

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 12, 2018
Minutes

Present:

Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Chair
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Joseph Hernandez, Premier
Healthcare Services
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Eric Ciampa*, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
James Astorga*, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Sandy Bishop*, INALLIANCE
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Will Sanford*, Futures Explored
Joy Scott*, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief

Visitors:

Candice Bright
Adriene Gaudet
Kate Halecky
Teri Hayes
Byron Hildenbrand
Joe Jaquez
Rosa Lee
Nicky Schlupe
Stan Schmidt
Poyee Vang

Staff:

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

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:32 a.m. on Thursday, July 12, 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) PAC Priorities; 4) Provider Presentations; 5) Legislative Update; 6) Board Update; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 14, 2018 as submitted.

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

- Mr. Bonnet spent the first half of his career as a service provider, and he remembers the challenges and joy when working with clients. He is grateful that the federal government continues to support our statewide service system. Regional centers rely on the billions of dollars that come into our system. As many of you know, the federal government approved California's waiver for the Self-Determination Program.
- ACRC moved out our last client from Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) on June 21st. Almost universally, the families have expressed incredible satisfaction and gratitude for our collaborative efforts to move these individuals into their own community homes. We are down to single digits at the two remaining DCs (Fairview and Porterville). For those individuals that are "behind the fence" at Porterville, Mr. Bonnet believes they are in the most humane place they can be versus being in jail or the prison system.
- The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is developing a "safety net" in the community so that regional centers can continue to work with clients who have challenging behaviors, this includes those individuals transitioning from Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) facilities. Regional centers will be looking to service providers to take care of their most complex and difficult clients.
- Regional centers received the commitment from Nancy Bargmann, Director of DDS, about keeping the funding in the community after the DCs are closed. The Community Resource Development Fund (CRDF) might possibly be able to be used for start-up funding in the near future. Mr. Bonnet hopes that this funding can start innovative options for the folks that we serve.
- ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) is an active group and they have been visiting SDC for the last five years. A small panel from this committee will be presenting at the 32nd Annual October Supported Life Conference in October.
- ACRC will be borrowing money from our bank so that we can continue to pay our bills until we get our first cash advance from DDS. This will be an interesting year. The California legislature is already working on

the 2019-20 budget. Mr. Bonnet had the pleasure of meeting Gavin Newsom and was happy to learn that he knows our service system very well.

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

- An updated list was distributed for review.
 - Independent Living Services (ILS) Vendor Forum follow-up:
 - At the May 15th ILS vendor forum, vendors were told that they were not allowed to transport clients. In addition, it was discussed that ILS is not considered an emergency service. They were also informed that they could not bill for time that is not spent directly with the client (e.g., phone calls, writing reports, etc.).
 - Ms. Dupree followed up with the Community Services Specialist. ILS is supposed to be a training model, so if there is a need then the planning team should discuss and then it must be written into the client's Individual Program Plan (IPP). If mobility issues/training is documented as being one of the level of supports that the client needs, then transportation would be allowed.
 - ACRC has received many complaints from clients who have stated that the provider is not showing up to assist them. Community Services Specialists have had to conduct an audit to prove that the provider was present.
 - Mr. Tiedemann believes there is an issue of using "blanket statements". ACRC staff will begin to use the word "generally".
 - Ms. Dupree encouraged everyone to have these discussions at the vendor forums, or contact her or your Community Services Specialist, if necessary. She will clarify this issue at the next meeting.
 - Since there are some vendors that may not follow the regulations for ILS, it was suggested that they be reviewed at the next vendor forum.
 - Ms. Watilo brought up the fact that there may be some clients who are independent in most areas, but may not be independent in other areas. If it is not a trainable issue, should these clients be in Supported Living Services (SLS) versus ILS?
 - These discussions should take place at the Planning Team Meetings.
 - The next Adult Day & Employment vendor forum will be scheduled for August and an email will be sent out to providers.

3. **PAC Priorities**

- DDS Rate Survey
 - Ms. Dupree was on a conference call with DDS yesterday and was informed that the response across the state is poor. Mr. Bonnet shared that it is critical that service providers participate in this study if this issue is going to be addressed.
 - Ms. Bright shared that Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) is having Service Coordinators (SCs) share the second page of the rate study with service providers at Planning Team Meetings. Providers are told that if they participate it might help raise their rates.
 - Those present requested that Mr. Bonnet send out a letter to all service providers to emphasize the importance of this survey – if you don't do it, you can't complain!
 - Ms. Ramirez would also like PAC members to work together to reach out to providers in their service code(s).
- Housing Survey
 - The housing survey is out and there has been a huge push from several entities for individuals to complete this survey.
- Committee/Workgroup Volunteers
 - Training
 - Mr. Pinto shared that the group talked about developing a resource list of training providers with their contact information. He clarified that these trainings would be intended for service providers not for the clients that we serve.
 - They also discussed having a link to trainings that are happening in the community posted on ACRC's website versus distributing flyers at these meetings. This could be done on a calendar page.
 - Communications
 - Mr. Hernandez shared that many vendors are disconnected, so getting the word out is critical. Legislative updates are crucial to service providers.
 - The group has discussed possibly having a private Facebook page for service providers. Also, we would like to utilize the PAC page on ACRC's website to:
 - Highlight vendor forums as new providers come on.
 - Share each other's resources.
 - Show how to get involved with the PAC and post the requirements of membership.
 - It was noted that if we do not keep things current, then this will not be successful.
 - Outreach/Membership – this group will meet in August.

- CSS Relations
 - Ms. Rhoades shared that the group narrowed the topics that they would like to discuss down to three: transparency with rates, inconsistencies in the vendorization process, and creating a collaborative process for innovative new services
- Next Priorities
 - PAC members agreed to focus on what they are currently working on.

4. **Provider Presentations**

- The PAC will have two members share information about their agencies at each meeting.
 - Michelle Ramirez, with On My Own
 - On My Own started about 18 years ago in Oregon. They focused on group employment and had sheltered workshops.
 - Ms. Ramirez started in 2006. The agency currently has 430 employees.
 - On My Own provides a variety of services – ILS, SLS and job coaching. They have an Empowered Parenting Program for clients who have children of their own. They also have a four-bed residential facility. They provide in-home elder care services and also assist non-developmentally disabled families who are involved with Child Protective Services (CPS).
 - They are vendored with ACRC, as well as North Bay Regional Center (NBRC) and Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB).
 - Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills Manor
 - Mr. Ranit is the Administrator of Antelope Hills Manor, an Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled – Nursing (ICF-DDN). They service six clients that are medically fragile in a home environment.
 - Antelope Hills Manor is staffed with nurses and they contract with a pharmacist, physical therapist (PT) and occupational therapist (OT).
 - He noted that new emergency preparedness regulations rolled out in November 2017 for federally funded facilities. These facilities must have the needed equipment/supplies for all clients so that they can be cared for in case they need to be evacuated for at least 72 hours.

5. **Legislative Update**

- DDS has issued a letter to regional centers regarding the suspension of half-day billing which took effect on July 1st. ACRC was not aware that this was coming.
 - If service providers are going to do things with clients that may have behavioral problems, the client may not be able to last a full day.
 - Will Sanford shared with Ms. Ramirez that there may be a legislator that might gut this bill and have the half-day billing item removed; he will share more as information is available.

6. **Board Update**

- Mr. Bonnet shared that in order to make Board service more accessible, the full Board will now be meeting six times a year; committees will continue to meet nine months out of the year. The Board continues to look for quality volunteers.
- The annual September Retreat will be held in the Yuba/Sutter area.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 26th, at 4 p.m.

7. **Announcements/Comments**

- Concern was expressed surrounding the California State Fair tickets that ACRC gives to our clients for the two "Fun for All" days. Clients sometimes choose to go to the fair instead of working.
- Ms. Watilo shared that her agency received grant funding that will be used to train ten service providers so that they are more in line with the HCBS rules. They have added Discovery and customized employment opportunities to the training, as well. The training will be free, so if anyone is interested, please let her know.
- Mr. Decker shared that if anyone has any creative ideas for ACRC's Community Services Development, please let him know. The agency is focusing on developing new options as part of DDS' "safety net".
- September provider presentations – Eric Ciampa and Robin Rhoades

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, September 13, 2018**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet