

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, May 12, 2016  
Minutes

**Present:**

Will Sanford, Futures Explored,  
Chair  
Janet Brandon, AIM &  
Associates, Co-Chair  
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Greater  
Sacramento, Inc.  
Gerrit deGelleke, American River  
Speech  
Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.  
Dawn Montgomery, HOPE  
Consulting  
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own  
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art  
Center  
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver  
Relief  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO  
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite  
Services  
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism  
Services  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Becky Brubaker\*, EGACT  
Gregory Buch, Ph.D., PALS  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss\*, STEP  
Daina Glasson\*, Ambitions CA  
Susan Miner, Turning Point  
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,  
Inc.  
Laleh Sharpe\*, Maxim Healthcare  
Services

**Visitors:**

Andrea Croom  
Bonnie Douglas  
Maureen Fitzgerald  
Adriene Gaudet  
Joseph Hernandez  
Kristine Johnson  
Aaron Kowalski  
Marie McConnell  
Michelle Nobile  
Agnes Ranit  
Shala Robertson  
Stan Schmidt  
Stacy Sisson

**Staff:**

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director  
John Decker, Manager of  
CPP/Forensics Unit  
Darline Dupree, Manager of  
Community Services  
Jean Onesi, Manager of  
Community Services  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:32 a.m. on Thursday, May 12, 2016, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Vendor Forum Update;

3) PAC Outreach Sub-Committee Volunteers; 4) Staff Crisis in the Community (discussion); 5) Sub-Committee Updates; 6) Updates; 7) Legislative Update; 8) Board Update; and 9) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

**Without objection, Will Sanford made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of March 10, 2016 as submitted.**

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

- Mr. Bonnet will be leaving this meeting early today to go to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to speak with them about the resource development that ACRC is doing to move people out of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). Our agency continues to develop new services for all of our clients, and he is hopeful that we will have some exciting news regarding dental service options soon.
- Governor Brown is scheduled to release his May Revision tomorrow morning. The bill that came out of the extraordinary session of the legislature will bring more money into our statewide service system. DDS is still trying to figure out the rate structure. They have only received 800 completed surveys of the 1800 that they sent out. The department needs as much accurate data as possible to figure this out. Peter Tiedemann, ACRC's Chief Operating Officer, and other regional centers across the state are trying to assist providers in completing the surveys. Mr. Bonnet requested that if anyone knows a provider that is still working on their survey and needs help, please direct them back to Mr. Tiedemann for assistance. We also need to get more residential providers to participate in these discussions.
  - Everyone will have to demonstrate how they spent the money to DDS by October 2017, or they will have to give the funding back.
- ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) will be holding their annual meeting at SDC on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Some of the members will be sharing their stories. Mr. Bonnet believes it is a powerful message when regional center staff, Board members, and providers go out to meet with those that reside there.
  - John Decker shared that ACRC held our second parent/family meeting in April and it was a success. Clients and providers shared their success stories.
- Mr. Bonnet mentioned at the last meeting that ACRC would be working in conjunction with North Bay Regional Center (NBRC) to sponsor a free training with Karen Flippo. She will speak with service providers about the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule. It is likely that we will focus this particular training on day programs and

vocational programs. Ms. Flippo is aware of the difficult challenges that providers are facing.

- The training is set for Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.
- A suggestion was made to possibly film this presentation.
- ACRC's Community Services Department will send the invite out to service providers with a SurveyMonkey to gather questions.

## 2. **Vendor Forum Update**

- Ms. Dupree shared that ACRC has been holding a series of vendor forums. ACRC is discussing the logistics of the HCBS Settings Rule, but we are not coming up with any training material until after Karen Flippo comes out to hold her free training on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
- ACRC has invited DDS and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) to sit in on the day program workgroup scheduled for Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Dupree has invited Phil Adams, from ACRC's IT Department, to the next Independent Living Services (ILS) Vendor Forum scheduled for Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to noon. We are hoping that everyone will start to use the roommate database that was created several years ago.
- We will be discussing the budgets and Questions/Answers (QAs) at the next Supported Living Services (SLS) Vendor Forum scheduled for Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to noon.
- ACRC Residential Forums have been ongoing. The next one is scheduled for Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 to noon. The group continues to discuss the ongoing issue for our clients in accessing medical care.
- The next Adult Day & Employment Program Vendor Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- The Behavior Services Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 3 p.m. The group continues to discuss the transition of Medi-Cal picking up the co-pays for insurance.
- The recent Respite Fair for our Service Coordinators (SCs) went very well.
- There continue to be issues around the transition to managed care.
- If anyone has suggestions that would make the vendor forums better, please email Ms. Dupree or Ms. Onesi. Also, please make sure you submit any agenda items to them prior to the forums.
- The Vendor Forum schedule is posted on our website.
- ACRC also has posted new Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for day programs.

## 3. **PAC Outreach Sub-Committee Volunteers**

- Mr. Sanford and Ms. Brandon are looking for volunteers to join this sub-committee. The group reviews the new applications for PAC

membership and committee attendance. Also, a member presents information regarding the PAC at ACRC's Vendor Orientations.

- Eric Ciampa and Michelle Ramirez volunteered to join Janet Brandon, Will Sanford, Joy Scott and Yvonne Soto on this sub-committee.

#### 4. ***Staff Crisis in the Community (discussion)***

**Issue:** Committee needs to discuss the ongoing staffing crisis in the community.

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Sanford shared that providers have the potential of having a big boost starting July 1<sup>st</sup> with the new funding that is coming into our system. The minimum wage and exempt issues will affect our efforts too.

There is a rule before the Department of Labor (DOL) for exempt staff. Certain providers are looking to carve out exemptions for that. We need to either prepare on the funding side or just deal with it. Providers are wondering if the federal government can do anything to assist providers with this. They want to allow states to have some flexibility. DDS has said that if providers have any exempt staff, then that was your choice and they don't have to fund that.

How do you move to community based programs and have the supervision to do so? Providers also have to look to the future to have career potential for folks.

We need to push for change so that our clients get the necessary support. We also need to have the funding for it; what we do is not minimum wage jobs. We have to figure out a way for individuals to come in and apply. Providers need to put a lot of effort into their recruitment.

A suggestion was made to contact other agencies that don't have a lot of turnover to try to learn more. The data that is coming in is that it's not about the money, but direct care staff need to feel appreciated. Also, their work/life balance is important.

Providers could share their ideas, as a community. We could have an appreciation day for provider staff. They might feel like they are part of the greater good and part of a team!

Years ago, regional centers and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) used to hold joint trainings. We may want to see if this can start up again.

Ms. Watilo would like for those present to utilize the following chart:

	Attraction	Retention	Training	Leadership
What do we do?				
What can we try?				
What do we need?				

- **The committee will continue to discuss this next month.**

5. **Sub-Committee Updates:**

- Challenging Needs
  - No update was shared.
- Cultural Diversity
  - Ms. Brandon is looking for volunteers to join this sub-committee.
    - Volunteers: Joy Scott and Peter Stirling
  - The sub-committee will be meeting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, prior to the next PAC meeting.
- Job Fair
  - No update was shared.

6. **Updates:**

- Self-Determination Program
  - DDS is working on the provider self-assessments. The department will be gathering public comments until August and then they will be resubmitting the waiver to the federal government, who will then have 90 days to respond.
  - DDS will be training regional center staff soon.
- CMS Rules/HCBS Waiver Settings
  - Tennessee’s transition plan has been approved. They have 8,000 people in their statewide system.
    - All of the other states are now looking at their plan for guidance. Some of the things do not apply to California.
- DS (Disability Services) Taskforce 2.0
  - The group is working on developing services for individuals with challenging needs.
  - March 2019 is the deadline for DDS to complete the rate study and send the recommendations to the legislature.

7. **Legislative Update**

- DDS is holding a stakeholder meetings for incentive payments for employment.
- Both SB 1024 (Hancock) Developmental services: supported employment, and SB 1427 (Pavley) Workforce development: developmentally disabled individuals, are stuck in appropriations.
- The State's minimum wage will start to increase every year.

8. **Board Update**

- Ms. Brandon attended the last Board meeting which was held on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Board is working on recruitment opportunities and broadening our outreach. She is hopeful that providers will start to get involved.
  - ARCA's Grassroots Day was a huge success! This population made a strong presence at the State Capitol. It was obvious how many of our legislators have a family member with a developmental disability. All the work that we did made a difference!
- The next Board meeting/training is scheduled for Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

9. **Announcements/Comments**

- No announcement were shared.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, June 9, 2016**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet