

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

**Present:**

Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,  
Chair  
Eric Ciampa, UCP of  
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &  
Design. Dir.  
Janet Brandon, AIM &  
Associates  
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION  
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point  
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult  
Development  
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,  
Inc.  
Robin Rhoades, Southside  
Unlimited  
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver  
Relief  
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare  
Services  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO  
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite  
Services  
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism  
Services  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

**Absent:** (\* excused)

James Astorga\*, F&A Astorga  
Care Home  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss\*, STEP  
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.  
Joseph Hernandez\*, Premier  
Healthcare Services  
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Will Sanford\*, Futures Explored,  
Inc.

**Visitors:**

Paul Crampton  
Andrea Croom  
Tim DeBack  
Maureen Fitzgerald  
Adriene Gaudet  
Kate Halecky  
Reina Hudson  
Joe Jaquez  
Fred Patawaran  
Lou Patawaran  
Adam Ruggles  
Todd Ruggles  
Collin Sainio  
Sean Stone  
Maihli Vang  
Jasmine Vollenweider

**Staff:**

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director  
Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating  
Officer  
Lori Banales, Director of Children &  
Adolescent 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 9:31 a.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2019, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Rate Study Discussion; 4) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments; 5) PAC Elections for the 2019-20 FY; 6) PAC Priorities; 7) Provider Presentations; 8) Legislative 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 February 14, 2019 as submitted.**

**1. Board Update**

- Mr. Ciampa shared that the Board has reviewed the proposed budget and discussed how it may affect regional centers, as well as the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') main office.
- The Board is still focusing on recruitment; they are looking at bringing on applicants that will serve the community well. If you have anyone in mind, please let him know.
- The Board Development Committee has drafted the 2019-20 fiscal year (FY) Officer slate for the May Board meeting.
- Board members reviewed the annual caseload ratios that were submitted to the department on March 1<sup>st</sup>; they largely remain unchanged.
- Mr. Bonnet gave Board members a brief overview of the rate study.

**2. Executive Director's Report**

- ACRC held a public meeting last night and shared information about how our Purchase of Service (POS) dollars are spent by demographic categories. Another meeting is scheduled for next week on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
  - One of the suggestions that was brought up last night is for DDS to possibly look at other things rather than money – satisfaction as an example.
  - It is also important to note that there are other sources of funding that come into play when looking at services that clients receive.
- Porterville Developmental Center (DC) and Canyon Springs will remain open. Fairview DC, in Orange County, will be closing soon, and DDS plans to open a branch office there. The proposed budget has 54 new positions for the department; these individual's jobs will focus on monitoring and supporting regional centers.

- It's important to remember all of those that have moved out of the DCs. Their issues and safety remain a top priority.
  - Mr. Decker shared that DDS will release the CPP/CRDP (Community Placement Plan/ Community Resource Development Funds) guidelines tomorrow, March 15<sup>th</sup>. ACRC has completed our Request for Proposal (RFP) cycle and we are currently conducting interviews. It's now time to develop our 2019-20 FY plan which is due to DDS on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The department will approve our plan by July 1<sup>st</sup>, and then the cycle begins again.
  - Last year, ACRC staff completed a needs assessment survey. With input from clients and families, the agency's main focus was on developing behavioral day programs, affordable housing and Supported Living Services (SLS).
    - ACRC will host a meeting in mid-April with members of the PAC and Client Advisory Committee (CAC) to discuss the results of last year's survey.
  - The department is shifting its focus to the development of more affordable housing for clients. There are six ongoing multi-family housing projects to support regional center clients in the State of California.
    - ACRC is developing a duplex project and Mr. Decker would like to open this discussion up to service providers. Anyone interested in sitting down and talking with ACRC's housing developers is encouraged to attend. He is hopeful that we can duplicate this model so that a few duplexes can be added each year.
  - ACRC's Service Coordinators (SCs) are continuing to ask clients and families at Planning Team Meetings about any needs that they are seeking. This data is being inputted into our system and our Community Services Department are constantly reviewing it to see what services might be developed. New RFPs will be posted next week.
  - If anyone has an idea and wants to talk with someone first, please reach out to ACRC staff, anytime.
- ACRC hosted another public meeting yesterday morning on the Self-Determination Program (SDP). Participants have been selected and training has begun. The three-year introductory period started almost a year ago. The plan is that open enrollment will start three years after the approval of the program. Participants will have the availability to "shop" for services.
  - Ms. Watilo believes that with the flexibility of not having the restrictions that providers now have, they may be able to adapt and serve these individuals with person-centered planning.

- Ms. Rhoades noted that since services are more individualized with this program, she believes it's going to take some time to move from congregate to individualized services.
- Budgets may not go as far because of the cost to pay for innovative new services.

### 3. **Rate Study Discussion**

- With the passage of ABX2-1, DDS commissioned a rate study with Burns & Associates. There was a 52% response rate across the state. The study looked at several factors, such as: our complex coding system, inefficiencies, wages/benefits, staff productivity, etc. DDS held two briefings at the end of February, one here at ACRC and one in Southern California. Ms. Ramirez and Mr. Ciampa have been charged with gathering feedback from providers and reporting back to DDS by Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- In addition to making suggestions about new rates for service providers, Burns & Associates presented a new methodology to simplify our service codes. "Common Set" rates may increase some providers' rates, while others might decrease; these will be regional center specific. Burns & Associates is building a transparent rate model and has created a rate table for each service.
  - Mr. Ciampa believes it's important that providers look at how these suggestions will affect their rates.
- Burns & Associates is also suggesting professionalizing the workforce; this is important and will happen over time.
- Overall, service providers acknowledge their appreciation for all of the hard work that went into this. They also believe the 8% increase is not that much considering the findings from this study. We all agree that the system needs to be restructured, but that will take some time.
- Ms. Ramirez shared that Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB) and North Bay Regional Center (NBRC) are separating into workgroups to gather input.
  - The PAC will hold a meeting on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Service providers will break-out into workgroups to discuss the rate study and provide feedback.

### 4. **Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments**

- An updated list was distributed for review.
  - The Independent Living Services (ILS) Vendor Forum was held on February 21<sup>st</sup>.
    - The group discussed the issue of transportation. ACRC will allow providers to transport clients as long as the Planning Team agrees to it. Those providers will need to sign a separate contract.

- WEAVE came and spoke about domestic violence and how it affects all population.
- As mentioned before, Community Services will be holding two vendor forums a year so that staff have time to focus on developing new services.
- The Residential Vendor Forum was held on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Mr. Ciampa shared that this group discussed this topic at the February meeting. No nominations have been received.

**Without objection, Robin Rhoades made the motion for Michelle Ramirez to remain PAC Chair and Eric Ciampa to remain the PAC designated representative to the Board for the 2019-20 FY.**

6. **PAC Priorities**

- Communications
  - Committee members reviewed the draft letter. The workgroup plans to send this out to the provider community in January.

**Without objection, Laleh Sharpe made the motion to approve the letter as presented.**

- Vendor Relations
  - This group plans on meeting with ACRC staff on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, to review more questions. They will share information at the April PAC meeting.

7. **Provider Presentations**

- The PAC will have two members share information about their agencies at each meeting.
  - Paul Traglio, with Capitol Autism Services
    - The agency provides services to families throughout the Sacramento Valley; the non-public school opened in 2002, and the in-home program opened in 2004.
    - Like most Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) providers, they work closely with insurance carriers.
  - Carole Watilo, with Progressive Employment
    - They opened 23 years ago; started with 15 clients and now they serve 120.
    - 100% community based service.
    - Support people in finding volunteer work, employment and customized employment; they have a 65% employment

rate. They also assist with continued education and micro-enterprise businesses.

- The agency has strong philosophical guidelines – they do not turn anyone away.
- They were recently vendored to do tailored day services and discovery.
- In the past year, the agency has contracted with a charter school to provide transition services.

#### 8. **Legislative Update**

- The Assembly Budget Subcommittee’s hearing was held last week. The Senate Budget Subcommittee hearing is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Assembly members Frazier and Holden are in support of the 8% increase that the Lanterman Coalition is asking the legislature for. Please continue to speak with your local legislators about this.
- A “Keep the Promise” rally will be held at the State Capitol on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at noon.
- The Association of Regional Center Agencies’ (ARCA’s) Grassroots Day is also scheduled for Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### 9. **Announcements/Comments**

- In April, the group will continue discussing SDP and the rate study.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, April 11, 2019**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet