

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 12, 2020
Minutes

Present:

Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, 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, Meristem
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc.
Joe Jaquez, EGACT
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Monique Migdol, Tahoe
Community Integrations
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Robin Rhoades, Southside
Unlimited
Adam Ruggles, Medstar LLC
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio, Kadiant
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Ed Doonan*, LIFE, Inc.
Joe Hernandez*, Aveanna
Healthcare Services

Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor

Visitors:

Marliese Bankert
Breanne Burris
Vikie Cole
Aron Duda
Maureen Fitzgerald
Sonya Fox-Watson
Adriene Gaudet
Kate Halecky
Braydon Holtzinger
Jennifer Jones
Susana Magana
Kathy Rhymes
Nicky Schlupe
Kathleen Short
Jasmine Vollenweider
Katherine Wallen
Michelle Wheeler
Troy Wheeler

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Financial Officer
Lori Banales, Deputy Executive
Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Camelia Houston, Director of
Intake & Clinical Services
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Andy Ponce, Specialized Services
Manager
Olivia Procida, Manager of
Community Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2020, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) COVID-19 Impact Discussion; 4) HCBS & the Reinvention of Services; 5) Legislative Update; 6) Discussion re PAC Committee/Workgroup Volunteers; 7) PAC Priorities – Subcommittee Reports; 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 October 8, 2020 as submitted.

1. ***Board Update***

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the Board Development Committee (BDC) met on Monday and discussed the upcoming Board Training scheduled for Thursday, November 19th. The training, entitled "Adult Services – Transition from School to Adult Service Options", is in line with one of the PAC's goals listed on the back of our agenda.
- At the last PAC meeting, it was shared that the Board chose to move forward with her nomination as the PAC's designated representative to the Board. The mitigation plan has been submitted to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS); we are awaiting formal approval.

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

- ACRC has 159 clients that have tested positive for COVID-19, with 13 deaths. We also have 85 positive direct support professional (DSPs) and three staff members.
- Mr. Bonnet attended a meeting of the DS Task Force on Monday. The group discussed alternative services and their value. Concern has been expressed about who is participating in these virtual calls/events and there may be some confusion as to what the expectations are with these types of services.
 - DDS released additional guidance regarding reporting requirements for alternative nonresidential services this week. The department has two surveys regarding alternative services:
 - By November 25th, service providers must submit a report for each vendorization delivering alternative services for the initial period of September 1st through October 31, 2020.
 - By December 5th, service providers must submit a report for each vendorization delivering alternative services for the month of November 2020.

- The November 20th “Coffee with Community Services” will focus on DDS’ reporting requirements for alternative services. The flyer will be sent out inviting all service providers to participate in this discussion.
- ACRC’s client growth over the years has been steady – an increase of approximately 1,000 clients per year. In October, we gained 71 Lanterman eligible clients, but we have recently seen a slight decrease in Early Start cases. For those people that are not familiar with the regional center system, they may be more disconnected than they have ever been. A lot of good can be done in those early years, so staff will be focusing efforts on engaging families during these difficult times.
- Ms. Banales shared that ACRC has had six clients “flip the switch” on the Self-Determination Program (SDP). When this program was introduced by DDS, it was supposed to be cost neutral. On average, a SDP budget is 30% higher than when these clients were served traditionally. Beginning July 1, 2021 anyone over the age of three will be able to participate in this program. Regional centers will need to work on how to set budgets.
 - As mentioned at the last meeting, DDS surveyed the folks who were initially chosen to participate in the pilot project, but later dropped out.
 - The Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) meets quarterly. The group is very supportive and has scheduled several trainings that assist clients/families with the process.
 - Beginning in January 2021, we will be holding monthly coordinated trainings with SCDD. Information will be shared about what we have learned.
 - Members questioned whether service providers would be notified if someone that they are serving traditionally is moving to SDP.
 - There are a lot of steps to the process. Clients can notify their service provider.
 - Any client that is interested in participating in the SDP should strive to complete their Person Centered Plan (PCP) before July 1st.
 - Service providers should decide if they would like to provide services for those individuals in the SDP and consider how they can flex their services.
- By January 10th, Governor Newsom will be releasing his proposed budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year (FY). There is concern about what this budget will hold for developmental services. At the DS Task Force meeting, the department clarified that the 8.2% rate increase that most service providers received this FY does not sunset until 2022. If changes are going to be made to our service system, they will be data

driven. Concern was expressed that we, as a service system, might be moving towards managed care. Mr. Bonnet believes the proposed budget will let us know what the State's priorities are.

- Tomorrow's "Coffee with Community Services" will focus on SDP and participant directed services.

3. ***COVID-19 Impact Discussion***

- Ms. Watilo is worried that we have lost the conversation about reinventing/reimagining services due to the current focus on alternative services.
 - Ms. Rhoades believes that this is the time to slow down and fill in the gaps. We need to take the time to figure out what best fits for the clients that we serve. This is a COVID-19 created dilemma, not a futures discussion.
- The Supported Living Services (SLS)/Day Program Workgroup met on Tuesday, November 10th. ACRC will provide day programs with a list of their clients that are also served by SLS agencies, prior to Thanksgiving, and will work with SLS providers to find out what shifts need to be covered right now.
 - The workgroup will meet again in December.
 - DDS has not provided a lot of guidance regarding SLS during the current health crisis.
- Mr. Ciampa believes that alternative services may impact future services (e.g., think outside a building, providing services at home, etc.).
 - Concern was expressed regarding the fiscal impact that alternative services is creating.

4. ***HCBS & the Reinvention of Services***

- Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) are funded through the federal government.
- DDS has delayed this requirement, but some service providers are moving forward with reinventing their service models.
 - For those providers needing assistance with this process, please schedule a meeting with your Community Services Specialist. Mr. Decker, Ms. Onesi and Ms. Procida will plan to participate, as well.

5. ***Legislative Update***

- CDSA
 - Ms. Dyba shared that the group is working on creating legislative and advocacy efforts for the next year.

- CCLN
 - They continue to work on the P.A.V.E. project; focusing on outcomes. A report will be released soon.

6. ***Discussion re PAC Committee/Workgroup Volunteers***

- The stated purpose of the PAC is to help provide guidance and technical assistance to ACRC. Mr. Ciampa believes that this group, as well as our smaller workgroups, does this. It is critical that everyone participates in these discussions.
 - The PAC has 11 subcommittees/workgroups. All PAC members are required to serve on at least one. Non-PAC members can also volunteer, but cannot vote on any motions.
 - The Cultural Diversity and Outreach/Membership are standing committees, while the rest are Ad-Hoc (meet as needed).
 - If you have not already done so, please contact Ms. West.
- Chairs are asked to reach out to their committee members in December and discuss what they might accomplish this next year; outcomes will be shared at the January PAC meeting.
- About three years ago, members completed a survey and set the committee's goals. Ms. Ramirez noted that the PAC may want to consider updating them.
 - Mr. Ciampa and Ms. Ramirez will compile another survey and share the draft at the January PAC meeting. After approved, members will be asked to complete it.

7. ***PAC Priorities – Subcommittee Reports***

- Ms. Rhoades will reconvene the Vendor Relations workgroup.
- Mr. Pinto shared that the Training workgroup has already compiled a list of trainings/trainers. He believes it might be beneficial to build a roadmap to assist service providers with training their staff.

8. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Mr. Decker shared that DDS released the Community Placement Plan (CPP) and Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) guidelines. ACRC is focused on getting those individuals out of Porterville Developmental Center and other restrictive living environments and staff may be releasing Request for Proposals (RFPs) soon. You are encouraged to participate in the survey posted on our agency's website to indicate the top three service types that you believe ACRC should target in our next plan. The survey closes on November 17th.
- It was requested that ACRC consider including all of our outlying offices in this year's drive thru Santa Day. Service providers could possibly partner with ACRC at each location.

- It is important to keep DSPs and clients as safe as possible. ACRC continues to disburse Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); we have some and we are ordering more.
 - If you, as a service provider, are serving individuals that have been diagnosed with COVID-19, ACRC has some N-95 masks.
- At the next meeting, the PAC will continue to discuss goals/ subcommittees, review the draft survey questions, and discuss the Governor's proposed 2021-22 FY state budget.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, January 14, 2021**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet