

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 10, 2022
Minutes

Present:

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc., Chair
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Co-Chair & Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &
Associates
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Jacquie Foss, STEP
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Breanne Burris*, 24 Hour Home
Care
Eric Ciampa*, UCP of Sacramento

Visitors

Sheila Abrams
Steve Andrews
Julie Beadle-Brown
Serena Durand
Maureen Fitzgerald
Adriene Gaudet
Braydon Holtzinger
Dawn Horwath
Jennifer Jones
Marie McConnell
Shelby Penman
Michelle Ramirez, CBEM
Jen Roney
Jasmine Vollenweider

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Operating Officer
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Helen Neri, Manager of Community
Services
Michelle McDonald, Manager of
Community Services
Carly Shearer, Client Employment
Specialist
Johnny Xiong, Associate Client
Services Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:32 a.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2022, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) TDS Update; 3) Letter to DDS re: Performance Contract Employment Data; 4) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 5) System Reform and Legislative Update; 6) PAC Committees & Reports; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Garrett Broadbent made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of October 13, 2022 as submitted.

1. ***Executive Director's Report***

- Today is the second hearing of the Little Hoover Commission. Nancy Bargmann, Director of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and Amy Westling, Executive Director of the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) will be testifying.
 - Ms. Banales suggested that individuals submit written testimony so that the commission can hear about those clients/families that are pleased with the services that they receive from regional centers.
- Ms. Eller noted that ACRC requested feedback from our community partners through the completion of a survey on our Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP); 109 surveys were completed.
 - The top priorities that will be included in this year's plan include day programs, residential, housing, mental health, transportation, social skills and respite.
 - There are two additional multi-family housing developments that ACRC is seeking approval for – one in Yolo County and the other in the Lake of the Pines.
 - Staff are finalizing the plan that will be submitted to DDS; it will be shared at the January PAC meeting.
- Ms. Neri shared that a \$12.5 million social rec grant was awarded to the statewide service system; ACRC's portion is \$786,000.
 - A Request for Proposal (RFP) is currently posted on ACRC's website; deadline for proposals is December 15th.
 - The goal is to build capacity to support the clients that are interested in being part of their own community.
- We closed our public comment for the Board's Conservatorship Policy and the 2023 Performance Contract with DDS.
 - The feedback on the Conservatorship Policy strongly aligned with the Supported Decision-Making process. Regional centers are being asked to further define this so that their community knows what it entails.
 - Both will go before the Board's Executive Committee and full Board of Directors for approval next week.
- Ms. Shearer shared that ACRC is holding a Micro-Enterprise Fair on November 30th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - There still are openings if you'd like to participate in this wonderful opportunity.
- Ms. McDonald noted that DDS released guidance on November 8th for non-compliant service providers and the Home and Community-Based

Services (HCBS) Final Rule. The deadline for submission of completed documentation is December 5, 2022.

- ACRC is hosting workshops on November 29th and December 2nd, with 25 reservation slots per workshop.
- The goal is to assist service providers with the full completion of the remediation agreement for non-compliance.
- A workgroup of the ACRC/VMRC Collaborative has met with the website developer and they are drafting a template for the website page so that everyone can see the interactive ability. The full collaborative is meeting again on November 15th. Utilizing HCBS funding, they have contracted with a public relations agency as well as Joey Travolta.
- Ms. Banales shared that after 25 years at ACRC, Andy Ponce is leaving to join Westside Regional Center (WRC) – he has been named their next Director of Community Services.
 - Judy Licciardello has been named as his replacement.

2. **TDS Update**

- ACRC shared a one-page Tailored Day Services (TDS) template via email.
 - Ms. Shearer noted that several service providers are in the process of adding TDS to their program designs.
- The PAC is still interested in setting up drop-in sessions to assist other providers. Ms. Banales would like ACRC to partner with the PAC on these workshops; we want to maximize this opportunity.
 - This will be discussed at next week's "Coffee with Community Services".
 - Ms. McDonald and Ms. Eller will draft a flyer that will include two two-hour workshops. These workshops will also include information on how to return to in-person services.
 - Volunteers from the PAC include: Eric Ciampa, Lindsey Dyba, Kate Halecky and Carole Watilo. Gary Castro-Cutts and Jason Scantlebury, ACRC Community Services Specialists, can assist, as well.
- The workforce issue remains. Some service providers are struggling to get staff in place in order to serve clients in-person after alternative services ends on December 31st.
- Ms. Banales understands that client choice still remains. With the ending of the funding mechanism for alternative services, DDS will be providing guidance on how services can remain remote.

3. **Letter to DDS re: Performance Contract Employment Data**

- Ms. Dyba drafted a letter to DDS regarding Performance Contract Outcomes for Employment Measures.
 - The draft was emailed to everyone this morning, but was also shared onscreen.

Without objection, Kate Halecky made the motion to approve the letter as submitted.

4. ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates

- The Independent Living Services (ILS) vendor forum was held on October 20th.
 - The group discussed the ILS rate fix and reviewed the ILS service standards.
 - Those ILS providers who plan to continue to provide virtual supports do not need to complete an addendum to their program design.
- The Supported Living Services (SLS) vendor forum was held on October 27th.
 - The group discussed SLS “unbundling”.
 - SLS has a flat/fixed rate along with hourly rates for other services. With the rate study, the flat/fixed rate will be “unbundled” in July 2024.
 - Concern was expressed that some service providers will be taking a hit financially.
 - In January 2023, providers will receive a rate increase that will go directly to direct support professionals (DSPs). They need to know what the hourly rate will be as of January 2023 so that they can prepare for July 2024.
 - ACRC staff are scheduled to meet with On My Own on November 23rd in order to get some questions answered.
 - An additional SLS vendor forum will be held in December to update everyone; information will also be shared at “Coffee with Community Services”.

5. System Reform and Legislative Update (ARCA, CDSA, CCLN, DS Taskforce, Lanterman Coalition)

- CCLN
 - Dr. Julie Beadle-Brown is attending today and is California Community Living Network’s (CCLN’s) lead researcher for the Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE) project.
 - The group has had several conversations at the Capitol on the ILS rate issue. They have an RN# so they are shopping for someone to write a bill.
 - It will take all of us working together to fix this issue – projecting a \$50 million budget fix.
 - Ms. Foss stated that the rate that providers get is 90% for services and 10% for quality incentives. She believes that better

communication is needed so that service providers realize what they need to do to access that 10%.

- Additional Updates
 - Disability Thrive is hosting a free webinar entitled "A Vision for a Thriving Direct Support Professional Workforce" on November 16th from 3 to 4 p.m.
 - The Little Hoover Commission is meeting again today. The initial hearing and roundtable discussion were recorded. There are opportunities to provide feedback.
 - The Employment Workforce workgroup is meeting on Monday, November 14th. There is not a comprehensive plan for employment. The group is working for a more systemic, comprehensive approach.
 - With regards to SB 639, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is requesting stakeholder input on how to best support individuals moving into real work with real wages.

6. ***PAC Committees & Reports***

- Vendor Relations
 - The group met to review/discuss ACRC draft 2023 Performance Contract.

7. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Ms. Ramirez will email PAC members about another lunch following the January or February PAC meeting.
 - Ms. Brandon would like to see more PAC members in-person at these meetings.
- Ms. Banales shared that ACRC will be highlighting the "PAC Corner" in their January 2024 newsletter. This is an opportunity for this committee to share a message
 - This article needs to be submitted to Mr. Decker by December 10th.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, January 12, 2023**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales