

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, May 11, 2017  
Minutes

**Present:**

Eric Ciampa, UCP of  
Sacramento, Inc., Chair  
Gerrit deGelleke, American River  
Speech  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP  
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point  
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  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO  
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite  
Services  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Janet Brandon\*, AIM &  
Associates, Co-Chair & Design.  
Dir.  
Becky Brubaker\*, EGACT  
Ed Doonan\*, LIFE, Inc.  
Dawn Montgomery\*, HOPE  
Consulting  
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art  
Center  
Laleh Sharpe\*, Maxim Healthcare  
Services  
Paul Traglio\*, Capitol Autism  
Services

**Visitors:**

James Astorga  
Aileen Cantor-Fermo  
Adriene Gaudet  
Kate Halecky  
Joseph Hernandez  
Jessica Knuth  
Aaron Kowalski  
Rosa Lee  
Jennifer Marchant  
Fred Patawaran  
Lou Patawaran  
Shala Robertson  
Sean Stone  
Kelly Weber

**Staff:**

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director  
Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating  
Officer  
Alfonso Carmona, Director of Adult &  
Residential 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 9:32 a.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2017, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional

Center to discuss: 1) Executive 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.

**Without objection, Eric Ciampa made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of March 9, 2017 and April 13, 2017 as submitted.**

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

- Mr. Bonnet shared that Governor Brown is releasing the May Revision today. Before the end of this meeting we will have an idea of where we stand as a statewide service system. He doesn't believe there will be any big budget changes this coming year. Our system is growing rapidly; ACRC now serves over 21,000 clients. We have added some office space here at the Sacramento office and have 460 staff working at our agency.
- We will be holding a public meeting at our Board meeting later this month regarding the caseload ratios, which we haven't met in some categories for a few years now. The one thing that Mr. Bonnet has committed to is to accurately represent our caseload numbers. With the help of the new funding to our budget this year, we are heading in the right direction.
- Earlier this week, the federal administration announced plans to extend the deadline for compliance with the new Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rules to March 17, 2022. What we don't know is how California is planning to proceed. It is Mr. Bonnet's understanding that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will try to stay on course with the original plan's timelines.
  - ACRC's Community Services Department is holding trainings about the new rules. Collaboration is key; setting the right tone for these meetings is critical.
- Mr. Bonnet went to Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) twice this past week. A family meeting was held last Saturday, where families expressed their concern for the impending closures of the DCs. On Tuesday, ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) held their fifth meeting on the grounds of SDC. We also had a ceremony for a CAC member who passed away a few months ago. The Executive Director of SDC attended the meeting.
  - There are fewer clients residing there every day; another one of our clients moved out yesterday.
  - A lot of the families that originally lived in the Bay Area are moving to our catchment area, which means that their loved ones are moving to our regional center.

- John Decker and his staff work with the clients and their families to make sure that choices are available and that placements will be successful.
- When the DCs are all shut down, we have promises from the department that start-up funding will stay within our community service system.
- Mr. Bonnet always tries to attend the vendor fairs that ACRC holds and encourages everyone to participate, when invited. They provide an opportunity for SCs to learn more about the services that are available to our clients.
  - If you would like more information about them, please contact your Community Services Specialist (CSS).
- Several years ago, Mr. Bonnet formed a Living Options workgroup to discuss safe, appropriate places/options for our clients. He believes some good came from that discussion, but the number of clients that may soon be moving out of their family home is staggering. Rates are a huge part of the problem; they have not kept up with the all-inclusive services that we provide to our clients. As mentioned previously, the State of California is over 20,000 units behind where we should be for affordable housing.
- ACRC's Client Employment Specialist, Cindy Le, is working on various grants and setting up several internships for clients, so that they might be able to decide where they want to work.
- ACRC has also named our Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Specialist – Katherine Weston. As mentioned earlier, Ms. Weston is involved in the new rules trainings that ACRC is holding for our service providers.
- ACRC will be participating in the "No Barriers Summit" happening in June at the Resort at Squaw Creek in North Lake Tahoe. The purpose of this event is to encourage individuals with disabilities to get out there and embrace outdoor adventure.
  - Mr. Bonnet will send the information out to committee members.
- The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is currently recruiting for a new Executive Director.
- DDS has brought in a special team to help Kern Regional Center (KRC) address some issues. The department has invested a lot of time and money into this situation, and is looking forward to great progress for KRC.

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

- We will have an updated list at the next meeting.
- The function of the vendor forums need to be defined.
  - At the last Behavior Intervention Services (BIS) Vendor Forum, 55 minutes was allotted to a CAPTAIN Training. While it was

useful information, there was a comment that it might not have been the best use of limited time.

### 3. **ACRC RFP Update**

- Mr. Tiedemann shared that ACRC wants to make sure that we are developing services where the need is greatest. The agency will be moving towards developing an annual plan and we will put out Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for all of our needs, not just the Community Placement Plan (CPP).
- Mr. Ciampa, Ms. Brandon and Ms. Ramirez have discussed the value of surveying the PAC members in order to gather ideas regarding the committee's priorities for the upcoming year.
  - This committee is supposed to be an advisory committee to ACRC's Board of Directors. The PAC is a resource to the Board and to agency staff.
    - Mr. Ciampa will be transitioning to the PAC's designated representative to the Board in July. He would like more direction on what this committee would like him to inform the Board about.
    - Mr. Bonnet shared that Ms. West puts a lot of effort into making sure that the minutes from these meetings are complete. They are read by each member of the Board of Directors.
  - The survey questions will be updated and send out to committee members.

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

- Cultural Diversity
  - ACRC is putting together focus groups to discuss the support and training needs of service providers. Volunteers from SLS/ILS, day programs, translation/interpreter services and respite providers will be participating in a preliminary discussion on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, from 10 to 11 a.m. in ACRC's Accounting Conference Room.

### 5. **Updates:**

- Self-Determination Program
  - DDS is working on answering the final questions and will be resubmitting the waiver soon. They hope to receive approval in the next four to six months.
  - Training will begin in June or July.

- CMS Rules/HCBS Waiver Settings
  - As mentioned earlier, we will wait to see what California will do regarding the extension to March 2022.
  - Nine ACRC providers received a total of \$2 million of the \$15 million CMS Transition Funding that was available statewide to assist providers with coming into compliance with the new rules.
  - Providers are looking for more guidance and support on what the expectation is.
  
- DS (Disability Services) Task Force 2.0
  - The housing sub-group met.

#### 6. **Legislative Update**

- There was a rally at the State Capitol. Those in attendance want to keep the DC funding in the community.
- If In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) moves to managed care, it will significantly impact utilization of IHSS services for clients living in ILS/SLS arrangements.
- The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has created an Electronic Timesheet Website for IHSS providers. Enrollment starts on May 22, 2017.
- In the next two to four weeks, the legislature will begin to hold hearings about our statewide service system. Providers are encouraged to attend.
- Most bills are sitting in suspense in the Senate or House.
- The budget should be on the Governor's desk before June 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### 7. **Board Update**

- No update was shared.

#### 8. **Announcements/Comments**

- Premier Healthcare will be hosting their second Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway for ACRC clients on Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Brenda Smith Conference Room. The backpacks are filled with school supplies. Premier also includes siblings in this giveaway; maximum two per client.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, June 8, 2017**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet