

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 8, 2015
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.
Gerrit deGelleke, American River
Speech
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
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)

Jill Bonetti, Opportunity Acres
Eleni Gialoyrakes*, Capital Social
Services
Susan Miner*, Turning Point
Dawn Montgomery*, HOPE
Consulting

Visitors:

Andrea Croom
Bonnie Douglas
Cynthia Guilford
Alysa Harless
Kristine Johnson
Jessica Knuth
Aaron Kowalski
Marie McConnell
LaShell Mitchell
Wesley Moss
Michelle Nobile
Agnes Ranit
Kallie Ray
Nicky Schlupe
Stan Schmidt
Sam Seaton
Kathleen Short
Kelly Weber
Paul Wurst

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
John Decker, Manager of
CPP/Forensics Unit
David Rydquist, Director of Adult &
Residential Services
Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating
Officer
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2015, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Updates; 3) Legislative Update; 4) Board Update; and 5) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Will Sanford made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of September 10, 2015 as submitted.

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

- Because the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has changed regional center's Performance Contract expectations, this committee will be reviewing ACRC's data next month. The updated contract will include disparity information. Mr. Bonnet noted that ACRC's expenditures are directly related to client's choices as documented in their Individual Program Plans (IPPs).
- The Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) closure plan was submitted on October 1st. It's clear that families want services for their loved ones on the grounds of SDC. They have retained Darrell Steinberg to provide strategic consultation on this issue. Mr. Bonnet believes this will be like no other DC closure.
 - Ms. Guilford shared that state workers are concerned about their jobs.
- Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC staff will soon be scheduling regular vendor forums again.
 - Ms. Dillard-Foss shared that the Sacramento Supported Living Services (SLS) group met yesterday and there was a lot of tension in the room. They want renewed collaboration with ACRC staff. Providers claim they don't have a regular dialogue with ACRC's Community Services Department.
 - It's a depressing time in the State of California to be a provider. Providers are concerned about staying in business with the new rules that are coming out, minimum wage, health & safety issues, etc.
 - Mr. Bonnet shared that it is stressful at the regional center too. We don't have enough staff to do the job that we are required and want to do either. He will work to ensure that these upcoming forums are collaborative and productive.
 - Providers would like a discussion when changes are made; they don't always need to be told "yes", they just want to be included in the process. It is important to keep the strong relationship between ACRC and providers that has been built over the last several years.

- The clock is ticking on the new Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rules that are coming. As mentioned at the last meeting, Mr. Bonnet shared that Barbara Brent gave an easily understood presentation at a recent California Employment Consortium for Youth (CECY) meeting and he is committed to bringing her here to do a presentation for our providers – hopefully in January 2016.
 - Mr. Sanford shared that 47 states have submitted their transition plans, but none have been approved yet.
- The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) overtime rules go into effect on October 13th. There is a non-enforcement period, but Governor Brown has informed everyone that an employer can still be sued on this issue regardless of the non-enforcement period.
 - In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) has not come out with any guidelines.
 - This should come straight as a 5.82% rate increase.
 - The Supreme Court could decide to hear the case, which could take several years.
 - This is a complicated issue for providers.
 - A recommendation was made to form a FLSA subgroup here at ACRC.
- ACRC currently has 15 open Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for services those clients coming out of the developmental centers. An orientation was held on Monday, September 28th, here at ACRC's Sacramento office. 130 people who were interested in starting up new programs attended. The state has committed significant funding for these services, and those in attendance provided excellent feedback. Mr. Decker noted that ACRC is letting people know upfront what money is attached to each RFP. He shared that Community Placement Plan (CPP) development is the richest part of our regional center system right now; ACRC has four employees specific to CPP development.
 - Concern was expressed by a committee member for individuals who reside in skilled nursing facilities. Their needs are not being fully met and there are not enough facilities available for those that need these services.

2. **Updates:**

- Self-Determination Program
 - DDS submitted their plan to the federal government last week.
 - Our local advisory committee has been meeting monthly since June.
 - Two sub-groups have been formed; orientation and independent facilitator training

- All meetings are open to the public – the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st, from 10 a.m. to noon at ACRC's Sacramento office.
- The Bay Area is holding trainings.
- The Self-Determination Program Information Video is posted on DDS' website in English and Spanish.
- The hope is that a consistent training outline can be developed so that everyone can use it across the state.
- Clients and families need to know that the selections for the three-year pilot project is not a true lottery. It is a random selection, but it will have particular qualifications.
- More information can be found on DDS' website.
- CMS Rules/HCBS Waiver Settings
 - As mentioned earlier, California has submitted their transition plan. The self-assessments have been submitted, too.
 - It's important to note that the setting is focused on the individual. Providers want to make sure they are documenting what people have tried and what they have done, especially with those individuals with significant medical needs.
 - In California, half of our clients are on the waiver, but everyone gets services regardless of federal eligibility.
- DS (Disability Services) Taskforce 2.0
 - There are no scheduled meetings at this time.

3. **Legislative Update**

- Mr. Sanford shared that the belief is that if they call the joint session back, they have a deal.
- SAVE THE DATE – "We Are Here to Speak for Justice" will be held on Thursday, December 10th, at 10 a.m. at the Sacramento Convention Center.
- The Lynn Center in the East Bay will be closing soon. This center provides Early Intervention services to over 3,000 families.
- Now is the time to get out to your local legislators and talk to them about who we are and what we do.
- Governor has a few more days to sign bills; he has signed SB 644 (Limited Examination and Appointment Program – LEAP).

4. **Board Update**

- Ms. Brandon shared that the Board held their Annual September Retreat on Thursday, September 24th. It was a wonderful day that was well received.

- The Board will now be hosting “Board Sponsored Trainings” prior to Board meetings.
- The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22nd, at 4 p.m.

5. ***Announcements/Comments***

- The PAC Outreach Sub-Committee will be submitting three new applicants for consideration in November.
- Mr. Sanford emailed the link to Tony Coelho’s speech at the Sacramento Rally; it is posted on his agency’s website.
- Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC is partnering with our local State Council’s office to award Client Recognition Awards on Thursday, November 19th, at 2 p.m.
- Mr. Decker distributed information on the NADD 32nd Annual Conference that will be held in San Francisco from November 18th to 20th.
- The next “Working with Individuals with Challenging Support Needs” Sub-Committee meeting will take place after the November meeting.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, November 12, 2015**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet