

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 11, 2023
Minutes

Present:

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc., Chair
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Co-Chair & Design. Dir.
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &
Associates
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Jacquie Foss, STEP
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION
Christa McClure, Tri-County
Respite Care Service
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Visitors

Sheila Abrams
Steve Andrews
Maureen Fitzgerald
Sonya Fox
Jennifer Gomez
Braydon Holtzinger
Dawn Horwath
Jennifer Jones
Geoffrey Lopez
Dylan Nobida
Michelle Ramirez (CBEM)
Staci Richardson
Paloma Rodriguez
Jen Roney
Huyen Tran
Jasmine Vollenweider
Michelle Wild

Absent: (* excused)

James Astorga*, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Jessica Knuth*, Reach Adult
Development
Breeanne Kolster*, 24 Hour
Home Care
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit*, Antelope Hills
Manor

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Operating Officer
Michelle Duchene, Community
Services & Supports Manager
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Kenisha Hurd, Client Services
Manager
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Helen Neri, Community Services &
Supports Manager
Jason Scantlebury, LEAD Community
Services Specialist
Carly Shearer, Client Employment
Specialist
Faye Tait, Associate Client Services
Director
Norma Vidaurreta, Community Services
Specialist
Johnny Xiong, Associate Client
Services Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 9:31 a.m. to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Health & Safety Waiver Process; 3) Discussion & Approval of Updates to PAC Standing Rules; 4) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 5) System Reform and Legislative Update; 6) PAC Committees & Reports; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of April 13, 2023 and March 9, 2023 as submitted.

1. *Executive Director's Report*

- Ms. Banales shared that the statewide Community Services Directors meeting is taking place across the hall. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is participating in a discussion about rate increase implementation.
- ACRC hosted the first Disability Industry Career Expo last Wednesday and it was a success. The next will be held on June 15th in Valley Mountain Regional Center's (VMRC's) catchment area.
- Governor Newsom will release the May Revise tomorrow.

2. *Health & Safety Waiver Process*

- Ms. Eller introduced Norma Vidaurreta, one of ACRC's Community Services Specialist. They gave a presentation on the Health & Safety Waiver Process.
 - This presentation will be shared with those in attendance.

3. *Discussion & Approval of Updates to PAC Standing Rules*

- PAC members discussed the proposed revisions and made some additional suggestions.

Without objection, Laleh Sharpe made the motion to approve the updated PAC Standing Rules as amended.

4. *ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates*

- The EBSH/CCH vendor forum was held on April 25th.
- The Independent Living Services (ILS) vendor forum was held on April 17th.
 - The group discussed transportation; it can be provided as long as it's included in the client's Individual Program Plan (IPP).
 - They also discussed AB 1568.
- The Adult Day & Employment vendor forum is scheduled for May 25th.

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

- CCLN
 - Ms. Foss shared that there have been several meetings to discuss bilingual pay. DDS has drafted a self-certification form, which must be completed each month. Employees will receive an ongoing

monthly language stipend of \$100, with an additional \$20 per month going to the employer.

- Staff must work at least 43+ hours per month in order to qualify for this stipend.
- Two regional centers are piloting a project. There are three videos regarding "Informed Decision Making", "Code of Ethics" and "The LGBTQ Community". When a direct support professional (DSP) watches one of these videos, the regional center will pay the provider \$650, of which the DSP should be paid \$500. The DSP can be paid up to \$1000 total.
- Regarding the 90/10 issue, beginning July 1, 2024, service providers will receive 90% of their rates. The remaining 10% is based on quality incentives. Disability Rights California (DRC) and Disability Voices United (DVU) participate in these meetings with DDS.
 - Suggestion for the PAC to develop a "CLIP" to explain this issue.
- AB 1568 (Wood) Developmental services: independent living skills services: rates.
 - For six months, the cost of this is \$4.3 million.
 - DDS will be forming a taskforce to discuss this issue.
- PAVE
 - The Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE) project's work has just begun. They have chosen their software provider and held their second stakeholder's meeting.
 - DDS is invested in what PAVE is working to achieve.
 - PAVE's main goals are "Informed Decision Making" and "Choice & Satisfaction". These are the two outcomes that they will be tracking.
 - They will be targeting four regional centers to be part of the pilot.
 - If you are interested in being a pilot service provider, please contact Ms. Foss.
 - This is a complex, software project which will not be ready by July 1, 2024.

6. **PAC Committees & Reports**

- Vendor Relations Committee – Review "Service Provider Communication Guide"
 - Mr. Broadbent noted that the workgroup wanted to put together a vendor guide on how to interface with ACRC's Community Services & Supports Department versus the daily contact that providers have with Service Coordinators (SCs).
 - Ms. Ramirez shared that On My Own is putting together an addition page that will provide specific contact information for their agency.

7. ***Announcements/Comments***

- The PAC appreciates ACRC's response to their request to add Manager's contact information to SC's email signature line.
- Ms. Foss's and Ms. Ramirez's agencies are working on an exciting pilot project with ACRC – how to maximize the use of technology in a client's home.
- Ms. Foss and Ms. Ramirez attended The Abilities Expo in Los Angeles in March.
- Ms. Dyba reminded everyone that Enriching Lives FHA is hosting an Open House on Wednesday, May 24th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- STEP is hosting a Juneteenth celebration on June 16th.
- The June PAC agenda will include a presentation on the 90/10 issue.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, June 8, 2023**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales