

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 2017
Minutes

Present:

Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Chair
Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
Sandy Bishop, INALLIANCE
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Ed Doonan*, LIFE, Inc.
Jessica Knuth*, Reach Adult
Development
Will Sanford*, Futures Explored
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio*, Capitol Autism
Services

Board Members:

Dan Lake
Austin Taylor

Visitors:

James Astorga
Candice Bright
Andrea Croom
Lindsey Dyba
Adriene Gaudet
Teri Hayes
Joseph Hernandez
Joe Jaquez
Elizabeth Johnson
Susan Miner
Karen Mulvany
Michelle Nobile
Fred Patawaran
Lou Patawaran
Agnes Ranit
Denise Roca
Nicky Schluep
Stan Schmidt
Alice Tapley
Patti Uplinger
Alissa Villegas

Staff:

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

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:42 a.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2017, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Vendor Forum

Update & Liaison Assignments; 3) ACRC RFP Update/Community Needs; 4) Collaboration discussion with Austin Taylor, Chair of ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC); 5) PAC Priorities; 6) Provider Presentations; 7) Legislative Update; 8) Board Update; and 9) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of October 12, 2017 as submitted.

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

- Mr. Bonnet took a minute to acknowledge the efforts of some of the members of this group; their assistance during the evacuation of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) during last month's fire was greatly appreciated. The entire perimeter of SDC burned. Department of Developmental Services (DDS) personnel, as well as SDC staff, devoted many hours into keeping individuals safe. Some of the clients are very vulnerable and this event reminded Mr. Bonnet that what we do for the most-needy clients is amazing.
- The draft 2018 Performance Contract was distributed for review. Almost 20 years ago, DDS created this contract to provide a fiscal incentive for regional centers to perform well. That fiscal incentive no longer exists.
 - There are four measures that are "under development" by the State of California:
 - number and percent of adults with earned income and average wage
 - number and percent of adults in supported employment
 - access to medical services
 - number of clients per thousand who are victims of abuseThe group believes it would be important to have information on these measures. ACRC staff noted that DDS has been working on these public policy outcomes for several years and statewide averages and agency data are not available at this time.
 - Committee members would like to see a measure developed on residential homes of four beds and under; the data would show possible compliance on the new expectations of the state.
 - A comment was made that it's unfortunate that DDS does not track the level of service/support needed for supported living (3a). It's also important to note that many individuals move to ACRC's catchment area because of what this regional center offers.
 - Mr. Bonnet noted that the data for these measures is gathered by information that is entered into SANDIS.

- Mr. Bonnet shared information about the two new locally developed policy performance measures that were added to track Purchase of Services (POS) expenditure data. It's interesting to note that with children, expenditures seem relatively equal.

Mr. Bonnet will be seeking Board approval of this Performance Contract at the next Board meeting schedule for Thursday, November 16th, and then it will be forwarded to DDS.

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

- An updated list was distributed for review.
 - Supported Living Services (SLS)
 - The group met on October 16th and discussed the various needs of the clients (e.g., medical, housing, mental health, etc.).
 - Mrs. Dillard-Foss shared that there is a free online training tool that can be used by direct service providers (DSPs). More information can be found at:
www.activesupportresource.net.au.
 - A suggestion was made to have case management representation at future meetings.
 - Residential
 - Mr. Ranit was not able to attend the vendor forum on November 6th, because he was giving a presentation to the legislature. He has sent ACRC staff three agenda items for the next meeting. One of the main concerns for residential providers is that when a home is sold, the clients are displaced. Mr. Ranit would like the providers to take into account the stability of the clients.
 - Mr. Bonnet shared that the concept of "selling" clients to the new owner of the home is not an option at ACRC. Safeguards are in place to support residents.
 - Businesses are owned; clients are not. It's written in the vendorization contract that you cannot transfer the clients.
 - Some of the clients are fragile, while others would have an opportunity to make a different choice.
 - Ms. Dyba shared that there were two break-out sessions – one regarding the needs assessment and the other about the new Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rules.
 - The request for restricted health care plans was discussed.
 - An AB107 workgroup will be established to discuss provider rates.

- A Behavior Management and Intervention Services Training will be held in February.
- DDS is going to revamp the curriculum for the DSP Trainings to include seven rights, instead of five, and they will be rolled out next year. They will also be possibly adding a third year.
- With Dawn Montgomery's resignation, Ms. Ramirez has asked Mr. Traglio to consider becoming the PAC liaison for the Behavior Intervention Services and Early Intervention Vendor Forums; Mr. Pinto has also volunteered.

3. **ACRC RFP Update/Community Needs**

- Mr. Decker shared that the Request for Proposals' (RFPs) orientation was held during the SDC evacuations. ACRC has RFPs posted for:
 - A children's 4-bed facility
 - A step-down home
 - A community-crisis home (which needs to be completed by December 2018)
 - A competency trainer

The orientation was well attended. Responses are due tomorrow, and interviews will be held the week after Thanksgiving. There is a chance that ACRC will need to run the RFPs twice.

- The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) met with ACRC staff and some service providers within the last week. The original plan was for them to visit SDC, but plans changed and they were able to see services out in the community. Mr. Decker expressed appreciation to Ms. Dillard-Foss, Ms. Dyba, Mr. Ciampa and Mr. Ranit for providing tours to the staffers on such short notice. It was beneficial for them to meet with providers, outside of the hearings that you all attend, to see what is done for the clients that we serve.
 - Mr. Bonnet expressed his appreciation to everyone – the staffers now know about ACRC and we have made a positive impression on their lives.

4. **Collaboration discussion with Austin Taylor, Chair of ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC)**

- The PAC has indicated that we would like more interaction with ACRC's Board. Ms. Ramirez is happy to have Dan Lake, ACRC's Board President, in attendance today, as well as Austin Taylor, Chair of ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC).
- Mr. Taylor shared that the CAC has indicated that they would like to collaborate with ACRC's PAC.
 - CAC members are passionate about many things and represent all of the clients that ACRC serves. They are widely represented

and have 14 active members; the committee has the capacity for 25.

- They are looking for opportunities to get the word out about who they are and what they do. Every member has a PowerPoint presentation that they can take to day programs to share information and hopefully increase interest in the group.
- Mr. Taylor would like to have the committee travel to different counties to help spread the word. They are looking at ways to hold a meeting, on an annual basis, in one of ACRC's outlying counties.
- ACRC's CAC was the first CAC in the State of California to hold a committee meeting at a developmental center; we visited SDC for six consecutive years. Members wanted to make sure that the individuals who resided there knew that someone cared about them. Members had a chance to show them what their quality of life might be like outside of a DC.
- The CAC is supported by ACRC in every way. We are looking for passionate advocates so that the individuals that we serve can have the best quality of life possible.
- ACRC is developing an "adopt-a-friend" program, which will have volunteers go out and visit individuals that have moved out of SDC.
- Mr. Taylor would like to ask members of the PAC to assist in spreading the word about ACRC's CAC.
 - If a provider would like a CAC member to visit their program and do a presentation, please contact Ms. West and she will forward the information to the CAC's Chair.
 - ACRC's CAC meets on the second Tuesday of the month (except for August, December and April) from 2 to 4 p.m.

5. **PAC Priorities**

- Housing Update from the Lanterman Housing Alliance
 - Patti Uplinger, the Executive Director of Housing Now, shared that a month ago, the Lanterman Housing Alliance held their Fall Conference here at ACRC. The non-profit group, which was founded in October of 2014, meets twice a year.
 - These conversations have been happening for years. Housing options are limited. The developmentally disabled population has limited income and is competing with a lot of other groups. They don't have funding streams either.
 - The Lanterman Housing Alliance is looking towards the future and trying to figure out what housing options will be needed. In January 2018, they will be putting together a survey that will be instrumental in developing a strategic housing framework plan.

The final product will be completed by September 2018. If you are interested in being a part of this discussion, please contact Ms. Uplinger.

- Anyone needing assistance can:
 - Contact the Sacramento/West Sacramento Renter's Helpline at (916) 389-7877.
 - Contact Project Sentinel for free legal advice.
 - Access the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development website at www.hud.gov.
- Portability remains an issue (transferring between counties).
- Sacramento County is moving towards digital certifications next year.
- Ms. Uplinger encouraged everyone to call their legislators and the County Board of Supervisors.
- Roommate Database Workgroup
 - The workgroup met and discussed ways in which providers might be able to help support clients and facilitate relationships. They will meet again and then bring their ideas to Mr. Bonnet and Mr. Tiedemann for further consideration.

6. **Provider Presentations**

- Ms. Ramirez shared that two PAC members will share information about their agency at upcoming meetings:
 - Janet Brandon, owner and Director of AIM & Associates, Inc. (Achieve Independent Milestones)
 - AIM & Associates has an adult development program in Auburn and they also provide Independent Living Services (ILS) to clients in the foothills and in Auburn.
 - They have 70 employees and serve 250 clients.
 - Ms. Brandon has been an ACRC vendor for 17 years.
 - They have a farm; the produce goes to the food banks or the clients sell it at the local farmer's market. Clients harvested over four tons of food last year.
 - Becky Brubaker, with Elk Grove Adult Community Training, Inc. (EGACT)
 - EGACT has three sites (South Sacramento, Galt and in the San Joaquin Area)
 - They have 75 staff and serve 170 clients (medically fragile, total care, and senior population)
 - The program has been in business since 1972, therefore they have one of the lowest rates.

7. **Legislative Update**

- The California Disability Services Association (CDSA) and a few other organizations met with the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) to discuss the 23 local minimum wages. There is no movement on funding these wages at this point.
- The Lanterman Coalition continues to have discussions about the land at SDC; it is a complex property. The land at Fairview DC might have more opportunities for housing for our population once it closes.
- The public comment period is happening now for the Electronic Visit Verification for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), SLS and Respite. The planned implementation date for this new requirement is January 2019.
- Those present were encouraged to keep an eye on the tax reform bill. This bill could possibly require a reduction in DDS' budget.

8. **Board Update**

- Mr. Ciampa attended the last Board meeting which was held on Thursday, October 26th.
 - He shared information about our two new PAC members.
 - Prior to the meeting, the Board received information about the new trailer bills that have come through with the passing of the budget.
 - The Board reviewed ACRC's current Respite Services Policy and determined that no changes were necessary; it was aligned with the changes to the law.
 - The Board Development Committee (BDC) is reviewing the agency's bylaws and is focusing on recruitment.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16th.

9. **Announcements/Comments**

- CDSA is holding a luncheon today at Mimi's Café on Alta Arden, immediately following this meeting.
- ACRC's annual adopt-a-family program will bring cheer to many clients/families during this holiday season.
- Mr. Ciampa shared that what happened at the Dixon May Fair was very powerful to watch. It was a very special, meaningful moment that made an impact on DDS, as well as service providers and regional center staff.
- The January PAC agenda will include:
 - Housing update – survey
 - Provider presentations – Ed Doonan and Bonnie Douglas

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, January 11, 2018**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet