

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 13, 2021
Minutes

Present:

Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Chair
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Co-Chair & Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga Care
Home
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &
Associates
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc.
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Monique Migdol, Tahoe
Community Integrations
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Robin Rhoades, Southside
Unlimited
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services
Paul Traglio, Kadiant

Visitors:

Breeanne Burris
Vikie Cole
Maureen Fitzgerald
Sonya Fox-Watson
Adriene Gaudet
Kate Halecky
Priscilla Holmes
Braydon Holtzinger
Jenny Jones
Christa McClure
Jeremy Rafacz
Michelle L. Ramirez
Stan Schmidt
Kathleen Short
Hannah Thompson
Jasmine Vollenweider
Katherine Wallen

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Lori Banales, Deputy Executive
Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Andy Ponce, Specialized Services
Manager
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

Absent: (* excused)

Garrett Broadbent*, Meristem
Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Joe Hernandez*, Aveanna
Healthcare Services
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Adam Ruggles*, Medstar LLC
Carole Watilo*, Progressive
Employment

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2021, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Board Update/ED Search Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Elect PAC Chair & Co-Chair/ Designated Rep to Board for 2021-22 FY; 4) COVID-19 Impact Discussion & Vaccinations & Re-Openings; 4) Legislative Update; 5) PAC Strategic Planning; 6) Subcommittee Reports; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of April 8, 2021 as submitted.

1. **Board Update**

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the Board did not meet in April. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 27th, at 4 p.m. They will be holding a Board Training prior to the meeting that day; the group will be reviewing proposed bylaw revisions and discussing Strategic Planning.
- ED Search Update
 - The feedback that Ms. Ramirez gathered from PAC members will be shared with the Board at the May 27th meeting.
 - "Questions Raised to Board"
 - "Types of Characteristics in and ED"
 - Ms. Rhodes asked if the PAC is asking the Board to respond to the PAC's questions. Mr. Ciampa stated these are being submitted for the Board's consideration and he does not believe there will be a formal response.
 - Mr. Bonnet noted that Ms. Ramirez has provided positive input to the recruitment process on behalf of the service provider community.

Without objection, Eric Ciampa made the motion to include the revised document in the May 27th Board packet.

- Ms. Ramirez read aloud the Board's public statement. The Executive Search Committee (ESC) is actively working on filling this position and will be meeting again today.

2. **Executive Director's Report**

- Mr. Bonnet has committed the last 15 years to ACRC, the last 24 years to regional centers and the last 40 years to serving individuals with developmental disabilities.
- A few days ago, Mr. Bonnet sent out a message to his staff celebrating that we had reported no new positive COVID cases in the month of May; that has since changed. He remains concerned that some folks refuse to get vaccinated.

- The largest regional center in the State of California, Inland Regional Center (IRC), has now made it mandatory for their staff to be vaccinated. They are doing this in order to protect the clients and families that they serve. IRC employs over 770 individuals and serves 40,000+ clients. Mr. Bonnet met with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) a few days ago on this subject.
- We are continuing to sponsor vaccine clinics throughout our catchment area. Now that children 12 to 15 years old are eligible, Mr. Bonnet is getting calls from parents wanting this opportunity for their loved ones.
- ACRC has been in the midst of contract negotiations with SEIU and a few days ago, we came to a tentative agreement. Hopefully the membership will support their negotiation team and then the Board will need to approve it. One of Mr. Bonnet's goals before retiring was to get this issue resolved.
- Everyone has seen the news that the State of California has a \$75 billion influx of cash. ACRC staff will be discussing the Governor's May Revise during their weekly "Coffee with Community Services" tomorrow.
 - If there was ever a time to press for more funding for our statewide service system, it is now. One-time funding can help down the road.
 - ACRC serves over 27,000 clients and housing continues to be an issue. Staff are committed to broadening opportunities for affordable housing.
- Mr. Bonnet recognizes that service providers and their staff continued to serve our clients throughout the duration of the current health crisis and extended his heartfelt appreciation for their dedication.
- At the last PAC meeting, Ms. Banales extended the invitation to service providers to attend the Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) meetings. The group met yesterday and she requested that the committee establish an ad-hoc committee with service providers so that discussions could begin about reimagining services under the Self-Determination Program (SDP).
 - There was a great deal of interest on this subject. Ms. Banales would like to suggest no more than 12 individuals; six service providers and six SDAC members.
 - Volunteers include: Breanne Burris, Eric Ciampa, Andrea Croom, Lindsey Dyba, Kate Halecky, Braydon Holtzinger and Christa McClure
 - Mr. Ciampa remains hopeful that this will allow service providers to be proactive and be part of the higher-level discussions. Clients may be able to take advantage of the innovation that is possible as SDP rolls out.
 - We have an active campaign about SDP on our agency's website.

- Currently, ACRC has 11 clients who have transitioned to SDP since the start of the pilot program.
- SDP will be an option for all eligible clients over the age of three beginning in mid-June/July of this year.

3. ***Elect PAC Chair & Co-Chair/Designated Rep to Board for 2021-22 FY***

- Mr. Ciampa explained what the PAC's Chair and Co-Chair/designated representative to ACRC's Board of Directors do for this committee. The Chair runs the meetings and helps facilitate the issues that the group wants to discuss. The Co-Chair serves as a Board member. As noted in the Lanterman Act, there is a conflict of interest, because we are vendored with the regional center. The PAC's representative helps bring the service provider's perspective to the table and helps align priorities. There is no term limit on the Chair position, but the designated representative to the Board can only serve for three consecutive years.
- The PAC always needs to focus on leadership development. That is why the PAC's Chair position serves as good practice for the Co-Chair/Designated representative position.
 - Due to the current recruitment of ACRC's next Executive Director, Mr. Ciampa is willing to serve as Chair for another fiscal year (FY), while mentoring another member so that they can serve as Chair for the 2022-23 fiscal year (FY). This upcoming year will be the last year that he serves in this position.
 - The PAC's workgroup of Chairs will meet and discuss how to promote this position. They are currently meeting on Strategic Planning.
 - Ms. Brandon encouraged PAC members to attend two to three Board meetings to better understand what ACRC's Board of Directors does.

Without objection, Robin Rhoades made the motion to elect Eric Ciampa as the PAC Chair and Michelle Ramirez as the PAC Co-Chair/Designated Representative to the Board for the 2021-22 FY.

4. ***COVID-19 Impact Discussion & Vaccinations & Re-Openings***

- Upcoming COVID-19 vaccine opportunities are posted on ACRC's website. Twelve to 15-year-olds receive the same dose that adults do. It is Mr. Bonnet's understanding that Pfizer will modify the vaccine when children under 12 are approved.
- Billing has been a challenge for transportation providers; DDS released a new way for these service providers to bill in the same month that the changes were taking place. The more that service providers can communicate with each other the better.

- Transportation providers have no idea if day programs will be reopening at 20%, 50%, etc.
- There are so many service providers and anything can change your reopening plan.
- Community care Licensing (CCL) is still expecting to release a Provider Information Notice (PIN). Since their restrictions have been higher than DDS', this has been a challenge for some service providers.

5. **Legislative Update**

- ARCA
 - The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is pushing for more funding so that regional centers can hire more Service Coordinators (SCs) in order to meet the mandates caseload ratios required by the Lanterman Act.
- CDSA
 - The Budget Subcommittee met last week and discussed:
 - Eliminating the 8.2% funding suspension language
 - Permanently ending the Uniform Holiday Schedule
 - Trailer bill language that would allow regional center Executive Directors to approve Health & Safety waivers, allow SCs to conduct virtual meetings for Lanterman and Early Start Services, and allow participant directed services for personal assistance, Independent Living Services (ILS) and supported employment.
 - Disability Rights California's (DRC's) proposal to double the Community Integrated Employment (CIE) Incentive payments and change the Paid Internship Program (PIP) to maximum hours instead of maximum dollar amount, and also begin the implementation of a training and certification programs for direct support professionals (AB 1417).

6. **PAC Strategic Planning**

- Mr. Ciampa would like to suggest establishing a subcommittee/workgroup comprised of the Chairs of the workgroups to continue discussing Strategic Planning.
 - This group will be revisiting the purpose of the PAC, and possibly restructuring the subcommittees/workgroups. We may wish to combine service specific committees that are focused on clear goals, understanding that at any time we may choose to create an ad-hoc subcommittee.
- The primary concern is that this will be a lengthy process. ACRC's Board of Directors is focused on recruiting a new Executive Director and the PAC will need to focus its attention on collaborating with this individual once they are named.

7. **Subcommittee Reports**

- Ms. Rhoades shared that the group will be meeting with Mr. Decker and his staff on Friday, June 11th. She will provide the finalized questions to ACRC staff prior to the meeting, which is helpful to the collaborative process.

8. **Announcements/Comments**

- Mr. Bonnet shared that for the first time in recorded history, the State's Department of Finance has announced that California's population has decreased. This is interesting because not only is the population dropping, but it is also shifting (e.g., people are moving to Bakersfield, Elk Grove is now the 26th largest city in California, etc.).
- Mr. Decker shared that ACRC's new Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are posted on our website; there are a few that are due later this month.
 - It's important to note that the state funded only one new housing project this FY.
 - DDS needs to know that there are housing developers out there that want to assist regional centers with this ongoing issue.
- Mr. Ciampa shared that UCP is hosting three different summer camps this year at Grizzly Creek Ranch in Portola, CA; one for kids, one for families and one for adults. More information can be found on their website.
- Mr. Decker hopes to share more information about the Federal Pharmacy Program and how we might be able to reach out to children's facilities at tomorrow's "Coffee with Community Services".

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, June 10, 2021**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet