

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 9, 2022
Minutes

Present:

Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Chair
James Astorga, F&A Astorga Care
Home
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &
Associates
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Adam Ruggles, Medstar LLC
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Michelle Ramirez*, On My Own,
Co-Chair & Design. Dir.
Andrea Croom*, INALLIANCE
Lindsey Dyba*, Futures Explored,
Inc.
Kate Halecky*, Southside
Unlimited
Joy Scott*, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Paul Traglio, Kadiant

Visitors

Jody Bailey
Breeanne Burris
Maureen Fitzgerald
Adriene Gaudet
Braydon Holtzinger
Dawn Horwath
Jennifer Jones
Marie McConnell
Karen Mulvany
Jen Roney
Summer Rowley
Nicky Schlupe
Kathleen Short
Geneva Steward
Jasmine Vollenweider
Katherine Wallen

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Financial Officer
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Herman Kothe, Training Manager
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Carly Shearer, Client Employment
Specialist
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2022, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Board Update;

2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Self-Determination Program (SDP) Resources & Update; 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 May 12, 2022 as submitted.

** change in agenda was noted*

New PAC Applicant – Breeanne Burriss

- As a PAC, we are required to review that our membership remains active and reflects ACRC's catchment area.
 - Ms. Burriss has been attending these meetings regularly and has been active on several subcommittees. She provided a brief introduction of herself and 24 Hour Home Care, who is vendored with all 21 regional centers across the state.

Without objection, Jacquie Dillard-Foss made the motion to approve Breeanne Burriss for PAC membership.

- Mr. Ciampa noted that the PAC has the ability to bring on four additional members – please keep this in mind.

1. **Board Update**

- Ms. Banales noted that the Board held a half-day training in May prior to the Board meeting. Their focus is on finishing the agency's Strategic Plan, which will be approved later this month.

2. **Executive Director's Report**

- On June 1st, the State Assembly and Senate moved forward a final budget agreement to the Governor, which included the modernization of the Core Staffing Formula (CSF), accelerating the provider rate study implementation and the elimination of family fees. Through ACRC's email blast, we shared the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA's) call for advocacy – asking individuals to call their local legislators and express their support of this agreement.
 - Additional asks include:
 - \$50 million over two years for construction, expansion, modification or adaptation of dental surgical clinics or specialty dental clinics to increase access to oral health care for special need populations.
 - Ms. Banales shared that after many years of construction, the HALO Clinic opened on May 2nd.

- Kelsey Reyne, one of ACRC's Community Services Specialists, is also working on other projects with the California Dental Association (CDA) and Sacramento County Public Health.
 - Promoting workforce stability for regional centers and direct support professionals (DSPs).
 - We remain hopeful that these initiatives will help attract interested individuals.
 - Early Start eligibility enhancements and early childhood focus on transition, which would bring targeted funding to increase the number of Service Coordinators (SCs) for Early Start and for children ages three to five at a 1:40 caseload ratio.
- Mr. Decker shared that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be promoting a presentation about the DSP Workforce Survey at tomorrow's "Coffee with Community Services". ACRC is hopeful that our service providers complete these. The department's goal is to gather data to support other pilot projects.
 - Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) validation emails were sent out yesterday by Cindy Le, ACRC's HCBS Specialist. These need to be completed by June 30th.
 - Mr. Decker noted that ACRC staff will be available to answer questions regarding the HCBS validation through the end of June during the weekly "Coffee with Community Services" discussions.
 - Plans should be emailed to HSBC@altaregional.org.
 - Remediation letters are due by July 22nd.
 - Service providers that complete the DDS DSP Workforce Survey by the end of this month will receive an \$8,000 stipend.
 - If you or someone you know is having difficulty completing the survey, please reach out to Mr. Ciampa or Ms. Dillard-Foss.
 - Mr. Ciampa will attend tomorrow's "Coffee with Community Services" to offer support.
- All of the rate letters have been sent out; it's important to note that not every service provider received a rate increase. In the near future, ACRC will be scheduling vendor forums to discuss the rate reviews.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss noted that she has been asked to resubmit all of the Health & Safety Waivers for the clients that her agency serves, because the rate increases have decreased the gap between standard and waiver rates.
 - Mr. Ahmad shared that the fiscal impact of service provider rate increases was shared at the Board's Finance Committee Meeting.

3. **Self-Determination Program (SDP) Resources & Update**

- ACRC's website features an SDP page loaded with information about this program. "Information for Providers" is posted at the bottom of

the page, with a link to the recorded Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) Ad-Hoc Team's November 3, 2021 presentation specific to providers, as well as a recorded meeting regarding Financial Management Services (FMS). Also, from the Service Providers page, there is information of how to become a provider for this program, with DDS information/requirements.

- A Word document with hyperlinks will be shared with committee members.
- Ms. Mulvany noted that this Ad-Hoc group was promoted heavily by Ms. Banales so that existing providers could learn more about how they could participate in SDP.
- The SDAC has currently formed an additional subcommittee to focus on collecting data regarding unmet needs of clients who participate in SDP. It would be helpful if PAC members share what information is needed when looking at different ways to service clients (e.g., type of service, location, etc.).
 - It's important to note that some traditional service codes do not exist in SDP; one of which is Supported Living Services (SLS).
- Committee members shared different experiences while serving clients in SDP. Some also expressed concern with DSPs quitting in order to go work with clients served in SDP.
 - The workforce issue has been discussed at SDAC meeting and DDS is also aware, along with their ombudsman.
- Ms. Johnson noted that if a client's budget is 50+% over the prior year's budget, it is reviewed by ACRC's Management Team.
 - She has heard that DDS will be setting a threshold for budgets; this is still pending.
- As of June 1st, ACRC has 121 clients in SDP; from May to June, 26 clients transition into the SDP program. Demographic information is also shared at the SDAC meetings; PAC members are encouraged to attend.
 - Please feel free to reach out to the SDAC if you have additional questions.
- It would be helpful to the SDAC to know why clients are choosing to exit traditional services, if there are barriers in accessing services, etc.
- It was mentioned that service providers are not tied to their program design when serving clients in SDP. FMS' are have the responsibility of making sure that the DSPs have the right background to provide the requested service(s).
- Ms. Mulvany believes there are areas that need more work, including the contract between the provider and the participant. Currently, there isn't enough guidance from DDS on their sample contract.
 - A good contract fully documents the expectations from both the provider and the participant to make sure that all of the

objectives are being met. The client has the option of going back to the Planning Team to receive additional funding.

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

- An in-person meeting is scheduled for June 23rd to focus on the vision and outline of the plan. The goal is to make a long-term difference in the workforce issues that we all are facing.

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

- CCLN
 - They are focusing their efforts on the Independent Living Services (ILS) rate issue. A group met with DDS on Tuesday and they remain hopeful that it will be up for consideration. The department states that it's premature for service providers to be concerned.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss believes that if something doesn't change, many ILS providers may decide to shut down.
 - They also had a lengthy conversation with DDS about the workforce development proposal/issue. This needs to be done in a respectful way that makes sense to providers.
 - They have almost finished the scope of work for PAVE – Person-Centered, Advocacy, Vision & Education.
- Budget Hearings are scheduled for Monday, June 13th.
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
 - SB 639 (Durazo) Minimum wages: persons with disabilities. SCDD is developing a multi-year phaseout plan with stakeholder involvement.

6. **PAC Committees & Reports**

- Mr. Ciampa remains hopeful that these committees will start meeting again. As he steps away from being the PAC's Chair, he looks forward to remaining active and productive.

7. **Announcements/Comments**

- No announcements/comments were shared.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, July 14, 2022**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales