

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 11, 2018
Minutes

Present:

Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Chair
Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Board Members:

Austin Taylor

Absent: (* excused)

Sandy Bishop*, INALLIANCE
Becky Brubaker*, EGACT
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Will Sanford*, Futures Explored
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services

Visitors:

James Astorga
Andrea Croom
Lindsey Dyba
Maureen Fitzgerald
Kate Halecky
Joseph Hernandez
Aaron Kowalski
Jennifer Marchant
Fred Patawaran
Lou Patawaran
Nicky Schlupe
Sean Stone
Patti Uplinger

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Alfonso Carmona, Director of Adult &
Residential Services
John Decker, Manager of
CPP/Forensics Unit
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:36 a.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2018, in the Redwood Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments; 3) ACRC RFP Update/Community Needs; 4) Outreach Committee; 5) PAC Priorities; 6) Provider Presentations; 7) Legislative

Update; 8) Board Update; 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 November 9, 2017 as submitted.

1. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC will be participating in the *2018 March for the Dream Diversity Expo* at the Sacramento Convention Center on Monday January 15th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thousands of individuals who are deeply involved in our community come out to this annual event. This is part of ACRC's larger outreach efforts.
- Yesterday, Governor Brown released his proposed budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year (FY). There are no massive cuts which is encouraging. The number of clients in our state is growing rapidly; ACRC grows by about 1,000 clients per year. The expectations of both the federal and State governments are changing. The biggest challenge that our regional center system is facing is to be responsive to the needs of these individuals. We need more options to offer them, so that the services they receive are meaningful and help them reach their life goals.
 - The proposed budget includes the re-implementation of the 14-day uniform holiday schedule. Mr. Bonnet believes there will be more conversations about this and the impact that it will have on the clients that we serve. Comments from PAC members include:
 - California is supposed to be the leader in inclusion and encourage employment.
 - How does this benefit client's choice and integration into natural settings or competitive work environments? This is a major concern of providers.
 - Providers could make the argument to the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) – the budget issue is minor compared to how this will affect our clients.
 - A net increase of \$368 million is coming into our statewide service system; most of the funding is due to growth. Also, there is additional funding going towards moving individuals out of the developmental centers (DCs).
- After yesterday's successful placement, ACRC has 15 individuals residing at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). The plan is to have everyone moved out by the end of April.
 - Mr. Decker expressed appreciation to all the service providers who have been assisting with this process.

- In our efforts to become a more culturally competent organization, Dr. Paul Porter will be coming to our agency to work with Mr. Bonnet's leadership team later this month. Money has been released by the state to do more training for service providers. Mr. Bonnet believes it might be beneficial to have this group preview a presentation and, if it goes well, schedule a training for other service providers later in the year.
 - Those present support this idea. Mr. Ciampa will work with ACRC staff and have a proposal at the next meeting for a possible training on March 8th.

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

- An updated list was distributed for review.
 - The Ad-Hoc Committee Workgroup met on December 5th and reviewed the Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) proposals that had been submitted to the regional center; ACRC received 14 proposals.

3. **ACRC RFP Update/Community Needs**

- ACRC currently has several Requests for Proposals (RFPs) posted on our agency's website; they will remain open until filled. They include:
 - Adult Development Center (Day Program)
 - Behavior Management Day Program
 - Early Intervention (EI) Therapies
 - In-Home Day Program
 - Psychologists
 - Residential Services
 - Respite Services
- ACRC staff have been completing the needs assessments and Community Services Specialists are compiling the data. The information will first be taken back to the individual units to discuss further with Service Coordinators (SCs) and then Ms. Dupree will share the data with this committee.
- Mr. Decker shared that ACRC just closed a RFP for staffing a four-bed stepdown home. Four providers showed an interest in this project. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) awarded the RFP this year, but will be funding the project next year.
- ACRC awarded an RFP for an Enhanced Behavior Supports Home for Children. Mr. Decker will encourage the provider to start attending the PAC meetings; they are coming from the San Diego area.
- ACRC also awarded an RFP for a competency trainer, who will assist in moving cases further through the criminal justice system.
- All of the homes will be open within the next month for the closure of SDC.

4. **Outreach Committee**

- During the winter break, the Outreach Committee had a conference call to review applications. As discussed at previous meetings, if at any time the committee believes an applicant meets the requirements of PAC membership (e.g., attended at least seven out of ten meetings, completed an application and met the grid), then the committee would make a recommendation to the PAC for membership.
- At this time, the Outreach Committee would like to recommend James Astorga, with Astorga Care Homes, and Joseph Hernandez, with Premier Healthcare Services.
 - These two individuals will be asked to bring information about their agencies to the February meeting in order to be considered for membership.
- Existing PAC members should follow the attendance policy, as well.

5. **PAC Priorities**

- Housing
 - Patti Uplinger, the Executive Director of Housing Now, shared that housing remains a serious situation across the state. We need to figure out how to meet the needs of the clients that ACRC serves. Clients in Independent Living Services (ILS) and Supported Living Services (SLS) need options. Many clients are losing their vouchers and/or losing their homes.
 - More and more apartment complexes are upgrading and then raising their rents, so that it's not within our client's reach.
 - Safe and decent housing options are not easily available to clients with housing vouchers. Ms. Uplinger encourages anyone that has a housing issue to contact the Mayor's office or the County Board of Supervisors to keep this issue on the forefront of everyone's mind.
 - As she shared at the last meeting, the Lanterman Housing Alliance received funding to develop a strategic housing framework plan. The survey will be sent to each regional center later this month. They would like to make sure they are inclusive in their research. The group will be reviewing a draft of the plan when they meet at ACRC in April. The final product should be completed by December.
 - For two weeks, beginning on Tuesday, January 16th, individuals will be able to sign up for a chance to rent an affordable housing unit in Sacramento County. 7,000 applicants will be placed on the wait list for housing choice vouchers, formerly known as Section 8.

- California is participating in *Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing* until 2020. Assessments will be completed to examine housing patterns and look for discrimination. We must make sure that federal funding continues to come into the State.
- Ms. Uplinger is working with the Sacramento News & Review and the State Council. The group is meeting next week to draft an eight page insert that will go into the paper to help spread the word about issues that individuals with developmental disabilities face every day.
- If anyone needs assistance, the contact the Sacramento/West Sacramento Renters Helpline at (916) 389-7877.
- Roommate Database
 - Andrea Croom and Jacquie Dillard-Foss volunteered to join Janet Brandon, Eric Ciampa and Michelle Ramirez in this workgroup.
- Vendor/Service Code Survey
 - Ms. Ramirez reminded committee members to complete their vendor/service code survey that Ms. West has sent out to everyone.
- Next Priorities
 - This committee would like to support ACRC's Community Services and Supports (CSS) Department. We know data will be shared soon regarding their Strategic Plan and the needs assessment that staff have been working on.
 - Members have shared concerns regarding the lengthy vendorization and addendum process that providers need to go through in order to serve ACRC's clients.
 - Ms. Dupree suggested having members complete a specific survey on this topic to gather additional information. It would be helpful to staff if the committee could highlight their concerns and also share what is working.
 - Some areas may be able to be streamlined.
 - This committee would like to look at possible ideas/solutions/collaborations.
 - Volunteers to participate in a conference call regarding this include: Bonnie Douglas, Lindsey Dyba, Michelle Ramirez, Robin Rhoades, Yvonne Soto and Carole Watilo
 - Innovation in this service system is sometimes difficult because of the regulations and laws that must be followed.

6. **Provider Presentation**

- The PAC will have two members share information about their agencies at each meeting.
 - Bonnie Douglas, with Turning Point

- Turning Point has been providing mental health services in Sacramento since 1976.
- Transitional Support Services (TSS) began in 1995 to assist adult clients challenged with co-occurring psychiatric disorders and developmental disabilities.
- Turning Point has offices in Solano County and Chico, as well as Sacramento, and they provide full wrap-around services (30 hrs/mth), half wrap (15 hrs/mth) and quarterly wrap. Services are tailored to fit the individual's needs and are available 24/7.
- They have drop-in centers for those individuals who may need a break from their home life or if they become lonely.
- Turning Point has a nurse that oversees all of the medications that come in from the pharmacies.
- Turning Point has four psychiatric providers that have been with the agency for a long time and understand the developmental disability component. This service is available to non-verbal individuals, as well.
- Group meetings are held a few days a week. They utilize the Connections curriculum to assist with intellectual disability and mental health (anger management, medication education, etc.).
- ILS services are available; each client has a personal SC to help support them with their goals and medication management
- Turning Point can also assist with finding housing.
- Ed Doonan, with LIFE, Inc.
 - LIFE is a representative payee organization that assists individuals with their money. They provide this service to approximately 1,000 regional center clients.
 - They will be hosting an "Agency Open House" next Wednesday, January 17th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at their office in Rancho Cordova. Everyone is invited to stop by.

7. Legislative Update

- Statewide Self-Determination Workgroup Conference Call on Friday, January 5th.
 - DDS spoke with CMS on Thursday, January 4th, where they discussed a plan to get California back on the 90-day clock.
 - Crisis services will be taken out.
 - The use of mobile crisis units will be allowed, because the individual would still be in their own home.
 - Conferences will be taken out, while individualized trainings will remain.

- The federal government requested more information about how the financial piece would be handled and who would be completing the needs assessments (cannot be just the providers).
 - Weekly calls until the waiver is re-submitted. Next full-day meeting is scheduled for the week of January 29th in Sacramento.
- The Workers Compensation Ratings Bureau has been reviewing the 8868 code and had indicated that a cost increase is coming. When they looked at the modification rates, adult day programs were running at 248%. Providers need to advocate at the DDS level. On the phone call, they said “you will have a cost increase”. The anticipated rate adjustment will go into effect in 2019. Regional centers have ILS providers and adult day programs that may be blindsided by this classification change; their mod rate will go down. Ms. Dillard-Foss remains concerned – the mod rate for developmentally disabled children is much higher than developmentally disabled adult. This change will also affect parent vendors for SLS. If you are classified as an 8868, please be aware how they define the duties of your code. This also applies to the 8827 (Homemaker Services) code.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss will be attending a meeting on Wednesday, February 14th, to gather more information about this issue.
- UCP recently attended a meeting at DDS regarding the Health and Safety Waiver. They provided some data that they have collected over the last few years, and also discussed minimum wage. The department clarified that in the past, when DDS approved health and safety requests due to local minimum wage, they did this in error. Mr. Ciampa believes this explains some of the issues with their denials over the last few years. The group talked about the efforts that the regional centers and providers go through before the waivers are sent to the department. DDS will be reporting to the legislature this spring; they want to capture better data. The hope is to streamline communication and collaboration during this process. DDS would like it to be more inclusive from the provider’s perspective. The group discussed revising some of the language in the waiver. ACRC has requested possibly getting a “soft date” from DDS so that staff can keep the provider informed during the process.

8. **Board Update**

- Mr. Ciampa attended the last Board meeting which was held on Thursday, November 16th.
 - The Board discussed and approved the 2018 Performance Contract with DDS.

- The Board Development Committee (BDC) continues to review ACRC's bylaws.
- The Board will continue to discuss ACRC's Respite Policy for possible revision.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 25th.

9. ***Announcements/Comments***

- The California Supported Living Network (CSLN) will be holding its 18th Annual Leadership Conference on April 12th & 13th at Paradise Point Resort & Spa in San Diego. Ms. Dillard-Foss shared that there will be a presentation about the "tool box".
- The February PAC agenda will include:
 - March 8th – Cultural Competency Training with Dr. Porter
 - More information about Worker's Comp rates
 - Provider presentations – Jacquie Dillard-Foss and Sergio Pinto

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, February 8, 2018**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet