**State of California**

**Health and Human Services Agency**

**Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)**

## California Vendor Policy Committee (CVPC) Meeting

## Thursday, February 1, 2024, Day 2 of 2

9:00 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Hybrid meeting held at Department of Rehabilitation Central Office, 721

Capitol Mall, Room 301, Sacramento, CA 95814 with virtual participation available via Zoom

**In attendance**:

CVPC members (in-person): Paul Patche II (District 1), Joni Patche (District 3),

Michael Hatch (District 4), Sandy Balani (District 5), Max Duarte (District 7)

CVPC members (by Zoom): Mario Anthony Szi (District 2), Harry Begian (District 6), Jerry Gann (District 8)

DOR staff (in person): Joe Xavier, Sue Pelbath, Michael Thomas, Luis Rodriguez, Daniela Isquierdo, Marc Leyva, Brandon Birchell, Ryne Myers, Jennifer Wilbon

DOR staff (by Zoom): Kelly Snow, Emma Rodriguez, Shelley Harris

Members of the public (in-person): Mark Lindsey, Debbie Peart, Don James

Members of the public (by Zoom): Steve Alford, Andy Ngo

**Meeting Minutes February 1, Day 2 of 2**

## Item 1: CVPC Roll Call and Introduction of DOR Staff and the Public

Max Duarte, CVPC Chair, welcomed attendees, conducted a roll call, and introduced DOR staff and members of the public.

**Item 2: Disability Access Services**

Agenda item not discussed due to technical difficulties.

**Item 3: Motion to approve December 6, 2023 CVPC meeting minutes**

Agenda item not discussed due to technical difficulties.

**Item 4: Training Subcommittee Report**

Committee members comments and questions

* Asked where the next annual training conference will take place and suggested choosing a date
* Felt the last conference was put together abruptly, recommended some changes be made
* Discussed the use of funds for the training conference
* Suggested putting a list together of all of the questions regarding the training conference and discuss it at the next training subcommittee
* Requested the department go over the training curriculum with vendors
* Asked questions about the prerequisite process
* Asked how much of the training will be online and how much will be in- person
* Asked how often training will occur

Department comments and questions

* Suggested members have questions prepared in advance, prior to a meeting, and to let the department know so they are prepared to respond
* The training will be a hybrid model, would like to receive input. Using some of the same materials from Hadley
* Training will have staggered start dates
* The training officer will receive help with the training from management

**Item 5: Legislative Subcommittee Report**

Committee members comments and questions

* District 7 was appointed legislative chair on 01/31/24
* Discussed happenings and discussions at convention in Washington and what is being asked at the capitol
* Discussed Social Security and health insurance benefits
* Discussed NFB conference
* Discussed sick leave for employees, wage increases, and how this could affect vendors
* Discussion took place about sell by dates and expiration dates
* Discussed the use of aluminum and glass versus plastic and how this will be costly for vendors
* Glass items are not allowed in prisons

**Item 6: Blind Advisory Committee (BAC) Report**

Committee members comments and questions

* The BAC meeting will occur 02/08/24
* Encouraged individuals to join

Department comments and questions

* Still looking for consumers at large who would like to be a member of the BAC committee, recruitment efforts will start soon

**Item 7: Quality Location Development Committee (QLDC) Report**

Committee members comments and questions

* Discussed the Richmond coffee bar and the San Diego Courthouse locations
* Would like to have a guest speaker come to a future meeting to talk about vending at colleges
* Discussions took place about the legislative building
* Would still like to look at vending at parks, beaches, and colleges

Department comments and questions

* Have been waiving Richmond coffee bar and San Diego Courthouse locations for several years
* The department is focusing on development of locations to grow the program

Public comments and questions

* Public member shared visiting the Ziggurat building in Sacramento and mentioned the building is closing in a year

**Item 8: Finance Subcommittee Report**

Committee members comments and questions

* District 1, Paul Patche, is the newly appointed chair
* If anyone is interested in becoming a member, contact District 1
* Asked for a trust fund update and balance
* Asked if there were any issues with the trust fund
* Discussions regarding equipment took place
* Discussed cool blue smart cooler with cameras
* Asked if cool blue smart coolers with cameras can be leased

Department comments and questions

* The department is purchasing machines right now for a particular roadside rest. Not purchasing any vending machines without credit card readers. Working on equipment list for the Richards Boulevard building
* Trust fund update provided at last meeting
* There is extra equipment in the warehouse and is used when needed
* Working on warehouse inventory
* The department must take into consideration where a location is and look at costs before transferring a vending machine
* Cool blue smart coolers with cameras cannot be leased

Public members comments and questions

* Ask to get all vendors a list of what equipment is in the warehouse

**Item 9: Rules Subcommittee Report**

Committee members comments and questions

* Discussed the election process and suggestions provided of how to modernize the process
* Both bylaws and regulations need to be changed
* Discussions took place regarding the length of waivers

Department comments and questions

* Explained the election process

**Items 10: Benefits Subcommittee**

Committee members comments and questions

* District 3, Joni Patche, appointed as the new chair for the Benefits subcommittee
* Benefits subcommittee will oversee health insurance benefits, worker’s compensation, and liability insurance
* Discussions of insurance rates took place
* Discussions about Social Security and Medicare took place
* Suggested that Nav (ORIM) attend more meetings

**Item 11: Guest speaker Don James**

Don James of FSIG gave a brief presentation.

**Motion:** District 1 moved a motion requesting CVPC and DOR work together as a team to explore options to negotiate with the Marines to subcontract. The motion was seconded by District 3.

**Vote:** District 1, yes. District 2, yes. District 3, yes. District 4, yes. District 5, yes. District 6, yes. The motion passed.

**Item 12: Joe Xavier, DOR Director**

Federal level updates

* Dante Allen now the RSA Commissioner
* Expecting large sums of reallotment dollars this year
* Have been able to avoid a federal budget impasse for several months

State level updates

* Legislature has been phasing out subminimum wage
* Discussed the state budget for 2024-2025
* Budget, there is a 37.8-billion-dollar shortfall
* Discussed the use of set-aside dollars, and reductions in programs, including revenues and delays
* Departments are going to be asked to address their vacant positions and the funding will be reduced from the departments budgets
* A master plan is being put together for developmental disabilities
* Discussed reform for the aging system
* Discussed rate reform for foster care youth
* Continue to work on the behavioral health reform
* There is a master plan on career education
* It is teenager and youth adult mental health awareness month
* Hybrid workplace across the state, two days of site-based work begins in March
* The consumer is put first and operational needs will be based on consumer needs

Department level updates

* $576 million in the budget
* 1900 positions in budget for DOR
* Discussed the voice options program
* Discussed expenditure freeze
* Encouraged all to read the annual program reports that are done for DOR
* Discussed the departments accomplishments in 2023
* The next generation of leadership changes are taking place within the organization
* Discussions of how the budget can affect the BEP program

Committee members comments and questions

* Asked how the budget compares to last years budget and how it affects the BEP program
* Have to think about the delivery of service for the BEP program
* With more people returning to work, they will probably want healthier snacks
* The BEP program has to keep with changes, adapt

Public members comments and questions

* Try to strengthen the trust fund and have the program more reliant on the trust fund

**Item 13: Action Items Report**

* If vendors would like to develop a website, they should hire a company to help
* Would like training curriculum prerequisites sent out to members for review for the training course
* DOR requested specific updates before the next QLDC meeting
* Would like to participate in site visits

**Item 14: Open floor**

Committee members comments and questions

* If there is a way to modernize voting, then vending systems and equipment should be modernized
* Suggested bringing ideas to BEP managers and to CVPC
* Although people are returning to work, they may bring food from home to save money and not want to spend money on food from vending machines

Public members comments and questions

* Talked about modernizing vending machines

District 1 moved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:16 PM. District 2 second the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:16 PM.