

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 14, 2022
Minutes

Present:

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc., Chair
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Co-Chair & Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga Care
Home
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options
Breeanne Burris, 24 Hour Home
Care
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Adam Ruggles, Medstar LLC
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Janet Brandon*, A.I.M. &
Associates
Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Kate Halecky*, Southside
Unlimited
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Joy Scott*, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto*, DDSO

Visitors

Jody Bailey
Vikie Black
Maureen Fitzgerald
Jennifer Gomez
Braydon Holtzinger
Jennifer Jones
Christa McClure
Natasha Mosley-Simpkins
Darelyn Pazdel
Lauren True
Jasmine Vollenweider
Katherine Wallen

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Financial Officer
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Andy Ponce, Intensive Case Unit
Manager
Carly Shearer, Client Employment
Specialist
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2022, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Board Update;

2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Hiring Collaborative Effort between ACRC & VMRC; 4) System Reform and Legislative Update; 5) PAC Committees & Reports; and 6) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Eric Ciampa made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 9, 2022 as submitted.

1. ***Board Update***

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the Board recently approved the Social Recreation Service Policy and the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan; both are posted on ACRC's website.

2. ***Executive Director's Report***

- During their special session on June 29th, the Board approved the revised Social Recreation Service Policy. Ms. Banales explained that this process took some time, as staff worked with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). After numerous revisions, we put forward a policy which was already approved by the department for another regional center, and within a day ACRC staff received DDS' approval.
 - Training for ACRC staff and service providers will be scheduled.
 - ACRC will be meeting directly with our residential service providers to explain how these types of services can be accessed for the individuals that they serve.
 - Ms. Banales extended gratitude to our community and staff who assisted with drafting the agency's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. This is a three-and-a-half-year plan; she will report the agency's progress to the Board every six month and is available to do the same with this committee. There are four focus areas, which include:
 - Client and Family Support – focusing on person-centered planning and choice. Staff will also be leaning into service access and equity.
 - Employment
 - Housing
 - Community Inclusion and Engagement

ACRC staff will have metrics to incorporate into goals and objectives on each of these focus areas for year one, two and three. The PAC will provide support and work collaboratively with ACRC in an effort to create strong outcomes. We want to make sure that all of the clients that we support can achieve productive lives.

- Ms. Banales will highlight the remaining focus areas at future PAC meetings.

- Ms. Banales noted that the trailer bill language has been released. We are awaiting the implementation breakdown from DDS.

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

- The group held an in-person meeting on June 23rd at ACRC to focus on the vision and outline of the plan. Another meeting is scheduled on August 9th at Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC).
- The main group formed five workgroups:
 - Provider & Local Community Buy-in – this group will be working on the branding, messaging, etc.
 - Website – they will connect the message/brand to a landing page that will function as a guide to access location-based opportunities.
 - Metrics – this group is capturing data for funding & processes.
 - Public Relations – they are identifying who will come on board, paving the road for outreach and input to be incorporated in the design.
 - Job/Career Campaign – this group will be responsible for coordinating job fairs, etc.
 - If you are interest in joining one of these workgroups, please contact Mr. Ciampa or Ms. Ramirez.
- Ms. Banales and Tony Anderson, VMRC’s Executive Director, are discussing ways to leverage funding for this project. They remain hopeful and look forward to joint conversations with DDS.
- Mr. Ciampa shared that the group believes that the full campaign may be rolled out in January 2023.

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

- ARCA
 - The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) resumed in-person meetings in June.
 - They are beginning their strategic planning process once again.
- DS Taskforce & Workgroups
 - The DS Taskforce is meeting this afternoon at 3 p.m., and will be reviewing state budget highlights.
 - The Employment workgroup has been working on getting the employment grants out; they are posted on DDS’ website.
 - The State Council on Developmental Disabilities’ (SCDD’s) SB 639 workgroup is continuing to work on a multi-year phaseout plan with stakeholder input.
 - The Workforce Development workgroup will be meeting soon to discuss staff trainings and incentives for direct support professionals (DSPs).

- The Quality Incentives workgroup will meet in the next few weeks.

5. **PAC Committees & Reports**

- Mr. Pinto will be scheduling a Training Subcommittee meeting in the near future.
 - It might be helpful for this committee to wait until the DDS Workforce Committee provides guidance on the requirements for the DSP trainings.
- Ms. Ramirez suggested that subcommittees connect prior to the September meeting, since the PAC does not meet in August. Groups may wish to reconvene to reassess their continued interest and work for the year. They can also review ACRC's Strategic Plan and discuss any ideas of how to support or work in collaboration with ACRC.

6. **Announcements/Comments**

- The September PAC meeting will include discussing how the PAC can support ACRC's Strategic Plan and possibly develop a plan of their own, reviewing ACRC's Purchase of Services (POS) Service Policies, and share how agencies are celebrating the reinstatement of social recreation services.
- This past Tuesday, the first quarterly employment workshop was held, which was geared towards clients/families, as well as service providers. These meetings are an open forum to answer questions and help spread the word about employment options.
 - At the July meeting, ACRC staff provided an overview of Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE), Paid Internship Programs (PIP), and the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR).
 - A Benefits Training is scheduled for the October meeting.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, September 8, 2022**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales