

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 8, 2018
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
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
Will Sanford, Futures Explored
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Bonnie Douglas*, Turning Point
Sergio Pinto*, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit*, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Peter Stirling*, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio*, Capitol Autism
Services

Board Members:

Austin Taylor

Visitors:

James Astorga
Candice Bright
Lindsey Dyba
Kate Halecky
Joseph Hernandez
Joe Jaquez
Elisabeth Johnson
Edmund Knighton
Aaron Kowalski
Jennifer Marchant
Dainna McArthur
Marie McConnell
Michelle Nobile
Fred Patawaran
Lou Patawaran
Nicky Schluep
Stan Schmidt
Corinne Stacey

Staff:

Alfonso Carmona, Director of Adult &
Residential Services
John Decker, Manager of
CPP/Forensics Unit
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2018, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Director's Report; 2) Vendor Forum Update &

Liaison Assignments; 3) ACRC RFP Update/Community Needs; 4) Outreach Committee – Nominations for New Membership; 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 January 11, 2018 as submitted.

1. Director's Report

- Dr. Paul Porter, with UC Davis Extension, is available to host a Cultural Competency Training for the PAC on March 8th, from 9 a.m. to noon.
- The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) will be holding their Annual Grassroots Day at the State Capitol on Tuesday, March 20th.
- Mr. Carmona shared that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has accepted ACRC's list of just over 2,000 clients who are interested in participating in the Self-Determination Program. The department will provide an update to regional centers at ARCA's Chief Counselor's meeting next month.
- ACRC will be holding our Annual Purchase of Services (POS) Expenditure Data meetings at our Sacramento office on March 14th, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and on March 21st, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Translators will be available at both meetings.
- In our ongoing outreach efforts, ACRC is holding Cultural Diversity Trainings in the community. We have received some grant funding from DDS to assist with this process. ACRC has been awarded funding to utilize parent advisors to assist in targeting different ethnic populations.
- Assembly member Holden is asking for \$25 million in single-year funding for a provider rate adjustment, which may not be enough to cover local and regional minimum wages. His Chief of Staff has been flooded with information from surveys, etc. ARCA is putting together a push for letters targeting unfunded mandates. These issues will be addressed at a hearing scheduled for Wednesday, March 7th.

2. Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments

- An updated list was distributed for review.
 - The Adult Day & Employment Vendor Forum was held on January 17th. The group discussed the Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver and the paid internship form that ACRC has been using.

- Those that attended the forum expressed appreciation for Cindy Le and Darline Dupree for having ACRC staff available to assist with revising the form.
 - The Behavior Intervention Services Vendor Forum met on February 7th. Families are being asked to provide updated comprehensive evaluations in order to access services.
 - ACRC is currently seeking providers who can help with assessing children that are "at-risk" for autism (birth to three years of age).
 - Early Start referrals have increased exponentially. The capacity of the industry is being strained; the push is to expand this benefit to more individuals.
 - The In-Home Respite Vendor Forum met on January 17th. The group discussed the recent legislative changes which lifted the cap on respite. They also talked about the referral process and what providers do to match clients with the appropriate caregiver. ACRC distributed a copy of the regulations to providers for their reference.
 - The Residential Vendor Forum met on February 5th.
 - The group received a presentation about HCBS.
 - Katherine Weston, ACRC's HCBS Specialist, is available to go out to programs to meet with providers about the changes.
 - CalABLE is getting ready to be rolled out. ACRC will be holding an informational presentation for service providers in April or May of this year.
 - Mr. Sanford offered to have his film crew record the presentation for future reference.
 - The group discussed reimbursement rates for 1:1, and the recent change to the vendorization process (a HIPAA form is now required for all vendorizations).
 - ACRC requested that providers notify the regional center as soon as possible if they are considering transferring ownership of a facility.
 - The Specialized OT/PT Vendor Forum met on January 17th.
- A comment was made that ACRC has not held an Independent Living Services (ILS) or Supported Living Services (SLS) vendor forum for some time.
 - Ms. Onesi will speak with Darline Dupree about scheduling these as soon as possible.

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

- Mr. Decker shared that ACRC has not awarded any more Requests for Proposals (RFPs). Housing guidelines were released at the end of January.
 - ACRC is closing escrow on an IMD “step-down” home in Harold, CA next week. A service provider will be chosen tomorrow.
- Ms. Onesi shared that the agency’s RFPs are still posted on our website. ACRC’s Community Services Specialists are still compiling the data on the needs assessments.
- The state is developing community crisis homes as part of the safety net that is being put into place. These Stabilization, Training, Assistance and Reintegration (STAR) homes will be developed in Fairfield, and will have five beds each; there will eventually be three five-bed facilities. Because Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) is closing in December 2018, the state employees will be assisting with staffing the STAR homes.
- Mr. Decker shared that the dental clinic was supposed to start construction last week; the factory is already building the walls. Construction should be completed by May, and the clinic will hopefully be opening in September. Staff are currently being trained. A conference on oral health for individuals with developmental disabilities was held at the Double Tree last week. Nancy Bargmann, the Director of DDS, had been having conversations about the dental crisis that regional center clients face every day; legislative staff are aware of this, too.
- Mr. Taylor shared that ACRC’s Client Advisory Committee (CAC) will be having a presentation from the DDS’ CAC next week. The group is focusing on outreach opportunities and community partnerships.
 - The group is developing a questionnaire that will get CAC members prepared to visit the individuals who have moved out of SDC.

4. **Outreach Committee – Nominations for New Membership**

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the Outreach Committee would like to suggest that the PAC consider James Astorga, with F&A Astorga Care Homes, and Joseph Hernandez, with Premier Healthcare Services for membership.
 - James Astorga’s family has two care homes in Elk Grove, and an ICF in Sacramento; each facility serves six clients. He has been working with ACRC’s Community Placement Plan (CPP) Unit to develop another facility, an ARFPSHN, which will provide services to clients transitioning from SDC and Porterville. Mr. Astorga has gathered so much helpful information from attending these meetings and hopes to bring a new perspective to the table.

- Joseph Hernandez shared that Premier Healthcare Services was established in 2006 in Southern California, and now the agency provides services to clients in all 21 regional centers (e.g., Daycare Services, Personal Attendant, Respite and Transportation). Premier has given away backpacks for the last two years to children served by ACRC, and they also have participated in ACRC's Santa Day. Mr. Hernandez believes it's important to stay current with the industry and would also like to have a voice at the table. He is the Northern CA Community Relations Specialist for Premier.

M/S/C (Will Sanford) **To nominate James Astorga to the PAC for membership, representing F&A Astorga Care Homes.** (13 in favor)

M/S/C (Joy Scott) **To nominate Joseph Hernandez to the PAC for membership, representing Premier Healthcare Services.** (13 in favor)

5. **PAC Priorities**

- ACRC's Vendorization and Addendum Process
 - The workgroup held a conference call and focused on the strengths of ACRC's Community Services & Supports Department (e.g., communication with providers and the vendor forums). The group would like to know more about ACRC's vendorization process.
 - They would like to share ideas on how regional center staff and providers can be more efficient and work collaboratively as a team.
 - The goal is to get more vendors through the process so that they can provide services to ACRC clients and increase innovation in this service system. We need more people that want to make a difference in the lives of the clients that we serve.
 - Another conference call is scheduled for next Monday.
- Vendor/Service Code Survey
 - Mr. Ciampa will be sending out an email to members who have not completed the form yet.
- Next Priorities (listed on the back of the PAC agenda)
 - Program development – members are waiting for the needs assessment information from ACRC staff. The data will possibly be available to share in April; providers will be able to share input at the vendor forums.

- Housing – the roommate database workgroup will be meeting soon. The workgroup will be suggesting a more collaborative approach in assisting clients with this process.
 - Mr. Ciampa took input from members of this team and created a “proof of concept” using Google Forum/Docs. He will be demoing it for the workgroup. The new program, which could be placed on a secure website, might possibly be a database that individuals looking for roommates could access.
 - The idea is to have this be a community resource.
 - A suggestion was made to include Patti Uplinger in this process.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss shared that STEP would be willing to host a meeting to discuss strategies around affordable housing; the database is one small part of a bigger problem.
 - A request was made to include all of the counties in this process, not just Sacramento.
 - The roommate database workgroup volunteers include: Sandy Bishop, Janet Brandon, Eric Ciampa, Jacquie Dillard-Foss, Michelle Ramirez and Austin Taylor
- Ms. Ramirez is seeking volunteers to discuss the four items under “Develop a Resource or Tool”.
 - Volunteers include: Jacquie Dillard-Foss, Michelle Ramirez, and Carole Watilo. Suggestion was made to include Darline Dupree and Katherine Weston.

6. **Provider Presentations**

- The PAC will have two members share information about their agencies at each meeting. Ms. Ramirez noted that Sergio Pinto was not able to attend the meeting today; he will present in April.
 - Jacquie Dillard-Foss, with Strategies To Empower People (STEP)
 - Began in 1994; STEP serves clients in Placer, Sacramento, Sutter & Yuba Counties, and just began serving clients in the North Bay Regional Center (NBRC) catchment area.
 - The agency provides SLS and ILS to 300 ACRC clients and 13 NBRC clients. STEP has two community based day programs (a behavioral and a flexible services).
 - STEP originally started out by providing services to individuals who were deaf, but then later expanded their services.
 - They employ 600 staff members; 150 who are deaf.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss has served as the Co-Chair of the California Supported Living Network (CSLN) and currently

serves as the Co-Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee. STEP is also a member of the Lanterman Coalition.

- Ms. Dillard-Foss enjoys advocating for the people that we serve. She is the sibling of a deaf adult.
- STEP is opening a crisis home, and Dr. Ruth Myers is now part of the STEP Team.

7. **Legislative Update**

- The DS Taskforce is now being run by Nancy Bargmann, Director of DDS, instead of Secretary Diana Dooley. A meeting is scheduled for later this month to discuss provider rates with Burns & Associates. At some point, providers will be asked to complete another survey, which must be done within 30 days. Burns & Associates has commented that the State of California is bigger and more complex than other states.
- Upcoming hearings are scheduled at the State Capitol regarding the Governor's proposed budget.
 - The Assembly is meeting on Wednesday, March 7th, at 2:30 p.m.
 - The Senate will meet on Thursday, March 15th, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

It is key that the legislators hear from our community about housing issues and the ABX2-1 funding, which was supposed to enhance wages, but has been manipulated into helping fund minimum wage.

- As mentioned at last month's meeting, the proposed budget includes the re-implementation of the 14-day uniform holiday schedule.
- There is discussion in the legislature about selling the land after SDC closes. Senator McGuire is willing to work with our statewide service system during this process. The goal is to find a revenue bond or stream to use for future affordable housing. It has been suggested that we go after the water rights. Advocates believe that if an agreement can be reached on the SDC land, then the Fairview DC closer will go smoother.
- Earlier this month, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released a report that noted that the state could see a net operational savings of \$100 million annually from DC closures. Mr. Sanford believes this report will be helpful for advocating for our service system.
- Governor Brown vetoed AB1607 (Frazier) Developmental services: integrated competitive employment.
- DDS will be resubmitting the Self-Determination Program waiver that will put California "back on the clock". Programs that provide day services under a group modality will be required to have a self-assessment, as well as a team assessment.
- The Workers Compensation Ratings Bureau has no intention of discontinuing the 8827 code. They are redefining the 8868 code, so

some providers may be pushed from the 8868 code to the 8827 (Homemaker Services) code. This is a complicated process. Insurance agents will place providers into the correct category. Public input will be gathered in August.

8. **Board Update**

- Mr. Ciampa attended the last Board meeting which was held on Thursday, January 25th.
 - Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Bonnet for conducting the recent ACRC Leadership Culture Survey. This gave the agency input on what is working and helped to develop goals in agency/management strategies.
 - ACRC participated in the *2018 March for the Dream Diversity Expo* at the Sacramento Convention Center on January 15th.
 - The Board commended John Decker and the entire ACRC team regarding their efforts in moving the clients out of SDC. The last client served by this regional center will be moved sometime this spring and Mr. Bonnet plans on being there for this special occasion.
 - The Board Development Committee (BDC) is reviewing the Nomination Process for Board Officers.
 - The group just approved a contract for a "step-down" home for SDC clients.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22nd.

9. **Announcements/Comments**

- The March PAC meeting will be used for a Cultural Competency Training with Dr. Porter, from 9 a.m. to noon.
- The April PAC agenda will include:
 - Provider presentations – Sergio Pinto and Antonio Ranit
 - Update from the roommate database workgroup
- The CSLN is holding its 18th Annual Leadership Conference entitled "Embrace Our Past, Strengthen Our Future" in San Diego on April 12th & 13th. There will be a Legacy Panel, as we celebrate the 25th year of the pilot-project of SLS. The Key Note Speaker this year is "Born This Way" star Sean McElwee and his mother, Sandra.
- The Cultural Diversity Subcommittee members are encouraged to attend the upcoming POS Expenditure Data meetings.
- Progressive Employment Concepts hosted another ACRE Training in January, where a lot of good information was shared about using discovery and customized strategies for individuals that have barriers on customized employment. Another training is scheduled for March.

M/S/C (Carole Watilo) **To re-elect Eric Ciampa as the PAC Designated Representative to the Board of Director and Michelle Ramirez as the PAC Chair for the 2018-19 FY.**
(13 in favor)

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, March 8, 2018**, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet