

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 13, 2018  
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  
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION  
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point  
Joseph Hernandez, Premier  
Healthcare Services  
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult  
Development  
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art  
Center  
Will Sanford, Futures Explored  
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver  
Relief  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO  
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite  
Services  
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism  
Services  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Jacquie Dillard-Foss\*, STEP  
Ed Doonan\*, LIFE, Inc.  
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,  
Inc.  
Laleh Sharpe\*, Maxim Healthcare  
Services

**Visitors:**

Andrea Croom  
Kate Halecky  
Teri Hayes  
Aaron Kowalski  
Jennifer Marchant  
Fred Patawaran  
Lou Patawaran  
Stan Schmidt  
John Shufelberger

**Staff:**

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director  
Alfonso Carmona, Director of Adult &  
Residential Services  
John Decker, Manager of  
CPP/Forensics Unit  
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community  
Services  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:31 a.m. on Thursday, September 13, 2018, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) DDS Grant Funded Projects; 3) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments; 4) Community Development Report; 5) PAC Priorities; 6) Legislative Update; 7) Board Update; 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 12, 2018 as submitted.**

*\*change in agenda was noted*

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

- Mr. Bonnet shared that the performance contract was developed about 15 years ago by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and regional centers. He provided a general overview to those present.
  - Regional centers are experiencing a growing number of forensic cases across the state.
  - Members would be interested in knowing how many of the 7,029 clients that live in the home of their parent or guardian are 50 years of age or older.
    - Mr. Bonnet will provide this demographic information to committee members at the October PAC meeting.
  - The 2019 Performance Contract includes performance measures related to employment and paid internship programs. It also includes measures related to reducing disparities and improving equity in purchase of services expenditures.
    - Mr. Sanford suggested that DDS change the terms reported under #8 of the Paid Internship Program metrics from "\$1,500, \$1,250, and \$1,000" to "yearly, six months, and 30 days" to reflect the time of the internship and not the incentive amount.
- The Self-Determination Program
  - Individuals have until September 17<sup>th</sup> to sign-up for this new program. Names will be chosen by DDS on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - The problem is that many of the instructions have not been finalized yet.
  - ACRC will have 179 individuals in this three-year pilot program. There is no geographic component into the selection process. The department is looking at age, ethnicity and disability.

### **2. DDS Grant Funded Projects**

- Ms. Watilo shared that several service providers received transition funding, and seven of them have pulled their resources and are hosting two 2-day "Person-Centered Thinking" Trainings with Michael Smull, with Support Development Associates (SDA). Timely for self-determination, he will also be presenting five days on "Planning for Change"; providers may participate for a \$500 fee.

- There will more opportunities for trainings; 18 individuals/9 people in partnership will be hosting “Train the Trainer” Trainings. There may be openings available for others to participate in these.
  - Mr. Carmona shared that ACRC has trained all of our management team on “Person-Centered Thinking”. Two service coordinators (SCs) from each unit will also be trained as trainers in this model.
- Progressive Employment Concepts (PEC) received a grant to perform consulting services to service providers. This “Scope of Work” project will help providers assess their services and develop goals. Then PEC will work with the agency to assist with aligning their values/vision with their budget. Training for families and clients on the Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver is included, as well as training for staff on Discovery and Customized Employment development.
  - Interested individuals need to complete the application, and then Ms. Watilo will work with ACRC to decide who should participate in this project.

### 3. **Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments**

- An updated list was distributed for review.
  - The Behavior Intervention Services Vendor Forum was held on August 29<sup>th</sup>.
    - The group discussed “at risk” services for children that don’t have a formal diagnosis yet.
      - ACRC will have additional internal discussions about this topic.
    - They talked about the challenges that providers face when serving smaller communities (e.g., Grass Valley, Colusa, etc.).
      - The group discussed how more insurance companies are approving telemedicine, but outlying counties don’t always have access to fast-speed internet, which is critical for this type of format.
    - Discussed billing and how most providers are funded through insurance, but families or ACRC pay the co-pays.
      - ACRC and providers need to confirm that the information that is provided to families is correct.
    - There has been a push for electronic data collection for behavioral providers.
  - The Residential Vendor Forum was held on August 6<sup>th</sup>.
    - The group discussed emergency preparedness plans – identifying evacuation sites that are not affected by the

- present emergency; what emergency supplies need to be taken with them, etc.
- They talked about the new paperwork that is required for 1:1 staffing in order to get services approved.
  - ACRC has since confirmed what needs to be completed.
- The group discussed the new survey that ACRC posted on our website in order to gather input about the Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP).
- The Independent Living Services (ILS) Vendor Forum is being rescheduled to Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - The transportation issue will be the initial topic of discussion for this meeting.
- Jessica Knuth volunteered to be the PAC liaison to ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC). Michelle Ramirez will be her back-up.

#### 4. **Community Development Report**

- ACRC developed priorities from the 85 surveys that were gathered from clients and their families, and input from the 18 people that attended a meeting here at the agency's Sacramento office, for the CRDP. The proposal was submitted to DDS, and Mr. Decker was informed that the department has to determine what funds are available before they will respond to regional centers.
  - ACRC has requested specialized funding for duplexes that could be rented out to our clients at a discounted rate. We would partner with the housing authority, who would work on the acquisition of the units. The funding from the department would be for renovating the units (\$150,000 per duplex).
    - DDS is looking at these types of ideas to help supplement what is available in the community.
- Mr. Decker shared that the HALO Dental Clinic, located off of El Camino & Evergreen, is almost completed; there was a construction delay due to sprinkler issues. The building will be finished by the end of this calendar year and licensing should be completed by March/April 2019.

#### 5. **PAC Priorities**

- DDS Rate Survey
  - The department was pleased at the number of providers who participated in this survey. Burns and Associates is now gathering information from clients and families. The plan is to have something out to the community by late fall.

- Ms. Ramirez expressed appreciation to the PAC members that reached out to providers to help in our completion rate.
- Committee/Workgroup Volunteers
  - CSS
    - The group chose three categories to focus on:
      - Transparency with rates.
      - Inconsistency in the vendorization process.
      - Creative/collaborative process is lacking on the development of new or innovative programs.
    - If anyone has any additional ideas, please contact Ms. Ramirez prior to the October PAC meeting.
      - This group will review/approve this and then Mr. Ciampa will share with the Board.
    - It is the understanding that SCs are bringing the needs assessment questionnaire to Planning Team Meetings. ACRC staff will be sharing more information with our Board of Directors later this month. After that, staff will share more information with this committee.
      - ACRC will release new Request for Proposals (RFPs) by the end of this week or early next week regarding what we have gathered on the needs assessment. We will be hosting a meeting on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, to assist providers with this process.
  - Training
    - The group has only met once, but they have developed a list of resources (agencies and consultants), which will be reviewed in October.
      - If you have any additions that you would like to include, please send them to Ms. Ramirez.
  - Housing
    - This group has not met. Initially, there was some interest in developing a community database, but we would need a community partner to take the lead.
      - Suggestion to look at grant funding for this project.
      - Andrea Croom volunteered to assist Mr. Ciampa with this.
  - Outreach
    - The group reviewed nine applicants. Of those, five didn't meet the PAC's qualifications, three need to attend more meetings before consideration, and one withdrew.
  - Communication
    - The PAC's meeting schedule is now posted on ACRC's website.

- The group would like to add something about the PAC on the scroll on ACRC's home page.
- Future endeavors – possibly post vendor trainings on the website.
- Cultural Diversity
  - Ms. Brandon shared that this workgroup will be meeting after the PAC meeting in October. They will also invite Helen Thomas, ACRC's Cultural Diversity Specialist.
    - Ms. Thomas is meeting with several respite providers on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, to discuss ways to reach out to diverse families.

## 6. **Legislative Update**

- Mr. Sanford compiled a brief summary of federal and state legislation that was available for review.
  - Federal bills can go on for years. He highlighted HR5306 (Guthrie) EMPOWER Care Act; this bill will reauthorize the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program.
  - At this point, the state legislation (seven bills) on the Governor's desk and waiting his signature. Governor Brown has until September 30<sup>th</sup> to action on these.
- Proposition 1 and 2 are both related to affordable housing. "Disabilities" have been added into their wording.

## 7. **Board Update**

- Mr. Ciampa shared that the next Board meeting/training will be held in Yuba City on Thursday & Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Board is hosting a "Meet & Greet" on Thursday afternoon before the Board meeting.
  - The Board is actively recruiting and encouraging folks to apply for Board membership.

## 8. **Announcements/Comments**

- Ms. Watilo shared that Cal APSE is hosting a day of networking and learning on Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at San Andreas Regional Center (SARC).
- Progressive Employment Concepts is honoring inclusive businesses on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. The event is entitled "Celebration of Inclusive Communities".
- Mr. Bonnet shared that the Office of the Inspector General is visiting the State of California. ACRC staff will be meeting with DDS later today. The topic of discussion is the timeliness of completing Special Incident Reports (SIRs). They are focusing their attention on the SIRs

that are following the developmental center (DC) clients into the community.

- The October agenda will include:
  - Mr. Bonnet will report on the Inspector General.
  - Provider presentations – Eric Ciampa and Robin Rhoades (postponed from today)
  - Suggestion to have the “Board Update” after the “Executive Director’s Report”.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, October 11, 2018**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet