

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 13, 2019
Minutes

Present:

Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Chair
Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Joseph Hernandez, Premier
Healthcare Services
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Robin Rhoades, Southside
Unlimited
Will Sanford, Futures Explored,
Inc.
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

James Astorga, F&A Astorga Care
Home
Janet Brandon*, AIM &
Associates
Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio*, Capitol Autism
Services

Visitors:

Garrett Broadbent
Blake Ellis
Sonya Fox-Watson
Kate Halecky
Lynn Heitner
Joli Hernandez
Stan Higgins
Priscilla Holmes
Reina Hudson
Joe Jaquez
Marta Kachadoman
Hal Kirklin
Justin LeBlanc
Alison Lugo
Fred Patawaran
Lou Patawaran
Shelby Penman
Lisa Peterson
Todd Ruggles
Collin Sainio
Nicky Schlupe
Stan Schmidt
Maihli Vang
Jasmine Vollenweider

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Lori Banales, Director of Client
Services
John Decker, Manager of
CPP/Forensics Unit
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community Services
Helen Neri, Cultural Diversity
Specialist
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2019, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) ACRC's Cultural Diversity Efforts; 4) Rate Study Discussion; 5) Legislative Update; 6) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments; 7) PAC's Goals for the 2019-20 FY; 8) PAC Priorities – Subcommittee Reports; and 9) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of April 11, 2019 as submitted.

1. Board Update

- Mr. Ciampa attended the last Board meeting/training which was held on Thursday, May 23rd, at ACRC's Roseville office
 - Training focused on succession planning as a regional center system and Board of Directors. The Board contracted with Ami Sullivan, who talked about performance improvement and sustainability. She stressed how we all should be looking towards the future. We must make sure that our Board is strong.
 - The Board's Annual September Retreat will be in an outlying community – Placerville.
 - We are still recruiting for new Board members.
 - Special thanks to Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Brandon and Ms. Dillard-Foss who came to the Board meeting and presented a plaque and gift to Pete Tiedemann.

2. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Bonnet hired Pete Tiedemann shortly after he started his tenure here at ACRC. There were a lot of concerns at that time and bringing him on as a partner was his best hiring decision. Mr. Tiedemann was moved with this committee's generous donation to *Habitat for Humanity*. He will be missed, but he has helped set us up for success for a long time to come.
- Several years ago, Mr. Tiedemann took on the oversight of ACRC's Community Services Department. Mr. Bonnet is in the midst of recruitment for a Director of Community Services; perhaps at our next meeting, he will be able to introduce them to this group.
- There have been a lot of stories in the media about disparities in services and the need for more transparency. There are many trailer bills that will govern our service system.
- Mr. Bonnet shared a video clip about cases of abuse statewide. It's important that service providers can have competitive wages so that we have quality services available for our clients. Ongoing training is

needed. Finding a place to live is most important. Advocacy versus care – it's a strange dynamic. Oversight is not the solution; we need to change the dynamic. Regional centers are now 600 service coordinators (SCs) understaffed statewide. The underfunding of the overall service system needs to be looked at. There are a lot of elements to what we do. Licensing is involved in many services that are provided to clients. Choice is a huge factor in providing services to clients, as well as satisfaction with those services.

- Mr. Bonnet attended the NASDDDS 2019 Mid-Year Conference last week in Seattle, WA. The purpose of this conference was to learn about the emerging technology that will support individuals with developmental disabilities. There are some amazing new ideas out there; some states have pushed for the use of technology (California is not one of them). He anticipates that we will be hearing more about this opportunity that could possibly save money and support our service providers, staff and clients.

3. **ACRC's Cultural Diversity Efforts**

- Ms. Banales introduced Helen Neri, ACRC's Cultural Diversity Specialist, whose job is to enhance access to services and provide training opportunities for staff and families.
- For the 2018-19 fiscal year (FY), ACRC was awarded two grants; one of which was to enhance respite services and the other was to conduct workshops for ACRC staff, service providers and families.
 - ACRC conducted focus groups and invited UCP & Tri-County Caregiver Relief (the community-based organizations [CBOs] awarded grants alongside ACRC), with the purpose of collecting data – what are family's desires and needs, along with understanding their ethnic preferences and challenges/barriers that they may face.
 - ACRC and the CBOs then meet and plan together.
- ACRC will be conducting seven workshops for clients/families.
 - One training is to help families plan for a child's status as a legal adult – there are a lot of things that families need to prepare for once an individual turns 18 years old.
 - ACRC has contracted with a Professor from Sac State to conduct workshops about supporting clients in the home, understanding Individual Education Plans (IEPs), etc.
- Ms. Banales shared that the Public Counsel recently released a report entitled "Addressing Funding Disparities in Services for Children with Developmental Disabilities". ACRC has the least amount of variances across populations because of the engagement that Ms. Neri is providing to our clients and families.

- Ms. Neri requested suggestions for topics of workshops from service providers and their staff. Please contact her at (916) 978-6621 or email at hneri@altaregional.org.

4. **Rate Study Discussion**

- When the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') rate study came out in March, it proposed increases to some service providers, while others had suggested decreases. Many service providers attended the Senate Hearing downtown in May 9th.
 - The two major topics of discussion was the ABX2-1 restoration and using the term "suspension", instead of "sunset" dates.
 - As of January 1st, most providers that were included in the rate study will get up to an 8.2% rate increase, for two years. The bridge funding went into effect on May 1st. There may be trailer bill language that will speak to how the legislature will implement the rate study over the next four years.
 - The Uniform Holiday Schedule is suspended; it could return in January 2022.
 - Social/recreational services were not restored.
 - The legislature did not remove the half/full day billing requirement for certain services.

5. **Legislative Update**

- Mr. Sanford shared that if a proposed bill has not moved to the second house by now, it is probably dead.
- Regional center oversight was rolled over to trailer bill language (AB81).
- SB412 (Stone) – Developmental services: fees. This bill would repeal the cost participation fees for families and has had unanimous approval.
- HR3070 – this bill would increase employment and employment training for youth with developmental disabilities. The federal government is requesting input on using sub-minimum wage certificates.
 - Ms. Watilo will send information to Ms. West for distribution.

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

- An updated list was distributed for review.
 - The Environmental Accessibility Vendor Forum was held on May 23rd.
 - ACRC staff worked with a small group of vendors; the forum went well.
 - The Residential Vendor Forum was held on June 3rd.

- Service providers attended a Behavior Training where they could earn CEUs.
- The Specialized OT/PT Vendor Forum was held on May 1st.
 - ACRC staff met with three vendors and had a good discussion on implementing services.

7. PAC's Goals for the 2019-20 FY

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the committee met after the February PAC meeting to discuss what we wanted to focus on in the next FY. She reviewed the proposed goals with those present.
- A suggestion was made to share positive stories. Good news can be shared through social media.
 - It would be appreciated if providers could make an effort to share inspirational stories. This committee will revisit this topic at an upcoming meeting.
 - The Communications subcommittee will also discuss this further.
- Ms. Ramirez took the PAC's draft housing database and wrote a grant to seek funding for the idea; she awaits a response.
- The Training subcommittee will start building a resource list. We need to build the Direct Service Provider (DSP) workforce and develop the next level of leadership. Suggestion to utilize a blended model – both technology and personal touch.
 - Mr. Pinto will email PAC members seeking input on identifying categories for staff training.
- ACRC plans on holding various vendor fairs throughout the year.
 - Ms. Ramirez will make the necessary revisions and bring it back to the PAC for approval.

8. PAC Priorities – Subcommittee Reports

- Communications
 - ACRC staff will send out the approved letter about the PAC on Tuesday, June 18th.
 - Ms. West will post the legislative report to the PAC's web page.
- Vendor Relations
 - The subcommittee will meet after today's PAC meeting to make the final revisions.
 - Ms. Rhoades will report back to this committee at the July PAC meeting and then the information will be shared with ACRC's Board of Directors.

9. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Starting June 1st, individuals who collect SSI are eligible for CalFresh. ACRC is reviewing the regulations to see how our clients might be affected, since this could possibly be a few hundred dollars per month.
 - It is not an easy process to go through, but it is certainly worth the effort.
 - DDS will be partnering with the Department of Social Services to assist regional centers with trainings for the onboarding process for clients.
- Ms. Watilo shared that there are open slots still available for the upcoming Person Centered Thinking Trainings in June. You can sign up at www.bookwhen.com/pct28.
- The group wanted to honor Ms. Brubaker for her years of service. On behalf of the PAC, Ms. Ramirez presented her with a plaque and a gift certificate to her favorite restaurant.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, July 11, 2019**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet