

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, May 9, 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  
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento  
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE  
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point  
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)

Janet Brandon\*, A.I.M. &  
Associates  
Jacquie Foss\*, STEP

**Visitors**

Tony Duplan  
Maureen Fitzgerald  
Elizabeth Freeman  
Jennifer Gomez  
Royce Goree  
Daniella Gutierrez  
Michael Hayes  
Priscilla Holmes

Dawn Horwath  
Leisa Wynn Johnson  
Jenny Jones  
Joann Jordan  
Jessica Knuth  
Leticia Leon  
Michael Lyman  
Bill Mosher  
Natasha Mosley-Simpkins  
Michelle Ramirez (CBEM)  
Jen Roney  
Christopher Ross  
Rennie Saltzman  
Jasmine Vollenweider  
Rob Watilo

**Staff:**

Lori Banales, Executive Director  
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  
Robin LeMay, Purchase of Services  
(POS) Manager  
Helen Neri, Community Services &  
Supports Manager  
Jason Scantlebury, LEAD Community  
Services Specialist  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 9:33 a.m. to discuss: 1) PAC Chair & Co-Chair/Designated Rep to Board for 2024-25 FY; 2) PAGA Training; 3) Executive Director's Report; 4) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 5) System Reform and Legislative Updates; 6) PAC Committee Reports; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

**Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of April 11, 2024, as submitted.**

*\*change in agenda was noted*

1. **PAC Chair & Co-Chair/Designated Rep to Board for 2024-25 FY**

- Ms. Dyba and Mr. Broadbent are both interested in continuing in their current positions for another year. There were no nominations from the floor.

**Without objection, Lindsey Dyba is elected the PAC Chair, and Garrett Broadbent is elected the PAC Co-Chair/Designated Rep to the Board of Directors for the 2024-25 FY.**

2. **PAGA Training**

- Bill Mosher, Esq., shared a presentation entitled "Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) Act of 2004 – Understanding, Preventing, and Defending Against PAGA Lawsuits."

3. **Executive Director's Report**

- Governor Newsom plans to release the state's May Revise tomorrow morning. Ms. Banales remains hopeful that our service system will not be targeted for additional reductions, and the service provider rate increases will move forward as planned for implementation on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be ready to share testimony and public comments at upcoming hearings. There is still a significant difference between what the Department of Finance and what the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) have projected as the state's deficit.
  - The "Mayday Mayday Don't Delay" rally at the State Capitol is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - During tomorrow's "Coffee with Community Services", the group will review the May Revise language.
  - Secretary Mark Ghaly will hold a stakeholder briefing call tomorrow afternoon.
  - The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will also post a summary of how the budget will affect our statewide service system to their website.

- The three National Core Indicators (NCI) surveys were all sent out at the same time this year. The state requires that each regional center have a minimum of 400 responses per survey, for statistical validity.
  - ACRC still needs 27 Family Guardian Surveys to meet 400.
- Ms. Banales met with Tony Anderson, Associate Director of the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) and Leinani Walter, Executive Director of Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC), and they look forward to developing a strategic plan for the public relations and social media piece of the DSP Collaborative. In preparation for opening this opportunity up to service providers across the state, they have been in discussions about building capacity on the website. This objective has been met.
  - ACRC will host the next in-person meeting in June.
- Ms. Duchene noted that ACRC received notice that 11,000 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) have completed the DSP Stipend Trainings. We have been promoting this opportunity to get money in your staff's pockets and have better training for them, as well.
- With the changes to employee sick leave with the passage of SB 616, ACRC is working to develop a process for those providers who have a negotiated rate with the regional center.
- ACRC is hosting a Microenterprise Fair on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is an opportunity for clients to share their business information with staff and our community.
- Ms. Bloom shared that the Sierra College Local Planning Area (LPA) is a local partnership agreement between counties, school districts and partners to come together to discuss support for transition youth. The LPA Summit was held on April 19<sup>th</sup> and the group discussed employment options and opportunities. They will meet twice per year.
  - Ms. Watilo noted that the LPAs were set up in the California blueprint. Adult providers were invited stakeholders, but due to their workload, many were not able to participate. Sierra College, with their employment grants, sponsored this.

#### 4. **ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates**

- The Independent Living Services (ILS) vendor forum was held on April 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Jason Scantlebury shared information about Coordinated Family Supports; he has already received three letters of interest.
  - Michelle Duchene provided an update on the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Training Stipend Program and the updated quarterly vacancy listing.
  - The next ILS vendor forum will be an in-person meeting.
- The Homemaker/Respite Services vendor forum was held on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Mr. Ciampa shared that the group discussed ACRC's changes to their policy for those providers who provide emergency medical treatments. Service providers are responsible for training their staff on these treatments.

5. **System Reform and Legislative Updates (ARCA, CDSA, CCLN, CRA, PAVE, DS Taskforce & Workgroups, & Statewide PAC Collaboration)**

- CCLN
  - The California Community Living Network's (CCLN's) held their Annual Leadership Conference last month. They had a presentation about the Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE) project, as well as the Assistive Technology pilot project.
    - The Assistive Technology pilot project presentation will be on the June PAC meeting's agenda.
  - The group is assisting with the "Mayday Mayday Don't Delay" rally at the State Capitol.
  - They are involved with the Master Plan Workgroup meetings and discussing ways to get messages out about the budget and priorities.
- CDSA
  - The California Disability Services Association (CDSA) is also assisting with the Mayday rally.
  - The group is working with "Fix PAGA."
    - Suggestion to invite them to the June PAC meeting.
- CRA
  - The California Respite Association (CRA) is attending the Mayday rally too.
  - The group completed a competitive wage study of their own and they continue to advocate for an increase in respite worker's wages.
    - DDS has indicated that they will be updating the rate models in July.
  - Their annual meeting is scheduled for July. Because their workforce is different, the group would like to provide guidance and support to providers in this service code.
- PAVE
  - Yesterday, Dr. Beadle-Brown distributed packets about choice, quality of life, outcomes, and self-reporting – the group will review/discuss them at their next meeting.
- Capitol Coalition
  - They are focusing their efforts on the Mayday rally scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup>, starting at 10 a.m. This is open to all providers and families that are affected by this potential delay.
    - Letters will be delivered to offices in the swing space after the march.
- Service Provider Coalition Group
  - Members from around the state are planning to have other events on May 21<sup>st</sup>, similar to the Mayday rally.
  - The group is meeting this afternoon.

## 6. **PAC Committee Reports**

- Vendor Relations Committee
  - The group met on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and sent recommendations to Mr. Decker, for consideration.
    - Regarding the two service provider communication guides (Community Services and Supports [CSS] and Client Services and Supports) – placing the Client Services and Supports guide on ACRC’s website in the same location as the CSS guide.
    - Suggesting that he periodically mention these communication guides during Friday’s “Coffee with Community Services.”
    - Having ACRC host more in-person vendor fairs throughout their ten-county catchment area.
  - They discussed increasing collaboration in general. They are looking at possibilities and resources to assist with this.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at 1 p.m.
- Communication & Outreach Committee
  - The group met earlier this week. Last month, Mr. Ciampa shared that the listserv had to be recreated. He continues to encourage all PAC members to register.
    - This will be posted to the PAC’s page on ACRC’s website.
  - They want to explore other opportunities to share resources, as well.
  - Regarding outreach, the group is focusing recruitment efforts on categories of service that are not currently represented on the PAC (e.g., Transportation and Early Intervention).

## 7. **Announcements/Comments**

- Ms. Johnson shared that ACRC is seeking input related to our caseload ratios. We met three out of the six mandated ratios: the “1:45 Movers Within Last 12 Months”, the “1:25 Complex Needs” and the “1:40 Low or No POS.” We did not meet the “1:62 On Waiver”, the “1:40 Under 6 Years”, and the “1:66 Over 5 Years, Non-Waiver, Non-Mover.”
  - Any suggestions should be emailed to [ratioinput@altaregional.org](mailto:ratioinput@altaregional.org) by June 3<sup>rd</sup>. ACRC will then submit our Corrected Action Plan (CAP) to DDS.
  - Ms. Banales noted that ARCA has been advocating for years for an update to the outdated core staffing formula for regional centers.
- ACRC has received over 50 letters of interest in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Financial Management Service (FMS).
  - Mr. Decker noted that all 21 regional centers released this effort on the same day to access the \$6 million that is available statewide; ACRC’s portion will equate to \$2 million.
  - More information can be found on ACRC’s website.
- DDS’ Employment Workgroup is scheduled to meet on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- DDS is hosting two webinars on Coordinated Career Pathways (CCP) on May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Watilo reminded everyone that a customized employment in-person training will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. Those interested must attend all five days.
- The Transportation Vendor Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon; the next one after this will be an in-person meeting.
  - ACRC will provide a transportation update to the Board at the July 25<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The information can then be discussed at the PAC's September meeting.
- Please send any suggested agenda items to Ms. Dyba for the June meeting.
  - ACRC staff share an update about social recreation.
  - Assistive Technology presentation.
  - Roommate Matching App (Michelle Ramirez)

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, June 13, 2024**. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Lori Banales