

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 9, 2023
Minutes

Present:

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc., Chair
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Co-Chair & Design. Dir.
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &
Associates
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Jacquie Foss, STEP
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Breeanne Kolster, 24 Hour Home
Care
Christa McClure, Tri-County
Respite Care Service
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

James Astorga, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Andrea Croom*, INALLIANCE
Joe Jaquez*, EGACTION
Yvonne Soto*, DDSO

Visitors

Sheila Abrams
Lia Brown
Rebecca Brubaker
Christa Coats
Maureen Fitzgerald
Adriene Gaudet
Jennifer Gomez
Susan Miner
Natasha Mosley-Simpkins
Melanie Pashenee
Jen Roney
Geneva Steward
Jasmine Vollenweider

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client
Services
Tracy Brown, Associate Client
Services Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Michelle McDonald, Manager of
Community Services
Carly Shearer, Client Employment
Specialist
Johnny Xiong, Associate Client
Services Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2023, by Zoom/teleconference to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Social Rec Presentation; 3) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 4) System Reform and Legislative Update;

5) Transitioning Out of Alternative Services & Use of TDS; 6) PAC Chair & Co-Chair/Designated Rep to Board for 2023-24 FY; 7) PAC Membership Requirements & Goals; 8) PAC Committees & Reports; and 9) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Kate Halecky made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of January 12, 2023 as submitted.

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

- ACRC's Annual Purchase of Services (POS) Data Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st, from 5 to 7 p.m., and Monday, March 27th, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
 - Last year, most of the same participants attended both meetings, so the intention of the second meeting is to provide a brief summary of the first meeting and then expand on the data.
 - Elijah Jenkins, ACRC's Data Scientist/System Operator, will be instrumental in the data analysis for these meetings.
- The ACRC/VMRC Collaborative will meet again on February 21st.
 - The group is securing venues for developmental disability specific job fairs to be held in both regional center's catchment areas.
 - Videos will soon be shared – the video from the Collaborative, along with the "Invaluable" video.
 - The goal is to enhance participation in this project.
- On February 3rd, ACRC emailed a letter to service providers informing them that our regional center was allotted close to \$1 million to support Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) compliance. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has identified priorities for use of these funds. Letters of interest should be submitted to HCBS@altaregional.org no later than February 22, 2023. ACRC must send the proposals to DDS by March 1st.
 - If you have creative ideas, please contact Mr. Decker and Ms. McDonald.
- ACRC's April newsletter, entitled *Alta Connections*, will focus on employment; from education to clients who have a business of their own.
 - Ms. Banales is seeking assistance in securing stories highlighting the successes that are out there. Please reach out to Ms. Shearer with any contacts/suggestions.
- Ms. Banales will share an article written by Amy Westling, the Executive Director of the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), that was published in Capitol Weekly earlier this week. It solidifies the need for the revision of regional center's core staffing formula.

- DDS is releasing guidance and ACRC staff will be trained on Coordinated Family Support (CFS) Services. New service codes are now available.
 - These supports target adult clients that live in their family home and respects the family's language/culture.
 - ACRC staff will create an outreach plan that will outline how we will be sharing this information with our community partners.
 - DDS is holding community meetings in multiple languages. ACRC may follow these up with additional question/answer (Q&A) meetings.
 - Jason Scantlebury, ACRC Community Services Specialist, will oversee these vendorizations.
 - Additional information will be shared regularly at Friday's "Coffee with Community Services" meetings.
- DDS has approved the following proposals from ACRC's Community Placement Plan (CPP)/Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP):
 - Woodland housing project
 - A substance use disorder care facility
 - A sign language registry pilot program

2. ***Social Rec Presentation***

- Ms. Bloom and Ms. Johnson shared information about the restoration of social recreational services.
 - ACRC sees the value in children and adults participating in social and recreational activities. We are committed to promoting positive mental health, growth and development, relationship building and encourage these opportunities for inclusion.
 - We want to make sure that this service is not a segregated activity, but rather conducted in an integrated (full inclusion) setting.
 - The requested service must be related to a condition which results from the developmental disability that qualifies the client for regional center services.
 - It's important to note that there are three paths for a client who resides in a Community Care Facility (CCF) to attend day or overnight camp:
 - Client attends day or overnight camp funded by the CCF. ACRC will consider funding cost that exceeds the client's cost for the placement.
 - ACRC funds the day or overnight camp; the CCF does not bill for residential services during this time.
 - Client and CCF work together mutually to create a camp experience (e.g., weekend camping trip, fishing trip, day trips, excursions, etc.).

- Desired outcomes include:
 - Increased utilization and access to social recreational services.
 - Support and training to people who facilitate and provide services.
 - Accessibility and community integration.
 - Support for individuals with varying needs.
 - Strong partnership with community organizations.
- ACRC is committed to:
 - Promoting this initiative.
 - Securing a variety of vendored providers to meet your social recreation and camp needs.
 - Sharing information about available social recreation and camp opportunities.
 - Outreach to spread the word about these opportunities.
 - Present to Stakeholders through public meetings (e.g., this meeting and the Client Advisory Committee [CAC] meeting next Tuesday).

3. ***ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates***

- The Supported Living Services (SLS) vendor forum was held on January 23rd.
 - The group discussed rates and the 90/10 issue. They also talked about Health & Safety Waivers.
- An ICF specific vendor forum is scheduled for March 7th, at 10 a.m.
 - The group will discuss the transition to Managed Care, which has been pushed to January 1, 2024.
 - The PAC would like an update at the next PAC meeting.
- As a reminder, vendor forums are open to all service providers.

4. ***System Reform and Legislative Update (ARCA, CDSA, CCLN, DS Taskforce, Lanterman Coalition)***

- ARCA
 - ARCA is working on the meal break issue.
- CCLN
 - The number one priority continues to be the Independent Living Services (ILS) rate issue. On March 23rd, the Senate is meeting and the group is trying to get an author/sponsor by March 16th in order to be placed on the agenda.
 - They met with California Disability Services Association (CDSA) and Disability Rights California (DRC) and everyone agrees there is a problem.
 - They met with a diverse group to discuss the 90/10 issue. CCLN provided DDS with a proposal with suggestions on how to address this.

- Mr. Decker just received DDS' proposal on how to fix this. He would like to suggest that the PAC discuss this at the March meeting to help clarify this matter.
- CCLN continues to focus efforts on housing.
- The Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE) project, which is based on service outcome, has begun. They are in the process of choosing a stakeholder group, who will decide which regional center(s) they want to work with.

5. ***Transitioning Out of Alternative Services & Use of TDS***

- Ms. Shearer shared that ACRC staff are still gathering data. We have seven additional service providers that have added tailored day services (TDS) to their program designs.
- Mr. Decker noted that with the recent changes to transportation, rebuilding routes remains an issue. ACRC staff are looking at creative ways to assist clients.
 - We are working on a process to allow for a service provider to arrange for transportation from a ride sharing company and then bill for that service.
 - As we continue to make progress, we are still falling behind on getting enough rides on buses, etc.
 - ACRC will provide a one-page addendum that can be added to interested service provider's program designs.

6. ***PAC Chair & Co-Chair/Designated Rep to Board for 2023-24 FY***

- Garrett Broadbent and Andrea Croom have expressed interest in the PAC Co-Chair/Designated Rep position for the 2023-24 fiscal year (FY).
 - This will be an action item at the March PAC Meeting.

7. ***PAC Membership Requirements & Goals***

- This item will be discussed at the March PAC meeting.

8. ***PAC Committees & Reports***

- Mr. Broadbent has volunteered to be Chair of the Vendor Relations Committee.
- Mr. Ciampa will remain the Chair of the Communication & Outreach Committee.

9. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Monica Shapiro, from Sacramento State's Division of Social Work, provided information on the three social work student levels (BSW, MSWI and MSWII).
 - Any student graduating from an accredited social work program must complete a certain number of hours of practicum in the field.

- Ms. Dyba shared that Futures Explored, Inc. has had great success in securing interns with this program's assistance. Some stay on as employees after they graduate.
- Ms. McDonald noted that ACRC is still finalizing the training materials/sessions for the Learning Management System's (LMS') Vendor Orientation.
- Ms. Bloom shared that Faye Tait is being promoted to Associate Client Services Director effective February 16th. Ms. Tait will continue to oversee the Self-Determination Program (SDP) unit and will be charged with hiring her replacement.
- Mr. Decker noted that Helen Neri, Manager of Community Services, is still growing her unit. Service providers will be notified which specialists handle specific service codes.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, March 9, 2023**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales