

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 13, 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
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Jacquie Foss, STEP
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION
Christa McClure, Tri-County
Respite Care Service
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor

Visitors

Stephanie Berberich
Taylor Berry
Christa Coats
Bill Duncan
Chuks Elochukwu
Maureen Fitzgerald
Royce Goree
Kyle Griffith
Priscilla Holmes

Braydon Holtzinger
Erica Horn
Dawn Horwath
Leisa Wynn Johnson
Joann Jordan
Leticia Leon
Michael Lyman
Thea Mangels
Desmond McKenzie
Natasha Mosley-Simpkins
Jasmine Vollenweider
Michelle Wild

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Scott Barr, Quality Assurance &
Compliance Manager
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client
Services
Tracy Brown, Associate Client Services
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
Helen Neri, Community Services &
Supports Manager
Jason Scantlebury, LEAD Community
Services Specialist
Carly Shearer, Client Employment
Specialist
Johnny Xiong, Associate Client Services
Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss: 1) Fix PAGA; 2) Board Update; 3) Executive Director's Report; 4) Social Recreation Update; 5) Assistive Technology Presentation; 6) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 7) System Reform and Legislative Updates; 8) PAC Committee Reports; and 9) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of May 9, 2024, as submitted.

1. **Fix PAGA**

- Kyle Griffith shared a presentation entitled "Fix PAGA – Public Affairs Effort."
 - Service providers are encouraged to join the coalition.
 - June 27th is the last day that the measure can be pulled off of the ballot. If a compromise is not reached, the ballot measure will move forward.

2. **Board Report**

- The Board held its biannual training and Board meeting on May 23rd. Board members received an engaging training on Board Governance. Mr. Broadbent shared that one of the things he like most about Board meetings is the "Meeting Our Mission" moment. This time, a parent shared a recent experience that she encountered when her daughter contracted COVID a second time and ACRC's efforts in thinking out of the box to support her.
- They approved the Slate of Officers for the 2024-25 fiscal year (FY) and a Community Placement Plan (CPP) contract for an Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home (EBSH).
- The group was provided an update on the tuition reimbursement program that regional centers across the state have the opportunity to take advantage of.
- ACRC supported the "Mayday Mayday Don't Delay" rally at the State Capitol on May 21st.
- Since January 1st, almost 8,000 Client and Family Surveys have been sent out, with approximately 1,000 completed. This is a good return rate.

3. **Executive Director's Report**

- Ms. Banales noted that June is Pride month. ACRC had a presence at the Sacramento Pride Parade on Sunday. This was a great opportunity to provide support for this community.
- The next quarterly newsletter will be delayed because we want to include information about the 2024-25 budget. The joint legislature supports the implementation of the final rate increase for service providers that is due to take effect on July 1st.
- Mr. Decker shared that ACRC has received a Directive from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and is aware that the department is

switching to a mileage rate for transportation reimbursement. Staff are waiting for implementation guidance so that we can set individual meetings with each transportation provider.

- DDS is holding a meeting next week regarding transportation. The department has updated transportation rates which will be in place starting July 1st.
- Additional questions: 1) Has ACRC moved from bundled to unbundled rates? 2) With the 10% and the unbundled rate, do service providers have the ability to ask ACRC to hold off on implementing the updated rate model (hold harmless) until they can figure out what to do (in case they are at a loss)?
 - Mr. Decker clarified that ACRC is awaiting guidance from DDS. Staff will continue to share updates during Friday's "Coffee with Community Services."
- Ms. Shearer shared that ACRC hosted a successful Microenterprise Fair on June 4th. The plan is to hold another one in late November/early December.

4. ***Social Recreation Update***

- Mr. Decker noted that currently, ACRC has 32 active service providers with 3,300 Purchases of Services (POS) authorizations in place. These services are utilized year-round.
- Ms. Bloom noted that 1,700 clients utilized social recreation services from June 2022 to June 2024. Of those:
 - 1,098 were clients ranging in age from 3 to 12 years old, with the oldest client being 80.
 - County utilization: 89 clients from El Dorado; 138 from Placer; 1,263 from Sacramento; and 174 from Yolo.
 - 1,505 clients speak English; 132 speak Spanish; and 31 speak Russian.

5. ***Assistive Technology Presentation***

- Mr. Decker and Desmond McKenzie shared a presentation entitled "California's 3-Year Technology Pilot (in progress) – Pioneering Innovation for Inclusive Care."

6. ***ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates***

- The Transportation vendor forum was held on May 29th.
 - Mr. Ciampa noted that there have been transportation issues for years. Methods of transportation have been changing throughout the state, with different factors that are impacting this service. Historically, ACRC did not have a broker service to ensure quality assurance. In addition to the rate study challenges, service providers are now working with R&D Transportation as of October 2023.
 - R&D is providing more direction for service providers.

- Providers need to build trust. Utilizing a brokerage service is unique in this field.
- Mr. Decker noted that ACRC is awaiting guidance from DDS before the next vendor forum is scheduled; the next vendor form will be an in-person meeting.
- Those present shared additional concerns:
 - Providers are having difficulty obtaining a certificate to operate a Vehicle for Developmentally Disabled Persons.
 - Transportation Service Requests (TSRs) may not reflect the correct information.
 - A broker's responsibility is to provide the service providers with their routes, whereas a transportation provider would create their routes based upon client's service needs.

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

- CCLN
 - The California Community Living Network's (CCLN's) is working on getting Supported Living Services (SLS) regulations changed to include individuals who are at-risk of homelessness in order to give the regional center more authority.
 - They support:
 - AB 3291 (Committee on Human Services) – this bill will require caregiver succession planning for any client over the age of 21 who lives with their family. ACRC launched the pilot project in 2021.
 - AB 2423 (Mathis) – this bill would require DDS to review and update the rate models every two years, beginning July 1, 2025.
- Master Plan Workgroup
 - DDS is currently accepting stakeholder applications for this committee.

8. PAC Committee Reports

- Vendor Relations Committee
 - At the most recent meeting, the group discussed developing resources around collaboration.
 - Some members spoke about the delay in providers receiving POS'. They have reached out to ACRC staff regarding a possible standardized process.
- Communication & Outreach Committee
 - The Gaggle group currently has 47 members. This is an email-based provider discussion group.
 - They are also seeking providers to become voting members. PAC members are encouraged to reach out to those that are not currently

represented on the PAC (e.g., Transportation and Early Intervention) to encourage meeting attendance.

9. ***Announcements/Comments***

- DDS' Employment Workgroup is scheduled to meet on June 24th.
- ACRC is a gold sponsor of "Being Michelle," a documentary, which will be shown at the Crest Theatre on Tuesday, June 25th. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.
 - The Deaf & Hard of Hearing vendor forum, with Michael Mercado, will be held that morning.
- Ms. Leon appreciated the comments and concerns that were shared earlier. She stated that R&D Transportation has regional offices – the office that supports ACRC is located in Sacramento County. They are open to collaborating during the upcoming monthly meetings.
- Please send any suggested agenda items to Ms. Dyba for the July meeting.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, July 11, 2024**. The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales