

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 8, 2023
Minutes

Present:

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc., Chair
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Co-Chair & Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Jacquie Foss, STEP
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Breeanne Kolster, 24 Hour
Home Care
Christa McClure, Tri-County
Respite Care Service
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Janet Brandon*, A.I.M. &
Associates
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION
Sergio Pinto*, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto*, DDSO

Visitors

Sheila Abrams
Stephanie Berberich
Harry Bruell
Maureen Fitzgerald
Sonya Fox
Adriene Gaudet
Jennifer Gomez
Braydon Holtzinger
Jennifer Jones
Dan Lake
Olaf Luevano
Melanie Pashenee
Pamela Perez
Michelle Ramirez (CBEM)
Paloma Rodriguez
Jen Roney
Jasmine Vollenweider
Michelle Wild

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Operating Officer
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client
Services
Tracy Brown, Associate Client
Services Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Michelle Duchene, Community
Services & Supports Manager
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Helen Neri, Community Services &
Supports Manager
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 9:37 a.m. to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Board Update; 3) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 4) May Revise Highlights & Discussion; 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 May 11, 2023 as submitted.

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

- Ms. Banales encouraged service providers to join the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Collaborative, linking their available jobs to the website – <https://dspcollaborative.org>.
 - The next Disability Industry Career Expo will be held in Lodi on June 15th.
 - Ms. Watilo inquired if part of this website can be targeted for the Self-Determination Program (SDP).
 - Ms. Banales noted that this project was funded with remaining Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) funding. In the future, there will be opportunities to enhance our vision.
 - Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) has promoted this project and the California Disability Services Association (CDSA) has asked for information to be shared at their Annual Meeting in the fall.
- The UC Davis SEED Program has been vendored with ACRC. Clients that are in this program learn independent living skills and will have on the job training opportunities. Education services also covers room and board costs.
 - The PAC would like to learn more about this program.
- ACRC is hosting a Microenterprise Fair on Thursday, June 22nd.
- A Job Fair for Early Start providers will be held on August 9th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. These providers are also joining the DSP Collaborative.
 - More information will be shared at next week's Early Intervention IDP Vendor Forum.
- ACRC followed through with the AB 637 process to waive the median rates for specialized therapeutic services. On the day that the request was submitted to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), we were notified that it wasn't necessary since the department was working to resolve this issue for all regional centers.
- As ACRC builds capacity within our own organization, we contracted with UC Davis to provide 30 staff general leadership training. This five-module "Emerging Managers Training" just concluded and we have designated funding from this fiscal year (FY) for next year's training.
 - Ms. Dyba inquired if service providers could partner with ACRC for future staff training. Ms. Banales will bring this idea to the DSP Collaborative for further discussion.

- The HALO Clinic opened earlier this year. ACRC also hired a Dental Coordinator – Shannon McConnell. The clinic will be highlighting in a future *Alta Connections*. ACRC clinical staff are developing behavioral strategies to implement in the clinic environment to desensitize the dental experience.
- Ms. Eller shared an update on ACRC's Health & Safety Waivers.
 - 626 active waivers; 475 from this fiscal year (FY) alone, under 12 different service codes. There are 572 waivers from five agencies; 54 are client specific and 52 are for language and communication access.

2. **Board Update**

- ✚ *Ms. Dyba shared that she appreciates and admires Ms. Ramirez's ability to bring people together and make progress on goals.*
- ✚ *Mr. Lake expressed the Board's appreciation for Ms. Ramirez. Her tenure as the PAC's Board designated representative included being a Board member during the pandemic. She participated in Board meetings when the world was learning how to do things virtually.*
- Ms. Ramirez appreciates being a Board member during the Executive Director recruitment process a few years ago, as well as being able to participate in developing ACRC's Strategic Plan.
- On May 25th, ACRC's Board held a *Robert's Rules of Order* training for Board members prior to the Board meeting. Parliamentarian, Lorenzo Cuesta, offered an interactive training; Ms. Ramirez shared his contact information if anyone is interested in having this training for their organization.
 - The Board approved an agency wide Cultural Diversity/Humility Training and also approved a multi-family housing project in Woodland.

3. **ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates**

- The Adult Day & Employment vendor forum was held on May 25th.
 - The group discussed HCBS grant funding and compliance measures.
 - Ms. Watilo shared that her agency is offering trainings – they will be attending the next Residential vendor forum to share information there, as well.
 - The PAC should stay updated on HCBS compliance for the Final Rule. It would be helpful if service providers shared the criteria and checklists that they are completing. Conversations should focus on values in order for clients to have fulfilled lives.
- Upcoming vendor forums include:
 - Early Intervention IDP – June 13th from 1 to 3 p.m.
 - Mr. Ciampa noted that when looking at PAC membership, Early Start is a category of service that the Outreach Committee

would like to focus on. Ms. Dyba will attend this upcoming vendor forum to share information about the PAC.

- Residential – June 15th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Transportation – June 22nd from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

4. **May Revise Highlights & Discussion**

- Ms. Ramirez reviewed the “2023 May Revision Summary” with those present.
 - Ms. Foss noted that the revised Independent Living Services (ILS) rate will take effect on January 1, 2024.
 - AB 1568 is still working its way through the legislative process; it passed the Assembly 80-0. This bill would move ILS out of Adult Day Programs.
 - Funding will continue for the Coordinated Family Supports (CFS) Services pilot through the 2023-24 FY.
 - The budget includes Community Placement Plan (CPP) re-appropriated funds from the 2020-21 FY to support multi-family housing projects.

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

- CCLN
 - Enhanced Supported Living Services (SLS) is moving forward; DDS is beginning the process of writing regulations.
 - The department is reviewing Health & Safety Waivers that are currently in place; rates are what differentiates SLS from Enhanced Behavioral Supports Homes (EBSHs).
 - Ms. Foss and Ms. Ramirez are attending a meeting later today regarding the technology pilot.
- PAVE
 - This group is meeting to discuss their operational definition.
 - Dr. Beadle-Brown is tracking outcomes and measuring them differently.
- DS Taskforce & Workgroups
 - The DDS Employment Workgroup met a few weeks ago; they continue to work on the pilot.

6. **PAC Committees & Reports**

- The Communication/Outreach Committee met and discussed their goals for this next year.
 - The group will be identifying providers that serve outlying counties and attending vendor forums to share PAC information.
 - They have asked ACRC to send out an email blast to all service providers so that we can grow PAC membership/interest.

- If you know of any platforms that will assist with collaboration, please contact Mr. Ciampa.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 5th, at 1 p.m.

7. ***Announcements/Comments***

- The July PAC agenda will include a presentation on the UC Davis SEED Program and an update on CFS Services.
 - The September PAC agenda will include an update on PAVE.
- Ms. Duchene noted that service providers who received HCBS funding need to be in contract with ACRC by the end of the month.

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- Harry Bruell shared a presentation entitled "DDS Quality Incentive Program and the 90/10 Issue", which will be shared through email after the meeting.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, July 13, 2023**. The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales