

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 13, 2022
Minutes

Present:

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc., Chair
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Co-Chair & Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &
Associates
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Joe Jaquez, EGACT
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Breanne Burris*, 24 Hour Home
Care
Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Kate Halecky*, Southside
Unlimited
Sergio Pinto*, BEST Consulting,
Inc.

Visitors

Sheila Abrams
Adrian Andrade
Jody Bailey
Maureen Fitzgerald
Sonya Fox-Watson
Braydon Holtzinger
Jennifer Jones
Michelle Ramirez, CBEM
Jen Roney
Kathy Rhymes
Katherine Wallen
Miesha Williams

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Financial Officer
Jennifer Bloom, Associate Client
Services Director
Tracy Brown, Associate Client
Services Director
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Cindy Le, Home and Community-
Based Services Specialist
Helen Neri, Manager of Community
Services
Michelle McDonald, Manager of
Community Services
Johnny Xiong, Associate Client
Services Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:33 a.m. on Thursday, October 13, 2022, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Directors Report; 3) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates;

4) System Reform and Legislative Update; 5) PAC Committees & Reports; and 6) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Bonnie Douglas made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of September 8, 2022 as submitted.

1. **Board Update**

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the Board met on September 22nd and held their Annual Retreat/Training and Board meeting. The training topics included:
 - Cultural & Linguistic Competency
 - Board Governance – Board and Executive Director Roles and Responsibilities, Conflict of Interest (COI), Whistleblower, and Medicaid Provider Enrollment Requirements
- As you may know, AB 1663 was signed by the Governor. As a result, ACRC has drafted a Conservatorship Policy, which is posted on their website.
- A Self-Determination Program (SDP) Presentation was highlighted during the Board meeting.
- ACRC's Purchase of Services (POS) budget has exceeded \$700 million.
- The group reviewed the newly opened/closed vendors since the July Board meeting.

2. **Directors Report**

- Ms. Banales shared that John Decker is the Chair of the Association of Regional Center Agency's (ARCA's) Community Services Directors group; they are meeting across the hall today and tomorrow.
- ACRC is awaiting guidance from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) regarding the initiatives that are included in the state's budget. She will discuss with this committee once received.
- In regards to the draft Conservatorship Policy that Ms. Ramirez mentioned in her report, Ms. Banales wanted our community to know what the array of opportunities are as opposed to conservatorship, which is always the last resort. While the focus on the ABC News 10 series was on DDS conservatorships, it is important to note that regional centers support 400,000 individuals across the state with developmental disabilities. Of those, there are 413 individuals conserved by the department, including 55 ACRC clients. ACRC strives to promote independence in the least restrictive way.
 - Community input is being gathered through October 31st. A revised draft will be brought back to the Board's Executive Committee at the November 14th committee meeting for consideration.
 - Input should be sent to Ms. West at lwest@altaregional.org.

- The Letters of Conservatorship should be shared with service providers so that they know how to address concerns that may arise.
- After this policy is approved, Robin Black, ACRC's Legal Services Managers, will hold trainings within our catchments area to promote our agency's position. Within the training, she will address Power of Attorney.
- Ms. Banales noted that as we learn more about Supported Decision-Making, we must make sure that it is understood, so that it can be recognized as authority.
- The ACRC/VMRC Collaborative is focusing on this year's Disability Awareness Employment Month by participating in the "Innovative Solutions to Improve Quality of Life for Individuals with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities and Their Families" Distinguished Speaker event on October 14th at California State University Sacramento (CSUS). Dr. Louis Vismara is the keynote speaker with Ms. Banales, Mr. Broadbent and Kristin Wright sitting on the "Career Panel".
- Ms. Banales shared that DDS will be aligning regional center Performance Contracts with the fiscal year (FY); the 2023 contract will cover 18 months.
 - Ms. Johnson, Ms. Houston, Mr. Ahmad and Ms. Le reviewed the public policy measures, as well as measures related to employment, the Paid Internship Program (PIP), and reducing disparities and improving equity in Purchase of Services (POS) expenditures.
 - Last year, the PAC's Standing Committees provided ideas that assisted the regional center in developing planned activities. Suggestions/input can be sent to performancecontractfeedback@altaregional.org.
 - It was noted that the statewide data is not yet available for the employment and PIP measures even though regional centers have been tracking these measures for several years now. Without this information it's difficult to track how ACRC's efforts are affecting successful outcomes.
 - Ms. Dyba and Ms. Watilo will draft a statement emphasizing the importance of having the data available in order to make informed suggestions.
- Ms. Banales shared that ACRC has our Performance Contract with DDS, the agency's Strategic Plan and the performance incentive measures that staff are monitoring/tracking all at the same time; we want to maximize the outcomes for all of these.

3. **ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates**

- Ms. Dyba would like to have two PAC liaisons assigned to each of the vendor forums.

- Mr. Ciampa will be added to In-Home Respite and Ms. Croom volunteered for Independent Living Services (ILS).
- Yesterday, ACRC held a meeting focusing on reimagining day services. Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) were discussed, as well as tailored day services.
 - If you already have a qualifying service code, you can complete a one-page addendum to add tailored day services to your program design.
 - It is sometimes harder to transform a service instead of adding one; happy to see that ACRC is offering this.
 - It would be helpful to know how long a vendorization usually takes so that service providers can plan. Flexibility is important, as well.
 - PAC liaisons will consider offering drop-in workshops to assist service providers in this process; suggestion to offer time after the November PAC meeting.
- Ms. Ramirez requested that the Supported Living Services (SLS) vendor forum meet soon, since the new rates may cause financial hardship for some service providers.
- Ms. Eller noted that the Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home (EBSH)/Community Crisis Home (CCH) vendor forum was held on September 29th and the next is scheduled for January 26, 2023.
 - This new vendor forum will be added to the list.

4. ***System Reform and Legislative Update (ARCA, CDSA, CCLN, DS Taskforce, Lanterman Coalition)***

- CDSA
 - Their Annual Meeting was held in September.
- CCLN
 - The group has been working on the ILS rate fix; they developed a rate model that would work and are looking for someone to sponsor a bill.
 - Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6th, at 10 a.m. to review the language of the bill.
- DS Taskforce & Workgroups
 - DDS Employment Workgroup is scheduled to meet on November 17th. They will be making recommendations that are due out to the legislature by January 2023.
 - Since employment is not adequately addressed across the state, Ms. Watilo would like the PAC to become involved.
- At the last meeting, Mr. Ciampa suggested that the PAC develop a living document to track the DDS initiatives.

- Ms. Ramirez will speak with Ms. Dillard-Foss, since she is the Chair of the Legislative & Budget Committee; Ms. Croom offered to assist, as well.

5. ***PAC Committees & Reports***

- Communication & Outreach
 - Christa McClure's PAC application will be brought forward at the November PAC meeting.
 - Mr. Ciampa is taking steps to develop a PAC sponsored google group, which would be handled by the Chair.
- Vendor Relations
 - The group is discussing adding questions to the list.

6. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Ms. Eller encourages service providers to complete ACRC's Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) Stakeholder's Survey, which is open until October 18th. The results of this survey will be reviewed and discussed at the stakeholder's meeting scheduled for October 25th at 1 p.m.
- Progressive Employment is holding a fund-raising event on October 19th.
- Ms. Banales introduced Michelle McDonald as ACRC's new Community Services Manager.
- Mr. Ciampa expressed the PAC's appreciation for Ms. West and the work that goes into the meeting minutes.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, November 10, 2022**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales