

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 10, 2015
Minutes

Present:

Will Sanford, Futures Explored,
Chair
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates, Co-Chair
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION
Gregory Buch, Ph.D., PALS
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Greater
Sacramento, Inc.
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Eleni Gialoyrakes, Capital Social
Services
Dawn Montgomery, HOPE
Consulting
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Visitors:

Bonnie Douglas
Maureen Fitzgerald
Cynthia Guilford
Alysa Harless
Jessica Knuth
Aaron Kowalski
Vanessa Moore
Wes Moss
Agnes Ranit
Kallie Ray
Nicky Schlupe
Stan Schmidt
Sam Seaton
Pete Stirling
Sean Stone
Kelly Weber

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

Absent: (* excused)

Jill Bonetti, Opportunity Acres
Gerrit deGelleke*, American River
Speech
Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Susan Miner*, Turning Point
Sergio Pinto*, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Paul Traglio*, Capitol Autism
Services

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2015, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Updates; 3) Legislative Update; 4) Board Update; and 5) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Will Sanford made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 11, 2015 as amended.

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

- Mr. Bonnet shared that there is one last effort at the State Capitol to secure additional funding for our regional center system. There is no increase for this fiscal year (FY), but there is hope for the 2016-17 FY.
- The District Court denied the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') appeal, so they can no longer mandate providers to have 14 holidays in the calendar year. The "Vendor Holiday Schedule", which this committee and ACRC's Board of Directors approved a few months ago, was distributed for review. Mr. Bonnet shared that our regional center would like to follow this schedule, and it's critical to remember that our transportation vendors agreed to this schedule, too.
- The Department of Finance visited ACRC in July and learned more about our statewide system. It's important to note that it appears that the Department of Finance supports the new bill that was introduced by Senator Hernandez yesterday (SBx2-14). It is Mr. Bonnet's understanding that the extraordinary session of the legislature will close tomorrow.
- ACRC hosted a meeting yesterday afternoon for family members who have loved ones residing at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). The meeting was very positive and was well received. ACRC staff explained that it is in the law that SDC will be closing, and that we would be here to help make all of the clients' transitions into the community a success.
 - There are currently 20 open Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for services for those clients coming out of the DCs.
 - Ms. Dupree shared that ACRC still needs to have clear direction regarding the CMS Rules that are coming soon. CMS needs to meet with licensing so that the regulations for residential care facilities can be updated.
 - An orientation is scheduled for Monday, September 28th, from 10 a.m. to noon at ACRC's Sacramento office.
- ACRC and the State Council will be working together with our Client Advisory Committee (CAC) to recognize individual clients who have achieved a goal this year. There will be nominations from the community and the awards will be given out in mid-November.

- If you are interested in reaching out to the Spanish speaking community in Sacramento, please join Mr. Bonnet at the Fiesta Educativa next weekend at Rosemont High School. This is a wonderful group of folks who have a lot to offer the folks we serve.
- If day program providers are hiring clients and paying them, our folks are now beneficiaries of sick pay. The law states that employees must accrue one hour of sick pay for every 30 hours worked. For those individuals who work on federal contracts, the minimum is three days of sick leave per year. Minimum wage is also increasing to \$10 per hour on January 1, 2016.
- Mr. Bonnet attended the rally at the Crest Theater last Thursday – it was overflowing into the street! The march to the State Capitol was incredible! There still is faint hope that our statewide system will receive additional funding, even if it's for the next fiscal year (FY).

2. **Updates:**

- Self-Determination Program
 - DDS will submit the waiver to the federal government (CMS) next week. CMS will have 90 days to respond.
 - The Self-Determination Program Information Video is now posted on DDS' website.
 - The focus right now is on training. Current and future providers for Self-Determination will need to decide whether they will want to be employers.
 - The goal is to offer as broad a list of services as possible to those that choose to participate in this program.
- CMS Rules/HCBS Waiver Settings
 - Mr. Sanford shared that the assessment tool has been revamped based on our services. They need to still work on the questions and identify what services will get more "team reviews" than others.
 - The biggest challenge for CMS is that our system is so big, when compared to other states. DDS is struggling to put this all together, too.
 - Hopefully the self-assessments will come out during the fall. Each provider will need to complete one for every service code that they use.
 - Mr. Bonnet shared that a speaker came to the California Employment Consortium for Youth (CECY) last month and she explained the CMS Rules really well. He offered to have ACRC sponsor a presentation for providers at the beginning of 2016.

- Providers who are thinking about starting new programs need to be mindful of the new rules that are coming. It is a business decision and providers will need to decide how to plan for future expectations.
- DS (Disability Services) Taskforce 2.0
 - There are no scheduled meetings at this time.

3. **Legislative Update**

- Mr. Sanford shared that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DDS and the Department of Rehabilitation is moving backwards. Disability Right California (DRC) has given them a three-month extension, but there has been no movement.
- It appears that the overtime for Supported Living Services (SLS) and respite will go into effect on October 13th. President Obama's Executive Order regarding overtime for salaried employees may go into effect at the same time. The issue remains that twice the minimum wage is not being funded in any way.
- CMS has released some directions regarding competitive, integrated employment, but it is quite confusing.
- The extraordinary session of the legislature is technically not over until they say they are finished. The new bill proposed by Senator Hernandez needs to be on the Governor's desk by tomorrow night.
- ABx2-18 (Bonilla) – Taxations: distilled spirits: Cocktails for Healthy Outcomes Act. This bill has been approved the committee's and is now held on the assembly floor.
 - It's important to note that this money would go into a discretionary fund; it does not go directly to us.
- SBx2-14 (Hernandez) – Tobacco: electronic cigarettes: taxes: managed care organization provider tax: in-home supportive services. This bill would distribute funding to our system (approximately 7%) to assist with core staffing and all DDS set and RC negotiated rates, except for those charging usual/customary rates.
- Both ABx2-18 and SBx2-14 need a two-thirds vote to pass. Phone calls to key legislators are urgent!
- Joint employment and travel time continue to be issues.
- Both AB 662 (Public accommodations) and SB 644 (Limited Examination and Appointment Program – LEAP) are on their way to the Governor's desk.
- SB 3 (Leno) – Minimum wage: adjustment. This bill is on hold right now. The biggest challenge for RC's and providers is there is no easy path to getting funding for local changes, SB3 doesn't fix it, but there is acknowledgement that there are issues, just no direction yet.

4. **Board Update**

- Ms. Brandon shared that the Board will be holding their Annual September Retreat on Thursday, September 24th. Board members will learn about:
 - How ACRC is Structurally Organized
 - The Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Center Board Members
 - ACRC Committees
 - Due Process
- After this month, Board meetings will begin at 4 p.m.

5. **Announcements/Comments**

- ACRC is hosting the Self-Determination Advisory Committee here at the Sacramento office next Wednesday, September 16th, from 10 a.m. to noon.
- Michelle Payne has moved out of the area and is no longer with RCCA Services.
- The PAC Outreach Sub-Committee will be meeting at 9 a.m. prior to the October committee meeting. The "Working with Individuals with Challenging Support Needs" Sub-Committee will meet directly after the October meeting.
- Meristem, a United Kingdom-based provider, has created a private-pay school for autism next to the Waldorf School campus. The *Sacramento Bee* ran a story on the program.
- Committee members discussed how difficult it has been to find employees, and then have them show up for work once they are hired. A suggestion was made to have providers host a job fair.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, October 8, 2015**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet