

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 11, 2019
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
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Joseph Hernandez, Premier
Healthcare Services
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Robin Rhoades, Southside
Unlimited
Will Sanford, Futures Explored,
Inc.
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism
Services

Absent: (* excused)

Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo*, Progressive
Employment

Visitors:

Nick Abela
Jody Bailey
Garrett Broadbent
Sonya Fox-Watson
Adriene Gaudet
Kate Halecky
Stan Higgins
Joe Jaquez
Jennifer Marchant
Adam Ruggles
Todd Ruggles
Patti Uplinger
Jasmine Vollenweider

Staff:

Lori Banales, Director of Client
Services
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Financial Officer
John Decker, Manager of
CPP/Forensics Unit
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community Services
Mechelle Johnson, Associate Director
of Client Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:31 a.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2019, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Director's Report; 3) Outreach/

Membership Subcommittee – New PAC Applicant; 4) Rate Study Discussion; 5) Legislative Update; 6) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments; 7) PAC’s Goals for the 2019-20 FY; 8) PAC Priorities – Subcommittee Reports; and 9) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 13, 2019 as submitted.

1. ***Board Update***

- As mentioned before, Mr. Ciampa shared that the full Board meets every other month if anyone is interested in attending those meetings.
 - The Board Development Committee (BDC) interviewed two applicants earlier this week and will be moving their nominations to the full Board for consideration at the July 25th Board meeting.
 - We continue to look for volunteers to join ACRC’s Board of Directors. If anyone knows an individual that might bring a different skill set, background or experience to this agency’s Board, please encourage them to apply.
 - The Board’s Annual Retreat/Training is scheduled for September in Placerville.

2. ***Director’s Report***

- Ms. Banales shared that yesterday ACRC hosted the Self-Determination Advisory Committee meeting. Although there was a nice representation around the table, we are seeking more participation from our provider community, as well as other stakeholders.
 - Ms. Banales asked for volunteers to attend the next meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11th, from 10 a.m. to noon. A sign-up sheet was passed around.
 - The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Taskforce has been discussing the self-assessment piece. The department is working with a consultant to finalize it right now. Some services are initially deemed appropriate for this program, while others will be customized and will then need to be approved separately. Katherine Weston, ACRC’s Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Specialist, has been working with service providers to make sure they come into compliance with the new settings rule. ACRC has released a Request for Proposal (RFP) to help those clients that are part of the SDP initial rollout to draft their initial Person-Centered Plan.

- ACRC recently posted a job opening for a new Communication Specialist; as part of their job, this individual will focus on positive social media for our agency.
- John Decker has been named ACRC's Director of Community Services. He will start his position on August 1st.

3. ***Outreach/Membership Subcommittee – New PAC Applicant***

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the PAC has five vacancies. She introduced Joe Jaquez, the Executive Director of Elk Grove Adult Community Training (EGACT). Mr. Jaquez provided a brief overview of his role at EGACT and his work history.

Without objection, Will Sanford made the motion to nominate Joe Jaquez for PAC membership.

4. ***Rate Study Discussion***

- The copy of the supplemental rate increases table that is posted on DDS' website is printed on the back side of this month's legislative update. Each rate increase is applied to the service provider's rate amount as of December 31, 2019. The rate increases are time-limited funding to provide supplemental rate increases for specified services effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. These increases are contingent upon federal approval of matching funds. The rate increase will be suspended at the end of this period unless certain conditions, specified in SB 81, apply.
- Not all services will receive a rate increase, most notably Independent Living Services (ILS) was excluded. Only services with recommended increases in the rate study were approved for rate increases. The rate study underrepresented the actual costs of delivering ILS services which resulted in ILS not receiving an increase.
- Concern was expressed on how a service provider can effectively increase a direct service provider's (DSP's) salary if this funding is not guaranteed to remain in place as of January 1, 2022.
- The State of California has a new Governor and this is his first budget. Governor Newsom proposed many short-term fixes until the state can implement a long-term strategy. These increases are a stop-gap to get to the larger rate reform.

5. ***Legislative Update***

- Mr. Sanford shared that there are several bills that are still alive.
 - SB412 (Stone) – Developmental services: fees. This bill would repeal the cost participation fees for families and has now moved to the Assembly's Appropriations Committee.

- Ms. Banales noted that this bill would have an impact on the State's general fund.
- The next DDS Taskforce meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31st, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. here at ACRC's Sacramento office.
- Mr. Sanford noted that legislation needs to be approved by the end of July/first part of August, otherwise they become two-year bills.

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

- Ms. Ramirez shared that vendor forums are held twice a year for each category of service. It is critical that the PAC have representatives at these meetings, so if any members wish to volunteer, please let her know. Ms. Ramirez is also seeking volunteers for the various PAC subcommittees/workgroups.
- An updated list was distributed for review.
 - Mr. Traglio shared that at the last Early Intervention Vendor Forum providers reviewed the guidelines put forth by the regional center for services provided to the Early Start population.
 - Some providers have suggested that a child needs 40 hours per week, even without a diagnosis. Providers need to focus on what would be appropriate for each child, even if a child may need services for only a short time.
 - ACRC requested that providers give them a timeline on when they will update their program designs.
 - Upcoming Vendor Forums include:
 - Adult Day & Employment – July 25th
 - ILS – August 21st
 - Supported Living Services (SLS) – August 13th

7. **PAC's Goals for the 2019-20 FY**

- Ms. Ramirez and Ms. Banales will discuss how the PAC can support ACRC with the SDP.

8. **PAC Priorities – Subcommittee Reports**

- Communications
 - Mr. Hernandez has been working with ACRC staff to update the PAC's page on the agency's website.
 - In June, the letter was sent out to all service providers inviting them to the PAC meetings and informing them of the vendor forums.
- Housing
 - Patti Uplinger, with Housing Now, shared that an article entitled "Out & Alone" is in today's issue of the *Sacramento News & Review*.

- The Lanterman Housing Alliance will be holding their next meeting at ACRC's Sacramento office on Thursday & Friday, September 26th & 27th. The group will discuss the recommendations that have been gathered and determine what areas they will be focusing on.
 - Mr. Decker encourages ILS and SLS providers to get involved with the Lanterman Housing Alliance. He believes it would be helpful if this group heard their side of the housing issue.
- Banner Bank has provided Housing Now with funding for Housing Education Workshops where clients can learn about financial stability.
- Anyone needing assistance can:
 - Contact the Sacramento/West Sacramento's Renter's Helpline at (916) 389-7877
 - Contact Sacramento Self-Help Housing – www.sacselfhelp.org
- Ms. Uplinger is looking forward to building relationships and networking with ACRC.
 - More information can be found at: www.housingnowresource.org
- Vendor Relations
 - Ms. Rhoades reviewed the final report that will be shared with ACRC's Board of Directors. The goal was to understand and collaborate with the regional center to improve the vendorization and RFP process to create innovative services.
 - Those present encourage providers to take a chance and submit innovative ideas for services to the regional center. They may fit into a category that is needed.
 - Keep in mind that the RFP process is derived from the needs assessment data that is collected at Planning Team Meetings.
 - Mr. Decker suggested having a discussion between ACRC staff and service providers to gather innovative practices.
 - All of the presentations from the recent NASDDDS Conference that Mr. Bonnet attended in Seattle, WA are posted online. It might be helpful to review those while we plan for these discussions.
 - Ms. Dupree also encouraged providers to start these discussions at the Vendor Forums.

9. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Mr. Decker shared that ACRC will be holding a RFP Orientation in August specifically for Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) start-up funding. The agency is focusing on developing enhanced

behavior support homes, telehealth options, housing access services, and drop-in medication options. ACRC has asked for \$1.5 million for affordable housing; we hope to secure 15 units for our clients. Mr. Decker will find out by the end of this month what ACRC will be rewarded and then there is a 20-day window in which to decide who we will be partnering with.

- The committee will start the discussion on innovative ideas for services at the September meeting.
- In October, Futures Explored will be holding a premier of a feature film, entitled "Carol of the Bells", in Sacramento. Mr. Sanford noted that 80% of the production team are served by our statewide service system.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, September 12, 2019**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet