

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 8, 2018
Minutes

Present:

Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Chair
Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Joseph Hernandez, Premier
Healthcare Services
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
Will Sanford, Futures Explored,
Inc.
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Staff:

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

Absent: (* excused)

James Astorga*, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Janet Brandon*, AIM &
Associates
Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Bonnie Douglas*, Turning Point
Sergio Pinto*, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Joy Scott*, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Peter Stirling*, Serenity Respite
Services

Visitors:

Justin Altman
Nicholas Aguilar
Patti Dixon
Kate Halecky
Teri Hayes
Monique Migdol
Fred Patawaran
Lou Patawaran
Nicky Schlupe
Sean Stone
Maihli Vang

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 8, 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) PAC Priorities; 5) Provider Presentations; 6) Legislative Update; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of October 11, 2018 as submitted.

1. Board Update

- Mr. Ciampa provided a Board update:
 - A few months ago, the Board voted to change their meeting schedule. Beginning this fiscal year (FY), they are holding full Board meetings every other month.
 - After the September Retreat, the Board Development Committee (BDC) interviewed several applicants. The Board's recruitment efforts continue to be filling needed areas of expertise and demographics so that they fully represent ACRC's ten-county catchment area.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 15th.

2. Executive Director's Report

- The State of California has a new Governor – Gavin Newsom. Some of us in this room had the opportunity to meet him and he seems genuinely interested in assisting those individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Governor Brown named Diana Dooley as his Chief of Staff earlier this year. Mike Wilkening replaced her as the interim Secretary of the California Health & Human Services Agency.
- Traditionally, those that hold agency director positions in the State will tender their resignation to the new Governor, who will then decide whether they will remain in their positions.
- We have a new legislator in ACRC's catchment area – Senator Andreas Borgeas (R). Not all of the votes have been tallied yet; election votes will be certified the first week in December and everyone will take their seats on December 7th. It is possible that the Democrats will have a super majority in both the Assembly and the Senate.
- With the change in Congress on the federal level, the push to replace the Affordable Care Act is probably off the table.
- The California Direct Support Professional Workforce Committee is working to increase the rate of pay for our direct support professionals. Mr. Bonnet has agreed to participate in this discussion and the group will be meeting next week.
- Mr. Bonnet appreciates this committee's efforts in reaching out to other service providers to encourage participation in the recent rate study. Burns & Associates is holding a meeting in downtown Sacramento on November 15th to present their data to the public, prior to submitting the information to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

Mr. Bonnet met with their lead on this project months ago; this is not their first time studying state's issues, although California is unique.

- The January budget is probably nearly completed. Given the fact that the results of this survey will be coming out in March, this might be an interesting spring for our statewide service system.

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

- An updated list was distributed for review.
 - The Homemaker Vendor Forum will be held on November 27th.

4. **PAC Priorities**

- CSS/Vendor Relations Update
 - Service providers are working on ways to make collaborating with Community Services & Supports (CSS) easier. Communication might be improved with the use of internal vendor forms.
 - After the group agrees to discussion topics, they will meet and then present their outcomes to ACRC's Board of Directors.
 - It's been a positive experience, but an arduous process.
- Training Workgroup Discussion
 - A "Training Resources" spreadsheet was distributed for review. This resource can be revised, as necessary.
 - The group would like to see how we can collaborate to bring in training for providers.
 - Some providers are looking at delivery tools and workforce development. Realistically, how do we get this information into the hands of direct service professionals (DSPs)? Providers may not have the time or space to train staff. Content and the way to deliver it to staff is important.
 - If anyone has any ideas on how to make this easier, please talk with Mr. Ciampa.
 - Basic "Business Development" might be a good topic for a training (e.g., business practices, organizational structure, etc.).
 - ACRC will be hosting a "Person-Centered Thinking" Training on February 19th & 20th. Ms. Watilo shared that there may be some extra seats available to committee members.
 - Michael Smull is providing an "Organizational Change" Training that will teach service providers how to align their organization to support Person-Centered Practice. Ms. Watilo noted that there are still a few spots available.

5. **Provider Presentations**

- The PAC will have two members share information about their agencies at each meeting. Ms. Ramirez noted that Joy Scott was not able to attend the meeting today; she will present in January.

- Will Sanford, with Futures Explored, Inc.
 - Was established in 1964. This organization focuses on change – the community is their classroom.
 - In the Sacramento area, Futures Explored assists clients with job placement, community college supports, and film making.
 - The goal is to have individuals gain enough skills to make doors open and have opportunities happen.
 - They look for an individual’s employability; they focus on getting good paying jobs for folks.
 - They currently serve over 700 clients; 100 of those used to reside in developmental centers (DCs).
 - The agency is looking to create hubs, as part of the settings rule, so that individuals can access personal care out in the community.
 - Staff want to make sure that client’s voices are heard; they are person-centered.

6. **Legislative Update**

- DDS has posted the next Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) grant cycle. ACRC is hosting workshops to assist service providers with this process. Submissions are due to the department by Thursday, December 13th.
- The California Direct Support Professional Workforce Committee is planning to hold a conference in the spring.
- Kevin Rath is conducting a study on market value rates. The average wage for In-home respite workers ranges from \$12 to \$17.10 an hour. There is the safety factor that providers have to take into account when we are serving individuals out in the community.
- Earlier this week, both Prop 1 and Prop 2 passed. There will be money available for affordable housing programs.
- It’s time to go out and meet with our local legislators to make sure they know about our DSPs. If we want our clients to have valuable lives in the community, we need individuals that are eager to assist them and choose this as a profession. We need to become an industry that is attractive.
- On the federal level, we now have a split in our houses – Democrats run the House of Representatives and Republicans run the Senate. There will be gridlock.
- It is important to note that the new Governor looks at everyone as an individual. Service providers need to word things correctly so that Governor Newsom understands that DSPs may need things in order for clients to succeed.

- Without knowing the results of the rate study from Burns & Associates, the Lanterman Coalition is asking for an 8% increase across the board.

7. ***Announcements/Comments***

- The January agenda will include updates on the State's budget and the rate study, as well as provider presentations from Joy Scott and Laleh Sharpe.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, January 10, 2019**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet