

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 10, 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
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Joseph Hernandez, Premier
Healthcare Services
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Will Sanford, Futures Explored,
Inc.
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Visitors:

Geraldine Czako
Lindsey Dyba
Adriene Gaudet
Kate Halecky
Maureen Fitzgerald
Joe Jaquez
Jennifer Marchant
Marie McConnell
Susan Minor
Fred Patawaran
Lou Patawaran
Agnes Ranit
Stan Schmidt
Maihli Vang

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Lori Banales, Director of Children &
Adolescent Services
Alfonso Carmona, Director of Adult &
Residential Services
John Decker, Manager of
CPP/Forensics Unit
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

Absent: (* excused)

Janet Brandon*, AIM &
Associates
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Robin Rhoades*, Southside Art
Center
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio*, Capitol Autism
Services

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:31 a.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2019, in the Redwood Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments; 4) PAC Priorities; 5) Provider Presentations; 6) Legislative Update; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 8, 2018 as submitted.

1. ***Board Update***

- Mr. Ciampa attended the last Board meeting which was held on Thursday, November 15th.
 - Last year, the Board voted to hold full Board meetings every other month.
 - The group voted on a new Board member from Nevada County.
 - They continue to recruit and review applications.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 24th.

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

- Mr. Bonnet shared that while the Board is meeting less frequently, their job and discussions remain critically important. Board members are volunteers. There is a thorough review when they look at applicants. While we may not have a representative from every county, the entire Board represents all ten counties that ACRC serves.
 - If you have anyone that may be interested in volunteering, please contact him or Ms. West. Information is also posted on our agency's website.
- ACRC will be hosting a booth at the annual 2019 MLK365 Diversity Expo at the Sacramento Convention Center on Monday, January 21st, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ACRC's Community Services Department is currently hosting a Vendor Orientation across the hall, where approximately 75 new providers are gathering information about this process.
- Governor Newsom's budget will be released in about an hour. He has stated that he plans to focus on housing, health care, education and forest management, as well as supporting the disabled community.
 - Mr. Bonnet had the opportunity to attend a fundraiser that the Governor held at the Golden 1 Center on Sunday to assist those individuals affected by the Camp Fire.
- ACRC is concerned about long-term funding. With our collective efforts for our service system, along with the new Governor's promise to assist people with disabilities, our statewide system may have a good year.

- The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is keeping a close eye on the individuals that moved out of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). Mr. Bonnet wants to make sure that all of our clients are well served, but he understands the department's concern. Canyon Springs in Fresno and the Secure Treatment Program (STP) at Porterville DC will remain open.
- The Self-Determination Program (SDP) is keeping DDS busy. ACRC held an advisory committee meeting yesterday where individuals that were chosen to participate in the initial three-year rollout came to learn more about this new opportunity. On Tuesday, ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met and Mr. Bonnet asked members what they would purchase if they were part of this program. Most shared that they would be interested in camp or other recreational services. Then the group discussed if those choices would even be possible since certain camps may be considered segregated.
- DDS has contacted all of the regional centers to let them know what the Office of the Attorney General will be looking for when they audit the Special Incident Reports (SIRs). The typical timelines that regional centers had have now been heightened significantly (shorter timelines).
 - It was noted that FiveThirtyEight published an article entitled "*Is California Failing Its Most Vulnerable Adults*" in December. This article references ongoing issues with SIRs.
- Mr. Bonnet understands and supports providers' concerns about retaining quality staff to help provider services to our most vulnerable clients.

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

- An updated list was distributed for review.

4. **PAC Priorities**

- Independent Living Services (ILS)
 - Because of the recent discussions surrounding ILS and transportation, a group was formed to discuss any issues.
 - They have met three times to consolidate their thoughts so that when they meet with regional center staff they are on the same page.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss noted that the California Supported Living Network (CSLN) sent out a survey about the transportation issue and found that 87% of providers provide transportation. The subcommittee will discuss with ACRC in February.
- Training Workgroup Discussion
 - At our last PAC meeting, we pulled up an ongoing list. Ms. Ramirez requested that committee members continue to send training information to her.

- Upcoming trainings include:
 - Person Centered Thinking Trainings in February
 - Social Security Training (possibly use STEP venue)
 - STEP is hosting CalABLE & Medi-Cal Trainings
- Vendor Relations
 - This workgroup met twice since November and at the last meeting, the group developed two goals to focus on this year: collaborate on the development of innovative programming and vendor relations. The key to success is making sure that providers are well-informed and communication is kept open.
 - A number of providers work with more than one regional center and each center does things differently.
 - A suggestion was made to possibly have Communication Training, so that both providers and ACRC staff would learn to look at things from the others perspective.
 - Subcommittee members will revise the questions that they have developed and will send them to ACRC staff for review prior to their next meeting in February. The workgroup will report back to the PAC in March.
 - Mr. Ciampa believes that PAC members can help build a stronger provider community if they add items to vendor forum agendas. These meetings provide you with an opportunity to speak up about issues that you are experiencing; others probably are experiencing them too.
 - If you have any items that you would like this workgroup to address, please let a member know.
- Communications
 - This group needs ideas on how to get information out.
 - Possibly send a legislative brief twice a year to providers to keep them informed.
 - Suggestion to send PAC information to all providers on a yearly basis to remind them that we are here.
- Outreach
 - Andrea Croom, the new Executive Director of INALLIANCE, has sent in her application for membership. She has met the requirements and will be invited to present at the February meeting.

5. **Provider Presentations**

- The PAC will have two members share information about their agencies at each meeting.

- Joy Scott, with Tri-County Caregiver Relief
 - The agency has been in business since 1981; serving Colusa, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo & Yuba Counties.
 - They provide relief for the caregivers of ACRC's clients.
 - They are always recruiting respite workers.
- Laleh Sharpe, with Maxim Healthcare Services
 - They just celebrated their 30 year anniversary; she has been with the agency for ten years.
 - The agency provides Employer of Record (EOR) respite, agency respite and homemaker services.
 - Their homemaker program varies from providing personal care to transportation, if needed. It's important to note that this is a transitional service.
 - They are also recruiting respite workers.

6. **Legislative Update**

- As Mr. Bonnet mentioned, the Governor will be releasing his budget soon. The assumption is that it will be last year's budget with growth.
 - California's Health & Human Services Agency's Mike Wilkening is hosting a conference call and will review items that affect this department (1-800-230-1074).
 - DDS will be posting a summary of the budget on their website. This will include the ever-shrinking developmental centers budget. Focus should be on the executive summary.
- UCP just released their annual "Case for Inclusion" report which uses data to determine how well programs in all 50 states are serving residents. California is ranked 9th in large part because the report assumes California does not have a waiting list, which is technically true of the regional center system. UCP believes this does not accurately represent client access to provider services. The report can be found at <http://www.caseforinclusion.org/>.
- Burns & Associates held a public meeting in December and released a summary of their rate study. Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) in the State of California make between \$12 and \$14 an hour. However, respite workers have the opportunity to secure a job that pays over \$17 per hour.
- The market rate survey that Kevin Rath is conducting covers In-Home Respite, Independent Living Services (ILS), Supported Living Services (SLS), Supported Employment and Personal Attendant Services (PA). The group met with the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) several times. This survey will compile data to assist with setting competitive rates for service providers. Input needs to continue to come in so that the legislators have something to base their decisions on.

- 5,000 have completed the survey so far; a report is being compiled.
- A small group of people are pushing for an 8% raise for the DSPs across the state and it is gaining momentum.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss encouraged providers to show up at the State Capitol so that the new Governor sees our faces.
 - 50% of providers rely on fundraising to make payroll.
 - 67% of providers in the state are downsizing.
- The California DSP Workforce Committee is hosting a Summit on Tuesday & Wednesday, April 2nd & 3rd, at the Crest Theatre. This summit is an opportunity for providers to take action. The goal is to do a lot of grassroots advocacy in local communities across the state – share the value of DSPs. The group will discuss how agencies can better support DSPs and show them that they are valued. A rally will be held on the west steps of the State Capitol on April 3rd at 10 a.m. Please place this on your calendars and plan to attend. They hope that 500 people will show up and have our local legislators take notice. “Nothing About Us, Without Us” applies to our DSPs too, not just the individuals that we serve.
- The new tag line for the Lanterman Coalition is “Our Presence is Our Power”.

7. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Mr. Decker shared that the Community Placement Development Plans should be released by DDS today. He has heard that they plan on funding everything that ACRC has asked for. ACRC staff will need to release Request for Proposals (RFPs), hold the orientation and choose the providers quickly.
- Ms. Banales shared that DDS has informed regional centers that the Diversity Inclusion Grants should be released soon. Initially they were to come out on November 30th, then December 31st, and on Monday she received an email that the department needed clarification on something so we know that staff are currently reviewing them.
- In February, the PAC meeting will finish early, so that committee members can stay behind and discuss the committee’s goals.
- The February agenda will include provider presentations from Yvonne Soto and Peter Stirling.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, February 14, 2019**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet