

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, July 14, 2016  
Minutes

**Present:**

Eric Ciampa, UCP of Greater Sacramento, Inc., Chair  
Janet Brandon, AIM & Associates, Co-Chair & Design. Dir.  
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION  
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.  
Dawn Montgomery, HOPE Consulting  
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own  
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills Manor  
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art Center  
Will Sanford, Futures Explored  
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver Relief  
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare Services  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO  
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite Services  
Carole Watilo, Progressive Employment

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Gerrit deGelleke, American River Speech  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss\*, STEP  
Daina Glasson\*, Ambitions CA  
Susan Miner\*, Turning Point  
Sergio Pinto\*, BEST Consulting, Inc.  
Paul Traglio\*, Capitol Autism Services

**Visitors:**

Chris Atkinson  
Eva Avila  
Torey Battuello  
Sandy Bishop  
Moneshia Campus  
Bonnie Douglas  
Lindsey Dyba  
Rachel Falkenstein  
Mary Grimes  
Adriene Gaudet  
Kate Halecky  
Joseph Hernandez  
Aaron Kowalski  
Rhodesia Nelson  
Agnes Ranit  
Nicky Schlupe  
Stan Schmidt  
Stacy Sisson  
Sean Stone  
Kelly Weber

**Staff:**

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director  
John Decker, Manager of CPP/Forensics Unit  
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake & Clinical Services  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:34 a.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2016, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional

Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Approval of Vendor Holiday Schedule for the 2016-17 FY; 3) PAC membership – new applicant & resignation; 4) Vendor Forum Update; 5) Sub-Committee Updates; 6) Updates; 7) Legislative Update; 8) Board Update; 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 9, 2016 and May 12, 2016 as submitted.**

*\*Eric Ciampa shared that ACRC's PAC is one of the best peer groups that he participates in. One thing he wanted to remind members about is that there may be some that are new to these meetings and he would like to make sure that they feel welcome. Please make sure that everyone understands the acronyms that we use. Also, for those non-members, please feel free to contribute to the discussions in any way.*

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

- Mr. Bonnet always appreciates the comments from this group. Soon he will be celebrating his 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary here at ACRC. He always enjoys meeting with the Client Advisory Committee (CAC) and the PAC, because he can relate to both groups. Providers have the pulse of the ACRC community. In the past, Mr. Bonnet was a service provider and then became the Executive Director of the Redwood Coast Regional Center (RCRC). Getting a group together that is truly representative of all of the vendors that provide services to the clients that we serve is critical to assisting the Board of Directors in what they do.
- Mr. Bonnet inquired if any providers had received their rate letters from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). He knows it's not the answer to the huge issues that plague our service system, but it is a permanent rate adjustment and is definitely a step in the right direction. The federal match to the State of California drives money in our service system. In some states, if you don't qualify for the Medicaid Waiver, you don't receive services. In California, waiver participation is voluntary.
  - Service providers have three potential increases:
    - Direct pass through; providers will need to report back to DDS on how these funds were distributed
    - Small increase for administrative costs
    - Additional increase of approximately 5% to specific service categories
- ACRC hosted a provider training for the new Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rules on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Day and employment programs were the main focus of this particular training. Our service

- system is 50 years old; we are going to have to make changes in the way that we provide services. Over half of the clients that ACRC serves are adults. There are hundreds of calls coming in on a monthly basis from individuals/families seeking services from the regional center.
- We need to continue to seek additional funding from our legislators. The "Thank You" Rally at the State Capitol that this group sponsored in March was appreciated. We need to find our champions and get back at it.
  - Statewide, there is a movement from six-beds to four-beds in residential facilities. DDS has made a significant positive change to the rate table for these homes. ACRC is hopeful that providers may have an increased interest in developing much needed homes.
  - **LA50** – ACRC will be celebrating the Lanterman Acts 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, ACRC's CAC is sponsoring this gathering and Mr. Bonnet hopes that the PAC will join them. He will be discussing this idea with the full Board on July 28<sup>th</sup>.
    - Volunteers include: Eric Ciampa, Sandy Bishop and Joseph Hernandez
  - Mr. Bonnet shared that the closure of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) is moving forward. ACRC Community Placement Plan's (CPP) funding is assisting in starting up new services to assist with moving our clients out by December 2018. The family push-back has been minimal; some of the most vocal opponents have now become our best advocates. Mr. Decker appreciates all of the support that this group provides to ACRC.
    - ACRC has been working to develop critical dental services for all of the clients that we serve.
      - Working collaboratively with HALO, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that is the largest dental clinic in Sacramento, ACRC will be funding eight dental operatories through our CPP; one will be equipped with a versatilt, so that clients in wheel chairs can receive dental care without having to be transferred. Additionally, they will receive training from the University of the Pacific out of San Francisco. This clinic will be located in the Sacramento area.
      - There will also be a Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice (RDHAP) program, which will utilize telehealth to connect to dentists at their own offices.
      - There have been some changes in funding that make this financially feasible. These services will not be just for regional center clients, but will be accessible to the general public.

- Dr. Glassman is working with ACRC on these projects. Mr. Decker shared that the individual's quality of life is key – our service system is moving away from anesthesia dentistry as the first option.
- These services will hopefully be available to our clients within the next two years. Mr. Decker will continue to update this group throughout the process.

2. ***Approval of Vendor Holiday Schedule for the 2016-17 FY***

- Regional centers are responsible for setting their own vendor holiday schedules. The standard is that if a provider varies from the proposed schedule, they will need to notify ACRC's Community Services & Supports (CSS), and possibly provide your own transportation.
  - As a provider, transportation vendors, can also submit their proposed holiday schedules to CSS. Those schedules should then be shared with the corresponding programs that are affected.
- It is standard that if the holiday falls on the Saturday, then it is observed on the Friday, and if the holiday falls on the Sunday, then it is observed on the Monday.
  - The group suggests observing the Christmas Holiday on Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.

**M/S/C** (Will Sanford) **To approve the Vendor Holiday Schedule for the 2016-17 FY, with the change of the Christmas holiday to Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.** (14 in favor)

- **Recommendation to add: "The ACRC Holiday Schedule is the holiday schedule observed by ACRC and is recommended for all service providers. Service providers can choose to observe a different holiday schedule, but must submit their holiday schedule to the Community Services & Supports Department."**

3. ***PAC membership – new applicant & resignation***

- Greg Buch, Ph.D., with PALS, has resigned from this committee.
- Susan Miner, with Turning Point, would like Bonnie Douglas to replace her on the PAC. Ms. Douglas shared a brief description of her role at Turning Point, and shared information about the services that Turning Point providers to ACRC clients.

**M/S/C** (Michelle Ramirez) **To nominate Bonnie Douglas for PAC membership.** (14 in favor)

- **Suggestion to send Greg Buch, Ph.D., and Susan Miner letters of appreciation for their years of services. Cards will be available at the September meeting.**

#### 4. **Vendor Forum Update**

- Darline Dupree and Jean Onesi are attending the statewide Directors Group meeting for CSS.
  - Ms. Brandon would like an update on the number of languages that providers speak when serving ACRC clients.
  - Suggestion to have a collaborative forum once a year, to help different service providers know what others are facing.

#### 5. **Sub-Committee Updates:**

- Challenging Needs
  - The group will be scheduling a meeting soon.
  - They will be discussing how to support individuals in residential, as well as day services.
- Cultural Diversity
  - No update was shared.
- Staff Crisis ("Development") in the Community
  - The group met just prior to this meeting and developed the following action items:
    - Finding/recruiting/retaining staff
    - "Training Resource Sharing" will be a standing item on the PAC agenda
    - At the PAC's September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, Dan Sundberg, with ABA Technologies, will be guiding a discussion around the challenges in hiring, retaining, and ensuring employee satisfaction.

#### 6. **Updates:**

- Self-Determination Program
  - DDS is still working on revising the waiver and it should be posted on their website by the end of this month. Public comments will then be gathered. The hope is that the revised waiver will be forwarded to the federal government by the end of August.
  - Interested individuals will need to attend a training and orientation prior to being placed on DDS' list. The department will be responsible for choosing who participates in the three-year pilot project.

- CMS Rules/HCBS Waiver Settings
  - DDS will be sending the self-assessments to providers soon; this will be a required survey.
  - As Mr. Bonnet mentioned earlier, ACRC hosted a training on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Those who attended appreciated the information. Karen Flippo shared concrete information; service providers are thirsty for more. After VTE finishes editing the video, it will be emailed out to all that participated, along with Ms. Flippo's PowerPoint presentation.
  
- DS (Disability Services) Taskforce 2.0
  - Sub-committees have been meeting.

## 7. **Legislative Update**

- ABX2 1 (Thurmond) Developmental Services: Medi-Cal: funding. The statewide system is focusing on the implementation of this bill. DDS is providing information to regional centers about the internships that they can fund.
- SB 644 (Hancock) Limited Examination and Appointment Program (LEAP): persons with developmental disabilities. This bill would permit a person with a developmental disability to either complete a written examination or readiness evaluation or an internship to qualify for service under LEAP.
- DDS will be sending instructions to regional centers for the incentive payments for employment; this is not just for supported employment services. This went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- SB 1427 (Pavley) Workforce development: developmentally disabled individuals. This bill is in the Assembly's appropriations; it would allow providers to get additional funding for individuals to move into more integrated employment settings.

## 8. **Board Update**

- Ms. Brandon attended the last Board meeting which was held on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - The Board approved two CPP contracts.
  - At the upcoming September Board Retreat, they will be going out to the community and she will be sharing a short presentation about the PAC.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.

## 9. **Announcements/Comments**

- Mr. Decker encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Opportunity Fair at SDC on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. More information will be sent to committee members soon.

- If anyone has a topic that they would like to discuss at the next PAC meeting, please email Mr. Ciampa and Ms. Brandon.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, September 8, 2016**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet