

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, November 10, 2011  
Minutes

**Present:**

Gregory Buch, Ph.D., PALS,  
Chair  
Janet Brandon, AIM & Associates  
Christy Brawner, Maxim  
Healthcare  
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION  
Gerrit deGelleke, American River  
Speech  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP  
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.  
Dan Huffman, "My Friends"  
Pediatric Day Healthcare Center  
Susan Miner, Turning Point  
Dawn Montgomery, HOPE  
Consulting  
Lindie Moore Evans, MECUH  
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,  
Inc.  
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art  
Center  
Laura Trost, Choices Transitional  
Services

**Visitor:**

Tiffani Andrade  
Gregg Brandon  
Tanya Jordon  
Janet Penney  
Michelle Ramirez  
Lindsey Smith  
Joy Stern  
Paul Traglio

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Diana DeRodeff, INALLIANCE  
Eleni Gialoyrakes\*, Capital Social  
Services  
Tanya Hartle\*, UCP of Greater  
Sacramento, Inc.  
Michelle Payne, RCCA Services  
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Dianne Rose\*, Tri-County  
Caregiver Relief  
Will Sanford\*, Futures Explored  
Yvonne Soto\*, DDSO  
Kathie Wright\*, Easter Seals  
Superior CA

**Staff:**

Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating  
Officer  
Olivia Balcao, Director of Consumer  
Service Support  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:39 a.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2011, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) PAC Outreach Sub-Committee – nomination of new PAC members; 2) Regional Center's Comments; 3) Legislative Update; 4) Board Update; and 5) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

**M/S/C (Buch/Moore Evans) To approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of October 13, 2011.**

1. ***PAC Outreach Sub-Committee – nomination of new PAC members***

**Issue:** Sub-Committee would like to nominate two new members to the PAC.

**Discussion and Action:** Dr. Buch shared that the sub-committee met after the October PAC meeting and reviewed the applications on file. He noted that the committee currently has two openings. After reviewing the services matrix, the sub-committee would like to nominate the following as new members to this committee:

- Michelle Ramirez with On My Own, Inc.
- Carole Watilo with Progressive Employment

Ms. West emailed their applications to the committee members last month for review.

Ms. Ramirez provided a brief description of the services that On My Own provides to consumers. Ms. Watilo was not in attendance.

**M/S/C (Buch/Huffman) To nominate Michelle Ramirez for membership to the PAC.**

**M/S/C (Buch/Huffman) To nominate Carole Watilo for membership to the PAC. (one abstention)**

2. ***Regional Center's Directors Comments***

- Budget Update
  - Mr. Tiedemann shared that we don't know anymore than we did the last time that this committee met. If the "trigger" is pulled on December 15<sup>th</sup>, we do not know how it will affect regional centers. The law is written that the \$100 million cut would come out of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) system, which includes DDS, regional centers and developmental centers (DCs).
  - Mr. Tiedemann is currently working on the Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR), which is due to DDS on November 15<sup>th</sup>. It appears that ACRC will need additional Purchase of Services (POS) funding in the range of \$10 to \$12 million. He explained that DDS changed their methodology of allocation this FY. ACRC's initial allocation was significantly less this year than the last FY. Mr. Tiedemann believes more money will be

- allocated once all of the SOARs are submitted to DDS. ACRC's expenditure trends are consistent with last year.
- Ms. Dillard-Foss shared that even if the trigger is pulled, the legislature still needs to give direction on the cuts.
  - Mr. Tiedemann shared that it might also be possible that the cuts may come as *unallocated* reductions.
  - DDS has been able to work with the State's Finance Department to show the amount the regional center system has saved over the last few years and this could have an impact on the amount of the trigger. The department has talked with regional centers and told them that they have to be as accurate as possible when drafting their SOARs; this is not the time to inflate the numbers.
  - It is critical to make sure the legislature knows that our system cannot absorb any more cuts. Any time that providers can spend educating them is appreciated.
  - The law states that every provider is to be on the e-billing system by June 30, 2012. ACRC has been working with DDS to improve the system. If there are concerns with this billing system, please let Mr. Tiedemann know; he will make every effort in advocating for more improvements.
  - Many providers had questions about the vendor audits that are required under the trailer bill language. Mr. Tiedemann shared that this is in statute and the law requires it. Unless the law is changed, there is not much that ACRC can do. If the regional center needs to help facilitate finding auditors to assist in this process, please let us know.
    - Mr. Tiedemann suggested having ACRC hold a forum to assist providers in this process. We could bring in some auditors that providers have used in the past. Auditors could provide a brief presentation and then providers could then choose whether they would like to work with them. Mr. Tiedemann will work with Ms. Balcao on this.
    - Mr. Tiedemann clarified that ACRC would not be endorsing any auditors to perform these audits. Providers need to make sure they use auditors that have the knowledge of this field.
  - Provider Relief discussion
    - Ms. Balcao shared that some provider relief workgroups have met, but it was difficult with everyone's schedules. If you have any more suggestions, please forward them to her by November 30<sup>th</sup>.
    - Some providers requested that ACRC ask DDS if they would relax the staff to consumer ratios. The department has said no to this request. Providers can contact Denise Cartwright at (916) 654-2208 if they need more clarification on this matter.

- Ms. Balcao clarified that ACRC has some authority in this area. It is stated in the law that each regional center has the authority to provide relief to its providers ***as long as it does not affect consumer services.***
- Ms. Balcao shared that the Community Services & Supports Department (CSS) needs to review what CARF, Medicaid Waiver and other specific regulations require before we know if we can provide relief on some of these items. Making sure that every layer is looked at is critical before any relief can be enforced. She will forward the Medicaid Waiver requirements to all providers so that they are aware of what needs to stay in place.

3. ***Legislative Update***

- No update was shared.

4. ***Board Update***

- Dr. Buch shared that he did not attend the October Board meeting, but he has reviewed the minutes and the majority of the meeting was a discussion about the State budget.

5. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Dr. Buch would like to suggest a January agenda item entitled "Common Provider Concerns across Service Codes".
- Ms. Miner suggested having a small workgroup to discuss issues that are coming up with consumers who have a mental health diagnosis. A suggestion was made to possibly add a behavioral component to this discussion.
  - Ms. Balcao will follow-up with Ms. Miner on this.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, January 12, 2012**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet