

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

Present:

Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Chair
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Co-Chair & Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga Care
Home
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Joe Hernandez, Premier
Healthcare Services
Joe Jaquez, EGACT
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Robin Rhoades, Southside
Unlimited
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Ed Doonan*, LIFE, Inc.

Visitors:

Garrett Broadbent
Breanne Burris
Christi Coffey
Lindsey Dyba
Maureen Fitzgerald
Sonya Fox-Watson
Adriene Gaudet
Kate Halecky
Braydon Holtzinger
Jennifer Jones
Amea Medeiros
Monique Migdol
Adam Ruggles
Nicky Schlupe
Katherine Wallen
Troy Wheeler

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Financial Officer
Lori Banales, Deputy Executive
Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Andy Ponce, Specialized Services
Manager
Olivia Procida, Manager of
Community Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:34 a.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2020, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Board Update;

2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Approve New Members; 4) COVID-19 Impact Discussion; 5) Legislative Update; 6) PAC Priorities – Subcommittee Reports; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Eric Ciampa made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 11, 2020 as submitted.

1. ***Board Update***

- Mr. Ciampa shared that Michelle Ramirez is now the PAC's representative to ACRC's Board of Directors.
- The Board voted on the new slate of officers for the 2020-21 fiscal year (FY). Rita Walker is the President and Ron Mainini is the Vice President.

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

- Mr. Bonnet shared that our statewide service system was spared the proposed cuts for the upcoming FY. It appears that the legislature is supporting the regional center community. With everything else that we are dealing with, it would have been devastating to our clients and service providers. Every year is a new year and we will deal with issues as they come.
 - Mr. Bonnet expressed appreciation for those that were involved with the advocacy efforts this year.
- We spoke at the June meeting about having Mr. Bonnet recognize and thank all of the service providers that have gone the extra mile during this pandemic. He had hoped to hear from some of you, but he hasn't yet. Mr. Bonnet would like to post a short video or a picture montage of direct support professionals (DSPs) working with our clients in the field.
 - If you are interested in being part of this project, please contact Ms. West by the end of this week.
- CBS Channel 13 approached Mr. Bonnet and asked ACRC to get involved in the mask discussion. He shared that ACRC, along with other community partners, have given away tens of thousands of masks, as well as other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
 - They are interested in featuring a story about this.
- As of this morning, ACRC has 32 clients that have tested positive for COVID-19 and 23 DSPs. Testing continues to be challenging.
 - Mr. Bonnet will speak with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) about this issue and see if regional centers might be able to receive an exception for testing for our clients and service providers.

- DDS' directive states that the retainer payments for non-residential services will continue until July 31st. Mr. Bonnet's understanding is that the plan is to titrate these down; the department has to prove that some type of service is being provided. He does know that some service providers have gone to great lengths to support our folks in their homes.
- ACRC's website has been upgraded – it is now mobile responsive.
- Concern was expressed about communicating with residential service providers. Licensing has limited/restricted anyone visiting these facilities; this has also hampered testing for the residents.
 - ACRC staff will continue to work with licensing, who continues to provide a lot of guidance. Our main priority is the safety of our clients.
 - Family gatherings need to be limited.
 - We are in a more tenuous spot today than we were the day the State of California went into the shelter-in-place.
- Mr. Decker noted that ACRC is trying to get a month's supply of PPE, at minimum to all of our residential service providers. We have had a huge amount of PPE coming into ACRC from DDS and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD).
 - Please send any requests to Heather Hollingworth at hhollingworth@altaregional.org – we are distributing PPE every day to service providers.

3. ***Approve New Members***

- Mr. Ciampa shared that the Outreach Committee is moving forward two applicants for PAC membership – Garrett Broadbent, from Meristem, and Adam Ruggles, with Medstar. They both provided a brief overview of themselves and their roles at their agencies.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to nominate Garrett Broadbent and Adam Ruggles for PAC membership.

- Mr. Ciampa shared that Lindsey Dyba, with Futures Explored, Inc., and Monique Migdol, with Tahoe Community Integrations, will be considered for PAC membership at the next meeting.

4. ***COVID-19 Impact Discussion***

- Masks/Face-coverings in Homes
 - What challenges are you, as service providers, experiencing?
 - As more services are being provided in client's homes, some service providers have made wearing masks a requirement, while many families do not want anyone providing services to their loved ones wearing a mask.

- Mr. Decker will make an effort to increase ACRC's supply of face shields to be distributed to service providers.
- What can we do as service providers to make sure that your staff do everything they can to protect themselves outside of work?
 - We have no control and this remains a tremendous concern.
- As service providers, we can stress to our staff and clients/families that we serve that quality of life is key.
 - Suggestion to develop a Person-First Training for our clients/families.
- Plan for outbreak?
 - The DS Task Force discussed the increasing numbers of positive cases statewide.
 - With "Relationship Maps", service providers can list out everyone that is part of the client's lives.
 - Some service providers have locked down the whole home if someone tests positive. Workers then receive overtime and quarantine pay.
 - Ms. Watilo's agency has developed a three-tier system for reporting incidents; who gets notified and what should be done is dependent on the level of the incident.
 - Service providers are faced with continuing to provide services to clients who test positive for COVID-19. Some DSPs do not want to go to work for fear of getting the virus.
- Re-Entry Planning Status
 - Some service providers are providing their staff with re-entry training.
 - Ms. Watilo noted that Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC) has a person-centered re-entry survey on their website.
 - Mr. Decker shared that ACRC is waiting for the final documents from DDS prior to distributing to service providers.
 - Reminder – the Planning Team needs to have a discussion about re-entry for each client.
 - Concern was expressed regarding liability for staff who test positive. Some clients act out when they are upset and DSPs are at risk.
 - ACRC Community Specialists are reaching out to service providers to discuss short-term and long-term planning.
 - Mr. Decker shared that we have a portal that service providers should utilize when submitting their plans to ACRC.
 - All need to be aware that a client's circle of support will widen when day programs start re-opening.

- Service providers should start the conversations with their staff and see who might be interested in continuing to work with clients when there is greater risk. There is concern that our workforce will start to crumble because of the surge that is coming.
- Ms. Watilo suggested having meetings where it is more of a workgroup. We need to be able to compile all of the information that service providers have gathered along the way. The challenge that still exists is that DDS will still be issuing directives and guidance and this limits the planning that ACRC staff can do with providers.
 - Please send Mr. Decker ideas of how ACRC can assist in gathering information.
 - The SLS/Day Program Workgroup will reconvene when there is more information to share.
 - Mr. Ciampa will set-up a Google group where documents can be saved into a shared folder.

5. ***Legislative Update***

- No updates were shared.

6. ***PAC Priorities – Subcommittee Reports***

- No reports were shared.

7. ***Announcements/Comments***

- At the next meeting, the PAC will have a discussion about the “PAC Committee/Workgroup Volunteers” list.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, September 10, 2020**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet