

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 14, 2019
Minutes

Present:

Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Chair
Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga Care
Home
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Joe Jaquez, EGACT
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Robin Rhoades, Southside
Unlimited
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Yvonne Soto, DDSO

Visitors:

David Banuelos
Breeanne Burris
Lindsey Dyba
Blake Ellis
Kate Halecky
Reina Hudson
Rebecca LaBoriel
Monique Migdol
Todd Ruggles
Nicky Schlupe
Jasmine Vollenweider

Absent: (* excused)

Andrea Croom*, INALLIANCE
Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Ed Doonan*, LIFE, Inc.
Joe Hernandez*, Premier
Healthcare Services
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio*, Capitol Autism
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Lori Banales, Director of Client
Services
Thalia Castro-Vega, Communications
Specialist
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community Services
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:34 a.m. on Thursday, November 14, 2019, 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 Goals for the 2019-20 FY; 6) PAC's Priorities; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of October 10, 2019 as submitted.

1. ***Board Update***

- Mr. Ciampa shared that the Board continues to focus on training and recruitment. In an effort to be more involved in the community, Board members will be joining ACRC staff in outreach opportunities throughout our catchment area.
- The Board will be voting on a new Board member at next week's meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, November 21st, at 4 p.m.

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

- In the past, this committee has suggested that it might be helpful if members of Mr. Bonnet's senior staff attend these meetings; they have been coming. Mr. Bonnet believes that great conversations happen at these meetings and it's an opportunity for service providers to have an open exchange with ACRC staff.
- On January 1st, most regional center service providers will be receiving an 8.2% rate increase. While it's not all that we wanted, it's still substantial. There are several services that are not included; Mr. Bonnet believes this might be due to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirements for congregate settings and service planning (the CMS Final Rule) that will be implemented soon. There may have been errors in the rate study; that could explain why some services, including Independent Living Services (ILS) and transportation, were not included in the increase. Regional centers are awaiting instructions from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), which we should receive by the end of the month, on how to implement the rate increases. These increases are awaiting CMS approval, as well – it's not official until they do.
- DDS will be releasing the names of the newly reconstituted DS Task Force within the next week. The department is looking for a balanced group of clients, service providers, community partners and regional center staff to focus on serious issues (e.g., the sustainability of our service system, system reform, etc.). Additional workgroups will be formed to focus on specific topics.
- DDS will be releasing their final report on the service provider rate study soon. They have gathered and considered input from several stakeholder meetings.

- ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) is a selfless group; they have a group conscience that is remarkable. Some of the members are employed now and cannot attend the meetings, so they are looking to increase their numbers.
 - If you know of anyone who might like to join this group, please encourage them to attend their meetings.
- ACRC's Annual Santa Day is scheduled for Friday, December 13th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ACRC's last client moved out of Fairview Developmental Center (DC) last month (excluding those individuals that remain in the Secured Treatment Program at Porterville DC). Mr. Bonnet noted that this would not have been possible were it not for the day-to-day work that our service providers tirelessly do every day. He believes it is a positive outcome for the future of our service system – the funding will now go towards services and supports in our local communities.
- A few years ago, ACRC held an Arts & Crafts Show, which featured pieces from several of our art studios and day programs. Staff are beginning to plan for the next one, which will take place on February 12, 2020.

3. **Legislative Update**

- ANCOR
 - Mr. Ciampa shared that UCP received notification that discussions about revising the CMS infrastructure bill (proposals for grants) are taking place and they are seeking feedback.
- CDSA
 - Ms. Dyba shared that CDSA met with DDS about the rate study. Ms. Bargmann confirmed that the DS Task Force will be holding a meeting in early December, prior to the release of the rate models.
 - They submitted a January budget request letter to the department.
 - Updates on those bills which CDSA had taken a position on or were watching:
 - AB 189 (Kamlager-Dove) – Signed; this bill designates autism service providers, professionals and paraprofessionals as mandated reporters.
 - AB 365 (Garcia) – Vetoed; this bill would have expanded the LEAP program allowing more folks with developmental disabilities an alternative path to state employment. The Governor's veto message indicated that the aim of the bill could be accomplished administratively.
 - AB 640 (Frazier) – Signed; this bill requires sex crimes training for District Attorneys for investigations involving victims who have developmental disabilities.

- AB 911 (Rodriguez) – Signed; this bill requires a study on the feasibility of a statewide 911 system that would allow individuals with disabilities to share vital health and safety information in advance of interactions with law enforcement.
- SB 160 (Jackson) – Signed; this bill requires counties that are updating emergency plans to integrate cultural competence, which includes developing plans that consider individuals with disabilities.
- DDS released its guidelines for the fourth round of the Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) transition grant funding. Interested service providers must submit their proposals to their vendoring regional center by November 22nd.
- CSLN
 - Ms. LaBoriel shared that CSLN met with DDS and discussed the fact that ILS was not receiving a rate increase in January.
 - There may be a rate increase in July 2020.
- Lanterman Coalition
 - No update was shared.

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

- There were no Vendor Forums held since the last meeting.
 - The Early Intervention Vendor Forum is scheduled for December 18th.
 - The Residential Vendor Forum is scheduled for January 6th.

5. ***PAC's Goals for the 2019-20 FY***

- Community Development
 - ACRC already has established relationships with the LPA/School Systems, but can the PAC assist?
 - Cindy Le, ACRC's Client Employment Specialist, would be able to provide more information to this committee.
- Housing
 - The workgroup will be meeting in December.
- State/Federal Requirements
 - The PAC would like to assist with educating service providers about the HCBS self-assessment process. No trainings have been scheduled yet, but the requirements are just as pressing.
 - Darline Dupree and Katherine Weston will meet with PAC representatives (volunteers include: James Astorga, Eric Ciampa, Joe Jaquez, Rebecca LaBoriel, Robin Rhoades, and Yvonne Soto).
- Training Resource
 - The group is working with ACRC staff to post a training calendar on the agency's website.

- Regarding vendor fairs – ACRC already holds these. Can the PAC help in any way?
 - Some vendor fairs are already calendared for the beginning of 2020. ACRC staff will share the dates with the PAC soon.

6. **PAC Priorities**

- Vendor Relations
 - Ms. Rhoades shared that the group had a respectful, collaborative meeting. They discussed some systems that may need improvement, but realized how important it is to look at things from both sides. Everything we do is to serve our clients.
 - Information will be shared at the January PAC meeting.
- ILS
 - Ms. Brandon shared that the group met with ACRC Community Services & Supports (CSS) staff. Providers voiced their concerns and ACRC staff spoke about their priorities. They will be working on suggested changes to contract language.
- Communications
 - The group met and reviewed the criteria for the ability for providers to post trainings on ACRC's website (e.g., flyers need to be clear on what population the training is for, there should be a disclaimer about ACRC not endorsing the trainings, etc.).
 - ACRC is in the process of updating their website; within the next three to four months.
 - Ms. Ramirez shared that the Training Workgroup has developed a list of trainings that service providers may be interested in holding; she has the master list.
- Transportation
 - Mr. Ciampa participated in a conference call which discussed issues that our service system is facing. The key is that the agreements that were in place since 1981 with Paratransit are now changing. Paratransit pulled their contract and is now going to Regional Transit (RT). Funding is very complicated; specific money is tied to assisting individuals with disabilities. Mr. Ciampa is hopeful that there will be opportunities for change, but he expressed concern about everyone that is withdrawing from the process. There will always be transit needs; our folks may be the first to be left behind. We need to monitor the situation and talk about next steps. He will be attending future meetings.
 - Mr. Ciampa would like for the PAC to draft a letter to inform our stakeholders about the changes that are taking place. It might be helpful to invite someone to attend an upcoming PAC meeting to share more information.

- o Mr. Ciampa volunteered to speak to ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC).

Without objection, Robin Rhoades made the motion for the PAC to authorize Mr. Ciampa to attend the RT meetings and encourage them to include people with developmental disabilities in their discussions.

David Banuelos, a Partnership Specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau, shared a presentation at 10:30 a.m. Tho Vinh Banh, with Disability Rights California (DRC), joined the conversation via phone

7. Announcements/Comments

- Mr. Decker shared that an anonymous complaint was made to Community Care Licensing (CCL) about all of ACRC's day program providers, as well as all of our care homes. The complaint states that employees are driving ten or more people, including the driver, without a commercial license. ACRC staff have been notified that CCL has opened investigations on our day program service providers. (Vehicle Code – Section 233)
 - ACRC staff will be providing more information to the provider community.
 - ACRC staff have been in contact with licensing.
- The January agenda will include a housing discussion.
- On My Home is holding another "HR Coffee Talk" on January 30th.
- UCP is working with the first Self-Determination Program (SDP) family from ACRC. They see this as an opportunity to help the client learn about this new program.
 - It's important to note that more than half of the individuals that were chosen have withdrawn from the program.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, January 9, 2020**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet