

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 2017
Minutes

Present:

Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Chair
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates, Co-Chair & Design.
Dir.
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
Will Sanford, Futures Explored
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Becky Brubaker*, EGACT
Gerrit deGelleke, American River
Speech
Dawn Montgomery, HOPE
Consulting
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio*, Capitol Autism
Services

Visitors:

Andrea Croom
Alice Fisher
Kate Halecky
Joseph Hernandez
Joe Jaquez
Nicky Schlupe
Stan Schmidt
Sean Stone

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community Services
Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating
Officer
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:32 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2017, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Vendor Forum Update; 3) ACRC RFP Update; 4) Sub-Committee Updates; 5) Updates; 6) Legislative Update; 7) Board Update; and 8) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Eric Ciampa made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 10, 2016 as submitted.

1. *Executive Director's Report*

- A few days have passed since Governor Brown released his proposed 2017-18 fiscal year's (FY's) budget for the State of California. Mr. Bonnet shared that the proposal includes some additional funding for our ever increasing number of clients across the state; ACRC will possibly have 1,000 new clients this FY. With the increasing population, there is a need for the expansion of services so that regional centers can offer choices to the clients that they serve. It doesn't appear that the budget will include funding for median rate increases and start-up funds. Currently, start-up funds are specifically for regional center's Community Placement Plans (CPPs). Mr. Bonnet remains thankful for the additional funding that our statewide system received this year for staff wages.
 - The additional funding helped some providers bring in new staff, but they remain cautious as they look towards 2018.
 - Incentive payments for supported employment remain in the budget.
 - The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has said that after the developmental centers are closed, the start-up funding will remain in the budget for community development.
- ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) decided on Tuesday to make one last trip to Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) on Tuesday, May 9th. Providers are welcome to join them.
- Mr. Tiedemann shared that ACRC received 149 applications from providers in regards to the \$15 million Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) Transition Funding that were forwarded to the DDS at the beginning of October. The department has since put the responsibility of approval on the regional centers. ACRC's requests total \$15.9 million. Regional centers have asked for direction/criteria from DDS in order to make informed decisions and allow for consistency throughout the state.
- Under current law and regulation, all regional center providers of client services must complete a DS1891 Medicaid Integrity form. ACRC staff have sent out several emails in order to gather information to place into our system. If you haven't already completed this, please do so.
 - It would be helpful if members of this committee could assist in getting the word out to other providers.
- Information regarding the minimum wage increase effective January 1, 2017 has been posted on ACRC's and DDS' website. If you have a

negotiated rate, please get your information into ACRC so that we can adjust your rate.

- Mr. Bonnet believes that people across the state are finally acknowledging that the DCs will be closing soon. We have come a long way in this last year. The funding mechanisms to buy homes are complex, but thankfully Sacramento has an affordable market.
 - So far, 14 clients from the Bay Area have transferred to our catchment area to move out of SDC.
- ACRC will be staffing an information booth at the MLK365 Diversity Expo at the Sacramento Community Center next Monday, January 16th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mr. Bonnet invited everyone to stop by' he attended the event last year and it was an extremely positive event.
 - There was funding in the current FY's budget for regional centers to hire a Cultural Diversity Specialist. ACRC has hired Helen Thomas. She will be taking the lead on our outreach efforts and our upcoming meetings to review the diversity data.
 - Two meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st; in the morning in Woodland and in the afternoon at ACRC's Sacramento office. More information can be found on our website: www.altaregional.org

2. **Vendor Forum Update**

- Ms. Dupree provided dates on upcoming vendor forums; they are as follows:
 - Supported Living Services – was scheduled for January 10th, but will be rescheduled due to the weather
 - In-Home Respite – January 18th
 - Adult Day & Employment – January 25th
 - Environmental Accessibility – January 31st
 - Behavior Intervention Services – February 1st
 - Residential – February 6th
 - OT/PT – February 8th
 - Early Intervention – February 8th
 - Independent Living Services – February 15th
 - RDHAP – February 15th
 - Homemaker – February 28th
 - New Vendor Orientation is scheduled for January 19th & 20th
- Mr. Ciampa would like to make sure members of the PAC attend these vendor forums and share feedback with ACRC staff.
- Ms. West will email a list of upcoming vendor forums to committee members prior to the next PAC meeting. At the February meeting, we will take nominations/volunteers for each vendor forum.

3. **ACRC RFP Update**

- As mentioned at last month's meeting, all SDC homes must be in escrow by March 2017.
- Mr. Tiedemann shared that there will be new Requests for Proposals (RFPs) posted on ACRC's website in the new FY.

4. **Sub-Committee Updates:**

- Challenging Needs
 - This workgroup met after the PAC meeting in November. In an effort to secure services for clients with challenging needs, the group decided to focus on the Health & Safety Waiver.
 - Last week, Ms. Dupree received updated instructions for requesting Health & Safety Waiver Exemptions; the last update was from 2007.
 - Regional centers and providers have challenges with the timeliness of approvals from DDS.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss spoke with the department and will be piloting this new process to see if the new guidelines will expedite an exemption.
 - ACRC staff have developed a template that might assist with streamlining this process.
- Cultural Diversity
 - Workgroup members should plan to attend the upcoming diversity meetings on Tuesday, March 21st.
- Staff Crisis in the Community
 - No update was shared.

5. **Updates:**

- Self-Determination Program
 - In December, DDS went back to the statewide committee for assistance with the remaining questions. Approximately 30 questions remain; most are related to respite.
 - One of the biggest issues is that the federal government want assessments completed prior to clients going into a particular setting. Concern remains about the Financial Management Services (FMS) funding – if the fees are taken out of the client's budget, then it decreases their money for services.
- CMS Rules/HCBS Waiver Settings
 - Information about the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule is posted on the front page of DDS' website.
 - The department has resubmitted the statewide transition plan.

- DDS is still working on the self-assessment template; they reworded some questions.
 - Mr. Ciampa noted that ACRC is being proactive by having Andy Ponce, ACRC's Community Services Specialist, visit programs in order to complete the on-site assessments prior to them being due to DDS.
- DS (Disability Services) Task Force 2.0
 - The next public meeting is scheduled for February 15th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the California Department of Health Care Services – Annex Building located at 1700 K Street, Sacramento.
 - The Housing/Safety Net and Employment Group met.

6. **Legislative Update**

- Mr. Sanford shared that the key staffer on the Senate side is Peggy Collins.
- In Governor Brown's budget proposal, there are a number of trailer bill language ideas, but nothing has been written yet. Also, the budget would give DDS the ability to modify rules in order to become compliant in 2019.
- There is a proposed bill out of San Diego that would push for increased rates for dental services for the developmentally disabled population.
- New bills will be coming in between now and February 15th.
- Mr. Ciampa noted that if anyone has questions or comments about the bills that are discussed at these meetings, they should not hesitate to speak up so that providers can leverage their advocacy efforts.
 - A suggestion was made to develop a list of resources so that providers can keep an eye on bills that might affect our service system.
 - Mr. Ciampa will reach out to committee members for resources.

7. **Board Update**

- Ms. Brandon attended the last Board meeting which was held on Thursday, November 17th.
 - Two new members were elected to the Board in November.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26th.

8. **Announcements/Comments**

- Mr. Ciampa shared that DDS' Regional Center Oversight Dashboard is now posted on the department's website.
- Tony Anderson is the new Executive Director of Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC).

- Ms. Watilo shared that many providers have signed their staff up for “Conversations That Matter”.
 - A suggestion was made to hold an informational or virtual meeting to help get the word out about this wonderful resource.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss utilized some videos as a training resource during a recent new employee orientation and it was a very positive experience.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, February 9, 2017**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet