

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 2023
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
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Joe Jaquez, EGA CT
Christa McClure, Tri-County
Respite Care Service
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Andrea Croom*, INALLIANCE
Bonnie Douglas*, Turning Point
Jacquie Foss*, STEP
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.

Visitors

Sheila Abrams
Steve Andrews
Taylor Berry
Clifton Carley
Crisel Centeno
Christa Coats
Geri Czako
Tony Duplan
Naycora Fautleroy

Maureen Fitzgerald
Sonya Fox
Angel Garcia
Robert Gellegani
Catherine Hickinbotham
Braydon Holtzinger
Dawn Horwath
Jessica Jenó
Jennifer Jones
Jessica Knuth
Leticia Leon
Dylan Nobida
Michelle Ramirez (CBEM)
Mariano Rosales
Corinne Stacey
Michelle Wild

Staff:

Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client
Services
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
Helen Neri, Community Services &
Supports Manager
Jason Scantlebury, LEAD Community
Services Specialist
Carly Shearer, Client Employment
Specialist
Faye Tait, Associate Client Services
Director
Carol Wilhelm, Client Services Manager
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 9:38 a.m. to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) SLS Enhanced Services; 3) CSS Alerts; 4) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 5) System Reform and Legislative Update; 6) PAC Goals; 7) PAC Committees & Reports; and 8) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of October 12, 2023, as submitted.

1. *Executive Director's Report*

- Mr. Decker shared that "Coffee with Community Services" will not be held tomorrow, due to the holiday. On November 3rd, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) released a Directive entitled "Trailer Bill Changes for Restored Services and New Participant-Directed Services." With this, the department has asked regional centers to review their outreach plans. ACRC's goal is to complete more direct vendorizations rather than process purchase reimbursements.
- At the November 16th Board meeting, ACRC will hold our Annual National Core Indicators (NCI) Public Meeting. This is an opportunity for us to see what areas we excelled in, as well as those that need improvement.
- The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) is hosting a "Meet & Greet" prior to their meeting next Tuesday. This event starts at 12:30 p.m.
- On October 24th, ACRC hosted the Adult & Employment Vendor Fair. This event provided an opportunity for Service Coordinators (SCs) to meet service providers.
- This past Tuesday, an additional Disability Industry Career Expo was held at Sierra College. There will be more opportunities to provide feedback to the Collaborative for future events. We appreciate all of those providers that participated in this.
- Mr. Decker attended a Housing Summit a few weeks ago, where attendees discussed plans on a way forward for the State of California. He also hosted a session at the Supported Life Institutes (SLI) Conference at the end of October entitled "Strengthening Community Housing Advocacy Through Family Partnerships."
- Mr. Decker, Mr. Ciampa and Tony Anderson, the Executive Director of Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC), were the keynote speakers at the SLI Conference and spoke about "The DSP Collaborative: 2 Regions Together Addressing the Workforce Shortage", and also had a session on "How the DSP Collaborative Website Works & Long-Term Goals of the Collaborative."

2. **SLS Enhanced Services**

- Ms. Eller and Ms. Wilhelm provided an overview of the handout entitled "Supported Living Services (SLS) vs. Enhanced SLS."
 - Enhanced SLS was originally designed to support clients transitioning out of State Developmental Centers (SDCs) and those who were at risk of SDC placement. It is now being used for clients that would have to be in a more secured setting if not for these services.
 - The service provider's program design needs to include these detailed enhancements.
- As Mr. Decker learns more about how this service is being utilized across the state, he will continue to share with the PAC.

3. **CSS Alerts**

- Ms. Duchene noted that CSS Alerts are now through email and allows SCs and Client Services Managers (CSMs) to communicate concerns internally about a specific vendor. They are not meant to circumvent Facility Liaisons in Care Settings.
- There are ten reportable events – many of these coincide with our Special Incident Reports (SIRs):
 - Delivery of Care/Service
 - Insufficient Staffing
 - Supervision
 - Staff Qualifications
 - Program Design Implementation
 - Environmental Concerns
 - Health-Related Concerns
 - Suspicious Injuries
 - Violation of Rights
 - Disease Outbreak
- It is the ACRC's Community Services & Supports (CSS) Specialists responsibility to follow through in the discovery process.

4. **ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates**

- The Independent Living Services (ILS) vendor forum was held on October 16th.
 - ACRC is still awaiting additional guidance from DDS regarding the implementation of the rate study.
 - This is proof that advocacy can affect change.

5. **System Reform and Legislative Update (ARCA, CDSA, CCLN, PAVE, Community Respite Association and DS Taskforce & Workgroups)**

- ARCA
 - Tony Anderson has been named ARCA's new Associate Director, beginning in January 2024.

- CRA
 - The California Respite Association (CRA) will meet next week to discuss their goals for 2024.
 - The group submitted their definitions of respite to PAVE and Mr. Ciampa reviewed CRA's proposal with them, as well.
- PAVE
 - The group will meet next week.
- DS Taskforce & Workgroups
 - The Employment Workgroup is scheduled to meet on December 4th, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.
 - The Outcomes Workgroup met prior to the last PAC meeting.
 - The group is reviewing the DDS Provider Registry, as well as a rate methodology for transportation.
 - Mr. Ciampa noted that so much of our infrastructure relies on transportation, but it doesn't appear that the State understands this service. Also, public and private transportation providers need to learn to work together.
 - Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Internship Program
 - The department has contracted with All's Well, who will outsource individuals to vendors.
 - The workgroup has had two meetings where they discussed trainings, finger printing and background checks. The next weekly meeting is scheduled for next Thursday.
 - It is important to note that the interns will not be able to be included in staff ratios.
 - Service providers will not have to pay these salaries for the first 100 hours.
 - Mr. Decker would like to be included in the next meeting, and the Collaborative would like to be included in this, as well. We need to make sure that this program does not affect service provider's pool of candidates.
 - ACRC will plan to discuss this during a January "Coffee with Community Services."
 - The April 2024 minimum wage increase for fast food workers will impact service provider's hiring efforts.
 - Mr. Decker noted that ACRC has not been informed about what settings will be affected by the minimum wage increases for health care professionals.
 - Ms. Dyba shared that East Los Angeles Regional Center's (ELARC's) Vendor Advisory Committee Chair drafted a letter requesting that DDS look at how these wage increases will affect service providers.
 - They are asking other PACs to sign on to this letter. Ms. Dyba will forward the letter to PAC members and await responses.

- Ms. Watilo inquired if the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) was doing anything about this.
 - Mr. Ciampa would like ARCA to consider a companion to the ARCA-CAC and establish an ARCA-PAC, so that providers can share information across the state.

6. **PAC Goals**

- PAC members reviewed the document entitled "Potential Goals and Committees" and discussed suggested revisions.
 - Ms. Dyba would like to finalize the goals and then restructure the PAC's committees.

M/S/C (Ciampa) To approve the proposed committees (three standing and two Ad Hoc) as presented; PAC members are required to participate in at least one standing committee.

7. **PAC Committees & Reports**

- Pilot of Communication and Outreach Tools
 - Yesterday, Mr. Ciampa sent an informational email to PAC members about a PAC managed provider email-based discussion group. Members are encouraged to register for this pilot project.
 - Google Groups is free, but it requires a manual registration.
 - Feedback will be shared at the January PAC meeting. If you have another suggested Listserv, please contact Mr. Ciampa.

8. **Announcements/Comments**

- The PAC does not meet in December. Suggested agenda items can be shared with Ms. Dyba/Ms. West prior to January.
 - Ms. Watilo would like the January PAC agenda to include a discussion on vendors that exclude classifications of clients and the reasons why.
- The next Microenterprise Fair is scheduled for December 5th and Santa Day is December 8th.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, January 11, 2024**. The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales