

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2020
Minutes

Present:

Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Joe Hernandez, Premier
Healthcare Services
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Robin Rhoades, Southside
Unlimited
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Michelle Ramirez*, On My Own,
Chair
James Astorga*, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Janet Brandon*, AIM &
Associates
Bonnie Douglas*, Turning Point
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION
Jessica Knuth*, Reach Adult
Development
Antonio Ranit*, Antelope Hills
Manor
Joy Scott*, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Paul Traglio*, Capitol Autism
Services

Visitors:

Garrett Broadbent
Breeanne Burris
Kim Christensen
Blake Ellis
Gray Freeman
Robert Garcia
Stan Higgins
Rebecca LaBoriel
Alison Lugo
Jessica Mercado
Susan Miner
Dianne Olafson
Haleigh Scott
Shawn Sloane
Sean Stone
Joselyn Thompson
Jasmine Vollenweider
Tim Wheeler
Mila Zea

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Lori Banales, Deputy Executive
Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community Services
Katherine Weston, HCBS Specialist
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:33 a.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2020, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Presentation from Haleigh Scott, PhD with the MIND Institute – research opportunities for adults with ID; 4) Legislative Update; 5) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments; 6) PAC Priorities; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Eric Ciampa made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of January 9, 2020 as submitted.

1. ***Board Update***

- Mr. Ciampa shared that the Board committee meetings are open to the public.
- The Board Development Committee (BDC) continues to work on recruitment. Board members serve two two-year terms and a three-year term to total seven years.
- The Slate of Officers has been developed for the 2020-21 fiscal year (FY).
- The BDC is starting to plan for their upcoming May Training. They are also reviewing the agency's bylaws.
- Mr. Ciampa reminded committee members that the PAC will need to elect their Chair and Co-Chair for the upcoming FY soon. Historically, after three years, the Chair of the PAC usually moves to the PAC designated representative to the Board. Please let him know if you are interested.

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

- Mr. Bonnet is happy to see new faces around the table. As the members that are present will tell you, they started out as visitors. This meeting is a great opportunity for service providers to have time with ACRC's Executive Staff.
- Yesterday, we hosted our second ACRC sponsored arts and crafts fair. Mr. Bonnet would love to create a tradition of showcasing the work that service providers do with our clients. It's a wonderful opportunity to see individuals in a different light.
 - Please contact him if you have any suggestions on ways to highlight our clients in other sponsored activities.
- The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Grassroots Day is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st, at the State Capitol. Those that attend have an opportunity to sit down with the legislators that represent our ten-county catchment area.
 - If anyone would like to join "Team Alta", please contact Mr. Bonnet or Ms. West.

- The Governor's proposed budget for the 20-21 FY has been released and it includes \$1 billion in additional funding for our statewide service system. Because our system continues to grow, it's important that the legislators are aware of all that we do to serve our clients and families. Dr. Ghaly attended the initial DS Task Force meeting that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) held here at ACRC Sacramento office, and he expressed concern for our outdated information systems and how it is difficult to get granular data.
 - Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC has an IT contractor that writes specific programs for our agency.
- Hopefully the 8.2% supplemental rate increase that most service providers received on January 1st, is helpful. Early Start Specialized Therapeutic Services, Independent Living Services (ILS) and Infant Development Programs are slated to get a rate increase in January 2021.
- Katherine Weston, ACRC's Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Specialist, shared that the intent of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS') final rule is to provide services in community-based settings. Over the past several years, she has been working with staff and learning about the upcoming changes. We have been preparing for the rollout of the self-assessment survey and it is here! Hopefully, you have all received an email with the letter from DDS. Although the final rule does apply to all of the HCBS providers, not all will have to complete the survey.
 - Service providers will receive an email from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) with your login credentials; you can also login through ACRC's electronic billing site.
 - Ms. Weston clarified that the "TID" is your Tax Identification Number.
 - Currently, out of 356 providers, 11 have completed the survey and 27 have started it but not yet completed it.
 - ACRC is hosting several webinars in the Redwood Room to support service providers during this time. We have also posted information about the HCBS Waiver on our agency's website.
 - Ms. Dupree shared that the goal of the assessment is to gather data so that DDS can determine what programs are not in compliance. The department will then provide guidance to regional centers to assist providers to assure that they meet the requirements of the HCBS waiver.
 - Please contact Ms. Weston if you have any questions.
- ACRC will be holding the annual POS Expenditure Data Meetings on March 17th, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., and March 24th, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. At these meetings, staff will share information about the diversity grants that the regional center has received.

- If any individuals that plan on attending need specific interpreters, they will need to notify ACRC in advance.
- Information about these meetings have been posted on our social media and website.
- ACRC staff are in the process of meeting with a website designer and we will be rolling out a new mobile-friendly version in early spring.
- The Administration has proposed \$80 million for incentive programs for regional centers. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) sees this idea as flawed. They noted that the system is broken and giving money to regional centers in a funding starved service system is probably not a good idea. DDS will be using the National Core Indicators (NCI). The data that we receive from NCI is usually two years in arrears. Mr. Bonnet believes it is a great tool, but it is time-intensive. The NCI asks about client's living situation, their health, etc.
- Mr. Bonnet noted that Special Incident Reports (SIRs) are important when documenting events that could jeopardize the health and safety of our clients. It is imperative that service providers fill these out in a timely manner and also provide the necessary follow-up. We need to make sure that our clients are protected.
 - A suggestion was made to reconvene collaborative trainings with regional center staff and service providers.
 - Last year, ACRC went through a week of investigation by the OIG regarding SIRs. In many areas, Mr. Bonnet shared that we, as a team, didn't do as well as expected. Our system must improve the way we do things (e.g., timeliness, prevent reoccurrence, etc.), or California may be in jeopardy of losing federal funding.
 - As service providers, Mr. Ciampa believes that we need to look at outside agencies, not just ACRC, to assist with training opportunities.

3. ***Presentation from Haleigh Scott, PhD with the MIND Institute***

- Dr. Scott provided information about two research opportunities that the UC Davis MIND Institute is recruiting for:
 - "Stress in Adults with Intellectual Disability"
 - "Anxiety symptoms in adults with intellectual disability"
- Research drives policy, and policy drives money – research matters!
- People with developmental disabilities are usually excluded from research studies, also those with limited communication. Most research is done on children, not adults.

4. ***Legislative Update***

- CDSA
 - Mr. Ciampa shared that UCP and the ANCOR Foundation released their report entitled "Case for Inclusion" and it is posted on the

website: www.caseforinclusion.org. The report is a comprehensive assessment of how well programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They hope to equip advocates with the data and resources they need to advocate on behalf of deeper investments in the long-term supports and services that enable people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be included, supported and empowered in the community.

- CSLN
 - The Advisory Group created from the P.A.V.E. Project (Person-centered, Advocacy, Vision and Education) consists of 25 parents, clients and service providers. This project is made possible by a grant from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD). The group is drafting a paper, which will be released in September, which will help us all work to ensure quality-based outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 24th.
 - CSLN is working with the legislature in hopes to connect training with outcomes. They are asking for \$2 million and Dr. Ghaly is supporting this request.
 - The CSLN Leadership Conference 2020 entitled "PAVE: Person-Centered, Advocacy, Vision, & Education" is scheduled for April 8th thru 10th, at the Paradise Point Resort & Spa in San Diego.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss shared the network want service providers to pay attention to the rate models and values-based pricing (managed care). "Utilization is not an outcome."
- Lanterman Coalition
 - The group would like to continue to discuss the recent rate study.

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

- An updated list was distributed for review.
 - The Adult Day & Employment Vendor Forum was held on January 23rd.
 - There was a good discussion about the self-assessment and the trainings that are coming up.
 - Cindy Le, ACRC's Client Employment Specialist, shared information about paid internships and Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) payments.
 - The group discussed if there is a need for licensing in primarily community-based (or site-based) programs.
 - The Supported Living Services (SLS) Vendor Forum was held on February 10th.
- Ms. Dupree noted that ACRC staff enjoy holding the vendor forums and working with service providers. It is important to maintain a

collaborative atmosphere and to respect others time, as well as their views.

6. ***PAC Priorities***

- Vendor Relations
 - The workgroup met with ACRC staff and discussed respectful business interactions (summary was distributed for review).
 - If you have comments prior to the next meeting, please contact Ms. Rhoades.
- Housing
 - The workgroup continues to work diligently on a long-term housing plan.
- Transportation
 - The workgroup may be inviting Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) and Paratransit to the table to join in on the discussions. Changes are happening on July 1st.

7. ***Announcements/Comments***

- DDSO is holding an ASL production of the *Vagina Monologues* this weekend only.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, March 12, 2020**, 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