

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, March 9, 2017  
Minutes

**Present:**

Eric Ciampa, UCP of  
Sacramento, Inc., Chair  
Janet Brandon, AIM &  
Associates, Co-Chair & Design.  
Dir.  
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION  
Gerrit deGelleke, American River  
Speech  
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.  
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point  
Dawn Montgomery, HOPE  
Consulting  
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,  
Inc.  
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own  
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Will Sanford, Futures Explored  
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)

Jacquie Dillard-Foss\*, STEP  
Robin Rhoades\*, Southside Art  
Center

**Visitors:**

Sandy Bishop  
Andrea Croom  
Michael Creedon  
Adriene Gaudet  
Kate Halecky  
Teri Hayes  
Lynn Heitner  
Joe Jaquez  
Jessica Knuth  
Aaron Kowalski  
Michelle Nobile  
Agnes Ranit  
Nicky Schlupe  
Stan Schmidt  
Eric Steward  
Karre Williams  
Vic Wursten

**Staff:**

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

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:34 a.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2017, 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 2017-18 fiscal year; 3) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments;

4) ACRC RFP Update; 5) Sub-Committee Updates; 6) Updates; 7) Legislative Update; 8) Board Update; and 9) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

**Without objection, Eric Ciampa made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of February 9, 2017 as submitted.**

*Mr. Ciampa shared that there are several handouts available:*

- *For reference, a list of ACRC acronyms.*
- *The PAC's Standing Rules (for upcoming election purposes) – please review the attendance requirements moving forward.*
- *The sign-up sheet for ACRC Vendor Forums (PAC liaisons).*
- *A list of State Advocacy Resources that was compiled to help providers stay informed.*

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

- Mr. Bonnet shared that on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) will be sponsoring an "Alta Day" at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). This has been a wonderful tradition and we have always had great participation from our provider community. If you would like to join us, please contact Ms. West.
- Regarding SDC, all of the transition planning meetings for those clients who reside there must be completed by December 31, 2017; everyone will have their home chosen by then. ACRC must be in escrow with all of the homes by the end of this month, March 31<sup>st</sup>. We have been on a "fast track" and there is no grace period. Come December 31, 2018, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will close the doors at SDC.
- We were hopeful that we would know which providers were awarded part of the \$15 million Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) Transition Funding by today. Mr. Tiedemann shared that the department will hopefully be releasing the information by the end of this week and ACRC will be contacting providers.
- ACRC's Purchase of Services (POS) Expenditure Meetings will be held on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> (10 a.m. in Woodland and 2 p.m. in Sacramento). Disability Rights California (DRC) and the State Council are holding pre-meetings on this issue. Residential placement continues to be an issue for some families.
  - The Cultural Diversity Sub-Committee will be meeting directly after the PAC meeting.
  - Regional centers continue to request that DDS analyze this aggregate data. Clients with the same diagnosis could have very

different needs, while there is no way to know that with this report.

- The Senate Budget Sub-Committee #3 Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Nancy Bargmann, Director of DDS, is about to undergo her confirmation hearing. It is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the State Capitol. Mr. Bonnet will be in attendance and he requested that providers attend as well. Letters of support can be sent to Senator de León.
- Mr. Bonnet asked which providers have signed up for "Conversations that Matter" with Norman Kunc.
  - Ms. Watilo shared her agency will be participating in "A Community Conversation of Inclusion" at the Davis Community Church on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 5 to 7 p.m. She will send the information to Ms. West to forward to committee members.
- Janet Winger, with the Sacramento Public Library, has reached out to Mr. Bonnet about an exciting new initiative that the library is beginning. They are hosting "Community Conversations" to better understand the aspirations of the community, the concerns that are present, and what might be done to make a difference in strengthening the community. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Bonnet or Ms. West so that the information can be forwarded to you.
- DDS should be releasing a draft of the ABX2-1 reporting requirements soon to solicit provider and regional center input as they develop the final form.

2. ***Nomination & Election of Chair and Designated Representative to the Board of Directors for the 2017-18 fiscal year (FY)***

**Issue:** Committee needs to nominate the Chair and Designated Representative to the Board of Directors for the 2017-18 FY.

**Discussion and Action:** As he mentioned earlier, Mr. Ciampa asked committee members to review the PAC's Standing Rules. There are two positions that this committee needs to fill annually; the PAC Chair, this individual Chairs the committee meetings, and the PAC designated representative to ACRC's Board of Directors. Over recent years, Mr. Ciampa has seen an increased interest in providers getting involved in important conversations.

Ms. Brandon's term as the PAC's designated representative to ACRC's Board will come to a close on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We need to continue to move forward and have consistency.

**M/S** (Janet Brandon) **To nominate Eric Ciampa as the PAC Designated Representative to the Board of Director for the 2017-18 FY.**

**M/S** (Eric Ciampa) **To nominate Michelle Ramirez as the PAC Chair for the 2017-18 FY.**

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**M/S/C** (Will Sanford) **To have the PAC slate be comprised of Eric Ciampa as the PAC Designated Representative to the Board of Director and Michelle Ramirez as the PAC Chair for the 2017-18 FY. (17 in favor)**

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

- Ms. Onesi provided dates on upcoming vendor forums; they are as follows:
  - Early Intervention – April 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Specialized OT/Pt – April 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Supported Living Services – March 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Behavioral Services – May 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Residential – May 1<sup>st</sup>
- It was suggested that the PAC's information be shared at the vendor forums. Currently, we need representation from early intervention, behavioral services and residential providers.
  - This will be placed on the agendas for the three vendor forums.
- It is the expectation that volunteers will be attending, reporting and potentially collaborating on agenda topics.

### 4. ***ACRC RFP Update***

- Mr. Decker shared that DDS is meeting with ACRC staff the same day they release the Community Placement Plans (CPPs).
- We have not released the Request for Proposals (RFPs) for next fiscal year (FY); most will be regarding services for deflection and the individuals coming out of the DCs.
- Mr. Bonnet noted that the department has said that after the DCs are shut down, the funding will move into the community for ongoing services for our clients. Opportunities will continue to grow.

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

- Challenging Needs
  - This workgroup has not met.
  - The group decided to focus on the Health & Safety Waivers. Ms. Dupree and Ms. Dillard-Foss are currently reviewing the updated instructions.

- Cultural Diversity
  - The workgroup is meeting after the PAC meeting.
  - Members should plan to attend upcoming POS Expenditure Meetings on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. ACRC is seeking support from the provider community.
- Staff Crisis in the Community
  - Ms. Watilo would like the workgroup to look at the role of the PAC and what we talked about initially (e.g., focusing on staff training and staff empowerment). She would like to suggest renaming this sub-committee. It appears that the focus may be on recruiting, training and retaining.
  - This group would also like to share resources with other providers.
    - The workgroup will meet to discuss possibly changing the name of the sub-committee and determine the focus of the group.

6. **Updates:**

- Self-Determination Program
  - A conference call was held to discuss the remaining outstanding questions; two which are about the Financial Management Services (FMS).
  - It appears that the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) never contemplated that clients may want to go to their local community colleges or other settings that have not been assessed.
  - DDS is finishing up the waiver and will post it on their website. There will not be a 30-day comment timeline this time. After submission, the federal government will have 90 days to approve or deny the waiver.
  - The department will be spreading the word through Webinars.
- CMS Rules/HCBS Waiver Settings
  - The Ad-Hoc Committee met and discussed training materials that will be available to service providers.
  - They will be holding trainings for providers who may not have knowledge about the new rules. It's important that providers don't feel like they should be in a defensive position during this transition. They spent a lot of time recrafting the language to make it simple but clear.
  - ACRC will also be holding a public training.

- DS (Disability Services) Task Force 2.0
  - Public meeting was held.
  - The housing sub-group will be meeting later this month.

## 7. **Legislative Update**

- For those providers who have 14(c) Subminimum Wage Certificates, the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) has issued guidelines for competitive, integrated employment. The bureau is developing new workers comp ratings; they are splitting supporting employment into different groups.
- Mr. Ciampa noted that individuals can add to list of State Advocacy Resources that was discussed earlier. He believes it is important that providers get involved in legislative issues that may affect our service system.
- The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding was hit hard; California will be affected.
- The Assembly's budget hearing was held on March 1<sup>st</sup> and the Senate's is scheduled for next Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - One of the challenges at the first hearing was that the information was pretty high level, so it was difficult for families to engage in the process.
  - We need affordable housing capacity that matches the DCs.
  - The legislators are saying that they support whatever is in the Governor's budget.
- There are a few bills that committee members may want to watch. They are as follows:
  - AB 279 (Holden) Developmental disabilities: regional centers.
  - AB 1380 (Santiago) Developmental services: regional center services.

## 8. **Board Update**

- Ms. Brandon attended the last Board meeting which was held on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Brendan Peacock, ACRC's Board President, will be terming off the Board on June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## 9. **Announcements/Comments**

- The PAC Outreach Sub-Committee will be meeting soon to review applications that have been received. If you are interested in joining this group, please let Mr. Ciampa and Ms. Brandon know.
- Reminder – the agenda is set every month, but if any member has questions or issues that come up and would like to discuss it further with the committee, please email Mr. Ciampa and/or Ms. Brandon.

- Ms. Ramirez shared that it's not too late to register for California Supported Living Network's (CSNL's) Leadership Conference which will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> in San Diego. They are celebrating direct support professionals this year.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Developmental Disabilities Public Policy Conference is scheduled for Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza Hotel in Sacramento. This is a great opportunity to gather information.
- Progressive Employment is holding a fundraiser on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- STEP is hosting a training with Doctors Ruth & Stephen Myers on March 20<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, April 13, 2017**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet