

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, June 9, 2016  
Minutes

**Present:**

Will Sanford, Futures Explored,  
Chair  
Janet Brandon, AIM &  
Associates, Co-Chair  
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Greater  
Sacramento, Inc.  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP  
Daina Glasson, Ambitions CA  
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver  
Relief  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO  
Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite  
Services  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Becky Brubaker, EGACT  
Gerrit deGelleke, American River  
Speech  
Ed Doonan\*, LIFE, Inc.  
Susan Miner\*, Turning Point  
Dawn Montgomery\*, HOPE  
Consulting  
Sergio Pinto\*, BEST Consulting,  
Inc.  
Michelle Ramirez\*, On My Own  
Antonio Ranit\*, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art  
Center  
Laleh Sharpe\*, Maxim Healthcare  
Services  
Paul Traglio\*, Capitol Autism  
Services

**Visitors:**

Eva Avila  
Torey Battuello  
Sandy Bishop  
Bonnie Douglas  
Lindsey Dyba  
Sonya Fox-Watson  
Robert Garcia  
Kate Halecky  
Veronica Hernandez  
Aaron Kowalski  
Michael Long  
Michelle Nobile  
Nicky Schlupe  
Stan Schmidt  
John Shufelberger  
Sonia Vilchez  
Kelly Weber

**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 9:34 a.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2016, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional

Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Vendor Forum Update; 3) "Public Speaking for Everyone" Presentation w/Michael Long; 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.

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

- Changes are coming to the statewide regional center system from the extraordinary session of the legislature. The way the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) was going to distribute the funding to providers was dependent on some selected providers completing a survey. Mr. Bonnet spoke with Peter Tiedemann, ACRC's Chief Operating Officer (COO), and was informed that we are having major problems having providers comply with completing the surveys that they were asked to do. The response rate is under 50% across the state. To try to rectify the situation, the department is sending out more surveys. This can only hurt our system if providers refuse to fill these out. There will be another survey in October 2017 to determine how the funds were spent. Mr. Bonnet understands that some providers may have difficulty completing these, but ACRC has staff that are willing to help. If anyone is interested in being a mentor for a fellow providers, please let him know. Ms. Dupree shared that ACRC's Community Services Department called and sent emails to some of the providers that hadn't completed theirs. The increase will take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, but DDS' original planned date to notify providers of their percentage of the cut (June 15<sup>th</sup>) probably won't happen, therefore providers will have to pay their staff retroactively.
  - Ms. Dillard-Foss and Mr. Ciampa volunteered to help mentor fellow providers.
- The PAC's Cultural Diversity Sub-Committee met just before this meeting to talk about strategies to provide outreach to underserved communities. ACRC held two Purchase of Services (POS) expenditure data meetings in March of this year. This is a huge political issue. Clearly, we have a lot of work to do before we develop a strategy and have expectations for providers. Within the 2016-17 fiscal year's (FY's) budget, regional centers will have funding to hire a cultural diversity specialist. Mr. Bonnet is excited about this new position and will have them be an active member of this committee, as well as others.
  - Finding out what people want and need, and then figuring out how to get it to them in an accessible way is complicated.
  - Of the 16 languages that ACRC staff speak, the sub-committee might benefit in knowing how many languages providers speak.
    - CSS will research this and provide them with the data.

- While ACRC can pay a stipend for bilingual staff, providers don't have that option. Ms. Dillard-Foss is hopeful that the bill will also expand to providers.
- Mr. Bonnet believes that ACRC, as well as service providers, can benefit from having open conversations with the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA) and Disability Rights California (DRC).
- Most of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) has been decertified. All federal funding that goes to about 60% of the clients will cease as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, which means that the price for each individual has more than doubled for the taxpayers of California. ACRC remains committed to developing much needed resources for the individuals that will be moving into their own communities. DDS has stated that the CPP funding will not go away once the DCs are shut down; the monies will be redirected to the community for start-up funding for services for the challenging individuals that we serve.
- Rate reform continues to be a topic of discussion statewide.
- ACRC, as well as other regional centers, was publicly called out because we have clients who reside in Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMDs). Last week, Mr. Bonnet went and visited several of our clients who reside at College Hospital in Cerritos, CA. Most of these clients have lengthy criminal histories, as well as severe mental illness.
- Next Tuesday, ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) will be holding its fourth annual meeting at SDC.

## 2. **Vendor Forum Update**

- ACRC has several vendor forums scheduled; they are as follows:
  - Respite Services – July 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Early Intervention Program – August 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Behavior Services – September 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Adult Day and Employment – July 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Durable Medical Equipment (DME) – August 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Supported Living Services – September 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Independent Living Services – August 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Residential – July 11<sup>th</sup>
- When ACRC's Community Services Department sends out the agenda items, service providers can add topics to discuss so that they can be more collaborative meetings.
- The CMS workgroup is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 10 a.m. to noon. The meeting will include DDS and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) personnel, as well as a representative from licensing. They will be discussing the impact of the settings rule.
- A "Save the Date" flyer will be sent out to day and employment programs regarding the upcoming PAC Training on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Space is limited, so ACRC is checking with Karen Flippo to see if the training can be videotaped. Mr. Bonnet stressed that it is important for providers who are invited to participate. This should be an awesome first step to prepare for the changes that are coming. Some providers probably meet the requirement, but others will have to change.

- Questions came up about ACRC's roommate database in the ILS Forum. Ms. Dupree invited Phil Adams, ACRC's IT Manager, to attend and the agency will be working to revise it.
- A SurveyMonkey will be sent out to day and employment programs.

3. **"Public Speaking for Everyone"**

- Those present received a presentation from Michael Long. He showed a video and shared that he used to work at DDS and helped develop self-advocacy information about speaking up for a better tomorrow.

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 this discussion came out of planning a Job Fair for ACRC service providers. We need help building our workforce – our replacements.

A suggestion was made to possibly sponsor a training for direct care staff. Ms. Dillard-Foss shared that John Raffaele and Joe McBath have a powerful Code of Ethics. Providers can also subscribe to Norman Kung's website: [www.conversationsthatmatter.com](http://www.conversationsthatmatter.com). He has several training clips available (\$20 per year per employee).

Providers want to build their competency. CPR training should not be done online.

Service providers are trying to have equity in the system. Some agencies try to pay the different jobs in their organization different rates based on job duties. The rate increases do not relate to this.

Ms. Watilo would like to make some progress in these discussions. Understanding that this is a national issue, she would like to suggest forming a sub-committee that can continue these discussions and develop some action items. (Volunteers include: Eric Ciampa, Jacquie Dillard-Foss, Lindsey Dyba, Kate Halecky, Joy Scott, Peter Stirling & Carole Watilo)

- **The sub-committee will report back to this committee as needed.**

5. **Sub-Committee Updates:**

- Challenging Needs
  - Mr. Decker shared that regional center across the state are receiving increased pressure from DDS to move individuals out the Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs). The department wants to minimize the use of them.
  - Mr. Bonnet visited several of ACRC's clients at College Hospital last Friday. While he was there, he received marketing flyers – they are looking to expand their population and are letting families know that the individuals who reside at SDC can move down to Southern California and move in there. Mr. Bonnet informed DDS about this.
  
- Cultural Diversity
  - Mr. Bonnet gave an update during his report.
  - If anyone else is interested in joining the sub-committee, please let Ms. Brandon know.
    - Ms. Dillard-Foss volunteered.
  
- Job Fair
  - No update was shared.

6. **Updates:**

- Self-Determination Program
  - DDS is currently gathering public comments. They will be completing the revised waiver and forwarding it on to the federal government by mid-September.
  - Self-Determination is starting to have pre-enrollment meetings. DDS is encouraging regional centers to hold a standardized training in order for clients/families to qualify for the lottery.
  - It's important to note that before a service can be utilized in this program, it must be first approved by DDS.
  
- CMS Rules/HCBS Waiver Settings
  - The group met and is currently working on outreach.
  - The self-assessment will be out to everyone soon.
  
- DS (Disability Services) Taskforce 2.0
  - The sub-committee met and another meeting will be held at the end of this month.
  - They will be posting a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the rate study. This must be completed by March 2017.

## 7. **Legislative Update**

- The legislature is quiet right now, but there is an assumption that the budget will be passed and sent to the Governor for signature by June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- SB 1024 (Hancock) Developmental services: supported employment – this bill “died” in appropriations.
- SB 1427 (Pavley) Workforce development: developmentally disabled individuals – this bill passed out of appropriations. The Assembly approved it and it is now on the Senate floor.
- AB 1715 (Holden) Healing arts: behavior analysis: this bill was passed on the Senate floor and is now in the Assembly. It’s important to note that ARCA opposes it.

## 8. **Board Update**

- Ms. Brandon attended the last Board meeting/training which was held on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - During the training, Board members were given information about regional center finances and the new employee evaluation system. They also discussed the responsibilities of being a Board member.
  - The Board continues to work on recruitment and cultural diversity.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## 9. **Announcements/Comments**

- Ms. Brandon expressed appreciation to Mr. Sanford for all of his dedication over the years. We will continue to hear from him as he shares the monthly Legislative Update.
- Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC will be hosting a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Lanterman Act in the fall. Providers will be able to set-up booths and share information with the community. He will bring this suggestion to the Board of Directors later this month.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, July 14, 2016**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet