessions via the TAC survey.

Lucina Galarza, Deputy Executive Director:

- DSP Collaborative LA County
- Statewide Provider Directory
- Quality Incentive Program for Fiscal Year 2026/2027
- Training on Electronic Visit Verification
- Two Phases of the Final Implementation of Rate Reform
 - Transition Phase
 - Post Transition
- New Hold Harmless Policy Training

- Reminder for Residential Facilities and Requirements for Consultant Hours
- New Transportation Agency Survey from DDS
- Coordinated Career Pathways
- American Sign Language Training Support
- Direct Support Professional (DSP) Internship Program
- Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Update
- Future HCBS Projects
- Payment Assistance for ICFs during transition to Managed Care

PUBLIC INPUT

None

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next regular meeting will be held on December 4, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.