

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, October 11, 2018  
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  
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  
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver  
Relief  
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare  
Services  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO  
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite  
Services  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Becky Brubaker\*, EGACT  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss\*, STEP  
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult  
Development  
Antonio Ranit\*, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Paul Traglio\*, Capitol Autism  
Services

**Visitors:**

Andrea Croom  
Lindsey Dyba  
Kate Halecky  
Teri Hayes  
Stan Higgins  
Jennifer Marchant  
Marie McConnell  
Stella Obioha  
Nicky Schluep  
Maihli Vang

**Staff:**

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director  
Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating  
Officer  
John Decker, Manager of  
CPP/Forensics Unit  
Darline Dupree, Manager of  
Community Services  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:31 a.m. on Thursday, October 11, 2018, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments; 4) Community Development Report; 5) PAC Priorities; 6) Legislative Update; 7) Provider Presentations; 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 September 13, 2018 as submitted.**

*\*change in agenda was noted*

### 1. **Board Update**

- Mr. Ciampa shared that the Board held its Board meeting and annual retreat in Yuba City on Thursday & Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - This is the third year that the Board has gone out to one of ACRC's outlying areas.
  - The Board held a "Meet & Greet" and Board meeting on the Thursday.
  - On Friday, Board members had six hours of training, which included:
    - Learning about changes in demographics and needs in that community; discussed transportation and substance abuse.
    - A presentation from ACRC's Intensive Intervention Specialist, Jordan Eller, and learning how the regional center supports clients that are involved in the Criminal Justice System.
    - The Client Advisory Committee's (CAC's) presentation about their visits to Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) over the years.
  - The Board is still recruiting new Board members. We want a Board that is always growing, but at a reasonable pace, and representative of our community. The Board Development Committee (BDC) will be interviewing candidates soon.

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

- Mr. Ciampa has been deeply involved in the Board's recruitment process. Mr. Bonnet expressed appreciation to everyone who has assisted in this process. Finding individuals that can make the commitment is key. ACRC has more pending applicants than we have had in the last 12 years (since he has been at ACRC).
- The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has another rate study survey specifically for Specialized Therapeutic Services. ACRC received word from the department that our providers have a 0% completion rate so far. Mr. Bonnet is concerned that a low response might imply to DDS that providers are satisfied with the status quo. The deadline for completion of this survey is Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- DDS has released a survey for clients and families about provider rates. Mr. Bonnet has not found anything in the survey about rates and

doesn't know how this will assist Burns and Associates in their study. Regional centers did not provide input on any of the questions that were included in the survey.

- Mr. Sanford believes that the questions relate more to the settings rule.
- Since the last time we got together, the Self-Determination Program has taken its first step. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2,500 individuals statewide were chosen to participate in the three-year pilot project. Regional centers should receive instructions from DDS by October 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Three years after the initial rollout, all clients over the age of three will be able to participate in this program.
  - Since the Financial Management Services (FMS) requirement still exists, they are the single vendorized service under this program. Mr. Tiedemann clarified that all services are paid in arrears by the regional center; the FMS may choose to advance money to the client.
  - Individuals can have multiple Independent Facilitators (IFs), including using their regional center Service Coordinator (SC). There are limitation on who can be an IF.
  - It is the responsibility of the Person Centered Planning (PCP) team to make sure that services are being provided under the Individual Program Plan (IPP).
  - DDS believes this program will be "cost-neutral" and will probably be in place by January 2019.
- ACRC staff met with DDS after the PAC meeting last month to discuss special incident reports (SIRs). The Office of the Inspector General is coming to California to look at the accuracy and timeliness of these reports. Mr. Bonnet believes this may move into a statewide audit, because SIRs are connected to federal funding. As service providers, please make sure your staff report accurately any incidents that they witness.
  - Those present believe that ACRC has been proactive in this process.
  - Systemically, ACRC has a pretty good plan in place. Mr. Decker noted that regional center follow-up is only as good as the service provider's plan. Compared to other regional centers, he believes that ACRC providers do a great job. If there are issues with SIRs, providers will hear from ACRC and possibly be invited to attend SIR Training.
  - Mr. Bonnet believes that we need to make sure that when bad things happen, they don't happen again. Medication errors in residential settings are sometimes very scary; these are avoidable.

- ACRC is scheduling quarterly SIR Trainings to refresh staff and providers in this process. Although ACRC requires all service providers attend SIR Training in their orientation, anyone interested in additional training may make a request by emailing [sdesk@altaregional.org](mailto:sdesk@altaregional.org).
- Mr. Sanford believes that as we move to the Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) settings rule, there will be an increase in SIRs. Untrained staff, across different settings, are the most common cause of SIRs.
- ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) shared a wonderful presentation, entitled *Our Sonoma Journey*, at the Supported Life Conference last week. If anyone wants to get to know this wonderful group, please think about attending one of their upcoming meetings.

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

- An updated list was distributed for review.
  - The Adult Day & Employment Vendor Forum was held on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
    - The meeting was well-attended; it's great to see how it continues to grow.
    - The group reviewed some of the new reporting requirements.
    - They discussed the vendorization process and Ms. Watilo shared information about how the PAC's subcommittee has worked with ACRC's Community Services & Supports (CSS) Department.
    - Talked about grant funded projects that are planned.
  - The Independent Living Services (ILS) Vendor Forum was held on October 10<sup>th</sup>.
    - The hot topic of discussion was transportation for clients. ACRC staff outnumbered service providers in the room, although new vendors did attend.
    - Providers shared rationale for allowing transportation under certain conditions, such as when transportation is in service of one or more ILS goals, when other transportation services are not available (especially in rural counties), and when ILS providing transportation seems to be a reasonable and cost-effective option.
    - There are three vital pieces to consider: planning team involvement, liability, and accountability. With this information, ACRC's Executive Management Team will discuss this issue further and the plan/policy will be shared at the next vendor forum scheduled for January 2019.

- Ideally, the goal is to train the clients because they need to know what to do without the provider present.  
Providers expressed appreciation to staff for having an open, honest conversation.
- The Supported Living Services (SLS) Vendor Forum was held on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - The group reviewed the needs assessment and the Request for Proposals (RFPs) that are posted on ACRC's website.
  - They discussed the delay in documenting SIRs.
  - The group talked about the importance of having end-of-life conversations with clients/families.

#### 4. **Community Development Report**

- Mr. Decker noted that several service providers participated in the Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) stakeholder meetings that were held here at ACRC's Sacramento office. DDS will have regional center plans approved by November 20<sup>th</sup>. In previous years, regional centers knew there would be funding available due to the closures of the developmental centers (DCs). This year we need to be cautious, so ACRC staff will wait to see what is approved before releasing any RFPs.

#### 5. **PAC Priorities**

- Committee/Workgroup Volunteers
  - CSS
    - Ms. Rhoades would like to have the document that was discussed at the last meeting shared with ACRC's Board of Directors in November.
    - This group will be scheduling a follow-up conference call.
  - Housing
    - The group reached out to Patti Uplinger, from Housing Now, about the idea of a database.
      - Ms. Croom will follow-up with her at their next Board meeting in a few weeks.
      - The importance of including outlying counties, in addition to Sacramento, was noted.
    - If anyone has any suggestions to help fund this database, please contact the committee.
  - Outreach
    - The PAC currently has vacancies. If anyone knows of interested individuals, please suggest that they fill out an application and start attending our committee meetings.

- Communications
  - Suggestion to start posting a legislative update on ACRC's PAC page.
  - Providers should encourage our clients to register and vote.
- The Training & Cultural Diversity workgroups will meet immediately following today's PAC meeting.

## 6. **Legislative Update**

- The Governor vetoed two and signed five bills that the PAC was tracking.
  - SB 134 (Hernandez) Regional center contracts. This bill was gutted and amended; new reporting requirements for regional centers.
- Under federal legislation:
  - HR 1377 (Harper) Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment (TIME); this bill amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.
  - There are several bills about ABLE and integration.
- Mr. Sanford explained that federal bills live on and state legislation dies, unless acted upon.
- California Propositions:
  - Prop 1 - \$4 billion bond for affordable housing programs
  - Prop 2 - would fund housing for those with mental illness who are homeless (includes regional center population)
- The Assembly Select Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities will be holding two hearings (October 16<sup>th</sup> in Fresno and October 24<sup>th</sup> in Concord). Assemblymember Frazier, the Chair of this committee, is seeking input on affordable housing and transportation issues.
- The Lanterman Coalition is helping push for an 8% rate increase across the board.

## 7. **Provider Presentations**

- The PAC will have two members share information about their agencies at each meeting.
  - Eric Ciampa, with UCP of Sacramento, Inc.
    - UCP was formed in 1953 by families, who believed services would follow an individual's diagnosis.
    - Currently, UCP provides services to approximately 2,500 regional center clients; 13% of those have cerebral palsy. The agency's demographic mirrors the regional centers.
    - Most families are looking for help; they need a break. UCP provides respite, day programs (5 out of 8 have a nursing component), transportation (they partner with Paratransit),

and ILS. They also have a small Saddle Pals program out of Grass Valley; a volunteer center which serves about 9 individuals.

- Robin Rhoades, with Southside Unlimited
  - Has been in business for 33 years; started with her and her husband. She previously worked at the regional center.
  - Start-up funding came from serving individuals from institutions.
  - Southside Unlimited has galleries that sell art. They have employment services and they also recycle. Their "Passage" program is a six-hour program which provides individualized "wrap-around" services using a person-centered approach.
  - As the agency grew, *Southside Art Center* did not encompass what they actually did, so they changed their name to *Southside Unlimited*.

#### 8. **Announcements/Comments**

- Southside Unlimited is hosting a fundraiser on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found on their website – [www.southsideunlimited.com](http://www.southsideunlimited.com).
- Mr. Higgins's company helps manage client information. If anyone is interested, please see him after the meeting.
- Ms. Watilo shared that the two 2-day "Person-Centered Thinking" Trainings with Michael Smull are almost filled up; there are five spots available and she is hopeful that they will go to ACRC providers.
- The November agenda will include provider presentations from Will Sanford and Joy Scott.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, November 8, 2018**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet