

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 14, 2019
Minutes

Present:

Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Chair
Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga Care
Home
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Joseph Hernandez, Premier
Healthcare Services
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
Will Sanford, Futures Explored,
Inc.
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services

Visitors:

Andrea Croom
David Dodson
Lindsey Dyba
Kate Halecky
Teri Hayes
Lynn Heitner
Stan Higgins
Reina Hudson
Joe Jaquez
Adam Ruggles
Todd Ruggles
Collin Sainio
Nicky Schlupe
Jasmine Vollenweider
Sonya Fox Watson

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Lori Banales, Director of Children &
Adolescent Services
John Decker, Manager of
CPP/Forensics Unit
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community Services
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating
Officer
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 14, 2019, 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) Review PAC Purpose and Bylaws; 5) PAC Elections for the 2019-20 FY; 6) Approve New Member; 7) PAC Priorities; 8) Provider Presentations; 9) Legislative Update; and 10) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of January 10, 2019 as submitted.

1. **Board Update**

- Mr. Ciampa attended the last Board meeting which was held on Thursday, January 24th.
 - The Board discussed the Governor's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year (FY) and reviewed ACRC's recent independent audit, which was clean.
 - The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is holding their annual Grassroots Day at the State Capitol on Wednesday, April 3rd.
 - The Board is still recruiting and focusing on where our needs are.

2. **Executive Director's Report**

- The rate study that Burns & Associates has been conducting is complete. Mr. Bonnet believes the results will be consequential; it will probably indicate that work needs to be done on service provider rates in the State of California. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be holding meetings here at ACRC to review the data at the end of the month. The changes that the rate study recommends may be a long-term process, but this remains a high priority for DDS.
- When ACRC staff receive incident reports, we look back to see how we can avoid a situation from occurring again. Most incidents are directly related to the training of staff that are with our clients. That's where rates come into play. Our statewide system is so big right now, some have questioned if the system is sustainable.
- The proposed budget includes 54 new positions at DDS. They will also be expanding to a Southern California branch office. Most of the increase in their budget will be for increased monitoring of regional centers. There is pressure on the department from the federal government. ACRC has had some challenges with those individuals that have moved out of the developmental centers.
 - Upcoming Hearings regarding the Governor's proposed budget:
 - Assembly – March 6th
 - Senate – May 2nd

- The efforts of DDS' Community Resource Development Program (CRDP) is primarily focused on the safety net. ACRC has received our funding for our approved projects (Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes with a medical component, and housing developer organization to renovate duplexes for reduced SLS housing).
- One of the things that staff keep hearing from people involved in the Self-Determination Program (SDP) is that they want camp and recreational services. Currently, regional centers are prohibited from paying for these types of services, but these services will be available to purchase.
- Outreach to underserved communities seems to be less of an issue than in past years. If the services that are being provided by our vendors are not what people want, then this will continue to be an issue. ACRC will be holding our annual Purchase of Service Expenditure Data Public Meetings in March (March 13th at 6 p.m. and March 20th at 10 a.m.). Over the last three years, ACRC's Diversity Specialist has been working on various projects and has found that it isn't as easy as just asking. ACRC remains open to suggestions; we have tried many ways to elicit input from clients and families. We are seeing individual families affected in a positive way although the numbers move slowly.
- We have a responsibility to service providers across the state to develop good relationships with our legislators.
- Mr. Tiedemann shared that ACRC sent out over 200 letters to providers who are not current on the DS1891 Form for Medicare fraud. If you are one of the providers that received a letter, please complete as soon as possible; there is an electronic option, as well.
- For those service providers who have reached certain thresholds, you are required to complete an independent audit or review by the end of your FY. ACRC is reminding providers about this requirement. Some regional centers will end vendorizations over this; however, ACRC does not. Once you have completed your audit or review, you may apply for a waiver that is good for two years. This information is posted on our agency's website. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Tiedemann.

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

- An updated list was distributed for review. Ms. Dupree shared that ACRC is shifting the frequency of the vendor forums to every six months so that staff can focus on resource development.
 - The Adult Day & Employment Vendor Forum was held on January 30th.
 - The Homemaker Vendor Forum was held on February 11th.

- The Supported Living Services (SLS) Vendor Forum was held on January 31st.
 - The group received a training on conservatorship.

4. **Review PAC Purpose and Bylaws**

- Ms. Ramirez and Mr. Ciampa thought it would be relevant for committee members to review the PAC's purpose and mandate. This is required annually per the Lanterman Act.
 - The PAC's Standing Rules summarize why this group exists.
 - The PAC provides guidance and input to ACRC's Board of Directors.
 - We also want to build a strong and active provider community.
- It's important to note that these are not agency seats – you, a provider, are the member and can vote.

5. **PAC Elections for the 2019-20 FY**

- Ms. Ramirez and Mr. Ciampa have held the PAC Chair and Co-Chair (designated representative to ACRC's Board of Directors) positions for two years. They both can serve in their current positions for one more year.
- The PAC will hold its elections in March. Nominations should be sent to Ms. West.
 - It's important that the PAC's designated representative is an active member of the Board and represents the entire provider community. This position requires extra time and knowledge.

6. **Approve New Member – Andrea Croom w/INALLIANCE**

- Ms. Ramirez introduced Andrea Croom, the interim Executive Director of INALLIANCE. Ms. Croom provided a brief overview of her role at INALLIANCE and her work history.

Without objection, Will Sanford made the motion to nominate Andrea Croom for PAC membership.

7. **PAC Priorities**

- Communications
 - The group drafted a letter that can be sent to members that have attendance issues. Mr. Hernandez will forward it to Ms. West for distribution to the entire PAC. Any suggested revisions should be shared with him.
 - Suggestion to send out information about these committee meetings once a year to the entire vendor community.

- ILS
 - The changes that were brought up in October about transportation were further discussed in November.
 - The workgroup reached out to the other regional centers to gather data on whether their ILS vendors provide transportation. They presented their feedback to Mr. Bonnet and other ACRC staff.
 - The next vendor forum is scheduled for February 21st. The group is looking forward to working collaboratively with ACRC staff.
- Vendor Relations
 - The group is focusing on the vendorization process – the differences between the Request for Proposals (RFPs) and the normal process. They developed some questions that they will send to staff. The combined group will meet and then Ms. Rhoades will report back to this committee.

8. ***Provider Presentations***

- The PAC will have two members share information about their agencies at each meeting.
 - Yvonne Soto, with DDSO
 - The agency began in 1975. Their legal name is Developmental Disabilities Service Organization.
 - They strive to create environments that support diversity, inclusion and creativity.
 - DDSO only serves individuals with a developmental disabilities; they have five different programs (four in Sacramento and one in Stockton).
 - They are best known for their art programs, but they have an employment program, which involves a lot of different projects.
 - DDSO has a repertory company that is grant funded and inclusive. Their theatre company is currently putting on a few different productions. They also have an open mic night/talent show, which they hope to hold every other month.
 - Peter Stirling, with Serenity Respite Services
 - The agenda provides in-home respite services (1 on 1), which provides a break to parents. A vast majority of their clients have autism.
 - They provide court ordered parenting classes, as well as anger management classes (Thursdays from 5 to 6:30 p.m.). More information can be found at www.beasacademy.org or call (916) 349-8540.

- They are also developing an afterschool program that combines STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities with exploring and applying those skills outside of a formal classroom.

9. **Legislative Update**

- All bills must be submitted by next Friday, February 22nd.
- AB261 (Mathis) – this bill would repeal the suspension of regional center’s authority to purchase camp and social recreation activities.
- AB311 (Frazier) – this bill would repeal the half day/full day billing requirements for Day Service programs.
- The Uniform Holiday Schedule is in the Governor’s proposed budget.
- The legislature increased rates for nursing services. They are also looking to do something similar with dental benefits.
- As mentioned earlier, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6th, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 444 of the State Capitol. Since the first budget hearing is typically the one that has the most budget impact, Mr. Sanford encouraged everyone to attend.
- Many organizations have expressed an interest in developing something to submit to the legislature that shows that we have a community crisis right now. Most individuals have a job that pays between \$17 and \$24 per hour, which is typically \$4 to \$10 higher than service providers are currently able to pay. There is a big push for an 8% rate adjustment, which would be a “down payment” until after the rate study is released.
- The Direct Service Provider Summit is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2nd, at the Crest Theatre. On April 3rd, we will be holding a rally at the State Capitol from 10 a.m. to noon.
- The Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd.
- AB192 (Mathis) California Integrated Community Living Program. This program would provide deferred payment loans to finance capital and other specified costs for permanent supportive housing for individuals who are regional center clients in order to maximize affordable integrated community living opportunities within communities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- More than 5,500 service providers from across the state responded to the survey that was sent out about direct support professionals (DSPs) wages.
- If you would like this committee to follow any other bills, please let Mr. Sanford know.

10. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Stan Higgins shared that his company has an electronic documentation system which meets the requirements for CMS and self-determination.
- Ms. Watilo shared that the Discovery Personalized Training sessions are finishing up. They will be holding additional "Train the Trainer" sessions.
- The March agenda will include provider presentations from Paul Traglio and Carole Watilo.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, March 14, 2019**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet