

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 2022
Minutes

Present:

Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Chair
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Co-Chair & Design. Dir.
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &
Associates
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc.
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Paul Traglio, Kadiant

Visitors

Jasmine Avery
Breeanne Burris
Maureen Fitzgerald
Sonya Fox-Watson
Adriene Gaudet
Jennifer Gomez
Braydon Holtzinger
Dawn Horwath
Jennifer Jones
Michelle Ramirez
Jen Roney
Nicky Schlupe
Stan Schmidt
Ken Tallo
Jasmine Vollenweider
Katherine Wallen

Absent: (* excused)

James Astorga*, F&A Astorga Care
Home
Kate Halecky*, Southside
Unlimited
Jessica Knuth*, Reach Adult
Development
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Adam Ruggles*, Medstar LLC
Joy Scott*, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Carole Watilo*, Progressive
Employment

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Financial Officer
Jennifer Bloom, Associate Client
Services Director
Tracy Brown, Associate Client
Services Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
David Lopez, Client Advocate
Jacob Miller, Client Advocate
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Olivia Procida, Manager of
Community Services
Carly Shearer, Client Employment
Specialist
Johnny Xiong, Associate Client
Services Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:32 a.m. on Thursday, May 12, 2022, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Election – PAC Chair & Co-Chair/Designated Representative to Board for 2022-23 FY; 4) Hiring Collaborative Effort between ACRC & VMRC; 5) System Reform and Legislative Update; 6) PAC Committees & Reports; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Eric Ciampa made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of April 14, 2022 as submitted.

1. Board Update

- Ms. Ramirez encouraged PAC members to attend the next Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 26th, at 3 p.m.

2. Executive Director's Report

- Ms. Banales shared that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is holding a meeting this morning to discuss the proposed trailer bill language (TBL) that would modify the regional center Fair Hearing (FH) process.
- On May 2nd, the Halo Dental Clinic opened. ACRC staff are working on the referral process and will keep everyone informed.
- ACRC is hosting our Caseload Ratio Public Meeting next Tuesday, May 17th, at 1 p.m. via Zoom. We are looking to promote forward what our corrective action plan as to why we didn't meet our mandated caseload ratios in two categories – "On Waiver" and "Over 3 Years, Non-Waiver, Non-Mover". In addition, we will be sharing our hiring plan for the next fiscal year (FY).
 - Phil Perez has joined ACRC as the third Residential Client Services Manager (CSM).
- We are continually updating service providers on the rate study implementation at the "Coffee with Community Services" meetings. Some providers may receive retroactive payments due to a slight delay in getting the updated rates entered into the system; ACRC's Accounting Staff are still working on a few service codes.
 - ACRC will notify service providers when the final letters will be sent out (within the next few weeks). After you review your letter, there is an option to appeal.
 - It was clarified that the appeals process is for rates only; not to appeal fundamental disagreements about how Burns & Associates conducted the rate study.
 - If you will be submitting an appeal, please inform your Community Services Specialist.
 - There remain concerns about the rate study. As the Self-Determination Program (SDP) moves forward, there are no mechanisms for this program, as well as clients with complex

- needs/Health & Safety Waivers. Also, if the State of California does not fix the Independent Living Services (ILS) problem, programs will close.
- The STEP ILS self-advocates are taking an active role. They are meeting with their local legislators, which is powerful. We may want to reach out to ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) to bring them into this conversation.
 - ACRC has identified some issues and Ms. Ramirez suggested holding vendor specific meetings to take the time and make sure that everyone understands the impact. It might be helpful to hold an additional meeting about the appeals process to make sure that everyone understands this, as well.
 - Mr. Ahmad shared that DDS will be looking for miscalculations regarding ratios and licensing staff, making sure that regional centers have them labeled correctly.
 - If the regional center is getting feedback from providers, the PAC would like to collaborate with ACRC on meetings to support providers.
 - Mr. Ciampa would like to have a more in-depth conversation about the rate study. If you have any suggestions on how the PAC may play a bigger role, please let him know. He will also be gathering a group to discuss continuing to support rate reform after the rate study is fully implemented.
 - The proposals for the Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) are due today by 3 p.m.
 - ACRC's Community Services staff will be interviewing service providers towards the end of the month.
 - Mr. Decker noted that DDS announced that almost \$6 million remain of the \$15 million allocation targeted to assist service providers in taking steps towards modifying their services to come into compliance with the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) rules by March 2023. These funds will be split evenly among the regional centers (\$284,109 each). Each regional center must work with their Provider/Vendor Advisory Committee to prioritize the use of available funds to meet the needs of individuals served in their local area. It's important to note that these funds must be encumbered by September 30th.
 - Volunteers to work with Mr. Decker/ACRC's Community Services include: Lindsey Dyba, Michelle Ramirez, Yvonne Soto & Katherine Wallen
 - Ms. Banales noted that we are getting closer to populating the café space at ACRC's Sacramento office with competitively employed clients. This will be a prosperous opportunity for a service provider.
 - Ms. Wallen expressed an interest.

- With each day that ACRC staff are back in the office, it appears that they are finding value. Although COVID may be spiking, Ms. Banales has no reports of anyone being severely ill and certainly, no deaths.
- The Governor's May Revise will be released on Friday morning.

3. ***Election – PAC Chair & Co-Chair/Designated Representative to Board for 2022-23 FY***

- Mr. Ciampa noted that the PAC needs to elect the Chair and Co-Chair/Designated Representative to the Board of Directors for the 2022-23 fiscal year (FY). Ms. Ramirez can serve as the Co-Chair for one more year, and he is asking to be replaced.

Without objection, Jacquie Dillard-Foss made the motion to nominate Michelle Ramirez as the PAC Co-Chair/Designated Representative to the Board for the 2022-23 FY.

Without objection, Andrea Croom made the motion to nominate Lindsey Dyba as the PAC Chair for the 2022-23 FY.

- For full transparency, it was disclosed that Ms. Ramirez currently services as the President of California Disability Services Association (CDSA), and as of July 1st, Ms. Dyba is a CDSA member. The PAC meetings will be focused on PAC issues, not the CDSA.

4. ***Hiring Collaborative Effort between ACRC & VMRC***

- Mr. Ciampa shared that this group is continuing to discuss this project. They have reached a general agreement due to the scope and milestones. We will be pursuing a joint venture and a media campaign that would be both social and traditional, with branding and a hashtag. A website will be developed; zip codes would drive the job searches.
 - The next meeting is set for June 23rd.
 - The group is seeking three more vendors with experience in marketing, financing and web development/design.
 - Volunteers include: Jacquie Dillard-Foss, someone from Lindsey Dyba's team & Michelle Ramirez (w/CBEM)

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

- ARCA
 - Further movement on the modernization of the Core Staffing Formula (CSF) and the rate study.
- CDSA
 - This group has been focusing their efforts on the acceleration of the rate study.

- CCLN
 - The group is working closely with DDS on the service outcome project.
 - They would like to schedule a meeting with ACRC regarding the pilot project.
 - They are working with Manatt Health to gather data and have a comprehensive discussion about clients.
 - The group drafted a proposal about using assistive technology in an employment setting – requesting \$6 million.
 - They are working with Disability Right California (DRC) and Disability Voices United (DVU) on the rate fixes.
 - Hoping that service providers complete the work stability survey that was sent out.
- DS Taskforce & Workgroups
 - It's imperative that we set the right service outcome measures because what you incentivize, you will get. We need to avoid unintended consequences.
 - DDS has drafted some outcomes, which are out now for public comment. PAVE will be working with DDS on additional outcomes.
- Lanterman Coalition
 - Wrote a letter supporting the acceleration of the rate study.

6. ***PAC Committees & Reports***

- Vendor Relations Committees
 - The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 16th, at 1 p.m.
- Outreach Committee
 - Mr. Ciampa shared that Breeanne Burris has submitted her application for PAC membership. Although her agency is not part of the targeted outreach determined by the recent PAC matrix, all other criteria has been met.
 - She will be invited to attend the June PAC meeting for membership consideration.
 - The PAC has several openings; we need to be adding back to our membership.

7. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Mr. Decker shared that tomorrow's "Coffee with Community Services" will be focused on the May Revise.
- Ms. Wallen shared that for the past several years, Southside Unlimited has been working with ACRC to update their program designs. It has been noted that buildings must be licensed in order for participants with required supervision to participate. She believes this limits client choice and seems to be outdated legislation.

- Mr. Ciampa mentioned that this is something that the Vendor Relations Committee might like to address.
- Mr. Decker noted that ACRC staff are working with Community Care Licensing (CCL) for clarification, as well as DDS. Our agency strives to support client choice/needs, but regional centers must follow the direction of CCL.
- Ms. Brown announced the retirement of Vicki Smith, a Client Services Manager (CSM), after a little over 35 years with ACRC. Her last day will be June 3rd.
- The June PAC meeting will include discussions about the May Revise, a rate study update, an interview and possible vote on Ms. Burris' PAC application, and an SDP update.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, June 9, 2022**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales