

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, March 10, 2016  
Minutes

**Present:**

Will Sanford, Futures Explored,  
Chair  
Janet Brandon, AIM &  
Associates, Co-Chair  
Becky Brubaker, EGACT  
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Greater  
Sacramento, Inc.  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP  
Daina Glasson, Ambitions CA  
Dawn Montgomery, HOPE  
Consulting  
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,  
Inc.  
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art  
Center  
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver  
Relief  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO  
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite  
Services  
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism  
Services  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

**Visitors:**

Eva Avila  
Sandy Bishop  
Andrea Croom  
Bonnie Douglas  
Maureen Fitzgerald  
Adriene Gaudet  
Kristine Johnson  
Aaron Kowalski  
Sabrina Oxborrow  
Wesley Moss  
Samantha Nielsen  
Michelle Nobile  
Haley Rosin  
Nicky Schluep  
Stan Schmidt  
Kelly Weber

**Staff:**

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director  
John Decker, Manager of  
CPP/Forensics Unit  
Jean Onesi, Manager of  
Community Services  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Gregory Buch\*, Ph.D., PALS  
Gerrit deGelleke, American River  
Speech  
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.  
Susan Miner\*, Turning Point  
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own  
Laleh Sharpe\*, Maxim Healthcare  
Services

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2016, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Nomination & Election of Chair and Designated Representative to the Board of Directors for the 2016-17 fiscal year; 3) Staff Crisis in the Community (discussion); 4) Sub-Committee Updates; 5) Updates; 6) Legislative Update; 7) Board Update; and 8) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

**Without objection, Will Sanford made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of February 11, 2016 as submitted.**

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

- Mr. Bonnet welcomed the new faces around the room. As Executive Director of ACRC, it is important for him to get input from the service provider community.
- There are new changes at the Executive Management level of ACRC. As you have heard, David Rydquist, ACRC's Director of Adult & Residential Services, is retiring on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Bonnet has named his replacement – Alfonso Carmona, ACRC's current Director of Intake & Clinical Services. Just a few days ago, Camelia Houston was named the new Director of Intake & Clinical Services beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The big news around our statewide system is the passage of the Managed Care Organization (MCO) Reform which will add more than \$400 million into our statewide service system beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - 7.5% increase for salaries and benefits, for both service providers (POS) and regional centers (OPS)
    - Providers will have a fixed dollar amount, but it is not clear yet how much it will be.
  - 2.5% increase for administrative and other costs, for both POS & OPS
  - Restoration of the supported employment rates to 2006 levels
  - 5% increase for Supported Living Services (SLS) and Independent Living Services (ILS)
  - 5% increase for in-home and out-of-home respite services
  - 5% increase for transportation services
  - 5% increase to Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs)
  - Creation of competitive integrated employment programs, in the form of paid internships and incentive payments for helping individuals obtain and retain employment
  - Increase in vendor audit thresholds
  - A rate study plan

- Funding for bilingual staff at regional centers, cultural competency training and parent education efforts

A lot of effort will be required to get this funding out to everyone. The rate increases will be applied to the median rate programs starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. Providers will remain cautious with informing their staff about the wage increase until they see how much they receive. A suggestion was made to inform service providers that if they need assistance in filling out the cost statement surveys, they can contact a particular person; this is a random pull from various service codes. By next October, every service provider will need to report to the state how this money was spent.

- There is additional funding in Governor Brown's proposed 2016-17 fiscal year's (FY's) budget for the regional center system (i.e., caseload growth, funding for new Service Coordinators (SCs), etc.).
- It's fair to say that ACRC's service provider community had a lot to do with these changes. Mr. Bonnet expressed appreciation to everyone for their efforts.
- A suggestion was made to have a gratitude rally at the State Capitol to thank the legislature for this funding.

**M/S/C** (Carole Watilo) **To have Mr. Sanford write a thank you note from the PAC for Monday' special event with Senator Beall at the State Capitol.** (15 in favor)

- The Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA's) Grassroots Day is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, at the State Capitol. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ms. West who will be coordinating the appointments with our local legislators.
- ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) will be holding their meeting at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. It was their idea to invite family members of those individuals that still reside at SDC to this meeting. If you are interested in attending this wonderful, collaborative event, please contact Ms. West.
- Senator McGuire has expressed interest in speaking with regional centers about the closure of SDC. The Senator is opposed to the closure of SDC. Mr. Bonnet will be sharing the same message that he has already shared with the family members affected by this closure – ACRC is developing new resources to make sure the clients who live at SDC will have a safe and happy home environment in their own communities.
- Nancy Bargmann has been selected by Governor Brown to be the next Director of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Mr. Bonnet and ACRC will support her as she takes on this new endeavor.

- Yesterday, ACRC hosted the local Self-Determination Advisory Committee and the California Employment Consortium for Youth (CECY). The CECY talked at length regarding the transition of services to integrated, community based programs. The federal government is not wavering and continues to say that this transition is going to happen. Mr. Bonnet has talked in the past about bringing in Barbara Brent to speak with providers about the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule. Instead, he would like to work in conjunction with North Bay Regional Center (NBRC) and bring in Karen Flippo, a Senior Technical Assistance Specialist with the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI), to present on this topic. The plan would be to hold a workshop for service providers about this process. Mr. Bonnet has already reached out to Ms. Flippo and he will continue to have conversations with her.
    - Suggestion to possibly have a *New Day Conference* regarding the changes that are expected to take place in 2019.
  - To encourage employment for the clients that we serve, Darline Dupree, ACRC's Manager of Community Services, is working closely with the Department of Rehabilitation. There will be more discussion at the vendor forums regarding transition.
2. ***Nomination & Election of Chair and Designated Representative to the Board of Directors for the 2016-17 fiscal year (FY)***
- Issue:** Committee needs to nominate the Chair and Designated Representative to the Board of Directors for the 2016-17 FY.
- Discussion and Action:** Mr. Sanford shared that it's time to elect the Chair and Designated Representative to the Board of Directors for the next FY. Ms. Brandon gave a brief description of what their responsibilities are.
- Ms. Brandon shared that she has no objection to being nominated for another year as the designated representative to the Board. She personally would like to see Eric Ciampa take a more active part in this committee.
- M/S/C** (Robin Rhoades) **To nominate Janet Brandon as the PAC Designated Representative to the Board of Director for the 2016-17 FY.** (15 in favor)
- M/S/C** (Joy Scott) **To nominate Eric Ciampa as the PAC Chair for the 2016-17 FY.** (15 in favor)

3. ***Staff Crisis in the Community (discussion)***

**Issue:** Committee needs to discuss the ongoing staffing crisis in the community.

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Sanford shared that the National Core Indicators (NCI) have predicted that in ten years clients will increase by 40% but the staff issues will remain the same. We need to become more creative in assisting clients; possibly look at technology to assist clients, etc.

With the closure of the DCs, we need to support the independence of our clients versus providing 24/7 assistance in their own communities. Providers need to help change the client's views on this practice, even though they are concerned about their personal liability when serving clients.

We need to have a value shift. Clients need to be able to make their own decisions – dignity of risk and personal choices are critical in their independence.

Competitive employment with minimum wage is the goal for most of our clients. The federal government is asking us to presume that our clients' lives will look like yours and mine. What services and supports do they need to make that happen.

Ms. Dillard-Foss shared that there is a direct service professional (DSP) crisis nationally. How do we develop a workforce for the next 20 years to help support the clients? We need to make sure that employees want to have a future in our service system. This is a concern and an ongoing problem.

A suggestion was made for ACRC to hold ongoing DSP trainings and have a DSP Recognition Month.

Mr. Ciampa would like this committee to focus on something that we can make a difference in.

- **The goal for the April PAC Meeting: to have two action items that the committee can focus on within the next year.**

#### 4. **Sub-Committee Updates:**

- Challenging Needs
  - This sub-committee will be meeting after this meeting.
- Cultural Diversity
  - Ms. Brandon is currently getting more direction from the Board.
- Job Fair
  - The entire PAC will continue to discuss the possibility of holding a job fair at the April meeting.

**5. *Updates:***

- Self-Determination Program
  - SDP – DDS has submitted to Health Care Services the answers to the 185 questions, will get some clarity and then resubmit to the feds.
  - DDS is committed to training regional centers & then the local committees will be training everyone else.
  - Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC has 918 individuals interested individuals signed up to participate in the initial rollout of this new option.
- CMS Rules/HCBS Waiver Settings
  - It remains a concern that states are not having their transition plans approved – this remains a challenge.
- DS (Disability Services) Taskforce 2.0
  - Now has a job – service study needs to be completed within three years. Once Nancy is on board, they will meet again.

**6. *Legislative Update***

- Mr. Sanford encouraged everyone to visit their local legislators and thank them for the additional funding. We need to continue to educate them about how our statewide system assists individuals with developmental disabilities.
- SB 1024 (Hancock) Developmental services: supported employment. This bill would increase to \$40 the hourly rate for supported employment services provided to clients receiving individualized services, and would increase this amount by 10% annually.
- SB 1427 (Pavley) Workforce development: developmentally disabled individuals. This bill would ensure that clients who are earning income do not lose their vocational opportunities and earning power due to changes related to the HCBS settings rule, the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, or the debate over the use of productivity-based pay.
- The Budget & Fiscal Review Sub-Committee #3 will be holding a Hearing at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the \$15 million targeted for transition.

**7. *Board Update***

- Ms. Brandon shared that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m.

**8. *Announcements/Comments***

- Eleni Gialoyrakes has resigned from this committee; she has moved out-of-state.
- Ms. Dillard-Foss shared that the California Supported Living Network (CSLN) is holding their 2016 Leadership Conference entitled "We're Here To Speak For Justice-50 Years later" on April 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Dana Hotel on Mission Bay in San Diego. For more information, please visit their website at [www.supportedliving.com](http://www.supportedliving.com).

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, April 14, 2016**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet