

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2019
Minutes

Present:

Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Chair
Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga Care
Home
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Joe Jaquez, EGACT
Robin Rhoades, Southside
Unlimited
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Andrea Croom*, INALLIANCE
Joe Hernandez*, Premier
Healthcare Services
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Sergio Pinto*, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit*, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Paul Traglio*, Capitol Autism
Services

Visitors:

Nick Abels
Hazel Aldax
Garrett Broadbent
Lindsey Dyba
Sonya Fox-Watson
Annie Green
Kate Halecky
Stan Higgins
Barry Jardini
Rosa Lee
Jennifer Marchant
Monique Migdol
Karen Mulvany
Sean Stone
Jasmine Volenweider
Kelly Weber

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Financial Officer
Lori Banales, Director of Client
Services
Jennifer Bloom, Associate Client
Services Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:31 a.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2019, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Innovative Ideas for Services; 4) Legislative Update; 5) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments; 6) PAC's Goals for the 2019-20 FY; 7) PAC Priorities – Subcommittee Reports; and 8) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of July 11, 2019 as submitted.

1. ***Board Update***

- Mr. Ciampa attended the last Board meeting which was held on Thursday, July 25th.
 - The Board voted on two new Board members – Ron Mainini and Luis Rivera. We will continue to recruit so that the Board represents ACRC's catchment area.
 - The trailer bill language includes more regional center Board oversight.
 - The group discussed ACRC's caseload ratios and received input on ways to assist the agency in meeting these mandated caseloads.

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

- Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC continues to grow on average by 100 new clients per month. Because of this, we need to develop new resources for the ever-changing dynamic. A real concern is the sustainability of our service system. This will be one of the topics of discussion at upcoming DS Taskforce meetings. We need resources and people that are willing to provide those services to our clients. Technology will continue to find its way into the daily lives of the individuals that we serve. Where we can, we need to embrace ways to utilize this resource.
 - Mr. Bonnet has applied to join the taskforce and awaits to hear from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
- ACRC has one remaining client in a developmental center (DC); this excludes those individuals that are "behind the fence" at Porterville DC. The client, who is at Fairview DC, is scheduled to move into the community on October 1st.
- The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), is visiting California to review Special Incident Reports (SIRs). They will be at ACRC the week of September 23rd.

- The trailer bill language that was signed by Governor Newsom in June includes:
 - The suspension of the Uniform Holiday Schedule (short-term).
 - The requirement of regional centers to share information with the department when any corrective action plans and sanctions are issued to a service provider.
 - A renewed focus on the National Core Indicators (NCI), which takes data from clients/families and compares that information nationally. California has been slow to embrace this report, because the data is about four years old for each category (every two years they survey the adults and then the next two years the children).
 - The requirement that regional centers reach out to every client to ask for input on their center's Performance Contracts with DDS.
- Ms. Banales reviewed the 2020 Performance Contract with those present, which included:
 - Public Policy Measures
 - It's important to note that choices in living arrangements are crucial to clients.
 - The housing crisis in this area plays a role in the numbers, as well as the complicated clients that need services.
 - An ongoing issue is the age of the parents who have their loved ones living in the family home.
 - Regional centers classify Independent Living Services (ILS) and Supported Living Services (SLS) in different ways. SLS has changed so much over the years, too.
 - Community inclusive living needs to be a range of services.
 - Statewide, the numbers are decreasing significantly, while ACRC's are increasing.
 - Compliance Measures – regional centers must meet these.
 - The measures related to employment and paid internship programs.
 - ACRC continues to increase the options for employment and paid internship programs for our clients. Service Coordinators (SCs) have started these discussions at Planning Team Meetings.
 - It's critical that we find a timeline that works for everyone so we don't miss out on an opportunity.
 - Mr. Decker suggested meeting after the next PAC meeting to discuss this issue further. If you are interested, please plan on staying for a half hour after the October meeting.
 - Measures related to reducing disparities and improving equity in purchase of services expenditures.
 - Regional centers must choose two measures and track data on them. In ACRC's diversity grant with the department, we have objectives and activities that have been approved by

DDS. We continue to want to increase our visibility and opportunities to support clients in their communities.

- For service providers, it might be helpful to utilize an Employer of Record (EOR) when hiring and supporting non-English speaking staff.
- Some families only receive case management services and are happy with this support.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss wants to recognize ACRC for establishing the deaf speaking unit years ago; most regional centers don't have this resource.

3. ***Innovative Ideas for Services***

- Innovation can mean different things to different people.
- Mr. Decker is willing to meet with service providers to share ideas on this subject.
 - If you are interested in being part of this discussion, please contact him. The first of multiple meetings will be scheduled towards the end of October.

4. ***Legislative Update***

- Mr. Jardini shared that the deadline for the legislature to pass any bills is to have them on the Governor's desk by September 15th.
- If bills are held in committee they are basically dead, but there is a possibility that they could be brought back next year.
- AB 5 (Gonzalez) Worker status: employees and independent contractors. This bill might affect service providers when it comes to transporting clients.
 - Ms. Ramirez shared that committee members have mentioned that it might be helpful if different associations present their perspective on bills that the legislature is considering. This committee may want to try this option at upcoming meetings.

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

- An updated list was distributed for review.
 - The Residential Vendor Forum was held on September 9th.
 - The group discussed training opportunities, as well as CEUs.
 - They reviewed the residential Request for Proposals (RFPs) that have been posted on ACRC website.
 - Service providers were encouraged to update their DS1891. They also need to update their information on www.sanctionscreeningnow.com.

6. ***PAC's Goals for the 2019-20 FY***

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the PAC's updated goals are listed on the agenda.
- The Housing Subcommittee had a productive meeting with Mr. Decker, who shared that ACRC will be developing a master plan on housing by the end of the calendar year.
 - This will be a collaborative process; Mr. Decker is seeking input from service providers, including the outlying counties. The ten-page document will highlight the strategic goals that the regional center and service providers can work towards.
 - Those present discussed possible topic headings, the mission and vision of the plan, as well as five and ten year goals.
 - The group discussed how the residential facilities that we have cannot keep up with the population that will soon need multiple living options (i.e., those clients that live with aging parents).
 - ACRC will be requesting funding from DDS for some of these projects.
 - The Notice of Funding Availability was posted on ACRC's website on Friday, which includes \$1.5 million to develop the Dos Rios Homes Housing Project. The 15 housing vouchers will stay within our service system for 55 years, and will be utilized by regional center clients.

7. ***PAC Priorities – Subcommittee Reports***

- Communication
 - Ms. Fox-Watson shared that the subcommittee took a look at ACRC's website and is looking into possibly revising the PAC brochure.
 - If you did not receive the outreach letter that was sent out to all service providers earlier this year, please make sure to update your contact information with your Community Service Specialist.
 - Trainings that are happening in the community will soon be posted on the agency's website.
 - If you have any suggestions/recommendations about improving ACRC's website, please contact Mr. Decker and/or Ms. West.
- Training
 - The updated training resource list will be emailed to committee members.
- ILS
 - The group has been reviewing the transportation contracts and the ILS providers have hired an attorney to review and provide

- feedback. Providers are concerned about the language in the contract and that a contract is required to provide transportation.
 - The ILS providers have requested a meeting with Mr. Decker and Ms. Dupree to discuss the contract and contract requirement.
 - Mr. Decker shared that the meeting will take place mid to late October.
- ILS service providers should contact their Community Services Specialist if they have any questions.
- Vendor Relations
 - Ms. Rhoades distributed a list of what the Vendor Relations Subcommittee will be discussing with ACRC staff at the next meeting. The topics include “Respectful Business Interactions” and “Vendor Rights and Responsibilities when working with the ACRC”. They would also like to discuss what North Bay Regional Center (NBRC) has been doing. That regional center has developed “partnership agreements” with their vendors; this might be an option to consider.
 - The goal is to support better communication and collaboration between the regional center and providers.

8. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Any service provider in good standing can apply to be a member of the PAC. The Outreach/Membership Subcommittee will be reviewing applications soon.
- The California Supported Living Network (CSLN) has hired an Executive Director as of October 1st. The group will be holding several meetings to discuss outcomes, funded by a State Council grant.
- Ms. Watilo shared that there are a few ACRE Discovery Trainings scheduled for October and November. Also, California APSE will be holding a Pre-Conference Session on Wednesday, October 9th, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. just prior to the Supported Life Conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The session is entitled “What’s on the other side?: Opening doors to Employment”. Nancy Bargmann and Kristin Wright are keynote speakers at the Supported Life Conference scheduled for Thursday & Friday, October 10th & 11th.
- A lot of PAC members just completed the Person Centered Thinking Trainings. Now we will have trainers available to train others.
- UCP provides fixed routes for traveling from programs to residential homes, etc. They have been working collaboratively with the State and have applied for a grant in hopes to expand to provide on-demand transportation services as well for ACRC clients.
- Mr. Ciampa is researching a Learning Management System (LMS) to help engage staff. He hopes to build something that might be

beneficial to his agency. If you would like more information, please contact him.

- Ms. Ramirez brought three flyers to share with everyone about upcoming events that On My Own is holding, including an "HR Coffee Talk" and "Financial Basics and Maintaining Your Housing" with Patti Uplinger.
- Andrew Ponce has been named the new Client Services Manager (CSM) over the Specialized Services & Supports Unit (formerly CPP/Forensics). He starts his new position on October 1st.
- Recently Southside Unlimited was featured on National Public Radio (NPR).

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, October 10, 2019**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet