

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2023
Minutes

Present:

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc., Chair
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options, Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Jacquie Foss, STEP
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Joe Jaquez, EGACT
Christa McClure, Tri-County
Respite Care Service
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Janet Brandon*, A.I.M. &
Associates
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.

Visitors

Steve Andrews
Jody Bailey
Julie Beadle-Brown
Taylor Berry
Gregg Brandon
Ethan DiCavalcanti
Tony Duplan

Maureen Fitzgerald
Mel Gosal
Braydon Holtzinger
Jessica Jenó
Jessica Knuth
Leticia Leon
Ameé Medeiros
Mark Melanson
Myra Montejano
Natasha Mosley
Paloma Rodriguez
Melissa Savage
Melinda Tainton-Brechtel
Jasmine Vollenweider
Ariana Von Zboray
Michelle Wild
Miesha Williams

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client
Services
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Michelle Duchene, Community
Services & Supports Manager
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Helen Neri, Community Services &
Supports Manager
Sydney Ruport, Community Services
Specialist
Carly Shearer, Client Employment
Specialist
Faye Tait, Associate Client Services
Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 9:32 a.m. to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Board Update; 3) Roommate Database; 4) Providers serving as Financial Management services discussion; 5) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 6) System Reform and Legislative Update; 7) PAC Goals; 8) PAC Committees & Reports; and 9) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of July 13, 2023, as submitted.

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

- Ms. Banales shared that we plan to have staff return to the Harvard campus at the end of the month.
- With the Governor putting forward a proclamation that celebrates this week as Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week, ACRC is highlighting several DSPs that serve clients on our social media platforms, while tagging the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). We will also be adding this information to the Collaborative's website.
- Ms. Duchene noted that DDS issued guidance on September 12th for the "Workforce Development and Training: DSP Training Stipend Program". She provided an overview of this program and shared that ACRC has set-up an email, dspstipend@altaregional.org, that service providers can send questions to.
 - ACRC staff will discuss this further at an upcoming "Coffee with Community Services".
- Brilliant Corners has identified three different properties to serve clients and ACRC is seeking input from service providers to see what types of homes are needed in our catchment area.
- Ms. Bloom has been promoting the PAC with ACRC's Early Start service providers and is pleased to see some new faces at today's meeting.
 - ACRC has created two additional Early Start Units to achieve the mandated 1:40 caseload ratio.
 - We are enjoying the benefits of the American Rescue Plan pilot project. ACRC is paying stipends to our service providers to provide in-person services in certain categories. Ms. Bloom provided data on children and families that are receiving services and stated that DDS may be extending the timeframe for ACRC to exhaust these claims.
- Ms. Banales shared that the Board is holding their annual training at the Veterans Memorial Center in Davis on September 28th. The training begins at 9 a.m., with the Board meeting starting at 3 p.m. This will provide us with an opportunity to engage with our community. At the Board meeting, we will be promoting our National Core Indicators (NCI) Annual Public Meeting, which will take place during our November Board meeting.
- Through the Collaborative, ACRC will be hosting another Disability Industry Career Expo at Sierra College on November 7th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This job fair is exclusively for our service providers to hire staff.

2. **Board Update**

- At the July Board meeting, ACRC's Federal Programs Department was highlighted. Mr. Broadbent shared that ACRC is exceptional in pulling down federal funding.
 - Ms. Banales noted that clients move on and off waivers during the month, and ACRC staff are constantly increasing our numbers.
- The Board approved ACRC upgrading to Microsoft 365; some of the meetings will switch over to Microsoft Teams.

3. **Roommate Database**

- Ms. Ramirez recently revived the roommate database idea. She provided an overview of the information that the client will input, while noting that there is still a lot of work to be done (different phases for the development).
- This database will be available through a browser, as well as an app, and will be used by ACRC clients first, as a pilot project.
- Suggestions to include person-centered language, and possibly open this survey up to the non-disabled community (in the future).
 - Ms. Ramirez will consult with ACRC's Community Services Department.

4. **Providers serving as Financial Management Services (FMS) discussion**

- This idea was brought up a few weeks ago at the "Coffee with Community Services" discussion.
 - Ms. Neri noted that ACRC works with FMSs for several different services, including Social Rec and the Self-Determination Program (SDP).
 - For Social Rec, service providers cannot act as an FMS for those clients whom they serve.
 - ACRC staff will be providing an informational session for service providers, and we are hopeful that DDS will provide more guidance on this issue.
 - Please contact Ms. Neri if you have any questions.

5. **ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates**

- The Adult Day & Employment vendor forum was held on August 24th.
 - The group discussed the new broker that is coming in to assist with transportation – R&D Transportation.
 - They discussed the new verification process for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) compliance; ACRC will keep providers updated.
 - The group talked about the rate study implementation and how regional centers and DDS are matching your existing service with the

proposed rate models. Certain categories are being matched to things that has not been defined yet in statute.

- The group shared success stories for tailored day services.
- Ms. Shearer presented the workbook for the additional incentive for the client employment program.
- Ms. Savage shared that during the Early Intervention vendor forum, the group discussed the DSP Training Stipend Program, the new rates, and all of the positives that are happening with Early Start services.

6. ***System Reform and Legislative Update (ARCA, CDSA, CCLN, PAVE and DS Taskforce & Workgroups)***

- ARCA
 - The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is advocating to preserve our service system in a unified voice.
 - The trailer bill language (TBL) was released earlier this week.
- CDSA
 - The California Disabilities Services Association's (CDSA's) Annual Conference is being held next week in Riverside.
- CCLN
 - AB 1568 ended up in the inactive file.
 - The Independent Living Services (ILS) rate has been fixed.
 - Yesterday, the group met with DDS and Mr. Decker to discuss housing.
 - California Community Living Network (CCLN) will be hosting a Housing Summit in October, by invitation only, which will help educate the Capitol on the housing crisis.
 - They will be talking with DDS about the differences between ILS, Supported Living Services (SLS) and Personal Attendant (PA). They also want to discuss the parameters around enhanced SLS.
 - Ms. Foss noted that we need to get back to the original values of ILS and SLS.
- PAVE
 - Dr. Beadle-Brown provided a presentation on Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE).
 - The PowerPoint presentation will be shared with the PAC.
- DS Taskforce & Workgroups
 - The Deaf Steering Committee is meeting next week; they are pleased with ACRC efforts.

7. ***PAC Goals***

- Ms. Dyba shared that PAC members were asked to complete the "Vendor Survey" last week. As of this morning, she has received ten responses. Ms. Dyba reviewed the data that has been gathered so far.
 - PAC members were encouraged to complete the survey as soon as possible, so that the committee can develop committee goals.

She will send a reminder email, along with the list of the PAC's current Standing Committees.

8. **PAC Committees & Reports**

- The Communication/Outreach Committee continues to meet.
 - The group will be sending out the annual PAC letter to ACRC service providers. The letter invites service providers to attend the meetings, and potentially join the committee, focusing on needed areas of representation.
 - This letter will be signed by Ms. Dyba and Mr. Ciampa.
 - Mr. Ciampa reviewed the "PAC Email Discussion Group Proposal" with those present. This pilot will create an online group that will allow the PAC to reach out directly to other service providers.
 - The PAC approved moving forward with this project.
 - If anyone is interested in joining this committee or wants to be involved in this pilot project, please reach out to Mr. Ciampa.

9. **Announcements/Comments**

- Breeanne Kolster, with 24 Hour Home Care, has resigned from the PAC.
- Mr. Ciampa shared that the California Respite Association (CRA), who was meeting frequently pre-COVID, is reforming as an advocacy organization. If you are a service provider that provides respite and are interested, please consider joining the next meeting scheduled for September 28th.
- Mr. Decker noted that during tomorrow's "Coffee with Community Services", ACRC will be providing more information about the service code transfers with the rate study implementation.
- Twenty DDS staff will be attending the Supported Life Conference this year. Mr. Decker encouraged providers to attend, as well.
- Ms. Halecky noted that some clients have been utilizing Lyft and Uber to get to and from work. While it was her understanding that this was a temporary solution, some clients have been offered this option permanently.
 - Ms. Brown will send out a reminder to ACRC staff today to remind them that this option is temporary.
- ACRC has formed a Supported-Decision Making (SDM) Workgroup that has been tasked with developing a training for agency staff, as well as the community.
 - Ms. Banales will keep this committee updated on the progress of this group.
 - More information will be highlighted in the next *Alta Connections*.
- The October PAC agenda will include further discussion on the DSP Training Stipend Program.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, October 12, 2023**. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales