

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

Present:

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
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, Creative
Living Options
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Joe Jaquez, EGA CT
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Breeanne Kolster, 24 Hour
Home Care
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Eric Ciampa*, UCP of Sacramento
Jacquie Foss*, STEP
Christa McClure*, Tri-County
Respite Care Service
Sergio Pinto*, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Yvonne Soto*, DDSO

Visitors

Sheila Abrams
Jody Bailey
Clarissa Fernandez
Maureen Fitzgerald
Adriene Gaudet
Jennifer Gomez
Braydon Holtzinger
Natasha Mosley-Simpkins
Dylan Nobida
Melanie Pashenee
Sharon Perry
Michelle Ramirez (CBEM)
Paloma Rodriguez
Jen Roney
Huyen Tran
Jasmine Vollenweider

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client
Services
Charlotte Clarke, Human Resources
Manager
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Michelle Duchene, Manager of
Community Services
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Helen Neri, Manager of Community
Services
Jason Scantlebury, LEAD Community
Services Specialist
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, March 9, 2023, by Zoom/teleconference to discuss: 1) PAC Chair & Co-Chair/Designated Rep to Board for 2023-24 FY; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 4) 90/10 Issue Discussion; 5) System Reform and Legislative Update; 6) PAC Membership Requirements & Goals; 7) PAC Committees & Reports; and 8) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of February 9, 2023 as submitted.

**change in agenda was noted*

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

- Ms. Dyba would like to remain Chair of this committee for the next fiscal year (FY) and Mr. Broadbent is interested in the Co-Chair/Designated Rep to the Board position. He provided a brief update of his background in the field.

Without objection, Garrett Broadbent is elected as the Co-Chair/Designated Rep to the Board of Directors for the 2023-24 FY.

Without objection, Lindsey Dyba is elected as the Chair of the PAC for the 2023-24 FY.

2. ***Executive Director's Report***

- With the lifting of the State of Emergency, ACRC has opened our doors for the outside public to attend meetings; the hybrid option will continue.
- California's Department of Public Health released updated COVID-19 guidance, which we are sharing with staff. ACRC continues to encourage vaccination, but it is no longer required. Ms. Banales believes that in-person engagement is vital to the services that we provide.
- The flyers for the ACRC/VMRC Collaborative will be emailed to service providers today.
 - ACRC's Vendor Event will take place on Wednesday, March 22nd, from 1 to 3 p.m. VMRC is holding theirs on Friday, March 24th, from noon to 2 p.m.
 - In addition to those, Disability Career Expos will be held on May 3rd (ACRC), and June 15th (VMRC), both from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - Ms. Banales introduced Charlotte Clarke, ACRC's Human Resources Manager, who has been instrumental in scheduling our expo.
- Ms. Shearer shared information about ACRC's collaboration with Sierra College. Our agency was awarded an Employment Grant from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The goal of this collaboration is to have a cohesive experience with education and

employment for our clients. Additionally, we are collaborating with Sierra College to create a program similar to the TAFT Program. This new program should be available in January 2024.

- The group would also like to create a vendor pool that can address the education and employment concerns moving forward.
- ACRC's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Specialist, Aliesia Gautschi, has been successful in securing the two compliance measures from our services providers by the March 17th deadline – we are 100% compliant. Ms. Banales believes that vendors felt supported in this process and appreciated the partnership. She would like to take this time to work diligently to provide technical assistance as we move forward to implement the program designs. Ms. Gautschi will be meeting with Case Management to make sure everyone knows what is required.
 - Ms. Banales expressed appreciation to Ms. Duchene and Mr. Decker for their leadership.
- Most ACRC staff have the option to continue working remotely up to three days per week. Ms. Banales reminded everyone that it is at the will of the client/family whether meetings are held in-person or remotely.

3. **ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates**

- The Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) Vendor Forum was held on March 7th.
 - Mr. Decker shared that the purpose of this forum was to discuss the upcoming transition to Managed Care Medi-Cal for those individuals that reside in ICFs.
 - DDS has held several workgroup meetings; the next one is scheduled for March 22nd.
 - This transition has been pushed to January 1, 2024.
 - As well as discussing with service providers, we want to make sure that ACRC staff are made aware of the changes that are taking place.
 - Another Vendor Forum will be scheduled for September 2023; hoping that more guidance will be released by then.
 - Mr. Ranit has raised concerns to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and is awaiting a response.
 - Ms. Johnson noted that ACRC reached out to DDS, who provided us with their liaison with DHCS. Mr. Xiong is in close communication with the department, as well.
 - Ms. Houston noted that an Ethics Committee will be utilized, when necessary.
 - If there are client needs, please make sure that ACRC staff are made aware.
 - The Adult Day & Employment Vendor Forum was held on February 23rd. The group received more information on the Sierra College collaboration and discussed transportation.
 - Upcoming Vendor Forums include:
 - EBSH Vendor Forum – April 25th, from 10 a.m. to noon.

- Infant Development Vendor Forum – March 14th, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Early Start Vendor Forum – March 21st, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

4. **90/10 Issue Discussion**

- ACRC is seeking guidance from DDS.
- It's important to note that when service providers are looking at their budgets, they need to look at 90% instead of 100%.
 - Suggestion to add this topic to Vendor Forum agendas.

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

- CDSA
 - The California Disability Services Association's (CDSA's) Legislative Affairs Conference is being held right now.
 - They are advocating for support for AB 1031; this bill helps to clarify staff break issues (PAGA lawsuits are rampant now). Labor Unions are currently neutral on this bill.
 - The group is also advocating for fixes to the rate study (Independent Living Services [ILS], and other services that were omitted). They are also requesting a regular schedule for updates to this rate study, so that we don't have this issue in future years.
- CCLN
 - The California Community Living Network's (CCLN's) Leadership Conference "PAVE: The Way Forward" will be held April 12th through 14th in San Diego.
 - The April PAC meeting's attendance may be affected.
- DS Taskforce & Workgroups
 - Workgroups continue to meet to discuss housing and assistive technology projects.
 - DDS just added priorities for other issues, such as deaf and hard of hearing projects.

6. **PAC Membership Requirements & Goals**

- Ms. Dyba asked for any suggested revisions to this document.
 - Committee members will share suggestions through email and this will be an action item at the May PAC meeting.
- The PAC's goals will be discussed at a later meeting. Ms. Dyba will work with Mr. Broadbent to develop a survey at the beginning of the new FY.

7. **PAC Committees & Reports**

- Vendor Relations Committee
 - Mr. Broadbent reached out to Mr. Decker, who shared that ACRC's Community Services Department has two new Managers – Michelle Duchene and Helen Neri.

- The Health & Safety Waiver process will be revised.
 - Suggestion to have a presentation on Health & Safety Waivers at an upcoming PAC meeting to help educate service providers.
- We have talked about a service provider satisfaction survey. Mr. Decker is hopeful that he will have additional information to share at the April PAC meeting.

8. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Ms. Banales shared that ACRC will be holding our annual POS Data Meetings via Zoom on March 21st, from 5 to 7 p.m., and on March 27th, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Registration is required – the link is posted on our agency’s website.
- Ms. Duchene introduced Jason Scantlebury, ACRC’s Lead Community Services Specialist (CSS).
- ACRC’s Learning Management System (LMS) Vendor Orientation is set to roll out in April.
- ACRC staff have developed a one-page document that indicates the documents that are needed in each service code vendorization. This will be shared at the April PAC meeting.
- COVID tests are now available through Sacramento’s Public Health Department. More information will be shared at tomorrow’s “Coffee with Community Services”.
- Ms. Eller noted that the applications for this year’s Community Resources Development Plan (CRDP) projects are due March 29th. ACRC will be awarding the projects by the end of the FY.
- Mr. Ranit would like to suggest that each residential care home have an emergency generator.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, April 13, 2023**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales