

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 14, 2018
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
Sandy Bishop, INALLIANCE
Becky Brubaker, EGACT
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Joe Hernandez, Premier
Healthcare Services
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
Will Sanford, Futures Explored
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Board Members:

Austin Taylor

Absent: (* excused)

Janet Brandon*, AIM &
Associates
Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Antonio Ranit*, Antelope Hills
Manor
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism
Services

Visitors:

Candice Bright
Andrea Croom
Maureen Fitzgerald
Adriene Gaudet
Kate Halecky
Teri Hayes
Joe Jaquez
Lynn Heitner
Elizabeth Johnson
Jennifer Marchant
Randy Pierce
Nicky Schluep
Stan Schmidt
Sean Stone
Tara Weems
Barbara Williams

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating
Officer
John Decker, Manager of
CPP/Forensics Unit
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 14, 2018, 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/Community Needs; 4) PAC Priorities; 5) Provider Presentations; 6) Legislative Update; 7) Board Update; and 8) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of April 12, 2018 as submitted.

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

- Mr. Bonnet shared the state budget will include funding for caseload growth due to the ever increasing number of individuals with developmental disabilities across the state. Unfortunately, the budget will not include the reinstatement of camp and social recreation services. The uniform holiday schedule for service providers has been pushed back a year. The line item for Best Buddies was approved.
- As many of you have heard, the federal government approved the waiver for California's Self-Determination Program (SDP). Now the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will need to figure out the next steps on how regional centers will roll this out. ACRC has over 2,000 clients signed up to participate in the three-year pilot project and only 175 individuals will be chosen by the department. It's complicated, but DDS expects to begin rollout in the next few months. Services chosen need to meet the waiver requirements.
 - Mr. Sanford has heard that DDS will be posting a timeline on their website for the planned rollout of SDP on June 18th. They need to provide direction to regional centers on how to develop participant's budgets (weighing in what was spent on the services for the client in the last year, what are their unmet needs, etc.).
- Several of you may have had the pleasure of meeting Gavin Newsom at *The Urban Hive*, where the Lanterman Coalition interviewed him at the end of April. The interchange that he had with many of our clients was very impressive.
- Mr. Bonnet shared that in the proposed state budget Kern Regional Center (KRC) was awarded \$300,000 to help keep this regional center afloat. He and Mr. Tiedemann have made several trips down to Bakersfield to assist the center. KRC will be under special legislative oversight.
- We are about to finalize our relationship with Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). In seven days, ACRC's lone client will move into his own community home. Mr. Bonnet hopes to be there on Thursday to walk this individual out the door for the last time. SDC will officially close before December 31, 2018.
 - Our clients are doing wonderful in their community placements.

- The Community Resource Development Funds (CRDF) will be used to develop resources for all clients across the state.
- There was a recent ruling by the California Supreme Court that organizations can no longer use independent contractors to provide services; they must be employees. This might factor into the mix for regional centers/service providers and the SDP. Mr. Bonnet will be discussing this issue with his counterparts across the state next week.

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

- An updated list was distributed for review.
 - Austin Taylor shared that ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) will have a new Chair in July – Kimberly Terrell. The group's biggest push is to follow-up with those individuals who have moved out of SDC. The group has developed a questionnaire for clients to complete if they wish to have a group go out to visit them in their new homes. The CAC is also looking at moving forward with another project – possibly focusing on how to bring more individuals to the table. They will be updating their information so that it can be shared at day programs and with local advocacy groups.
 - The Independent Living Services Vendor Forum was held on May 15th.
 - Those present discussed the issues around transporting clients.
 - This is on a case-by-case basis; if transportation is written into the client's Individual Program Plan (IPP), then an ILS provider can provide it.
 - Not every ILS provider has Mobility Training in their program design.
 - Mr. Tiedemann will have staff research this issue.
 - Another meeting may be scheduled to clarify what is allowed.
 - The group also discussed what is considered billable versus non-billable services.
 - If provider is not with the client, then it is considered a non-billable service (e.g., a phone call).
 - Service providers need to have viable proof that they have been with the client – Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) is coming soon.
 - The Residential Services Vendor Forum was held on June 4th.
 - A training was held during this vendor forum. Mary Rettinhouse, ACRC's ASD Program Coordinator, John Decker and Licensing trained providers about emergency

intervention plans. Restraints are now allowed in adult care homes, but providers need to have their training plan and emergency procedures documented in their program designs. The Community Services and Supports (CSS) Department is developing a template to assist providers in updating their program plans.

- The Supported Living Services Vendor Forum was held on May 30th.
 - The group discussed 811 housing, DDS' rate study and EVV.
 - During the rollover, ACRC has new budget templates for negotiated rates.
 - Providers had an open conversation about how to recoup lost In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) hours.
 - In honor of the 25th Anniversary of SLS, providers will be sponsoring a picnic on September 21st. Ms. Ramirez will share the flyer at the next PAC meeting.
- Committee members noted that the upcoming EVV will affect many service codes.

3. **ACRC RFP Update/Community Needs**

- Mr. Decker shared that ACRC is currently developing intensive transition services for individuals moving out of Institutes for Mental Disease (IMDs). ACRC conducted interviews yesterday and we are about to award the contract.
- Regional centers are shifting away from developing services for those clients moving out of DCs and IMDs, and are focusing efforts on the "safety net" that is being developing across the state.
 - ACRC has created extra capacity in our Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Special Healthcare Needs (ARFPSHN) homes so that clients can be appropriately placed in the community. This will hopefully provide some relief for our residential providers.
 - Within the next week, DDS will be providing more information about projects that will be developed across the state.
 - Current Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are for specialized services with start-up funding; these are DDS' priorities.
- Ms. Onesi shared that ACRC has all of our RFPs posted on our website, which include Early Intervention (EI) Therapies and Psychologists.
- ACRC is still working on the agency's needs assessment.

4. **PAC Priorities**

- DDS Rate Survey
 - By now, service providers have received multiple emails regarding the importance of this rate survey. DDS has extended the deadline to August 3rd.
 - ACRC has scheduled optional trainings to assist providers with completing this survey.
 - On June 12th, we had about 40 providers RSVP (mainly residential).
 - It was explained that this survey takes a different approach – providers will be asked to include the total costs of running their organization (a top-down approach). Mr. Ciampa stressed that providers should document all of their costs and then allocate them out.
 - Providers should use the “other” designation to specify specialized items.
 - Providers want to know what the expected outcome of this survey is. The survey will not share all that providers do to meet the needs of the clients that they serve. It will not document how their direct staff spend their time or how providers are having to cover lost hours from IHSS, etc.
 - Providers still need to advocate for themselves and the people that we serve.
 - This survey is one part of a larger proposal that will go before the legislature in the fall.
 - Mr. Bonnet encouraged providers to complete the survey. The data that is gathered will be beneficial to all.
- Vendor/Service Code Survey
 - As of today, all of the service code surveys have been turned in to Ms. West. She will draft this informational document and email it out to committee members for any revisions prior to the July meeting.
- Next Priorities
 - The group looks forward to sharing input on ACRC’s needs assessment.
 - The Lanterman Coalition’s Housing Summit will be held soon.
 - Roommate database – Mr. Ciampa shared that the Lanterman Coalition is interested in participating in this project, but doesn’t want to take the lead on it. He will be circling back to some individuals/organizations to see if they can assist in the development.
 - If you are interested, please contact Mr. Ciampa.
 - The CSS Process workgroup has met a few times and will be requesting to meet with CSS staff soon to share information.

- The PAC Training Subcommittee is gathering immediately following today's meeting.
- Nine ACRC providers received grant funding for person centered thinking/practices. A few of the providers would like to collaborate and provider a 2-day training that would be open to anyone, including ACRC staff. An additional one-day training would assist service provider organizations in developing a plan to make their services and practices more person centered. Train-the-trainer workshops will last six months to a year. The goal is to build capacity in ACRC's catchment area.
- Communication – members have expressed an interest in possibly revising what is shared on the PAC's page on ACRC's website.
 - Interested individuals should contact Ms. Ramirez and Mr. Ciampa.
- All PAC members have been asked to participate on a subcommittee or workgroup.

5. ***Provider Presentations***

- The PAC will have two members share information about their agencies at each meeting. Ms. Ramirez noted that Antonio Ranit was not able to attend the meeting today; he will present in July.
 - Sergio Pinto, with BEST Consulting, Inc.
 - BEST Consulting's first client was 16 years ago.
 - The agency primarily provides ABA services for children diagnosed with autism. These services are funded through insurance.
 - BEST provides behavioral feeding services.
 - They also have Organization Behavioral Management Consultation and Training. Staff help agencies with performance management, workplace safety, and leadership.
 - BEST has provided this consulting and training across industries.

6. ***Legislative Update***

- The legislature must submit the budget to the Governor by tomorrow, June 15th, or they will not get paid.
- The Los Angeles area pushed for bridge funding of \$25 million for wage enhancements for providers in high cost areas (i.e., where the minimum wage is higher than the state's).
- The Lanterman Coalition has drafted a letter to the legislature about their disappointment in this next year's budget for our service system.

- Mr. Sanford stressed the importance of making sure your legislators follow through with their promises.
- The Workers Compensation Ratings Bureau will be modifying the 8868 code. The insurance commissioner should weigh in on this in the early fall. This will be rolled out in incremental rates.
- The language for the furlough days and the half day/full day is still in the budget, so the legislature will revisit these issues next year.

7. **Board Update**

- Mr. Ciampa attended the last Board meeting which was held on Thursday, May 24th, in Woodland.
 - The Board is recruiting for new Board members. If providers know of anyone that might be interested in serving on ACRC's Board, please let Mr. Ciampa know.
 - Twice a year, the Board tries to meet in one of our outlying counties.
 - The Board approved a new Board member from El Dorado County.
 - The group discussed some of the resource development projects that Mr. Bonnet and John Decker have talked about at the PAC meetings.
 - Mr. Ciampa encouraged PAC members to attend the ACRC Board meetings.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 28th.

8. **Announcements/Comments**

- Dr. Julie Beadle-Brown will be coming to STEP on Friday, June 22nd, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (the flyer has been distributed to members). She is a dynamic speaker; her presentation is entitled *Every Moment Has Potential – An Introduction to "Person-centred Active Support"*.
- Ms. Watilo shared that part of the grant funds that her agency received from DDS was to support up to ten other organizations that want to make some changes in order to come into compliance with the CMS final rules. They will be working with the regional center to help identify providers and a training will be scheduled.
 - If you are interested, please contact Ms. Watilo or Katherine Weston, ACRC's HCBS Specialist.
- The July PAC agenda will include:
 - DDS Rate Survey
 - Housing Summit information
 - Update on the ILS Vendor Forum
 - Committee/Workgroup Volunteers
 - Provider presentations – Michelle Ramirez and Antonio Ranit

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, July 12, 2018**, 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