

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 13, 2017
Minutes

Present:

Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Chair
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
Will Sanford, Futures Explored
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO

Absent: (* excused)

Janet Brandon*, AIM &
Associates, Co-Chair & Design.
Dir.
Becky Brubaker*, EGACTION
Gerrit deGelleke, American River
Speech
Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Dawn Montgomery*, HOPE
Consulting
Michelle Ramirez*, On My Own
Joy Scott*, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Peter Stirling*, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio*, Capitol Autism
Services
Carole Watilo*, Progressive
Employment

Visitors:

James Astorga
John Comegys
Maureen Fitzgerald
Maggie Fry
Kate Halecky
Teri Hayes
Joseph Hernandez
Aaron Kowalski
Anna Nelson
Fred Patawaran
Lou Patawaran
Agnes Ranit
Nicky Schlupe
Stan Schmidt
Stacy Sisson
Melissa Sleeper
Sean Stone
Karre Williams

Staff:

Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating
Officer
Alfonso Carmona, Director of Adult &
Residential Services
John Decker, Manager of
CPP/Forensics Unit
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community Services
Jean Onesi, Manager of
Community Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2017, 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; 4) Sub-Committee Updates; 5) Updates; 6) Legislative Update; 7) Board Update; and 8) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

1. **Director's Report**

- Mr. Tiedemann shared that the legislature is currently out on recess. We are waiting for the May Revision to be released.
- ACRC is waiting for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to provide us with details on the \$15 million Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) Transition Funding. Of the 123 applications that ACRC received, nine were rewarded a total of \$2 million.
 - Of the 21 regional centers, ACRC had the most applicants and was awarded the most funding.
 - Ms. Dupree shared that once the department notifies the service providers who were approved, ACRC will work with those agencies to get contracts in place and decide how the funding will be distributed.
- DDS has not released their draft of the AB2X-1 reporting requirements yet.

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

- The HCBS Ad-Hoc Committee met on Tuesday and reviewed the PowerPoint. Training will begin on the new guidelines on Wednesday, May 10th. The plan is to start with the outlying offices.
 - Katherine Weston has been named ACRC's HCBS Specialist. She will be reaching out to everyone who submitted a proposal for part of the \$15 million funding to discuss why DDS approved some and not others.
 - Ms. Dupree has heard that there may be an additional \$15 million in the upcoming budget to assist even further with this transition.
- Mr. Ciampa shared that we want to make sure we get feedback from the liaisons who have volunteered to attend the vendor forums.
- Last month, ACRC held an Adult and Work Services Vendor Fair, which was well attended. On Tuesday, April 25th, we will be holding a Generic Resource Fair. Ms. Dupree believes that these fairs create great opportunities for Service Coordinators (SCs) to interact with our service providers and learn more about what we do to support our clients.

3. **ACRC RFP Update**

- Mr. Decker shared that ACRC received four responses to our Community Crisis Home Requests for Proposals (RFPs), and we are currently in escrow with our last two homes.
- ACRC staff will have additional RFPs submitted to DDS by Friday, May 5th, for the upcoming fiscal year (FY). If you have any ideas for

services that might assist with bringing our clients out of the developmental centers, please email John Decker at jdecker@altaregional.org.

- With regards to moving clients out of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC), ACRC has moved ten clients out into the community so far this FY. Six more will be moved out by June 6th, with an additional three before the end of the FY. Our agency has accepted 18 additional clients from other regional centers, so our numbers don't appear to be decreasing. ACRC's Community Placement Plan (CPP) goal for this FY was 17; we will probably have 18 successful placements. We remain on track to move all of our clients out of SDC by December 31, 2018.
- ACRC has also accepted seven additional clients from other regional centers for the Porterville and Fairview DC closures.
- After the DCs are shut down, there has been talk about using some of the funding for deflection purposes.

4. **Sub-Committee Updates:**

- Challenging Needs
 - The workgroup is currently working on a Health & Safety Waiver pilot project to see if it is approved by DDS. An update will be shared once an answer is received.
- Cultural Diversity
 - The workgroup met after the last PAC meeting to discuss support for ACRC's Purchase of Services (POS) Expenditure meetings, which were held on March 21st in Woodland and Sacramento.
 - Mr. Tiedemann shared that ACRC staff submitted the input and feedback that was gathered at the meetings to DDS, as required. He remains hopeful that the study that the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles is conducting will shed some light on this issue. The raw data does not tell the whole story; it does not take into account the level of disability for each client.
 - ACRC is moving forward with local projects to promote cultural diversity.
- Staff Crisis in the Community
 - As mentioned at the last meeting, the workgroup will meet to discuss changing the focus to provider resources and training.
 - Norman Kunc has met with several service providers within ACRC's catchment area. Mr. Ciampa believes "*Conversations that Matter*" has great content, although it might not be beneficial to all divisions of an organization.

5. **Updates:**

- Self-Determination Program
 - CMS still has questions on how this program will be rolled out. They first believed that any setting had to have a self-assessment before they were utilized, but now they realize that there will be situations where clients may access community resources (e.g., community colleges, local YMCA's, etc.)
 - There are administration fees built into the rates that providers currently receive. Therefore, clients, while in this program, will be allowed to hire a Financial Management Service (FMS) to help with their budget.

- CMS Rules/HCBS Waiver Settings
 - During the monthly conference call, Mr. Ciampa learned that a lot of the regional centers are not talking about this. Other regional centers have asked him to share information that is discussed at our HCBS Ad-Hoc Committee meetings.
 - ACRC seems to be taking the lead on this. All service providers do not have the collaboration with their regional centers that we have with ACRC. Our workgroup is trying to focus on next steps and planning for the future.
 - Because issues may come up that haven't been thought of yet, the plan is to do a beta test on the self-assessment tool across the state. The goal is to get a broad range of vendor types for this beta testing.
 - The state has received informal feedback on our transition plan; nothing official yet.

- DS (Disability Services) Task Force 2.0
 - The RFPs for the taskforce should have been posted last week.
 - The housing sub-group met. It was shared that the State of California is approximately 20,000 to 30,000 units behind where we should be for affordable housing.

6. **Legislative Update**

- There are a couple bills that committee members may want to track. They are as follows:
 - AB 15 (Maienschein) Denti-Cal program: reimbursement rates. This bill would double the reimbursement rates for the 15 most common prevention, treatment, and oral evaluations services. *(stalled in appropriations)*
 - AB 279 (Holden) Developmental disabilities: regional centers. This bill would allow for a more streamlined process for the Health & Safety Waiver. *(stalled in appropriations)*

- AB 1380 (Santiago) Developmental services: regional center services. This bill particularly is in regards to in-home respite providers; requiring background checks, limited administrative costs, additional audit requirements, etc. *Most are opposed to this bill.*
- AB 1607 (Frazier) Developmental services: integrated competitive employment. This bill would allow a client to use tailored day services in conjunction with his/her existing program to achieve this goal. *(stalled in appropriations)*
- SB 218 (Dodd) The Qualified ABLE Program: tax-advantaged savings accounts. This bill would allow California to adopt a non-callback on these accounts upon the death of the client.
- SB 283 (Wilk) Developmental services. This bill would modify the definition of "developmental disability" to mean a disability that originates prior to the age of 22.
- SB 433 (Mendoza) Developmental services: data exchange. This bill would allow the Employment Development Department (EDD) to disclose specific information to DDS, upon request, as they implement their Employment First Policy.
- It's important to note that two doctors are the Chairs of the Health and Human Services Budget Sub-Committees; Dr. Richard Pan in the Senate and Dr. Joaquin Arambula in the Assembly. They ask a lot of questions and are detail oriented.
- Nancy Bargmann was approved and confirmed as the official Director of DDS last month.

7. **Board Update**

- Mr. Ciampa met with the ACRC Board's Nominating Committee on Monday afternoon.

8. **Announcements/Comments**

- Just a reminder – ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) will be meeting at SDC on Tuesday, May 9th. If you are planning on attending, please contact Ms. West.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, May 11, 2017**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet