



# WESTSIDE REGIONAL CENTER

## Client Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 • 5:00 p.m.

Via Zoom – Hybrid

\* Attended meeting via Zoom

### Attendees:

Jane Borochoff	Sherice Baker	Dina Jacob *
Cesar Garcia	Todd Rubien	Niaisha Gonzalez *
Vanda Yung	Rosalba Ortega *	Kenny Lorenzo *
Wakelin McNeel	Alex Marquez *	Myriam Garcia *
Andy Ponce	Kristina Zerhusen *	Michael Nelson *
Julien Hernandez	Bjoern Petersen *	David Wyles *
Philomena Morais	Fanfan Wang *	Abigail Walker *
Natasha Gonzalez	Ricardo Pacheco *	

Wakelin McNeel, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

### Review and Approval of September 5, 2023, Minutes:

- Mr. McNeel confirmed that the Committee Members reviewed the previous minutes.
- A motion was made by Mr. McNeel to approve the September minutes, and the minutes were approved. David Wyles chose to abstain.

### Presentation of Adult Service Standards edits -

### Competitive Integrated Employment Services:

- Updates were made by Andy Ponce, Director of Community Services, and his team since the last meeting.

- Mr. Ponce presented the edits that were made under Competitive Integrated Employment Services, covering standards 1-9. No edits were made for standards 5-7.
- Cesar Garcia, Director of Client Services, provided a summary of the edits made. Numerous changes were implemented to simplify and streamline the language, making it more direct.
- Mr. Ponce explained that the expectations have been standardized, regardless of how you're vendored.
- Mr. Garcia pointed out that the document now addresses the necessary level of support needed. We aim to emphasize the support and services required in integrated environments, reflecting individual choices.
- Mr. Ponce stated that since customized employment can vary and may not involve an hourly wage, we opted not to restrict it to just minimum wage or higher, as it wouldn't encompass everyone.

#### **Current Primary Models:**

- Mr. Ponce reviewed edits made for 1-4.
  - Mr. Garcia pointed out that #4 was not in the previous Service Standards. We intend to utilize #4 to support the people we are assisting. This enables the employers participating in hiring individuals to obtain the necessary funds to compensate the individuals for their work. The costs will be associated with having them as employees.
  - Mr. Ponce added that there is no longer an annual dollar amount cap; instead, there's now an annual hourly cap.
- Mr. Garcia informed the committee that significant progress has been made, particularly in the realm of employment. We are ensuring that we provide support to everyone in obtaining employment.
  - Mr. Wakelin inquired about the percentage of individuals in daytime activity support services who are currently employed. Mr. Garcia explained that we've just received the data from the department regarding the number of individuals participating in the paid internship program and our CIE program. He will share the exact numbers with everyone.
- DDS has increased the financial incentives for providers assisting individuals in securing competitive integrated job placements. They have also added quality improvement planning that doubles the incentive for community placement for individuals. In December of last year, they simplified the process for existing day

programs to become vendored for the provision of one-on-one community-based services.

- Mr. Garcia expressed that for the past 7-8 years, we have been consistently focused on the path and direction we wish to follow in providing information and support to ensure that the changes we desired to see were being implemented. Currently, we have no providers offering subminimum wage for work.
- The decision was made to change Daytime Activities Support to Adult Activities Support. This change will be reflected throughout the entire document.
- Edits will continue to be made and discussed at the next meeting.

The Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.