

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, January 9, 2020  
Minutes

**Present:**

Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,  
Chair  
James Astorga, F&A Astorga Care  
Home  
Janet Brandon, AIM &  
Associates  
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE  
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.  
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point  
Joe Hernandez, Premier  
Healthcare Services  
Joe Jaquez, EGACT  
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver  
Relief  
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare  
Services  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO  
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism  
Services  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Eric Ciampa\*, UCP of  
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &  
Design. Dir.  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss\*, STEP  
Jessica Knuth\*, Reach Adult  
Development  
Sergio Pinto\*, BEST Consulting,  
Inc.  
Antonio Ranit\*, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Robin Rhoades, Southside  
Unlimited  
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite  
Services

**Visitors:**

Nick Abela  
Jody Bailey  
Garrett Broadbent  
Breeanne Burris  
Laura Cortesi  
Lindsey Dyba  
Olivia Gomez  
Kate Halecky  
Stan Higgins  
Adam Ruggles  
Todd Ruggles  
Stan Schmidt  
Jasmine Vollenweider

**Staff:**

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director  
Lori Banales, Deputy Executive  
Director  
John Decker, Director of Community  
Services  
Darline Dupree, Manager of  
Community Services  
Helen Neri, Cultural Diversity  
Specialist  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:32 a.m. on Thursday, January 9, 2020, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Legislative Update; 4) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments; 5) PAC Priorities – Subcommittee Reports; and 6) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

**Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 14, 2019 as submitted.**

1. ***Board Update***

- The Board of Directors met on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. A new member was voted on – Johnny Deng. Jackie Armstrong and Anwar Safvi completed their seven years of services to our agency.
- Yesterday, Ms. West delivered to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) ACRC's Medi-Cal Provider Enrollment Application. Late in December, the department notified regional centers of this new requirement from the Centers for Medicaid and Medi-Cal Services (CMS). This is the first part of a process that will end in April. Mr. Bonnet attended a meeting with DDS yesterday and it was shared that after regional centers complete this task, every service provider will be required to provide additional information. With this process, Board members must produce their social security numbers.
- Our Board will be meeting in committee next Monday to further discuss recruitment opportunities.

2. ***Executive Director's Report***

- Every year, regional center Boards must approve their Performance Contract with DDS. The department is revising the performance measures and taking input from various groups from across the state. The National Core Indicators (NCI) surveys ask many questions on the satisfaction of people served by each regional center. Mr. Bonnet believes that the NCI will play a role in the newly revised Performance Contract.
- Tomorrow, the proposed 2020-21 fiscal year (FY) budget for the State of California 2020-21 will be released. Governor Newsom has announced a plan to dedicate upwards of a billion dollars to combat homelessness; hopefully this will help our population. Dr. Mark Ghaly, the Secretary of California's Health & Human Services Agency, attended November's DS Task Force meeting and shared that he believes funding policies should be data driven.
- Regional centers and participants are awaiting clarification from DDS on what services are permitted in the Self-Determination Program (SDP). ACRC has several clients that are ready to begin this program

after minor details are confirmed. An additional 88 names were drawn for ACRC, because we had several clients/families that chose not to participate after they learned more about the program. Our agency is holding several trainings for clients/families, as well as staff.

- With the new oversight from DDS, the concept of “Person-Centered Thinking” is becoming an absolute requirement for our service system. As regional centers prepare to comply with CMS’ New Rule, it’s clearly going to be better for many of our clients. The department is trying to integrate “Person-Centered Thinking” into everything that regional centers do. Over this next year, ACRC will be hosting several opportunities for staff, service providers and families to learn more about this concept.
- Ms. Neri shared that ACRC has received 2020 disparity grant funding and is interested in holding workshops for service providers, but we are seeking input on topics that might be beneficial to providers.

Suggestions include:

- Resources in the community where translation services are available; also technology support.
- Overview of different cultures and how they view outsiders (service providers).
- Cultural sensitivity – support teams for clients
- Training on unconscious bias.
- Convening of partners in the community (cultural organizations) – safe and secure place for discussions.

### 3. **Legislative Update**

- CDSA
  - Assemblymember Frazier has announced that the Assembly Select Committee on Individuals with I/DD will be holding a hearing on January 28<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the State Capitol in Room 127.
  - ACRC is hosting the DS Task Force on January 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to noon. The group will receive a presentation from DDS, along with Burns & Associates, on the Rate Study comments and updated rate models. The System & Fiscal Reform Workgroup is meeting that afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m.
  - In December, DDS received CMS’ formal approval of the supplemental rate increases that took effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - DDS has revamped their website.
  - The Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) self-assessment questionnaire was supposed to be online by January 3<sup>rd</sup>, but it has yet to be posted.
  - The Legislature reconvened on January 6<sup>th</sup>. As it is the second year of a two-year cycle, there are short deadlines for moving

bills through committees and into the second chamber – bills introduced last year have a January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline to pass to the second chamber.

- CSLN
  - CSLA is hosting a Public Policy Conference on January 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Lanterman Coalition
  - The Lanterman Coalition released their “Proposed Multi-Year Strategic Plan to Restore Health, Safety, and Opportunity for Californians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”.
  - The group has also had several meetings with legislative staff.

#### 4. ***Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments***

- An updated list was distributed for review.
  - The Early Intervention Vendor Forum was held on December 18<sup>th</sup>.
    - Several trainings were held during this forum.
  - The Adult Day & Employment Vendor Forum is scheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - The Supported Living Services (SLS) Vendor Forum is scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### 5. ***PAC Priorities***

- Vendor Relations
  - The group met with ACRC’s Community Services & Supports staff again in November.
    - Members are currently working through follow-up from that meeting.
- Communications
  - The group is currently working with ACRC staff to develop criteria for the Service Provider Training Calendar, which will be posted under the “Service Providers” tab on ACRC’s website.
    - Trainings must be:
      - Available to ACRC Community
      - Of interest and pertinent to ACRC
      - Located within the ACRC catchment area
      - Submitted by ACRC vendored organizations
    - Postings must include:
      - Links to registration and/or flyer
      - Location, date & time
      - Contact information
      - Categorization of audience: clients, DSPs, managers, families, etc.
    - In addition, postings will require a disclaimer that ACRC does not endorse any of the trainings listed on the calendar.

- Members continue to discuss revamping the PAC brochure.
- Housing
  - No update was shared.
- Transportation
  - No update was shared.

6. ***Announcements/Comments***

- ACRC's Community Services Department sent an email to day programs about the upcoming "Arts & Crafts Spring Festival" on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be extending the deadline for registration.
- The PAC's Outreach Committee has received two applications that will be brought forward for possible membership in February – Lindsey Dyba and Adam Ruggles.
- Ms. Ramirez encouraged those present to attend On My Own's next "HR Coffee Talk" scheduled for Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m.
- DDSO has an exhibit at the Sacramento Public Library and will be participating in their Superfest this weekend.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, February 13, 2020**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet