

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 13, 2016
Minutes

Present:

Eric Ciampa, UCP of
Sacramento, Inc., Chair
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates, Co-Chair & Design.
Dir.
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION
Gerrit deGelleke, American River
Speech
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
Will Sanford, Futures Explored
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Dawn Montgomery*, HOPE
Consulting
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services

Visitors:

Sandy Bishop
Andrea Croom
Adriene Gaudet
Daina Glasson
Rachel Hamilton
Joe Hernandez
Joe Jaquez
Jessica Knuth
Michelle Nobile
Fred Patawaran
Lou Patawaran
Agnes Ranit
Sean Stone

Staff:

Alfonso Carmona, Director of Adult
& Residential Services
John Decker, Manager of
CPP/Forensics Unit
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday, October 13, 2016, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Director's Report; 2) Vendor Forum Update; 3) Training Resource – Conversations that Matter; 4) Sub-Committee Updates; 5) Updates; 6) Legislative Update; 7) Board Update; and 8) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Eric Ciampa made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of September 8, 2016 as submitted.

**Mr. Ciampa reminded everyone to define/explain acronyms and feel free to ask questions throughout the meeting*

1. **Director's Report**

- Mr. Carmona explained that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) requires that regional centers complete a Performance Contract each year. He reviewed the information for the 2017 Performance Contract with those present; the planned activities explain how ACRC will meet the measures outlined in the contract.
 - The group discussed having ACRC gather our data regarding the four items that have been "under development" for years. We can then compare this information over the years even if the department does not develop a measurement methodology for them.
 - ACRC's Community Services Department could possibly capture this information and provide a report to track trends on a yearly basis.
 - Ms. Brandon will share the "Quarterly Dashboard Indicators" that are provided to the Board with this committee.
 - ACRC drafted a "Locally Developed Policy" which has been added to the Performance Contract – "Increase awareness of the cultural diversity and improve services for all ethnic groups served by ACRC using Purchase of Service data relating to age, race, language, and disability, to measure outcomes."
 - Last month, ACRC staff sent in a proposal to DDS regarding special grant funding to assist with this.
 - A suggestion was made to have ACRC's clinical staff assist Service Coordinators (SCs) to make sure that CDERs are completed correctly, especially for medically fragile clients.
 - Mr. Carmona reported that this is current practice.
- ACRC's **LA50** Celebration will be moved indoors on Saturday, October 15th, due to the weather. We expect a wonderful turnout for this event.

2. **Vendor Forum Update**

- With the holidays coming up, vendor forums will resume in January 2017. All dates are posted on the agency's website.
- Ms. Dupree shared that the forums have been well attended and the dialogue has been helpful for everyone involved.

- An ad-hoc committee for day programs has been formed to take a look at the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) rules. There was a good turnout for the drop-in workshop that was held on September 19th. ACRC has received 60 proposals for the special transition funding. This just shows how important it is to provide assistance to our service providers.
 - If anyone has any suggestions for future modules, please contact Ms. Dupree and Mr. Ciampa.
 - Looking forward, we need to develop a strategy to provide ongoing trainings for our service providers.
 - The PAC may be able to provide guidance with the self-assessment surveys.
 - HCBS issues need to stay on the vendor forum agendas so that everyone knows what is going on.

3. **Training Resource – Conversations that Matter**

- Committee will have a larger discussion on this topic in November.

4. **Sub-Committee Updates:**

- Challenging Needs
 - Mr. Ciampa believes this will be an ongoing conversation; we will always have individuals with unique and challenging needs.
 - Mr. Decker would appreciate input from service providers when ACRC is developing our Community Placement Plans (CPPs).
 - A suggestion was made for this sub-committee to meet as needed [e.g., when ACRC's Community Services Department begins to draft Requests for Proposals (RFPs), etc.].
 - If we are going to be a proactive regional center, what is the five-year plan? What is the resolution? We need to think long-term. Clients are moving from program to program (shifting clients) and the problem is not being addressed.
 - As a PAC, what mechanism do we have to fix the problem? It's hard to know how to take these challenges and know what role we play at the local and State levels to make changes.
 - Vendor forums are discussing specific issues with the HCBS rule; the more specific to the setting is ideal. The service could change from one meeting to the next; one month Independent Living Services (ILS), then the next Supported Living Services (SLS), and so on...
 - The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) has been instrumental in helping with local issues because they can speak to what is happening across the state. A suggestion was made to have them take on this issue as a legislative item. We need to tie this back into the HCBS rules.

- The "Health & Safety Waiver" may be a good start in this conversation.
- The goal should be to have a projected outcome if these meetings are to resume.
 - Ms. Rhoades and Ms. Dupree will Co-Chair this sub-committee.
 - Volunteers include: Sandy Bishop, Eric Ciampa, Andrea Croom, Jacquie Dillard-Foss, Rachel Hamilton, Jessica Knuth, Michelle Ramirez and Yvonne Soto
 - A meeting will be scheduled; DDS and ARCA will be invited.

**Mr. Traglio left the meeting*

- **Mr. Ciampa will make a recommendation to Tony Anderson in the next monthly conference call with the PAC Chairs from across the state.**

M/S/C (Will Sanford) **To recommend to ACRC's Board of Directors, in their discussions with ARCA, to have their representative request that when they take legislative action on items for the year, to include the critical topic of supporting individuals with challenging behaviors, including appropriate staff wages, benefits and training.**
(15 in favor)

- Cultural Diversity
 - Based on the input from last month's public forum, ACRC wrote a proposal, which was submitted to DDS for consideration.
- Staff Crisis in the Community
 - Ms. Watilo will be scheduling another meeting.

5. **Updates:**

- Self-Determination Program
 - This three-year pilot project may roll-out in late spring/early summer of next year.
- CMS Rules/HCBS Waiver Settings
 - The HCBS Waiver Advisory Group met with DDS on October 5th. The department is having regular conversations with the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS). They have answered all but 30 questions, out of the 185. After the waiver is completed, DDS will need to post it on their website to gather public comments

for 30 days prior to resubmitting it back to the federal government.

- The challenge is that anyone purchasing services out in the community will need to produce a self-assessment.
 - It's important to note that out-of-home respite for 30-days or less does not have to meet the HCBS settings rule.
 - The provider self-assessments deadline was extended just slightly. Providers need to be in compliance by 2019.
 - CMS has an aggressive plan to approve all of the state's transition plans by the end of this year.
- DS (Disability Services) Taskforce 2.0
 - Subgroups are meeting every other month.
 - The next larger meeting will take place soon, possibly January 2017.

6. **Legislative Update**

- Hopefully everyone is encouraging our clients to register and vote. Many counties are pushing for early voting.
- Proposition 55, the extension of tax on high earners, has the potential to impact our statewide service system. If it doesn't pass, there will be a huge financial hole (\$4 billion).
- It is critical that service providers understand where their local legislators stand on issues that affect our service system.

7. **Board Update**

- Ms. Brandon attended the last Board meeting and Retreat which was held on Thursday, September 22nd, in Grass Valley.
 - The dinner on Wednesday evening provided bonding time for Board members.
 - The Board discussed slightly changing ACRC's Mission and Vision statements.
 - ACRC's Community Services Department shared information about resource development, the vendorization process and quality assurance.
 - Austin Taylor gave a presentation on the Client Advisory Committee (CAC), and Ms. Brandon provided one on the PAC.
 - The group had a lengthy interactive presentation on Robert's Rules of Order.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27th.
- Ms. Brandon is currently serving on the Cultural Diversity Sub-Committee, and the recruitment and Board communication workgroups for the Board.

8. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Mr. Decker shared information from DDS' *SafetyNet* on their current health campaign for flu shots.
- Ms. Ramirez shared that *On My Own* just became certified to provide Medication Management Training.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, November 10, 2016**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet