

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 11, 2024
Minutes

Present:

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc., Chair
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options, Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &
Associates
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Jacquie Foss, STEP
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION
Christa McClure, Tri-County
Respite Care Service
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Andrea Croom*, INALLIANCE

Visitors

Mirela Bere
Taylor Berry
Claudette Cabacungan
Christa Coats
Paula Cohen
Tim DeBack
Maureen Fitzgerald
Angel Garcia
Jennifer Gomez

Ericka Harden
NaTasha Harden
Braydon Holtzinger
Jessica Jenó
Jenny Jones
Jessica Knuth
Jay Kolvoord
Rebecca LaBoriel
Leticia Leon
Mike Lyman
Erin McKenna
Dylan Nobida
Valerie Phillips (CNU)
Paul Platner
Paul Quiroz
Michelle Ramirez (CBEM)
Jen Roney
Rennie Saltzman
Vicki Smith (DDS)
Jasmine Vollenweider

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Michelle Duchene, Community
Services & Supports Manager
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Shannon McConnell, Dental
Coordinator
Rhonda Phillips, Housing Specialist
Jason Scantlebury, LEAD Community
Services Specialist
Johnny Xiong, Associate Client
Services Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Dental Services; 4) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 5) System Reform and Legislative Update; 6) PAC Committee Restructuring & Reports; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 9, 2023, as submitted.

1. **Board Update**

- No update was shared.

2. **Executive Director's Report**

- Ms. Banales noted that Vicki Smith, with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), will be joining us at 10 a.m. to share information about the department's Workforce Initiatives.
- Governor Newsom released the state's proposed budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year (FY) yesterday, which includes a delay in the remaining rate increase from the Burns and Associate rate study by one year. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) will be meeting next week and will be discussing this in greater detail.
- ACRC rolled out a client/family satisfaction survey on January 1st. We are fortunate to have Elijah Jenkins, ACRC's Data Scientist, who assisted with fine tuning the questions so that we will have the data points that are needed to gather valuable input. The surveys will be sent out electronically, with the assistance of our Office Assistants (OAs), in multiple languages. Assistance will be available for those that need it. As part of the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') Regional Center Performance Measures (RCPM), the department is also developing a client satisfaction survey, which has not yet been completed.
 - Ms. Banales noted that ACRC's Board asked for this, and we will make necessary changes after the full 12-month cycle is completed. She will share high-level data quarterly with the Board and this committee.
- The January 2024 *Alta Connections* was posted on our agency's website yesterday. Along with highlighting ACRC's Santa Day and various job and microenterprise fairs that staff participated in, the issue highlights that ACRC added 252 new service providers in 2023. Mr. Decker believes our 2024 numbers will be significantly higher due to the number of inquiries that staff continue to receive.
- ACRC is kicking off a quarterly Community Meeting on the first Wednesday of the month from 11 a.m. to noon, via Zoom. The first meeting is scheduled for February 7th. Along with sharing vital information, these meetings will provide an opportunity to gather community input. Information will be pushed out via our website and social media platforms.

- Vicki Smith, DDS' Deputy Director of Policy and Program Development, provided an overview and answered questions on the workforce initiatives that fall under the new DDS Workforce Development Team's purview.

They are as follows:

- Regional Center Staff Tuition Reimbursement
- Technology Pilot
- DSP Internship
- DSP Bi-/Multi-Lingual Pay Differential
- DSP Workforce Training and Development (DSP University)
- DSP Training Stipend – this runs through June 30, 2024

3. **Dental Services**

- Ms. McConnell provided an overview of her goals as ACRC's Dental Coordinator:
 - Expanding our resources.
 - Supporting our clients to get their dental needs met in a timely manner.
 - Reducing the number of clients who require sedation dentistry.
 - Increasing preventive care.

4. **ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates**

- The Adult Day and Employment vendor forum was held on November 30th.
 - The group discussed the Vendor Fair that ACRC hosted – these will continue to be held in order to provide Service Coordinators (SCs) with information on programs.
- The Residential vendor forum was held on December 14th.

5. **System Reform and Legislative Update (ARCA, CDSA, CCLN, PAVE, Community Respite Association and DS Taskforce & Workgroups)**

- ARCA
 - The Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA's) Annual Grassroots Day will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd, at the State Capitol.
- CDSA
 - The California Disability Services Association (CDSA) is developing their advocacy campaign.
- CCLN
 - SB 616 is a poorly written bill and requires employers to pay employees sick leave (five days or 40 hours – whichever is greater of the two). This could qualify for a Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) lawsuit and there is no funding in the rate study for this.
 - The California Community Living Network (CCLN) is planning some type of event at the State Capitol on April 1st.
 - They are also focusing on the housing needs for those individuals that we serve.

- The PAVE service outcome project is working on operational definitions.
- The CCLN Annual Conference, "Protect the Progress, Keep the Promise", is scheduled for April 24th & 25th in San Diego.
- The Workforce Committee is meeting next week.
- CRA/Lanterman Coalition
 - The Lanterman Coalition released a letter reflecting their supports.
 - The California Respite Association (CRA) is scheduled to meet on January 25th and will be focusing their attention on aligning their advocacy efforts.
 - With the Governor's proposed budget, respite worker's wages would fall under the state's minimum wage.
- DS Taskforce & Workgroups
 - Groups are meeting to discuss the service provider directory.
 - The Employment Workgroup met in December. They discussed the Employment Navigator position; more information will be shared soon. They also had a presentation on the Employment Grants that were awarded.
- Statewide PAC Collaboration
 - The group continues to meet to discuss their focus/direction.
 - They are fine tuning their letter to Director Bargmann regarding continued concerns about the rate model implementation.

6. ***PAC Committee Restructuring & Reports***

- Ms. Dyba shared that at the November meeting, the PAC restructured their Standing Committees, which now need to be repopulated.
 - She reminded everyone that all PAC members must volunteer for at least one committee, although these committees are not exclusive to PAC members.
 - Those present provided their preferences.

7. ***Announcements/Comments***

- The SLS vendor forum is scheduled for January 30th. Mr. Decker will share an update on the DSP Collaborative during tomorrow's "Coffee with Community Services."
- Mr. Ciampa noted that he is still seeking feedback on the PAC email-based discussion group.
 - He is proposing moving to a Facebook Group versus utilizing Google Groups. A pilot will be launched prior to using a paid subscription platform.
- Please send suggested February agenda items to Ms. Dyba and Ms. West.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, February 8, 2024**. The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales