

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 8, 2022  
Minutes

**Present:**

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,  
Inc., Chair  
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,  
Co-Chair & Design. Dir.  
James Astorga, F&A Astorga  
Care Home  
Garrett Broadbent, Creative  
Living Options  
Breeanne Burris, 24 Hour Home  
Care  
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP  
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point  
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult  
Development  
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,  
Inc.  
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare  
Services  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Janet Brandon\*, A.I.M. &  
Associates  
Andrea Croom\*, INALLIANCE  
Kate Halecky\*, Southside  
Unlimited  
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION  
Carole Watilo\*, Progressive  
Employment

**Visitors**

Adrian Andrade  
Steve Andrews  
Gregg Brandon  
Lia Brown  
Clarissa Fernandez  
Maureen Fitzgerald  
Sonya Fox-Watson  
Adriene Gaudet  
Priscilla Holmes  
Christa McClure  
Susan Miner  
Natasha Mosley-Simpkins  
Jen Roney  
Katherine Wallen  
Jen Wilson Marchino

**Staff:**

Lori Banales, Executive Director  
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Financial Officer  
John Decker, Director of Community  
Services  
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &  
Clinical Services  
Nicole Neilsen, Client Services  
Manager  
Carly Shearer, Client Employment  
Specialist  
Zach Horch, Executive Assistant

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2022, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Santa Day Planning; 2) Social Rec Discussion – Camp; 3) Board Update; 4) Executive Director’s Report; 5) How Can the PAC Support ACRC’s Strategic Plan?; 6) PAC Strategic Plan Discussion; 7) Hiring Collaborative Effort between ACRC & VMRC; 8) Service Code Policy Review; 9) ACRC Vendor Forum Updates;

10) System Reform and Legislative Update; 11) PAC Committees & Reports; and 12) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

**Without objection, Eric Ciampa made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of July 14, 2022 as submitted.**

**1. *Santa Day Planning***

- Ms. Neilsen shared that ACRC will be holding its annual Santa Day on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. This event will be in-person.
  - Ms. Dillard-Foss volunteered her husband to be the “Unicycling Elf”.

**2. *Social Rec Discussion***

- Ms. Wilson Marchino shared that Sacramento County Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS) had 45 individuals attend their camp in Aptos, which is south of Santa Cruz.
- Ms. Brown noted that UCP held three ADA accessible camps this year in Grizzly Creek Redwood State Park. They also provided transportation to and from the camps.

**3. *Board Update***

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the Board met on July 28<sup>th</sup> and recognized Rita Walker, who has stepped down from the Board.
- The Board will be holding their Retreat/Training on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, followed by the Board meeting beginning at 3 p.m.

**4. *Executive Director’s Report***

- ACRC is awaiting our D-1 allocation. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has reported that it will be received by the end of the week.
- Ms. Banales would like to work closely with this group in our agency’s efforts to secure employment opportunities for individuals served, one of the focus areas of ACRC’s Strategic Plan. There are several goals and objectives within this three-and-a-half-year plan to focus on so that clients can achieve employment and outcomes that support employment.
- She will be sharing the draft 2023 Performance Contract with this committee at the October meeting. Over the past few years, the PAC has provided suggestions and support to ACRC; Ms. Banales looks forward to collaborating again this year.
  - An email address has been set-up to gather input – [performancecontractfeedback@altaregional.org](mailto:performancecontractfeedback@altaregional.org).

5. ***How Can the PAC Support ACRC's Strategic Plan?***

- The PAC's subcommittees were charged with meeting during August so that members could discuss ways in which the PAC could support ACRC with its Strategic Plan.
  - The Self-Determination Program (SDP) was highlighted throughout the Strategic Plan. Providers would like to better understand how they fit into SDP.
  - Need to increase the number of service providers; a way to achieve this could be to post rates for each service code on ACRC's website.
    - Suggestion to host more vendor fairs focusing on outlying communities.

6. ***PAC Strategic Plan Discussion***

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the PAC had discussed drafting a Strategic Plan that ties into the focus areas and objectives of the ACRC Board approved Strategic Plan. At the time, the PAC decided to wait until after ACRC's Strategic Plan was finalized and approved.
  - Mr. Ciampa will compile a list of the current DDS funding initiatives and forward to Ms. Dillard-Foss and Ms. Banales in order to begin discussions on possible PAC focus areas.

7. ***Hiring Collaborative Effort between ACRC & VMRC***

- The group held an in-person meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> at Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) and has another one scheduled for Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at ACRC.

8. ***Service Code Policy Review***

- The purpose of this discussion is to make sure that service providers understand what is allowed or required of providers.
- Ms. Banales explained that the Purchase of Services (POS) Service Policies that are posted on ACRC's website are approved by the Board of Directors and the DDS and follow the law. She believes it might be beneficial for the PAC or Vendor Forums to review the service standards that work in tandem with the approved policies.

9. ***ACRC Vendor Forum Updates***

- ACRC has resumed their Vendor Forums. Ms. Dyba has an updated Excel spreadsheet and is requesting additional volunteers.
- Shared updates include:
  - Transportation Services – Mr. Ciampa noted that transportation providers received an 18% increase, but "per trip" rates are still below the median rate.
  - Independent Living Services (ILS) – Ms. Dillard-Foss remains concerned about the lack of rate increase for ILS providers; the

impact will be devastating to clients. She has met with the Department of Finance, as well as DDS, and believes it will take a huge push from the community to achieve a rate change. It appears that the state doesn't understand the difference between ILS and Supported Living Services (SLS) job requirements.

10. **System Reform and Legislative Update (ARCA, CDSA, CCLN, DS Taskforce, Lanterman Coalition)**

- CDSA
  - The group just held their annual policy meeting and discussed workforce issues (e.g., breaks, wages, etc.).
- CCLN
  - The group is focusing their efforts on housing.
- DS Taskforce & Workgroups
  - Ms. Ramirez shared that DDS posted quality measures and incentives and asked for service provider public input. The workgroup used those considerations when preparing the proposed measures.
    - You can review the proposed quality measure and incentives at: [ForQIPWorkgroupDiscussionMay2022.pdf \(ca.gov\)](#)

11. **PAC Committees & Reports**

- Communication & Outreach
  - Joy Scott has resigned from the PAC and Christa McClure has submitted her application to replace her.
    - Ms. McClure meets all of the requirements and will be invited to the October meeting so that the PAC can consider her for membership.

12. **Announcements/Comments**

- Per Adam Ruggles' email to the PAC this morning, he is resigning effective immediately from the PAC due to MedStar closing its doors by the end of the month.
- ACRC is holding a Vendor Fair tomorrow, September 9<sup>th</sup>, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. in the Brenda Smith Conference Room.
  - Mr. Decker shared that DDS was invited to attend. He also will be handing out flyers for the "Emergency Staffing Registry" with Columbus. ACRC remains hopeful that this registry will bring some relief to service providers.
- Please send any suggested agenda items for the October PAC meeting to Ms. Dyba.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, October 13, 2022**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Zach Horch  
Executive Assistant

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Lori Banales