

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 2021
Minutes

Present:

Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Chair
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Co-Chair & Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga Care
Home
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &
Associates
Garrett Broadbent, Meristem
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc.
Joe Hernandez, Aveanna
Healthcare Services
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Monique Migdol, Tahoe
Community Integrations
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Robin Rhoades, Southside
Unlimited
Adam Ruggles, Medstar LLC
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio, Kadiant
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services

Visitors:

Jody Bailey
Breeanne Burris
Vikie Cole
Maureen Fitzgerald
Sonya Fox-Watson
Adriene Gaudet
Olivia Gomez
Kate Halecky
Hardesty Small Family Home
Priscilla Holmes
Braydon Holtzinger
Jenny Jones
Susana Magana
Jeremy Rafacz
Jen Roney
Nicky Schluep
Stan Schmidt
Kathleen Short
Hannah Thompson
Jasmine Vollenweider
Katherine Wallen

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Lori Banales, Deputy Executive
Director
Camelia Houston, Director of
Intake & Clinical Services
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Andy Ponce, Specialized Services
Manager
Olivia Procida, Manager of
Community Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:32 a.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2021, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) COVID-19 Impact Discussion & Vaccinations & Re-Openings; 4) Legislative Update; 5) Discussion re PAC Goals; 6) Subcommittee Reports; 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 February 11, 2021 as submitted.

1. **Board Update**

- Ms. Ramirez shared that earlier this week, the Board Development Committee (BDC) discussed what training and support that they would put forward for the entire Board.
 - They are considering hiring a consultant for Strategic Planning.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 25th, beginning at 3:45 p.m.

2. **Executive Director's Report**

- Mr. Bonnet will be retiring in June 2021. This was a difficult decision for him; he has been working with the developmentally disabled population for 40 years now. He remembers the first meeting he had with all of you almost 15 years ago. Mr. Bonnet shared that he was about to announce his retirement last year, just before COVID-19 hit. ACRC has a solid team here and a wonderful Board. Ms. Banales is ACRC's Deputy Executive Director and has full knowledge of everything he does.
- We are hoping to get 600 people vaccinated today at ACRC's Sacramento office and another 600 tomorrow at STEP. Next week, we will be holding another two-day clinic at PRIDE Roseville.
 - As of today – 2,860 clients have been vaccinated.
 - ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) is putting together a Public Service Announcement (PSA) that will be posted on our agency's website and social media sites.
- The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the State of California has made the official announcement that beginning March 15th, regional center clients that are 16 years old and above will be eligible to receive their vaccination, provided there are doses available.
- The \$1.9 federal stimulus package has passed and will assist some of our clients and families.
- As of this morning, ACRC has 757 clients that have tested positive for COVID-19, with 29 deaths. No positive clients are currently in the hospital. We also have 357 positive direct support professionals (DSPs), with two deaths. ACRC has 26 staff who have tested positive.

3. **COVID-19 Impact Discussion & Vaccinations & Re-Openings**

- Mr. Ciampa noted that there have been a couple of moments in the past year that have made him proud.
 - When service providers helped distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at the beginning.
 - When DSPs continued to put themselves at risk while serving our clients.
 - When Ms. Dillard-Foss announced that STEP was going to host vaccination clinics.
 - She remembers when Mr. Bonnet and Mr. Decker reached out to STEP and said that “they were all in” with assisting with these clinics.
 - “When we lean in together, really positive things can happen!”
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss has had the best experience partnering with ACRC this last year.
- Ms. Banales shared that these clinics require a lot of work. ACRC queried the community and then scheduled everyone; the scheduling links are not shared with the public. Agency staff are being purposeful to make sure the slots go to our community at large. We are looking to do some concentrated campaigns to make sure that clients and families have the correct information about the safety of the vaccine. ACRC connected Safeway to Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC); the same team of pharmacists are working their clinics, so we are helping spread the resource. This has been a great effort and we will continue to make sure that everyone that wants to be vaccinated has the opportunity.
 - For next week’s clinic, we are targeting certain counties initially, and gradually rolling it out to others.
 - ACRC has a designated email address for vaccine information: vaccineinfo@altaregioanal.org. Staff are answering those emails in a consistent way.
- Mr. Ciampa inquired if service providers have been able to get their staff vaccinated.
 - Most providers have been able to find resources for their staff.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss’s attorney informed her that STEP’s \$100 incentive for staff to get vaccinated must be paid to any staff member who has a legitimate reason not to be (i.e., religion, medical, etc.).
 - Suggestion was made to have the folks that have been vaccinated speak with those that may have some hesitancy.
- Many service providers are starting to gather information about the possibility of reopening our programs from ACRC, licensing, Coffee with Community Services, etc.

- Licensing is requiring service providers to complete a mitigation plan prior to reopening.
- The group expressed appreciation to Mr. Decker and his team for their ongoing assistance.

4. **Legislative Update**

- CDSA
 - The group is following SB 639 (Durazo) Minimum wages: persons with disabilities; this bill was introduced on February 19, 2021 and would eliminate special wage certificates on January 1, 2024.
 - It's important to note that the Department of Labor shows that 5,000 people are working under a special wage certificate. This would be a big deal for many providers.
 - This month is Disability Awareness Month and CDSA is doing a special social media push to assist with this.
- CCLN
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss will send a bill watch list out to this team. There are some housing bills that are important to Supported Living Services (SLS) clients.
 - The group is assisting Assembly Member Mullin with AB 813 – Developmental services: service outcome pilot project. This bill would have DDS select three regional centers to participate in a pilot project and develop metrics and methods of data collection in order to establish measurable service outcomes.
 - Assembly Member Frazier is working on a bill to professionalize the workforce. The focus is on wages, but we can't lose sight of person-centeredness.
 - CCLN completed the competitive wage study which will be helpful in this process.
 - Concern remains that increased standards will come without funding.

5. **Discussion re PAC Goals**

- Mr. Ciampa expressed appreciation to all who completed the survey; 27 responses. He reviewed the data with those present.
 - Ms. Ramirez shared that North Bay Regional Center (NBRC) has a pledge between their Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) and the regional center. This might be something to consider.
 - In the worst of times in 2020, the PAC and ACRC collaborated strongly to protect the clients that we serve and the DSPs that are on the frontlines.
 - Suggestion was made to have the PAC develop their own Strategic Plan.

- Mr. Ciampa believes that if the PAC wants to be productive, we must utilize our workgroups to focus on the PAC's priorities and outcomes.
- In order to provide guidance to this committee's leaders, the subcommittee Chairs will meet to discuss the Strategic Planning process and the committee's goals prior to the April PAC meeting. Subcommittees/workgroups may be revamped, as needed.
- Mr. Bonnet noted that the Board may resume hybrid meetings beginning in May for those that want to come in to the office, as long as they are fully vaccinated.
 - Mr. Bonnet will discuss options regarding hybrid PAC meetings with Mr. Ciampa and Ms. Ramirez.

6. Subcommittee Reports

- Vendor Relations – the group met and decided to focus efforts on the liaison position to maintain positive relationships between service providers and ACRC. They drafted questions to assist in this process. The group will meet again on March 15th.
- Communications – the annual outreach letter to service providers was sent out in February. The PAC PowerPoint was finalized for the Vendor Orientations. Information for the PAC meetings is posted on the agency's website/calendar a week prior to the meetings. Protocols for posting trainings to ACRC's calendar are also posted on the PAC page.
 - Mr. Ciampa believes that the Outreach/Membership and Communications workgroups could possibly merge.
- ILS – the group focused discussions on the success of remote services during the pandemic, as well as the flexibility in services. Service providers now have insight on how to respond to clients quickly.
- Cultural Diversity – ACRC is holding their Annual Purchase of Services (POS) Expenditure Meeting on Tuesday, March 23rd, from 5 to 7 p.m. Interested individuals must register to attend; the link is posted on ACRC's website.

7. Announcements/Comments

- Mr. Ciampa will be attending the THRIVE Initiative's Advisory Committee meeting today. The group will be discussing alternative services and ideas for future Webinars.
- As we continue with our housing efforts, Mr. Bonnet shared that staff have just connected with a housing developer in Yolo County that will be developing options and including our clients. A lot of the seeds that we have been planting over the last several years are beginning to sprout.
- The Dental Clinic around the corner from our Harvard office will be opening soon. This clinic will offer specialized dental services for our clients.

- ACRC has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with California Northstate University; Dr. Glassman works with them now. They will be opening up a dental clinic for our folks in Rancho Cordova soon.
- Mr. Ciampa noted that Mr. Bonnet's leadership has been such a huge success for our clients, services providers and more. He expressed the PAC's appreciation for all of the years of service.
 - This will be an important time for the PAC, as ACRC transitions to a new Executive Director.
 - Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC has a lot of young leadership. He is hopeful that the new leadership will continue to always ask "how does this decision help the folks being served by Alta?"
- The PAC will hold its annual elections for the PAC Chair and Co-Chair in May.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, April 8, 2021**, 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