

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 13, 2023
Minutes

Present:

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc., Chair
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options, Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &
Associates
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Jacquie Foss, STEP
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Joe Jaquez, EGACT
Christa McClure, Tri-County
Respite Care Service
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

James Astorga*, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Breeanne Kolster, 24 Hour
Home Care
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.

Visitors

Christa Coats
Maureen Fitzgerald
Nolan Eger
Beth Foraker
Jennifer Gomez
Braydon Holtzinger
Jessica Jenó
Jennifer Jones
Dennis Lentz
Dylan Nobida
Michelle Ramirez (CBEM)
Jasmine Vollenweider
Michelle Wild

Staff:

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
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Helen Neri, Community Services &
Supports Manager
Jason Scantlebury, LEAD Community
Services Specialist
Carly Shearer, Client Employment
Specialist
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss: 1) Director's Report; 2) Coordinated Family Supports Service Update; 3) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 4) System

Reform and Legislative Update; 5) PAC Committees & Reports; 6) PAC Goals; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

- Beth Foraker shared a presentation on The UC Davis Redwood Supported Education to Elevate Diversity (SEED) Scholars Program.

Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 8, 2023 as submitted.

1. **Director's Report**

- Mr. Decker shared that the July *Alta Connections* is now posted on ACRC's website. This edition focuses on community engagement.
 - He and Ms. Johnson attended the Woodland Town Hall Meeting last night.
- Since ACRC has many new staff, please make sure that you communicate if there are any barriers during Planning Team Meetings (PTMs) that need to be addressed.
- On August 3rd, the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Community Services Directors group is meeting in San Diego and Jim Knight, with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), will be speaking about the rate study and service codes.
 - Suggestion was made to have this group partner with the department to develop a comprehensive list of service codes/regulations to assist service providers.
- On Monday, ACRC received the department's approval for The Lake of the Pines housing project. This is our fourth approved multi-family housing project within the last four years. The development is located between Auburn and Grass Valley in Nevada County. There will be a total of 12 set-asides for our clients (seven one-bedroom and five two-bedroom apartments).
 - Prior to 2026, the transportation issue needs to be addressed in that area.
- ACRC is entering into a contract with the California Affordable Housing Agency (CalAHA).
- Mr. Decker reviewed the "ACRC Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending March 31, 2023".
 - Ms. West forwards the dashboards to PAC members after they are presented to the Board.

2. **Coordinated Family Supports (CFS) Service Update**

- Mr. Scantlebury shared that three providers have expressed interest in this service – California Resource Services, On My Own and Compass SLS & ILS.

- On April 19th, DDS released a Directive stating that at this time, clients enrolled in the Self-Determination Program (SDP) are not eligible for CFS.

3. **ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates**

- The Early Intervention IDP vendor forum was held on June 13th.
 - Ms. Bloom expressed appreciation to Ms. Dyba for attending this meeting and sharing information about the PAC.
 - The group discussed the August 9th Early Start Job Fair, which will be held at ACRC's Sacramento office.
 - As mentioned at previous meetings, ACRC submitted a 637 Waiver request to DDS to waive the median rate for specialized therapeutic services. On July 5th, we received approval and we have already heard back from several vendors regarding their ability to increase capacity.
- The Residential vendor forum was held on June 15th.
 - The providers who received Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) grants shared information with the group.
- The Transportation vendor forum was held on June 22nd.
 - ACRC staff shared that they are engaging a broker to manage transportation requests, while keeping existing staff in their Transportation Department.
 - The group discussed the 18% increase from the rate study – it has been determined that once the conversions were completed, no provider qualified for the rate increase.

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

- CDSA
 - The trailer bill language (TBL) allows providers to qualify for broader quality measures while the individualized quality measures are developed.
 - Rates that are already set above 90% of their total as of January 2023 are protected through June 2026, even if the provider does not qualify for the incentive payment.
 - AB 121 contains a new requirement to update the rate models with changes to the statewide minimum wage starting July 1, 2024.
 - The Employment First Office will be established effective July 1, 2024.
 - Parents are no longer required to participate in an intervention plan before regional centers can purchase Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) or intensive behavioral intervention services.
- CCLN
 - The Independent Living Services (ILS) rate fix was included in the 2023-24 fiscal year's (FY's) state budget.

- AB 1568 continues to move through committees with bipartisan support.
- They formed a housing sub-group.
- PAVE
 - Primarily looking at outcome measures; this is not just a technology issue.
- DS Taskforce & Workgroups
 - The DDS Employment Workgroup is scheduled to meet on July 24th at 1 p.m. They will receive more clarity on how DDS plans to spend \$8 million on additional opportunities for client employment.
 - The DDS Deaf Services Workgroup is meeting next week.

5. **PAC Committees & Reports**

- Jessica Knuth, with Reach Adult Development, has resigned from the PAC.
- The Vendor Relations Committee worked with Ms. Johnson and Ms. Bloom to develop the "Service Provider Communication Guide: Client Services and Supports".
- The Communication/Outreach Committee met again and discussed:
 - Their goals for this year.
 - The group is updating the PowerPoint presentation that is shared as part of ACRC's Vendor Orientation.
 - With the assistance of ACRC staff, the PAC's page has been added as a link under "Current Providers" on ACRC's website.
 - The group will be emailing the annual information regarding the PAC to service providers using ACRC's provider email system in late August, prior to the September PAC meeting.
 - They are working on communicating with the larger provider community – investigating ways to use a platform that is led by the PAC and can have a broader engagement with providers; possibly share resources.
 - They would like to hold a joint meeting with the Diversity & Equity Committee to discuss how they might be able to work together.
- Ms. Foss suggest reinstating the Housing Standing Committee.

6. **PAC Goals**

- Ms. Dyba is seeking input on whether the PAC "Vendor Survey" should be revised.
 - She will make the suggested revisions; the survey will be sent out in August.

7. **Announcements/Comments**

- The September PAC agenda will include an update on PAVE and the 90/10 issue.

- Suggestion to have an update on DDS' Consumer Electronic Records Management System (CERMS), as well as a technology discussion at a future meeting.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, September 14, 2023**. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales