

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 14, 2024
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
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Joe Jaquez, EGACT
Christa McClure, Tri-County
Respite Care Service
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Yvonne Soto, DDSO

Absent: (* excused)

Bonnie Douglas*, Turning Point
Michelle Ramirez*, On My Own
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Carole Watilo*, Progressive
Employment

Visitors

Jody Bailey
Stephanie Berberich
Taylor Berry
Lisa Cappellari
Christa Coats
Maureen Fitzgerald
Elizabeth Freeman
Angel Garcia
Jan Haydn-Myer
Michael Hayes

Priscilla Holmes
Braydon Holtzinger
Erica Horn
Jenny Jones
Jessica Knuth
Jay Kolvoord
Leticia Leon
Ma Lynn Mosqueda
Becca Pressnell
Michelle Ramirez, CBEM
Melissa Savage
Jennifer Todd
Jasmine Vollenweider
Michelle Wild

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Michelle Duchene, Community
Services & Supports Manager
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
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
Johnny Xiong, Associate Client
Services Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 3) System Reform and Legislative Updates; 4) PAC Committee Reports; and 5) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of October 10, 2024, as submitted.

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

- Ms. Banales shared next Thursday's Board meeting will include two public meetings – the National Core Indicators (NCI) Data and the 2023 Performance Contract End of Year Report. Registration is required.
- ACRC's Santa Day 2024 will be held on Friday, December 13th, at the Mack Powell Event Center on Howe Ave. We are hopeful that this will be well attended. In addition to Santa, there will be several booths sharing holiday traditions and customs from around the world.
 - Today, ACRC is hosting a \$20 Filipino boxed lunch fundraiser. All proceeds benefit Santa Day.
- PRIDE Industries shared data from their Job Fair that was held in October. Some service providers received up to ten applicants. Over 1,000 job seekers attended.
- On December 10th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., ACRC is hosting another Microenterprise Fair. Please plan to attend and help support clients.
- ACRC's Coordinated Family Supports (CFS) pilot project has been in place for a little over two years. We currently have nine providers and one additional letter of interest. Mr. Scantlebury reminded those present that this is an incentive program; a standardized report is sent to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and in turn, the provider receives an 11% increase from the previous month's billing.
- DDS approved ACRC's Community Placement Plan (CPP)/Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) for the 2024-25 fiscal year (FY), which include the following projects: and Community Placement Plan (CPP) – ACRC will be posting Requests for Proposals (RFPs) on our agency's website.
 - Multi-Family Housing Units in West Sacramento (8)
 - Specialized Residential Facility (Adults)
 - Psychiatric Treatment Services (Center-Based)
 - Dental App
 - Dental Desensitization Services
 - Specialized Residential Facility (Children)
 - Adult Day Program (Licensed)
 - Multi-Family Housing Units in Davis (10)
 - Enhanced Behavioral Support Home (Adults)

ACRC will be posting the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to our agency's website and will hold an RFP meeting on December 12th.

- Priscilla Klassen, Project Coordinator Valor, will be sharing a special presentation at the January 17th “Coffee with Community Services.”
- ACRC is giving away the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) comic books that Tri-Counties Regional Center developed.
 - If service providers believe that they can incorporate them in any of their programs, please let us know.
- ACRC currently has some cubicles to give away to interested individuals. If any provider is interested, please email Iqbal Ahmad directly at iahmad@altaregional.org.
 - As we are preparing for our main office’s upcoming move in March 2025, we will have more furniture available. We will make announcements in advance.
- Mr. Decker shared that ACRC is revising its Resource Development Policy. It was first approved by the Board of Directors in 2010, and then was revised in 2013 and again in 2021. The proposed change to include the vendor insurance requirements goes before the Board for approval next week. He assured those present that this does not change how ACRC has done business but codifies our practices so that anyone that is interested in vendorizing with ACRC is aware of the requirements up front.
- On DDS’ home page, under the “Rate Reform” section, the department posts new directives.
 - The “Rate Reform Implementation – Special Circumstances” was released on October 30th. In this Directive, it is noted that regional centers will need to review all approved AB 637 Waivers to determine which updated service descriptions and service code and subcode combinations align with the services currently being delivered. If the services can be delivered in accordance with the rate reform’s updated service descriptions and regional centers no longer need the AB 637 waiver approval, the rate must be adjusted to the rate reform rate for that service. There are exemptions to this, as well.
 - Mr. Decker noted that ACRC may not be processing/supporting exemptions.
 - The “Rate Reform Implementation for Adaptive Skills Training and Behavioral Services” allows for bachelor’s level trainers and expands the training to include different skill sets that will assist with an individual’s communication or social function deficits.
 - ACRC staff have worked to categorize service providers in an effort for them to receive a rate increase, since some service codes have multiple rates. Regional centers must receive service provider’s signed “Rate Reform Service Acknowledgement” attestations by March 2025.
 - Regional centers will send service providers their Rate Reform Workbook.
 - Staff are actively working with DDS to make this transition as smooth as possible for providers.

- The DDS Service Provider Directory is slated to be completed by November 29th. The department is trying to get all of these pieces finalized since they are all reliant on each other. Five regional centers are supporting DDS with the Service Provider Directory. DDS' IT Department is continuing to work on the details.
 - Those present shared errors that they have noticed and how to get the revisions made by contacting the department.
 - Service providers can reach out to these emails if they have additional questions:
 - providerdirectory@altaregional.org
 - ratestudyquestions@altaregional.org
- Regional centers have not received the Transportation Directive from DDS regarding the rate methodology.
 - Mr. Ciampa believes most transportation companies will have a rate cut and this will be problematic if they cannot afford to provide services to day programs. He, along with other providers, are advocating for higher rates.
 - Mr. Decker encourages all of ACRC's transportation providers to attend the DDS meeting when it is held.
- Service providers are encouraged to advocate for themselves if they feel that their program(s) are miscategorized. DDS is recalculating rates for providers who have bundled rates. There is a hold-harmless period.
- Special Incident Reporting (SIR) impacts all service providers. There are some proposed revisions which would better define certain categories. There are also proposed reporting requirements regarding law enforcement contacts and hospital stays.

2. **ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates**

- Community Care Licensing (CCL) Regulations Discussion
 - Stephenie Doub, CCL's Regional Manager, will be attending the January PAC meeting.
- The Independent Living Services (ILS) vendor forum was held on October 15th.
 - Michael Mercado shared Deaf and Hard of Hearing resources.
 - Those present received an update on the DDS Provider Directory and CFS.
 - The Quality Assurance Unit shared an update, and the group was given information about ACRC's vacancy list.
 - They discussed holding an ILS Vendor Fair on February 4th.
 - ACRC staff shared information about emergency preparedness to-go bags and 811 Low Income Housing apartments.
- The Behavior Services and Early Start Vendor Forums were also held in October.
 - Ms. Neri shared that the groups discussed the upcoming provider rate increases.

- She noted that there are three Quality Incentive Programs (QIPs) for Early Start and two for Behavior Services.

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

- Mr. Ciampa noted that several advocacy groups are actively speaking out about the rate study implementation – get involved if you have concerns about it. If you are in a rate model that needs changing, please be aware of it.
- Items that have more of a fiscal impact might be delayed.
- Capitol Coalition
 - This group is meeting tomorrow. Please reach out to Ms. Dyba and/or Mr. Broadbent if you need more information.

4. ***PAC Committee Reports***

- Vendor Relations Committee
 - This group met last week and is updating the two communication guides.
 - They will be adding information to the Client Services Information Guide about Purchase of Services (POS) questions – what information providers get from whom.
 - They have more questions about POS. Mr. Broadbent will be reaching out for assistance.
- Communication & Outreach Committee
 - This group has not met and will be regrouping. Mr. Ciampa will be sending an email out to members to see if Fridays at 3 p.m. might work best for everyone.
 - When PAC applications are sent to Ms. West, she forwards them to Mr. Ciampa. He then contacts the applicant after making sure they have met the requirements.
 - Jay Kolvoord has sent in his application for PAC membership. Mr. Ciampa has requested that this to be placed on the January PAC agenda.

5. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Southside Unlimited is painting a mural in Auburn on Saturday at the Placer Art Store. Everyone is invited to join in the fun.
- Futures Explored is partnering with Christian Brothers to host a dance for clients on December 7th. Ms. Dyba will send the flyer to this group and will also be sharing this information at Friday's "Coffee with Community Services."
- Please send any suggested agenda items to Ms. Dyba for the January meeting.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 9, 2025**. The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales