

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 11, 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  
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION  
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP  
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.  
Joseph Hernandez, Premier  
Healthcare Services  
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,  
Inc.  
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Robin Rhoades, Southside  
Unlimited  
Will Sanford, Futures Explored,  
Inc.  
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver  
Relief  
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare  
Services  
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite  
Services  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Bonnie Douglas\*, Turning Point  
Jessica Knuth\*, Reach Adult  
Development  
Yvonne Soto\*, DDSO  
Paul Traglio\*, Capitol Autism  
Services

**Visitors:**

Madeline Brandon  
Josh Crampton  
Paul Crampton  
Lindsey Dyba  
Blake Ellis  
Sonya Fox-Watson  
Olivia Gomez  
Kate Halecky  
Stan Higgins  
Joe Jaquez  
Jennifer Marchant  
Susan Miner  
Agnes Ranit  
Adam Ruggles  
Colin Sainio  
Nicky Schlupe  
Stan Schmidt  
Jasmine Vollenweider

**Staff:**

Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating  
Officer  
Lori Banales, Director of Client  
Services  
John Decker, Manager of  
CPP/Forensics Unit  
Darline Dupree, Manager of  
Community Services  
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community  
Services  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:29 a.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2019, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Director's Report; 3) Rate Study Workgroup Follow-up; 4) Self-Determination Program; 5) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments; 6) PAC Priorities; 7) Legislative Update; and 8) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

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

### 1. **Board Update**

- Mr. Ciampa reminded those present that the Board and committee meetings are open to the public.
  - The Board began discussions about facilitation and what is needed to assist our client Board members.
  - At the March meeting, the group talked about the Department of Developmental Services (DDS') rate study, the new dental clinic, the old Community Placement Plan (CPP) funds and the new Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) funding.
  - Typically, the Board holds a September Retreat in one of ACRC's outlying areas. In May, the Board holds an annual training and this year it will be held at ACRC's new Roseville office. The Board will be discussing Strategic Planning.

### 2. **Director's Report**

- Mr. Tiedemann shared that ACRC has done some internal restructuring. Alfonso Carmona retired early this month, and Lori Banales is our Director of Client Services. We now have three Associate Client Services Directors (ADs) – Jennifer Bloom, Mechelle Johnson and Jason Lindo. As we continue to grow, our Client Services Managers (CSMs) will now report to the ADs, and the ADs will report to Lori Banales. The vision that we have is that our staff can go to anyone of the ADs and they will receive a consistent message on policy and procedures.
- There are four specific bills in legislature that ACRC is currently following.
  - AB 627 (Frazier) Developmental services: regional centers. If this becomes law, DDS would be required to identify regional centers that are in need of satellite office(s) in catchment areas where barriers to access may exist.
  - AB 812 (Frazier) Developmental services: Inspector General. This bill would create an Inspector General for DDS and regional centers. If this becomes law, this position would be appointed by the Governor.

- AB 813 (Frazier) Developmental services: alternative dispute resolution. This bill would create a dispute resolution counsel for DDS.
- SB 683 (Grove) Developmental services: regional centers. This bill would deem regional centers State agencies and the center would be under the Public Records Act. The centers would be required to provide data to the public in a machine readable format upon request.
- ACRC continues to seek new Board members. Mr. Tiedemann noted that the individual does not have to be a parent or a client of the regional center.
- Mr. Tiedemann expressed appreciation to Ms. Ramirez and Mr. Ciampa for their excellent job at facilitating the rate study workgroup at the end of March.

### 3. **Rate Study Workgroup Follow-up**

- Ms. Ramirez thanked all of the PAC members that stepped up to take the lead with the break-out workgroups. Mr. Ciampa was able to submit the suggested input to DDS by April 5<sup>th</sup>, along with attachments. There was collective understanding on several issues and some solid comments were collected.
  - Mr. Ciampa will forward what he submitted on the PAC's behalf to the group.
- Ms. Ramirez forwarded to the group the comments that the California Supported Living Network (CSLN) submitted to Burns & Associates.
  - Ms. Dillard-Foss connected with Drew Smith, a consultant from Oregon who works with providers. They discussed the competitive wage study, along with job descriptions. They also looked at suppressed wages.
  - The network reviewed Workers Compensation, administration costs and travel expenses. The rate study suggests that a great deal of system reform is needed in the state.
- A lot of the things don't fit into standard programs; California Disability Services Association (CDSA) addressed this in their proposal.
- Mr. Sanford believes it's important for providers to focus on the 8% increase for now. Everyone that is getting services today, will continue to need services and capacity is an issue. The implementation of the rate study will take some time.
- How do we respond to the legislature when we are asking for an 8% increase across the board and the rate study is suggesting that some services codes need a 14% decrease? The funding is one piece, but the methodology needs to be looked at too. There are a lot of things that can be implied by the rate study.

- The Legislative Analyst's Office is drafting a response to the rate study, as well. The hope is that it will be released prior to the May 9<sup>th</sup> hearing.
- With Ms. Dyba's efforts, the rally at the State Capitol and the summit at the Crest Theatre, as well as the film premier was a huge success. If we don't stop and listen to our direct service providers (DSPs), then we have a systematic failure.
  - Coming out of the summit, monthly calls and regional meetings will be scheduled.

#### 4. ***Self-Determination Program***

- Ms. Banales shared that while DDS has pulled the names of those that will participate in the pilot project, some of the chosen individuals have decided they are not ready.
- ACRC held an orientation for staff and managers, but they were frustrated because we do not have all the answers yet. We have identified the Service Coordinators (SCs) that will be working with these individuals. The SC will create the Person-Centered Plan, along with the Individual Program Plan (IPP). The Independent Facilitator can be part of the planning team, but funding this is an issue; regional centers have not been told which service code this will be billed under.
- ACRC is moving forward to get the participants through the orientation to see if they are still interested. The trainings will be in the communities where the individuals live. We will also be holding the orientation at the next Self-Determination Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- It seems like everything comes back to training/certification of the job developers, job coaches, independent facilitators, etc. The regional center still has a fiduciary obligation to make sure that our clients are getting the services and supports that they need. The federal government is paying for a part of this program so there will be rules attached to it, as well.
- The individuals who participate in SDP may choose not to utilize the services that they currently receive from ACRC service providers. As a provider community there is a fear that SDP will take staff away from service providers and a concern that providers are not being invited to participate in developing services for SDP participants. Providers should take the lead and look for opportunities to develop services, outside of the norm, for SDP participants. Individuals will need to have choice and control, as well as options.
- Financial Management Services (FMS) providers will be re-vendorized across the state; there are three new services codes for SDP. Regional centers pay service providers in a timely manner, but it will be at the discretion of the FMS as to when they pay their "providers" under SDP.

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

- An updated list was distributed for review.
  - Will Sanford volunteered to present the PAC's portion at the upcoming July 11<sup>th</sup> Vendor Orientation, from 3:05 to 3:20 p.m.

## 6. **PAC Priorities**

- Communications
  - The workgroup will work with ACRC to send this letter out annually, possibly January, before the legislative sessions and budget cycle begins.
- ILS
  - Independent Living Services (ILS) providers who plan on transporting clients must complete an addendum to their current contract with the regional center.
  - Statewide, the ILS provider community is starting up a subcommittee with CSLN. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Ramirez and Ms. Dillard-Foss.
  - The CSLN is holding their Annual Leadership Conference in San Diego next week. The keynote speaker is Laura Larson, the Executive Director of Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC).
- Vendor Relations
  - The group met on March 26<sup>th</sup>. They will report back to this committee at the next PAC meeting and then the information will be shared with ACRC's Board of Directors.
  - Two questions that providers asked:
    - What are the reasons for a separate Request for Proposal (RFP) process versus the vendorization process? *Regional centers want to target what services are truly needed. Having the process standardized makes it an even playing field.*
    - What is the most common reason for denying a vendorization request? *People do not qualify.*

## 7. **Legislative Update**

- A "Legislation Update – April 2019" was distributed for review.
  - Assembly member Frazier is currently proposing ten bills. There are concerns about some and Frazier is the identified champion for regional centers in the Assembly.
  - Most of the bills on the list are on the Human Services side; the ones highlighted in yellow have moved out of Human Services and now are in the Appropriations Committee.
- Once the May Revise is released, more hearings will be scheduled.

- The Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 Hearing on May 9<sup>th</sup> is strictly on the rate study proposal.

8. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Ms. Watilo shared that there are several Person-Centered Thinking Trainings coming up; interested individuals can register online.
  - The hope is that not just our organizations get trained, but as many as possible.
  - Great feedback from those that have attended.
  - The goal is to develop this regions capacity for change.
- On June 21<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Brubaker will be stepping down as the Executive Director of Elk Grove Adult Community Training (EGACT); she will continue to work part-time at the program. Joe Jaquez has been named the new Executive Director.
- In June, the group will revisit the PAC's Goals for the upcoming fiscal year (FY), receive an update on ACRC's cultural diversity efforts, and continue discussing the rate study.

*\*\* A request was made to limit the sidebar conversations so that everyone can hear what is being discussed at these meetings. \*\**

**The May 9<sup>th</sup> PAC meeting will be cancelled and members will be encouraged to attend the Senate Hearing at the State Capitol on the rate study.**

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, June 13, 2019**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet