

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 12, 2017
Minutes

Present:

Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,
Chair
Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Becky Brubaker*, EGACT
Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Robin Rhoades*, Southside Art
Center
Will Sanford*, Futures Explored
Joy Scott*, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services

Visitors:

James Astorga
Sandy Bishop
Candice Bright
Andrea Croom
Lindsey Dyba
Maureen Fitzgerald
Joseph Hernandez
Joe Jaquez
Elizabeth Johnson
Jessica Knuth
Jennifer Marchant
Fred Patawaran
Lou Patawaran
Agnes Ranit
Nicky Schluep

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating
Officer
John Decker, Manager of
CPP/Forensics Unit
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community Services
David Lopez, Client Advocate
Jean Onesi, Manager of
Community Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:33 a.m. on Thursday, October 12, 2017, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments; 3) ACRC RFP Update/Community Needs; 4) PAC Priorities; 5) Outreach Committee – Nomination for New Membership; 6) Legislative Update; 7) Board Update; 8) New or Emerging

Community Needs; and 9) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

****change in agenda was noted***

1. *Executive Director's Report*

- With the wildfires burning across the State of California, Mr. Bonnet realizes that the clients at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) are not the only individuals that are affected. The fire burned down some buildings on the SDC campus on Monday. Clients were evacuated to a middle school and the veteran's hall. Yesterday, both evacuation sites were evacuated to the Dixon May Fair. Clients started arriving at about 6 p.m. last night. Mr. Bonnet and Mr. Decker were there to assist as the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), SDC and North Bay Regional Center (NBRC) staff, as well as other volunteers, set up beds for over 200 individuals. By midnight, everyone was fed and in a bed. It was controlled/organized chaos. The plan is to have everyone stay there for up to two weeks. What we are hoping is that this will be the last stop for some of our folks. ACRC staff have been working with DDS and Community Care Licensing (CCL) to make sure that the clients are safe. It is our expectation that people will start moving into their permanent homes soon. Mr. Bonnet is encouraged to see everyone working together. There are security concerns, but police officers have been assigned to this location around the clock.
 - If you are interested in assisting, preferably at night, please contact John Decker at jdecker@altaregional.org and he will get you in touch with the appropriate people.
- Mr. Tiedemann shared that ACRC had 100% completion of the ABX2-1 survey.
 - Mr. Bonnet expressed his appreciation to everyone who assisted with this process.
- Today and tomorrow, ACRC is hosting the Lanterman Housing Alliance as they work to develop a plan for affordable housing across the state. This remains an issue for our clients. Mr. Bonnet believes that the homes that we are developing for the individuals moving out of the DCs is a step in the right direction.
- ACRC also has some fires in our catchment area that are affecting our clients and families.
- ACRC's Community Services & Supports (CSS) Strategic Plan will be completed soon. Staff are collecting data on the needs of our clients throughout our catchment area. Mr. Tiedemann shared that staff will be asking for input from service providers in January/February on next year.

- Ms. Dupree shared that input will be gathered during break-out sessions at the vendor forums.
- The statewide quarterly cap on respite hours for clients who live at home with their family will be officially eliminated effective January 1, 2018. Mr. Bonnet shared that with the agency's current policy, staff already had the ability to make an exception based on need.
 - Staff reviewed our current Respite Policy with DDS and they noted that we are already in compliance with the updated law.
- ACRC hosted a two-day training on the Self-Determination Program (DSP) at the beginning of the month. The rules and restrictions that are attached to this program make it appear that purchased services have to be billable to the federal government.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of September 14, 2017 as submitted.

2. Vendor Forum Update & Liaison Assignments

- Adult Day & Employment
 - A representative from DDS came and spoke to the group about competitive integrated employment (CIE) and paid internship placements. The department stated that they might be able to accept a letter from the employer for the paid internship programs; regional centers will need to have some formal documentation to back-up payments.
 - The group had a discussion about when service providers suspend a client from a program. Providers need to schedule a Planning Team Meeting within three days; they must show due diligence. Also, the suspension should not be a surprise to the team.
- Behavior Intervention Services (BIS)
 - The group discussed the issues that providers are having with co-insurance reimbursements. More information is needed from California's Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).
 - Providers talked about their waiting lists; for afternoon services, most providers have a wait of six to twelve months. If families want services in the morning, most providers seem to be able to fulfill the client's/family's need.
- The Homemaker and Independent Living Services (ILS) vendor forums are being rescheduled. Supported Living Services (SLS) was rescheduled to October 16th.
- ACRC staff are dependent on service providers for agenda items; we want to make these forums productive.

- Mr. Ciampa suggested having CSS staff reach out to the PAC liaison(s)/provider volunteer from the list to assist with this process.
- Ms. Ramirez has been in contact with Austin Taylor, ACRC's Client Advisory Committee's (CAC's) Chair. They spoke about how the two advisory committees can collaborate on different things, so she would like to suggest that a PAC member attend the CAC meetings on a regular basis and then bring information back to this group.
 - Sandy Bishop volunteered; Jessica Knuth will be the alternate. Mr. Ciampa will also attend when possible.
 - Mr. Bonnet shared that he and Mr. Decker are working with the CAC on an "Adopt-a-Friend" program, which would pair CAC members with individuals who have moved out of a DC.

3. **ACRC RFP Update/Community Needs**

- Mr. Decker shared this year's approved Community Placement Plan (CPP) Request for Proposals (RFPs) were received from the department last week. ACRC proposed nine projects and DDS agreed to fund three community-based projects.
 - An Institute for Mental Disease (IMD)/crisis home – ACRC already has two in process; one in Orangevale and the other in Shingle Springs (both should be taking clients by March 2018). This addition home will be developed with \$1.5 million in start-up funding.
 - An advanced behavioral support home for children – ACRC just opened four children's homes, which allowed us to get most of our young clients out of hospital emergency rooms. This additional home will focus on the individual child's needs.
 - Mr. Decker noted that since it's a children's home, administrators usually have a hard time finding staff, since the clients move out once they reach 18 years of age.
 - A competency trainer – a lot of times, our clients have to stay in jail. With this trainer, we will be able to move our clients through our criminal justice system quicker. This is a necessary process which regional centers are charged with through the Lanterman Act; \$50,000 in start-up funding.
- ACRC staff explained details on how a service provider pays for a lease on these new properties. The mortgage is held by a non-profit organization (NPO) and the service providers pay rent. Costs to fix damages to the property are rolled into their rates. After the mortgage is paid off, the NPO would be able to produce more housing opportunities for the developmentally disabled population with the lease payments that will continue to come in.

4. **PAC Priorities**

- Update on Roommate Database
 - Mr. Tiedemann shared that the roommate database was put into place about four years ago. The data shows that nine clients were entered into the database within the last year. The idea is to match up clients based on needs. Service Coordinators (SCs) enter information into the system and then search for potential roommates for their clients. It's not being used that much, but it is available if clients are interested in it.
 - Providers shared that they have heard that some SCs don't know about this resource.
 - Mr. Bonnet and Mr. Tiedemann will speak with Alfonso Carmona, ACRC's Director of Adult & Residential Services, about this concern.
 - Suggestion to draft a list with the questions from the database written out, so that clients can fill it out and provide it to their SCs for data entry.
 - A workgroup will meet to discuss this further and to offer suggestions about how the program can be more useful to SCs and ACRC clients who would like to use it.
 - Volunteers include: Janet Brandon, Eric Ciampa and Michelle Ramirez.
- Ms. Ramirez reviewed the PAC Priorities that are noted on the bottom of today's agenda.
 - Suggestion to possibly post the vendor forum agendas/minutes on ACRC's website.
 - Moving forward, Ms. Ramirez would like to suggest putting "CSS Processes" on the November agenda. A housing representative could also be invited to speak with this group.
 - Those present would like to have a listing of who does what in CSS. The process changes frequently, so the vendorizations that were completed a few years ago are drastically different from the process that new providers are going through right now, and it will continue to change.
 - Ms. Onesi noted that providers are assigned a CSS representative that they can contact if they have any questions during the vendorization process.

5. **Outreach Committee – Nomination for New Membership**

- Mr. Ciampa shared that the Outreach Committee reviewed the PAC's grid and found two applicants that met the requirements for consideration for PAC membership. Jessica Knuth, with Reach Adult Development, and Sandy Bishop, with INALLIANCE, were invited to come and share information about their agencies.

- Jessica Knuth, originally started as an in-home behavioral tutor. She then was promoted to a Senior Level Behavioral Consultant. Ms. Knuth found REACH about three and a half years ago. For the last two years, she has served as the Vice President of Operations. REACH has six sites, all with a 1:3 ratio. Ms. Knuth shared that all of the programs are doing as much community integration as possible, to come into compliance with the new Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rules.
- Sandy Bishop is originally from Sacramento. She has worked in mental health field and relocated to Southern California to work with UCP. Ms. Bishop came back to Sacramento about two years ago to become the Executive Director of INALLIANCE. The agency is 65 years old and provides services to clients in seven counties (e.g., community employment services, ILS and SLS).

M/S/C (Paul Traglio) **To nominate Jessica Knuth to the PAC for membership, representing Reach Adult Development.**
(10 in favor)

M/S/C (Yvonne Soto) **To nominate Sandy Bishop to the PAC for membership, representing INALLIANCE.** (10 in favor)

- Once approved by ACRC's Board of Directors, new members will be assigned a mentor if they have any questions.
- Ms. Ramirez shared that Dawn Montgomery, with HOPE Consulting, has resigned.

6. **Legislative Update**

- Two bills are on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature:
 - AB 1607 (Frazier) Developmental services: integrated competitive employment.
 - AB 434 (Baker) State Web accessibility: standard and reports.
- AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) Counties: contracts for personal services. This bill was held in the Senate Rules Committee – dead for 2017.
- AB 1170 (Cooley) Developmental disabilities: competitive integrated employment ombudsperson. This is now a two-year bill.

7. **Board Update**

- Mr. Ciampa attended the last Board training/meeting which was held on Thursday, September 28th, in South Lake Tahoe.
 - The Board held a "Meet and Greet" the first evening. Members learned about the challenges that clients and families may face in rural communities, which set the stage for our training/meeting.

- Board members received valuable training on Robert's Rules of Order and regional center financials.
- At the Board meeting, the group discussed the \$11 million in disparity funding that is in DDS' current budget. The deadline for submitting proposals is November 6th; this funding is now open to community-based organizations, as well as regional centers.
- ACRC staff also shared information about the agency's outreach efforts.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26th.

8. ***New or Emerging Community Needs***

- The ongoing staffing crisis and the minimum wage were brought up at the last meeting.
 - The minimum wage will also affect clients who have jobs.
- DSP Training

9. ***Announcements/Comments***

- As mentioned at the last meeting, the California Disability Services Association (CDSA) Capitol Caucus is holding an open meeting on November 9th, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at Mimi's Café on Alta Arden. Please RSVP by October 31st, if you would like to come.
- CSS staff sent out information on ACRE Trainings on Discovery and Customized Employment Development that will be held January 9th – 11th, and 23rd – 24th. These trainings are available for free due to a grant from the State Council and will focus on training staff on Discovery and testing the fidelity of the model.
- Mr. Ciampa shared that UCP had a grand opening celebration for their new Odyssey Adult Program in Rancho Cordova last week.
- Mr. Ciampa has been asked to put together a summary of DDS and regional center audit requirements. He is developing a short checklist, so if anyone has any resources to share, please forward them to him.
- The November PAC agenda will include:
 - Collaboration discussion with Austin Taylor, Chair of ACRC's CAC
 - Provider presentations – Janet Brandon and Becky Brubaker
 - Housing update from the Lanterman Housing Alliance

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, November 9, 2017**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet