

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 14, 2016
Minutes

Present:

Will Sanford, Futures Explored,
Chair
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates, Co-Chair
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION
Gregory Buch, Ph.D., PALS
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Greater
Sacramento, Inc.
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Eleni Gialoyrakes, Capital Social
Services
Dawn Montgomery, HOPE
Consulting
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO

Visitors:

Andrea Croom
Patti Dixon
Bonnie Douglas
Maureen Fitzgerald
Adriene Gaudet
Joe Jaquez
Kristine Johnson
Aaron Kowalski
Marie McConnell
Wesley Moss
Nicky Schlupe
Stan Schmidt
Sam Seaton
Peter Stirling
Peggy Weber

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
John Decker, Manager of
CPP/Forensics Unit
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

Absent: (* excused)

Jill Bonetti, Opportunity Acres
Gerrit deGelleke, American River
Speech
Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Susan Miner*, Turning Point
Robin Rhoades*, Southside Art
Center
Paul Traglio*, Capitol Autism
Services
Carole Watilo*, Progressive
Employment

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 14, 2016, in the Redwood Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Review Qualifications for Membership to the PAC; 3) Job Fair; 4) Updates; 5) Legislative Update; 6) Board Update; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Will Sanford made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 12, 2015 as submitted.

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

- Mr. Bonnet shared that Governor Brown released the proposed 2016-17 fiscal year's (FY's) State Budget last Thursday. There is some additional funding for the regional center statewide system and the developmental centers (DCs).
 - The administration has made it clear that the DCs will be closing.
 - ACRC staff continue to develop resources and he is hopeful that we may soon be able to announce new options in dental services for our clients, especially for our most complicated clients.
 - The Governor proposes funding in the budget for caseload ratios to focus on the Medicaid Waiver dollars that come into the state. Mr. Bonnet is hopeful that ACRC may be able to hire more Service Coordinators (SC) in the next budget year.
 - The final revision in May often is better than the January draft.
- Secretary of California's Health & Human Services Agency, Diana Dooley, and the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') Acting Director, Michael Wilkening, invited a small group of individuals to come speak with them about the qualities they would like to see in the next Director of DDS. Much of the meeting focused on discussing funding for the regional center system. Secretary Dooley and Mr. Wilkening made it perfectly clear that they did not and would not support the "10 for 10". Instead, they asked for assistance in proposing targeted increases if there is money from the Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax. The proposed budget includes funding for an Alternative Residential Model (ARM) rate based on a four-bed residential model for Community Care Facilities. The group also discussed the overall view of regional centers; taking into account what has happened with some Boards of Directors across the state.
- There continues to be differences in service utilization for our clients based on language and ethnicity. One of the questions that keeps coming up is the difference between what is authorized and what is being used. There will likely continue to be cultural differences regarding certain services.

- A concern was expressed by some Independent Living Services (ILS) providers that ACRC was requiring monthly reports. Mr. Bonnet clarified that the agency will be requiring only semi-annual reports moving forward, with an understanding that the SCs would like monthly contact with the provider.
 - He will clarify the requirements for Supported Living Services (SLS).
- Mr. Bonnet mentioned that he has been in contact with Barbara Brent, Director of State Policy for National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS). He reached out to her in hopes of hosting a presentation for providers about the new Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rules in early 2016, but it looks like it might be a little later in the year.

2. **Review Qualifications for Membership to the PAC**

- Mr. Sanford shared that we had an interesting issue come up recently and he wanted to clarify that anyone applying for the PAC must be a vendor of ACRC.
- The ACRC Vendor number will be added to the PAC application.
- It was clarified that the agency is the member of the PAC, not the individual.
- The PAC Outreach Sub-Committee makes sure that a diverse collection of services, age ranges, and counties served are represented on this committee.

3. **Job Fair**

- In November, this committee discussed holding a Job Fair Prep Meeting on December 3rd. Only one PAC member showed up, along with two other providers and Ryan Easterly with MySupport. Mr. Easterly traveled from the bay area to come and assist with the planning.
- Ms. Brandon explained that the job fair would be specific to our industry. Mr. Moss shared that there is a possibility that one worker could possibly pick up multiple shifts with different providers.
- A sub-committee will be formed to discuss this issue further.
 - Volunteers include: Jacquie Dillard-Foss, Eleni Gialoyrakes, Michelle Ramirez, Nicky Schlupe, Stan Schmidt & Peter Stirling
 - The group will meet to discuss who might Chair the sub-committee.

4. **Updates:**

- Self-Determination Program
 - The Self-Determination waiver was not approved. The letter from CMS has roughly 185 questions that need to be sorted through. This program is "off the clock". DDS will develop the

answers and then it will be back "on the clock". Many items may require changes to our regulations.

- The Self-Determination group at the State Level is meeting on Wednesday, February 10th.
 - Regional centers' initial trainings will be completed by March 31st. The trainings, in a modular format, are being worked on.
 - The Autism Society of Los Angeles is holding their "It's a New Day. It's a New Life" Conference on Thursday & Friday, February 18th & 19th.
- CMS Rules/HCBS Waiver Settings
 - As of today, no state has received approval of their transition plan. The State of California has received their plan back with several items in question.
 - The Adult-Day Health Centers Waiver came back and needs an accelerated timeframe.
 - There is some money (\$15 million) in the proposed budget for transition, which will help the State prioritize services.
 - DS (Disability Services) Taskforce 2.0
 - No meetings have been scheduled.

5. **Legislative Update**

- Mr. Sanford shared we are now in the final year of a two-year session. New bills will soon be introduced.
- Two bills have been proposed related to the 10%.
- Once the legislature comes to a deal regarding the MCO tax, there will be rapid hearings regarding it.
- It is interesting listening to the legislative analyst's office discuss the possible \$2 tax on a pack of cigarettes – they believe this might create a black market.
- The Lanterman Coalition is still pushing for the "10 for 10".
- Mr. Sanford encouraged everyone to stay connected to your local legislators to make sure they know who we are.
- Mr. Bonnet shared that he believes a key issue is trying to convince the administration to put money into programs that may not exist in their same forms once the new CMS Rules are enforced.

6. **Board Update**

- Ms. Brandon shared that she has a conflict for the next Board meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, January 28th, at 4 p.m. If anyone is interested in attending on her behalf, please contact her.

7. ***Announcements/Comments***

- National Core Indicator (NCI) Surveys are being sent out to families who have a client between three and 18 years old, living at home and receiving at least one service from the regional center. DDS is encouraging everyone who receives a survey to complete it.
- Providers are asking ACRC to start up the quarterly vendor forums again. Mr. Bonnet will follow-up on this.
- Ms. Ramirez shared that On My Own is sponsoring a "Benefits and Employment in 2016" workshop with Michael Walling. There are still some spots available if anyone is interested.
- Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC's Board of Directors lost one of our members in early December – Jon Nelson passed away. He was an inspiration to many and will be greatly missed.
- UCP of Greater Sacramento, along with other providers, attended the SDC Opportunities Fair on Friday, January 8th.
- ACRC is holding a Respite Vendor Forum on Tuesday, January 19th, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Sacramento office.
- DDS decided to implement the 5.82% increase for the new overtime law on December 1, 2015 instead of February 1st.
- Mr. Decker shared that ACRC held a Residential Vendor Forum this week. ACRC will begin to distribute some Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for residential facilities. Additionally, the Community Placement Plan (CPP) Unit has agreed to several start-up contracts. A RFP Orientation is scheduled for Monday, February 29th.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, February 11, 2016**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet