

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 8, 2015
Minutes

Present:

Will Sanford, Futures Explored,
Chair
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION
Gregory Buch, Ph.D., PALS
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Greater
Sacramento, Inc.
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Eleni Gialoyrakes, Capital Social
Services
Daina Glasson, California Mentor
Susan Miner, Turning Point
Michelle Payne, RCCA Services
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism
Services

Absent: (* excused)

Janet Brandon*, AIM &
Associates, Co-Chair
Jill Bonetti, Opportunity Acres
Gerrit deGelleke, American River
Speech
Dawn Montgomery*, HOPE
Consulting
Carole Watilo*, Progressive
Employment

Visitors:

Donna Bettencourt
Andrea Croom
Bonnie Douglas
Chris Denney
Suzan Denney
Angelo Ferrer
Cynthia Guilford
Erin McManus
Vanessa Moore
Stella Perry
Agnes Ranit
Richard Royse
Sam Seaton
Peter Stirling
Sean Stone
Barbara Williams

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:31 a.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2015, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director Comments; 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 November 13, 2014 as submitted.

1. ***Executive Director Comments***

- Mr. Bonnet is pleased to see some new folks here at this meeting. He encourages new service providers to attend these meetings, because it is a great opportunity to meet with fellow providers. We are looking forward to a great year.
- Tomorrow morning, Governor Brown will be releasing his proposed budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year (FY). Anyone interested can access it online at www.ebudget.ca.gov. When he was sworn in on Monday morning, the Governor was promoting fiscal restraint.
- The message from our community to the State legislature is united – we are all trying to do the right thing for the individuals that we serve. Mr. Bonnet remains hopeful that we will get some great things accomplished this year. The Lanterman Coalition is asking for a 10% across-the-board funding increase now, and 5% increases yearly, until funding for provider rates and regional center services are reformed.
- On January 1st, some providers were expecting a 5.82% rate increase to cover the costs associated with new federal regulations requiring overtime for previously exempted home care workers. On December 31st, the United States District Court in Washington, D.C. issued a temporary restraining order staying the revised definition of “companionship services” for 14 days. DDS has delayed this rate increase and will keep regional centers informed as this proceeds through the court system.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss shared that she has heard that the preliminary injunction will probably be granted tomorrow. Many other states have joined into this lawsuit. Judge Leon is not happy with the Department of Labor. She clarified that it is not an executive order, but a law change order.
 - Concern was expressed because providers are providing services without an authorized Purchase of Service (POS) in place.
 - As a system, we need to be collaborative in seeking relief from the legislature.
- On New Year’s Eve, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) submitted the waiver to the federal government regarding the Self-Determination Program. The selection process for the three-year pilot project has been a concern across the state. The department has indicated that it will be done based upon an “interest” list and regional

centers will be given direction on this. ACRC will have 174 clients participating in the three-year pilot project. Eventually, nearly every regional center client over the age of three would be eligible to participate in this program. The guidelines have been posted on DDS' website. The only vendored service is Financial Management Services (FMS). Some providers may need to start having background checks run on their employees. Mr. Sanford believes that the preliminary injunction actually helped this program; he understands that a budget will be established for an individual client and then they will be in control of spending the money.

- Ms. Rhoades suggested having ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) develop a client-friendly presentation about the Self-Determination Program that providers can share with the clients that attend their programs.
- Mr. Bonnet spoke with the SCDD/Area Board 3 office and will be co-sponsoring a free informational meeting as soon as more information is released.
- Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC's new website will be launched soon. If anyone is interested in being a part of the "soft" launch, please let Ms. West know. The biggest issue will be to keep it current; he wants to make sure the content is up-to-date so that people can see what is happening in their own community.
- The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) will soon be releasing a "white paper" entitled "The Consequences of Underfunding California's Developmental Services System". Mr. Bonnet remains hopeful that the Governor will support our service system when his proposed budget is released tomorrow.
- ACRC will be hosting the ARCA Board meeting next Friday, January 16th, beginning at 8 a.m. Mr. Bonnet shared that these meeting are always interesting and are open to the public.

2. **Updates:**

- CMS Rule
 - In mid-December, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) posted a list of questions regarding day services on their website.
 - Mr. Sanford will send the link to Ms. West so that she can forward it to committee members.
<http://www.chhs.ca.gov/pages/DCsTaskForce.aspx>
 - DDS will be forming taskforces to discuss what is coming.
 - Mr. Sanford has heard that Disability Rights California (DRC) is ready to submit a complaint to the Department of Justice, but they have not released it yet, because discussions are still taking

place. He shared that the Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rule is really individually based, not about providers collectively.

- DDS has not given any direction to regional center on this rule yet. Mr. Bonnet believes we will know a lot more in March of this year.
 - The transition plan states that we will start certain processes.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss believes that California providers need to spend more time advocating on the national level.
 - CDSA is hosting a meeting next week to share information on this issue.
 - Committee members would like to discuss the barriers (i.e., licensing regulations) and what the targeted group is at the February PAC meeting.
- DS (Disability Services) Taskforce 2.0
 - The taskforce met in October and four workgroups were formed. Mr. Sanford noted that the workgroup meetings are not open to the public.
 - Information is posted on California's Health & Human Services Agency's website.
<http://www.chhs.ca.gov/pages/DCsTaskForce.aspx>

3. *Legislative Update*

- Last year, the Lanterman Coalition developed 18 goals and succeeded in reaching one. This year, they have developed a single goal for the entire system – a 10% across-the-board funding increase now, and 5% increases yearly, until funding for provider rates and regional center services is reformed. Ms. Dillard-Foss shared that the coalition's message has been posted on "Change.org" and she encouraged providers to share this information with everyone.
 - The links to both the Lanterman Coalition and "Chang.org" will be sent to committee members.
The link to the campaign is: <http://www.lantermancoalition.org/>

M/S/C (Robin Rhoades) **To recommend that ACRC's Board of Directors support the Lanterman Coalition's "10 for 10".**

- Mr. Sanford shared that all of the bills that were not acted on "died" on December 31st. A new two-year session began on January 1st. There will be plenty of bills to follow in the next coming weeks. If you have any interest in a bill, please notify Mr. Sanford, Ms. Brandon and/or Ms. West and the committee will be given updates on it.

- On the federal level, the ABLE Act was signed into law. This act allows for anyone who has a disability prior to 26 years of age to establish an account that is not subject to taxes or Social Security regulations.

4. ***Board Update***

- Mr. Sanford attended the November 20th Board meeting.
 - The Board unanimously adopted the Employment First Policy.
 - The group discussed residential services.
 - A new Board member was elected.
- Ms. Brandon will be attending the next Board meeting, scheduled for January 22nd, at 3 p.m.

5. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Mr. Bonnet shared that DDS will be posting a summary of the Governor's proposed budget, specific to our service system, to their website tomorrow afternoon. The Lanterman Developmental Center is officially closed.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, February 12, 2015**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet