

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2020
Minutes

Present:

Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Chair
Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga Care
Home
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Joe Hernandez, Premier
Healthcare Services
Joe Jaquez, EGACT
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Robin Rhoades, Southside
Unlimited
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services

Visitors:

Gregg Brandon
Garrett Broadbent
Breeanne Burris
Sonya Fox-Watson
Robert Garcia
Kate Halecky
Monique Migdol
Adam Ruggles
Todd Ruggles
Nicky Schluep

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Lori Banales, Deputy Executive
Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community Services
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) held their monthly meeting by teleconference beginning at 9:31 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2020. The group discussed: 1) Board Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) COVID-19 Impact Discussion; and 4) Other Discussion/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of March 12, 2020 as submitted.

1. ***Board Update***

- Mr. Ciampa shared that ACRC's Board met by teleconference on Thursday, March 26th.
 - Mr. Bonnet and his Executive Staff discussed ACRC's response to COVID-19, and the group talked about what the next few weeks and months might look like.
 - Just a reminder – the Board is always recruiting, so if you know of anyone that might be interested, please let him know.
 - Mr. Ciampa terms off ACRC's Board as the PAC's designated representative on June 30th.
 - The PAC will hold elections in May for the Chair and Co-Chair positions for the 2020-21 fiscal year (FY).

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

- Mr. Bonnet shared that last month's PAC meeting crystalized the situation that we are now in. Since then, ACRC has not hosted a single meeting or gathering. We have approximately 20 staff that are physically in the Sacramento office today.
- Staff set up a drive-thru distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in front of ACRC's Sacramento office and have handed out 21,000 masks to residential providers so far; we are receiving another supply next week.
 - For service providers that need supplies, please email Heather Hollingworth and she will schedule a time for you to pick things up.
- The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has given much more flexibility in keeping day programs and other services intact during this time.
- The "surge" that is coming is expected on Friday, April 17th. If you have been following graphs, California's rate of infection and deaths is impressive. What we have been doing is working; please continue to shelter-in-place. Staying at home has clearly assisted in flattening the curve.
 - Many service providers are assisting ACRC in setting up beds while preparing for the surge.
 - There are questions as to who should utilize these beds – infected individuals, recovering individuals, those displaced by the virus, etc.
- ACRC currently has three positive cases of COVID-19, while several individuals are waiting for their test results.

- With Project Baseline, testing availability will improve. Treatments are experimental, but some remain promising.
- Mr. Bonnet believes that we will remain on lockdown through the end of April. ACRC continues to pay all of our service providers. Providers can bill regional centers at the most current year's absentee rate, as long as they continue to pay their employees.
- Mr. Ciampa noted that this crisis should not be used to circumvent the process that we have in place to shape services. Service providers should not be using this time to do advocacy behind the scenes.
- This crisis has given us new challenges to take on. Some individuals do not understand what is happening.
- Mr. Bonnet expressed appreciation to all of the service providers that have stepped up to assist ACRC in our surge planning. Our agency has a client who is coming out of the hospital that will be utilizing one of the surge beds. ACRC also has seven facilities that were just about to open that had no clients residing in them; they will be utilized for the self-quarantining too.

3. **COVID-19 Impact Discussion**

- Client/Service Impact
 - Some services are suspended, while others are still in place. Service providers are trying to brainstorm – identify needs and coordinate assistance; flex, surge and support.
 - We all need to help, support and lead – share any information that you may receive. You are not alone.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss expressed frustration because service providers are on the front lines every day and direct support professionals (DSPs) are not recognized as essential services, yet In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers are.
 - Mr. Bonnet believes that the folks on the front line need pay for their safety and livelihood, but they also need to be protected.
 - Mr. Ciampa noted that the direction and guidance that service providers received from ACRC was amazing.
- Legislative/DDS/Budget Impact
 - There is no way of yet knowing how much revenue is being lost during this crisis. We will have to get through this and then see how this affects the 2020-21 fiscal year's (FY's) budget.
- Provider/Employer Impact
 - Mr. Bonnet shared that DDS is concerned that some day programs may have laid off their employees. The intention of the ability to continue to bill for services was to keep paying your employees.

- Community Care Licensing (CCL) continues to monitor homes and they have released checklists to assist providers, although some suggested options for isolation are not always feasible/easily achievable.
- As of April 1st, Service Coordinators (SCs) have notified residential providers on what they need to do to receive supplemental funding. Clarification was made that phone calls between Planning Team Members will suffice during this time.
 - ACRC staff are looking into supplemental funding for Family Home Agencies (FHAs), as well.
- Mr. Decker shared that ACRC staff will be sending out an updated list of hotels that have rooms available to serve our folks. We are currently in discussions with Meristem to possibly utilize their dorms. Staff have also spoken with several large day programs and we may use their sites, as well.
- Service providers are looking for options/adaption of services, while planning for the worst.

4. ***Other Discussion/Announcements***

- Mr. Decker expressed appreciation for the PAC's assistance while developing ACRC's plans during this crisis.
- Ms. Watilo's agency has set-up several trainings that may assist DSPs. Please contact her if you are interested.
- In the next 24 hours, UCP will be launching a new service – transportation services for folks that are at high-risk. Mr. Ciampa will share a flyer with everyone within the next few days.
- The California Supported Living Network (CSLN) is distributing a survey for Supported Living Services (SLS) and Independent Living Services (ILS) and will be sharing the data with DDS.
- ACRC will soon be releasing the information gathered from the day program survey, which will show what all of the programs are doing during this lockdown.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, May 14, 2020**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet