

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 12, 2018
Minutes

Present:

Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga Care
Home
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Joseph Hernandez, Premier
Healthcare Services
Robin Rhoades, Southside
Unlimited
Will Sanford, Futures Explored
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Visitors:

Vanessa Bovee
Lindsey Dyba
Kate Halecky
Teri Hayes
Elisabeth Johnson
Jennifer Marchant
Dainna McArthur
Fred Patawaran
Lou Patawaran
Stan Schmidt

Absent: (* excused)

Michelle Ramirez*, On My Own,
Chair
Sandy Bishop*, INALLIANCE
Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Bonnie Douglas*, Turning Point
Jessica Knuth*, Reach Adult
Development
Sergio Pinto*, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit*, Antelope Hills
Manor
Joy Scott*, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Yvonne Soto*, DDSO
Paul Traglio*, Capitol Autism
Services

Board Members:

Austin Taylor

Staff:

Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating
Officer
Alfonso Carmona, Director of Adult &
Residential Services
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community 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, April 12, 2018, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Director's Report; 2) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments; 3) ACRC RFP Update/Community Needs; 4) PAC Priorities; 5) Provider Presentations; 6) Legislative Update; 7) Board Update; and

8) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Eric Ciampa made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of February 8, 2018 as submitted.

1. **Director's Report**

- Mr. Tiedemann shared that ACRC's Community Services Department has completed the needs assessments. Two of Ms. Dupree's staff went out to all of the case management unit meetings to start the process of conducting needs assessments. Service Coordinators (SCs) were asked to review their caseloads and identify the needs of their clients.
 - Ms. Dupree provided a pie chart of the top six resource development needs that were identified by SCs (i.e., Behavior Intervention Services (BIS), Behavioral Day Program, Residential Facilities – Level 4, Adult Activity Center, Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) and In-Home Respite).
 - Going forward, the assessments will now be conducted at the annual Individual Program Plans (IPPs), where in many cases the service providers will be at the table.
 - ACRC wants to develop the services that are needed. The goal is to streamline the process moving forward. The Community Services & Supports (CSS) Specialists will be sharing information with all of the case management units. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) will be developed. ACRC will be holding informational meetings to make sure providers know exactly what we need. A needs assessment form for service providers will be available at the vendor forums so that providers can provide input.
 - CSS Specialists will be discussing the Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) settings rule with staff to determine how we can meet these identified needs while staying in compliance with the new rules.
 - ACRC has ongoing conversations with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) to make sure they understand our agency's Employment First Policy.
 - Suggestion was made to include ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) in this process, as well.
- As many of you may have heard, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) had a data breach in February, which involved their legal and audits offices. In accordance with HIPAA, they have informed all of the clients throughout the state.
- Assemblymember Holden has introduced AB 2623, which would add the minimum wage reimbursement into the law so that regional centers

would not have to submit Health & Safety Waivers to the department. He is also seeking a change to the median rates.

- Senator Wilk is seeking information from all of the regional centers on clients with traumatic brain injury. The bill that he has introduced will change the law to include eligibility of individuals up to the age of 22.
- Letters have been sent out to clients and families who are on the initial list for the Self-Determination Program. ACRC is holding informational meetings throughout our catchment area. DDS is looking into the regional center's e-billing system to determine if it might be utilized for this new program.
 - DDS will use the client's ethnicity as the primary sort, but then the other categories will be factored in when they choose the 2,500 participants statewide for the three-year pilot project.
 - Logistically, regional centers don't know when this new program will be rolled out, because we don't know what the rules and workload are.
- Last year, DDS required every regional center to sign Business Associate Agreements. This, in turn, makes our service providers business associates. Service providers must sign these agreements and turn them into ACRC by April 15th. In the agreement, there is an insurance clause that states that providers need \$3 million aggregate coverage and \$1 million per incident.
 - Concern was expressed that some providers may not be able to obtain or afford these required coverages.
 - Mr. Tiedemann will work with our service providers and make changes upon request.

2. **Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments**

- An updated list was distributed for review.
 - Upcoming vendor forums include:
 - Adult Day & Employment – April 18th
 - Independent Living Services – May 15th
 - Supported Living Services – May 30th
 - Ms. Watilo shared concern regarding the need for collaboration between day programs and school districts. It would be helpful for providers to know about clients that are 16 years old so that they could start planning.
 - ACRC works with 82 school districts. Case management changes during this time, as well. ACRC holds transition fairs with school districts.

3. **ACRC RFP Update/Community Needs**

- Mr. Decker shared that all of the projects for moving individuals out of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) are finishing up; we have not posted any more RFPs.
- ACRC is in need of psychologists to conduct eligibility assessments.

4. **PAC Priorities**

- Roommate Database Workgroup
 - During a conference call, Mr. Ciampa shared a demo with the workgroup of what we have been talking about.
 - They reached out to Housing Now to see if they were interested in partnering with us and they are.
 - The group tentatively wants to move forward with this. In order for this project to succeed, we need a partner that will step up and help with the development of the program. It is critical that the database is designed correctly.
 - If someone is interested and it fits with your agency's Mission, please contact a member of the workgroup.
- ACRC's Vendorization and Addendum Process
 - Ms. Rhoades shared that the workgroup met three times to discuss ideas to make this process easier for providers. They hope to meet with CSS to discuss things further.
 - The group should be able to share information at the July PAC meeting.
 - At the upcoming Residential Forum, ACRC staff will be discussing the program design addendums that will be required due to the recent changes to Title 22.
- Vendor/Service Code Survey
 - We have all but three committee members that have completed the form; Mr. Ciampa will follow-up with them.
- Next Priorities
 - Mr. Ciampa wanted to remind everyone that on the back of the PAC agenda lists the priorities that this committee wanted to focus on.
 - It has been a year since we conducted the survey, so it might be beneficial to look at the progress that we have been making.
 - The PAC would like to know if there might be additional opportunities to collaborate with ACRC and hold future trainings for service providers.
 - The answer – yes, just bring the idea forward.
 - Committee members shared their thoughts regarding the March Cultural Proficiency Training in which ACRC brought in Dr. Paul Porter with UC Davis Extension. Mr. Tiedemann noted that the intent of these trainings were to make sure

that staff are aware of cultural issues. The data that DDS has been gathering shows that different ethnicities are getting different amounts of services. The majority of members believed the training was beneficial, but a member raised concerns about the value of such trainings. The group recognized that while there will always be different viewpoints on such issues, the POS disparity issue is a significant issue in the State and ACRC needs to ensure we are providing relevant services to all clients.

5. ***Provider Presentations***

- Mr. Ciampa noted that neither Sergio Pinto nor Antonio Ranit were able to attend the meeting today; they will present in May.

6. ***Legislative Update***

- The DS Taskforce has held two meetings regarding the rate study that is required by ABX2-1 and the final one is scheduled for next Monday. This has been an educational process for Burns & Associates, because providers report things differently than in other states. California has a wide variety of providers that have discussed and shared information during this process. The consultants have put hundreds of hours into this survey. Certain service codes are more labor intensive, because they are so big. Mr. Sanford explained that this survey is "one piece of the pie". The consultants are going to providing DDS with some recommendations.
 - Providers would like to have a process to see if they can change their rates.
 - The study is measuring what we have done for the past 25 years and relating this to what we need to do in the next three years.
 - Three concerns were discussed regarding the planned provider survey: will the survey be too complicated for many providers; will the survey capture the right information to be useful; and what other information will DDS/Burns & Associates use to supplement the provider surveys and propose accurate rates in their final proposal.
- The State of California has received the initial approval on the settings rule from the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS). Providers will soon learn what is necessary in moving forward with this process. The self-assessments will be the same for everyone.
- The two budget hearings were held in March.
 - The assembly moved to reject the 14-day uniform holiday schedule for service providers, but were told that they couldn't; the senate didn't do anything about it.

- Assemblymember Holden spoke about the \$25 million that he is requesting for a provider rate adjustment.
- Assemblymember Frazier supports a budget proposal for \$5 million to fund additional supports of people to move into competitive integrated employment.
- There was discussion about the closures of the DCs and how the State will utilize the assets of the land once they are closed.
 - The Lanterman Coalition is pushing to develop affordable housing with these assets.
- The May Revise will be released on Thursday, May 10th. More hearings will take place in late May and early June. It's important that service providers show up at these hearings. The minimum wage is starting to have an impact on services.
 - The assembly is allowing the reintroduction of the same, exact bills that have died or have been vetoed by the Governor.
- Provider still want to know the definition of an integrated setting. CMS and DOR have shared this with DDS, but we haven't heard anything.
- The Lanterman Coalition will be setting up interviews for the candidates for Governor. They are developing a list of questions and the answers will become public knowledge.
- The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is working to have social recreation services reinstated.
- SDP will have three service codes; this is down from ten.
- Mr. Sanford will send a list of bills to watch to Ms. West, who will then forward to committee members.

7. **Board Update**

- Mr. Ciampa attended the last Board meeting which was held on March 22nd.
 - The Nominating Committee is preparing the Slate of Officers for the upcoming fiscal year (FY).
 - The Board Development Committee (BDC) is focusing their efforts on recruiting new Board members. We need to make sure that ACRC has a well-represented Board.
 - Providers may know of someone that might be a great addition to ACRC's Board. If you have any recommendations, please encourage them to apply.
- The next Board meeting/training is scheduled for Thursday, May 24th, in Woodland.

8. **Announcements/Comments**

- Meristem will be holding a Work Skills Fair entitled "Redefining the Spectrum of Ability" on Saturday, April 21st, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This fair is aimed to assist individuals with autism.

- Ms. Dyba shared that Futures Explored reached out to the Chancellor from the Los Rios Community College District. They requested more data on our service system, so she will be sending out a survey in the near future and would appreciate it if everyone would complete it.
- Mr. Ciampa shared that UCP will be closing two of their adult day programs that were originally designed to be funded by the school districts. These programs have been serving clients for 30+ years, but will be closing their doors on June 30th; this is affecting 67 ACRC clients. UCP will be retaining the staff that are in good standing.
- Southside Unlimited is having a paint night at their new gallery located at 2380 Watt Avenue #210 in Sacramento on Thursday, May 3rd, from 6 to 9 p.m. Ms. Rhoades shared that the plan is to hold monthly, public paint nights.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, May 10, 2018**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet