

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 9, 2025
Minutes

Present:

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

Michael Hayes Sr.
Priscilla Holmes
Erica Horn
Dawn Horwath
Hanif Khan
Jessica Knuth
Jay Kolvoord
John Joseph
Letty Leon
Michael Lyman
Collen Meyers
Lois Orcutt
Michelle Ramirez, CBEM
Agnes Ranit
Shawn Reynolds
Jen Roney
HC Samala
Chuks Squadron
Cynthia Teel
Genie Tinsley
Jennifer Todd
Patricia Vann-Striplin
Jasmine Vollenweider
Stephen Young
Tannith Young

Absent: (* excused)

Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services

Visitors

Sheila Abrams
Basel Al-kadri
Jody Bailey
Stephanie Berberich
Mirela Bere
Taylor Berry
Allan Bravo
Nora Cancino
Lisa Cappellari
Christa Coats
Meddie Cueva
Silvia Diaz
Bill Duncan
Tony Duplan
Melissa Fernandez
Maureen Fitzgerald
Elizabeth Freeman
Alicia Garcia
Angel Garcia
Gizelle Garcia
Margarita Garcia
Stephanie Gordon

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Operating Officer
Scott Barr, Quality Assurance &
Compliance Manager
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client
Services
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Michelle Duchene, Community
Services & Supports Manager
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Genevieve Hill, Controller
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Carly Moorman, Client Employment
Specialist
Helen Neri, Community Services &
Supports Manager
Jason Scantlebury, LEAD Community
Services Specialist
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss: 1) Board Report; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 4) System Reform and Legislative Updates; 5) PAC Committee Reports; and 6) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 14, 2024, as submitted.

1. Board Report

- Mr. Broadbent shared that the Board met on November 21st and received presentations on the Performance Contract's 2023 End of Year Report and the National Core Indicators (NCI).
- The Board approved their 2025 Board Training Plan, along with the Delegated Conservatorship Policy and the revised Resource Development Policy.
- Ms. Banales shared data points from the third quarter of ACRC's Client and Family Survey.

2. Executive Director's Report

- Ms. Banales noted it is delightful to see the room full, although we will always have the virtual option – Happy New Year!
- With the fires that are active in Southern California, ACRC has ten clients that have been affected. A few years ago, regional centers were funded an Emergency Response Coordinator, and they are applying their training throughout these fire events.
- Mr. Ahmad introduced Genevieve Hill, who has joined ACRC as the agency's Controller. As some of you may know, Aiko Blancaflor joined Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) in December as their Chief Financial Officer.
- As ACRC prepares for our main office's upcoming move, we will have furniture available in late March for any service provider who may be interested. More information will be forthcoming.
- Mr. Decker noted that ACRC's Community Services and Supports (CSS) Department provides weekly updates during "Coffee with Community Services" on the rate reform. ACRC staff met with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) yesterday and as of this morning, we do not have possession of all of the service provider's workbooks. Without these, we cannot complete the rate reform update process.
 - Mr. Decker guided everyone on how to access information on the rate reform on DDS' website. He encouraged everyone to view the PowerPoint presentations and watch the meeting recording posted on their website, as well, so that they remain informed as much as possible.

- As ACRC staff attend ongoing meetings with the department, we find that they are not willing to go past what is written in the Directives.
- Under the "Complete Rate Models by Regional Center, the "Rate Only" information bullet shows a summary of the benchmarks and "90% of Full Rate."
- DDS' Provider Directory was last updated on January 2nd.
 - A question was asked about what the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) will do for those providers who will receive 100% of their rate.
 - Ms. Moorman will contact DOR and ACRC staff will update providers at an upcoming "Coffee with Community Services."
 - ACRC is still working on the hold-harmless clause for transportation providers which took effect on January 1st.
 - If, in the past, a provider was miscategorized, the department has not made any indication that the provider would be required to reimburse the regional center.
 - ACRC continues to advocate for service providers and we remain hopeful that we will have more information to share next week.
 - Transportation providers continue to share their concerns with the department.
 - DDS is providing weekly updates.
- Ms. Eller provided an update on the Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) projects that ACRC was awarded start-up funding for in the 2024-25 fiscal year (FY).
 - Proposals are due by January 22nd, at 3 p.m.
 - Any questions can be directed to Ms. Eller at jeller@altaregional.org or rfp@altaregional.org.
- Ms. Houston shared that ACRC partnered with On My Own and hosted a Dental Clinic on November 21st, where 14 ACRC clients received services, such as fluoride treatments, X-rays, and cleanings from two Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice (RDHAPs). The next day, November 22nd, ACRC staff attended a one-hour tour at the newly opened UOP Pacific Health Care Collaborative Clinic in Oak Park. They are in the early stages of supporting ACRC clients at these facilities, which include 30 dental operatories.
- On December 10th, ACRC hosted another successful Microenterprise Fair, where 55 clients were able to showcase their talents. We remain committed to providing an environment where clients are able to practice selling their crafts and learn how to price their merchandise, as well as how much to bring to fairs in their community.

3. **ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates**

- Community Care Licensing (CCL) Regulations Discussion
 - Stephenie Doub, CCL's Regional Manager, will be attending the February PAC meeting.

- ACRC hosted rate reform vendor forums throughout November and December.
 - Ms. Dyba expressed appreciation to ACRC, who is the most communicative regional center on this issue.

4. ***System Reform and Legislative Updates (Capitol Coalition, CCLN, CDSA, CRA, PAVE, Master Plan Workgroup, & Service Provider Coalition Group)***

- Capitol Coalition
 - The group is meeting after the PAC meeting today at ACRC.
 - Mr. Broadbent and Ms. Croom have been named Officers.
 - The group is starting to draft their initiatives for 2025.
 - If anyone is interested in joining this group, please email Ms. Dyba.
- CDSA
 - Within the next two weeks, the California Disabilities Services Association (CDSA) will start their public policy planning.
- CRA
 - The California Respite Association (CRA) has been meeting with DDS to discuss mileage and the hold harmless clause.
 - ACRC has received guidance from the department on this.
 - DDS has announced that they are exploring the option of creating a supplemental mileage rate that can be added to a Purchase of Service (POS).
- PAVE
 - Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE) has rescheduled their meetings for 2025.
- Master Plan Workgroup
 - This workgroup was scheduled to meet in Los Angeles on Tuesday.
 - Mr. Kolvoord is a member of Workgroup #5 and noted that the transportation issue is not being discussed. There is a lot of family input, but not as much from vendors. He encouraged providers to join in on these discussions.
- Transportation
 - Transportation providers continue to meet with the department.
 - Mr. Ciampa noted that the hold-harmless clauses are critical because the department does not have sufficient data on this issue.
 - It appears that this will need to be addressed during the budget process.
- CA Policy Center
 - On February 5th, "Housing for All: Best Practices in IDD Housing Development" will be held at Meristem. This all-day event will have presentations about housing access.

- Members of the Association of Regional Center Agencies – Client Advisory Committee (ARCA-CAC) will be attending to talk about issues that they have experienced.
- Registration is required for this free event.

5. **PAC Committee Reports**

- Vendor Relations Committee
 - Mr. Broadbent has had ongoing conversations with Ms. Bloom and Ms. Johnson since the November meeting.
 - The group will be reviewing their answers at the next meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, January 27th, at 1 p.m.
- Communication & Outreach Committee
 - This committee is responsible for vetting new PAC applicants. Since Jacquie Foss' retirement, Jay Kolvoord, Strategies to Empower People's (STEP's) Chief Executive Officer, has submitted his application for PAC membership.
 - Mr. Kolvoord provided a brief overview of services that STEP offers to clients. He also noted that he has worked in this service system for over 30 years. Mr. Kolvoord believes he would bring a broad depth to PAC discussions.

Without objection, Andrea Croom made the motion to approve Jay Kolvoord's membership to the PAC.

- Due to time commitments, Mr. Ciampa would like to have a Co-Chair for this committee – Michelle Ramirez volunteered.
- Ms. Dyba reminded PAC members that they must sit on at least one of these standing committees.

6. **Announcements/Comments**

- Although Jacquie Foss "retired", she still is actively working to advocate for clients. Ms. Dyba will coordinate with Mr. Kolvoord about some way for the PAC to recognize her for all of the years of service.
- Ms. Banales noted that Governor Newsom is due to release his preliminary 2025-26 fiscal year (FY) budget tomorrow, January 10th. With the fires, there may be some additional funding issues. The legislative season is ready to begin.
- Futures Explored is hosting a "Trivia Night" on Friday, January 31st, from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person.
 - Ms. Dyba will email the flyer out to everyone.
- Please send any suggested agenda items to Ms. Dyba for the February meeting.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 13, 2025**. The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales