

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 14, 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.
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Joe Hernandez, Aveanna
Healthcare Services
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult
Development
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Adam Ruggles, Medstar LLC
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Paul Traglio, Kadiant
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Monique Migdol, Tahoe
Community Integrations
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Joy Scott*, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite
Services

Visitors

Vikie Black
Garrett Broadbent
Breeanne Burris
Viridiana Cervantes
Maureen Fitzgerald
Denise Flennoy
Braydon Holtzinger
Jennifer Jones
Susana Magana
Peter Mendoza
Susan Miner
Christa McClure
Michelle Ramirez
Robin Rhoades
Jen Roney
Nicky Schlupe
Stan Schmidt
Kathleen Short
Tiffany Spiecker
Geneva Steward
Hannah Thompson
Jasmine Vollenweider
Katherine Wallen

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Jennifer Bloom, Associate Client Services
Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
DeLayna Eskridge-Brown, Service Coordinator
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake & Clinical
Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Herman Kothe, Training Manager
David Lopez, Client Advocate
Helen Neri, Cultural Diversity Specialist
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community
Services
Andy Ponce, Specialized Services Manager
Olivia Procida, Manager of Community
Services
Wyatt Stroman, Service Coordinator
Johnny Xiong, Associate Client
Services Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:33 a.m. on Thursday, October 14, 2021, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Board Update; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Performance Contract 2021 Review & 2022 Public Input; 4) SDAC Ad-Hoc; 5) CA Budget and Legislative Update; 6) COVID-19 Impact Discussion; 7) PAC Committees & Reports; and 8) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Andrea Croom made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of September 9, 2021 as submitted.

1. **Board Update**

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the Board Retreat/Training/Meeting was held on September 23rd.
 - During the training, the Board took the first steps to committing to the strategic planning process. They began to narrow down their focus areas.
 - At the Board meeting, the agency's revised bylaws were approved. Mr. Decker also gave a presentation about the new housing projects that are on the horizon.

2. **Executive Director's Report**

- Ms. Banales noted that there will be opportunities for the PAC to provide input to the Board's strategic planning process. Ms. Ramirez sits on the Board's Strategic Planning Committee, as well.
 - Mr. Ciampa, Ms. Ramirez and Ms. Banales will meet to discuss plans for moving forward once the ACRC Board determines points of engagement.
- With the Public Health Order (PHO) and the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') Directive that were released on September 28th, every industry in the workforce is being affected. Mr. Ahmad shared with Ms. Banales that over four million people left their jobs this past month. We are going to have to make hard decisions, while we leverage where we are at with our workforce. Every employer must hold proof at their jobsite in order to avoid a \$14,000 per incident/per day fee. Like service providers, ACRC does not have the resources for this. Ms. Banales knows that Mr. Decker speaks with service providers every week at Friday's "Coffee with Community Services". If you haven't already done so, please feel free to join in on these discussions.
 - On October 25th, a survey will be sent out to all service providers asking them – "Come December 1st, are you able to accept new referrals?"
 - Mr. Decker explained that more surveys are being released because regional centers are moving to data driven decision making.

- Ms. Banales expressed appreciation for all of the collaboration amongst service providers and regional center staff.

3. **Performance Contract 2021 Review & 2022 Public Input**

- Mr. Decker and Ms. Johnson reviewed the Public Policy Measures and the Planned Activities for the 2021 Performance Contract with DDS.
 - Mr. Ciampa has reached out to the Chairs of the PAC's Standing Committees and asked them to meet and review the contract. Each group will offer at least one idea or comment by November 5th.
 - We are hoping for some new, fresh ideas for our planned activities for the 2022 Performance Contract.
 - If there is something else that you would like to see in addition to the planned activities, please let us know by emailing Ms. West.
 - Regarding the measures on service access and diversity, these come directly from our agency's Purchase of Services (POS) data and from input received at our Diversity Meetings. ACRC must keep the measures that were chosen previously. We will have the opportunity to change or add to them beginning in 2022.
 - It was noted that the measures for employment are metrics-based.

4. **SDAC Ad-Hoc**

- Ms. Burris and Ms. Halecky shared that they are working with the Self-Determination Advisory Committee's (SDAC's) Ad-Hoc Committee to develop a presentation so assist service providers who are interested in learning more about the Self-Determination Program (SDP). There will be three training opportunities; each one tailored to specific service codes, although providers are not limited to attending a specific date.
 - The flyer will be sent to Mr. Ciampa and Ms. West, who will then forward to PAC meeting participants. Registration is required.
 - Residential Providers – Tuesday, November 2nd, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
 - Non-residential Adult Services – Tuesday, November 2nd, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.
 - Children's Services/Make-up Session – Tuesday, November 16th, 3 to 4:30 p.m.
- The Ad-Hoc Committee is also working on a PowerPoint presentation to assist service providers who will have clients served in SDP. The hope is that it will provide ideas on how to revamp services so that clients can be served under their own plan.

5. **CA Budget and Legislative Update (ARCA, CDSA, CCLN, DS Taskforce, Lanterman Coalition)**

- In December/January, the PAC will be reviewing the Governor's proposed budget for the next fiscal year (FY).

6. **COVID-19 Impact Discussion**

- Ms. Banales noted that July 1st was the first that the Delta variant hit our community. We know that vaccines make a difference and we continue to try to balance mandates, while honoring personal choice. As of July 6th, we have reported the following:
 - 244 clients testing positive, with five deaths; some clients have been hospitalized
 - 92 direct support professionals (DSPs) testing positive, with one death
 - 15 ACRC staff testing positive, with two deaths
- ACRC will be holding booster clinics for our staff, while continuing to offer support to our community. We have partnered with Alert Home Health Care, who will assist care homes with booster shots, as well.
- Mr. Decker shared that more information is still coming in regarding the Moderna booster and approval for vaccines for children should happen by the end of the month.
- The hope is that the "Coffee with Community Services" can take over these discussions and that PAC meetings can be more action focused.

7. **PAC Committees & Reports**

- Diversity & Equity
 - Ms. Brandon asked if anyone had any more input to provide on the survey. She would like the survey to be sent out to all service providers soon so that we can review the results at the November PAC meeting.
 - The purpose of the survey is to get a pulse of where the service provider community is in serving our diverse clients. We hope to develop trainings and targeted outreach with the data that is gathered.
 - Helen Neri, ACRC's Cultural Diversity Specialist, is included in these discussions.

Without objection, Mr. Ciampa made the motion to leave the survey input open for one more week, and then he and Ms. Ramirez will authorize the distribution of the survey to all service providers.

- Vendor Relations
 - Last month, Ms. Dyba reported that ACRC provided the group with a description of the role of the Community Specialist.

Providers have shared their feedback; which Mr. Decker is taking under consideration.

- This will be a great tool for new service providers. The revised draft should be available by the November PAC meeting.

8. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Mr. Ciampa and Ms. West will work to get the newly structured Standing Committee information to everyone. He will reach out to the Chairs to see if the groups meet on a regular basis.
 - Ms. Ramirez requested that she and Mr. Ciampa be included in the Standing Committee invites/email exchanges.
- By mid-December, Mr. Decker and Ms. Procida will commit to sending service providers an update on which providers are offering in-person services.
- Ms. Neri and Mr. Kothe are working on a project; ACRC received a grant and they will be documenting clients/families' thoughts in informational videos/testimonials. We are not getting the participation that we thought we would. As service providers, would you consider reaching out to the clients that you serve. We are targeting the African American, Hispanic and Asian communities. Clarification was made that these videos are not an advertisement for any particular service provider, they are looking to highlight specific service codes.
- ACRC will be releasing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for facilitation support for our Board members.
- Mr. Lopez works on various projects and some may require client input. He is available to join meetings that service providers have with the clients that they serve. This will allow him to establish relationships with more individuals so that he can broaden his list of contacts. Mr. Lopez is also available to provide Client's Rights Trainings for DSPs.
- The November PAC agenda will include Strategic Planning, a Housing Presentation, and the Diversity & Equity Survey data.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, November 4, 2021**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales