

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 10, 2020  
Minutes

**Present:**

Eric Ciampa, UCP of  
Sacramento, Inc., Chair  
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own,  
Co-Chair & Design. Dir.  
James Astorga, F&A Astorga Care  
Home  
Janet Brandon, AIM &  
Associates  
Garrett Broadbent, Meristem  
Andrea Croom, INALLIANCE  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP  
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point  
Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,  
Inc.  
Joe Hernandez, Aveanna  
Healthcare Services  
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION  
Jessica Knuth, Reach Adult  
Development  
Monique Migdol, Tahoe  
Community Integrations  
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,  
Inc.  
Robin Rhoades, Southside  
Unlimited  
Adam Ruggles, Medstar LLC  
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare  
Services  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Ed Doonan\*, LIFE, Inc.  
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Joy Scott\*, Tri-County Caregiver  
Relief

Peter Stirling, Serenity Respite  
Services  
Paul Traglio, Kadiant

**Visitors:**

Jody Bailey  
Sonya Bingaman  
Gregg Brandon  
Breanne Burris  
Aron Duda  
Maureen Fitzgerald  
Sonya Fox-Watson  
Adriene Gaudet  
Kate Halecky  
Braydon Holtzinger  
Amanda Lotter  
Priscilla Nolen  
John O'Brien  
Summer Rowley  
Stan Schmidt  
Kathleen Short  
Sara Spencer  
Jasmine Vollenweider  
Katherine Wallen  
Troy Wheeler

**Staff:**

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director  
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Financial Officer  
Lori Banales, Deputy Executive  
Director  
John Decker, Director of Community  
Services  
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community  
Services  
Andy Ponce, Specialized Services  
Manager  
Olivia Procida, Manager of  
Community Services

Lisa West, Executive Secretary  
The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:34 a.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2020, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Board Update; 3) PAC Designated Representative to the Board; 4) Approve New Members; and 5) COVID-19 Impact Discussion. All present provided self-introductions.

**Without objection, Eric Ciampa made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of July 9, 2020 as submitted.**

*\*change in agenda was noted*

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

- Mr. Bonnet asked if there was anything more that ACRC could be doing to support service providers during this pandemic.
  - Ms. Watilo believes everyone is working well together. Service providers have collaborated amongst each other. Some providers may be thinking of their employee's wellness during this time. We are six months into this health crisis now and we need to think about resetting ourselves.
- Mr. Bonnet had the opportunity to randomly call some of our direct service professionals (DSPs) while ACRC was putting together the appreciation video which is now posted on our agency's website. This reminded him of the unwavering commitment of many during these trying times. There are a lot of people who have put themselves in difficult situations in order to continue to serve our clients.
- Across California, COVID-19 positive cases continue to head in the right direction, even with the start of school, but the flu season hasn't started yet. Mr. Bonnet remains hopeful that by late winter/early spring we may be on the verge of reopening some programs. In the meantime, people are getting creative.
- Service providers have provided input on several different topics at the request of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and then found that things were changing when an emergency directive was released. It remains somewhat confusing and frustrating.
- Regional centers are required to review their Performance Contract with DDS with community partners on an annual basis. The department has not released their guidance yet, but ACRC staff wanted to start the conversation.
  - Ms. Banales shared that we are seeking input on the planned activities for the public policy measures. Ms. West will email a revised draft that provides more data on how ACRC's baseline

compares to the statewide average. It is important to note that this contract reflects last year's data.

- It was clarified that regional centers were able to select two measures related to reducing disparities and improving equity in purchase of services expenditure (page 6). We cannot change the measures, but we can modify our planned activities.
- Ms. Banales shared that we were able to garner more information related to employment (page 4). ACRC staff would appreciate input on how we can enhance our efforts. DDS looks at how our planned activities can influence future outcomes.
  - When we have high unemployment in the State of California, job opportunities decrease for individuals with developmental disabilities.
  - We need to find willing partners that will work with our clients and provide support.
  - The regional center should interface with all of the state level employment initiatives, which in turn should have policy backings.
  - Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC is working with the Governor's office to secure jobs for our clients (full-time positions in 12 different departments).
- As of this morning, ACRC has 127 clients that have tested positive for COVID-19, with eight deaths. We also have 64 positive DSPs and one staff member. Mr. Bonnet sends out a message to staff almost on a weekly basis; he would be happy to share it with this group, as well.

## 2. ***Board Update***

- Ms. Ramirez shared the Board met on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Mr. Ahmad shared that ACRC was closing out the 2019-20 fiscal year (FY) and the agency was projecting a \$10 million shortfall in Purchase of Services (POS) expenditures. Prior to sending additional funding, the department will evaluate any late billings.
  - The group discussed the importance on recruiting new Board members.
  - They approved the Board Training Plan for the 2020-21 FY.
  - The two new PAC members were approved – Garrett Broadbent from Meristem, and Adam Ruggles with Medstar.
  - ACRC continues to collaborate with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities' (SCDD's) Sacramento Regional Office in giving away Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
  - COVID-19 discussion was a big part of the meeting.

## 3. ***PAC Designated Representative to the Board***

- ACRC's Board of Directors has expressed concern that Ms. Ramirez is the President-Elect for California Disability Services Association (CDSA). The Board feels that this might be a conflict of interest due to CDSA's lobbying efforts. Given that CDSA just appointed a new Executive Director, Ms. Ramirez feels that she cannot leave that position at this time.
- Mr. Bonnet consulted with DDS and the rules regarding conflict are murky, but the perception of conflict is a big concern for the Board. He clarified that it is the Board's recommendation for the PAC to vote on a new designated representative to the Board, not DDS'.
- Ms. Dillard-Foss finds this issue concerning. Having the Board reject an elected PAC representative sets a bad precedent. Lobbying is done in this industry. CDSA does similar things that the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) does.
- Members Ms. Watilo and Ms. Rhoades expressed concern regarding electing a new representative. They shared that they did not fully understand the reasoning for the Board's request, citing examples of past PAC representatives with similar conflicts.
- Mr. Ciampa discussed the role of the PAC to elect a representative and the importance of that role. The PAC can choose to elect a new representative or not and respectfully request the board consider alternative options. Both he and Ms. Ramirez have spoken to Janet Brandon, who is willing to fill this position, if necessary.
  - Mr. Pinto asked Ms. Ramirez to describe her role with CDSA and if she believes she could serve both organizations effectively. Ms. Ramirez explained her role and that she felt she could serve in both capacities but could not leave CDSA at this time.
  - Ms. Brandon knows the workload and commitment it takes to serve on the Board. Knowing that Ms. Ramirez will be busy with her commitment to CDSA, Ms. Brandon wanted to make sure that the committee knows that she is willing to serve on the Board. We need to have strong members who serve as the PAC Chair and Co-Chair/designated representative.
  - Ms. Soto stated it is important to always have a PAC representative on the Board. Ms. Soto suggested the PAC nominate a new representative to the Board immediately if that position becomes vacant.

**M/S/C** (Dillard-Foss/Rhoades) **To respectfully request clarification and reconsideration of the Board's request to have an alternate PAC Board representative for the 2020-21 FY.** (two abstentions)

- **Mr. Ciampa will work with the Board to hopefully resolve this issue.**

#### 4. ***Approve New Members***

- Mr. Ciampa shared that the Outreach Committee is moving forward two applicants for PAC membership – Lindsey Dyba, from Futures Explored, Inc., and Monique Migdol, with Tahoe Community Integrations. They both provided a brief overview of themselves and their roles at their agencies.

**Without objection, Jacquie Dillard-Foss made the motion to nominate Lindsey Dyba and Monique Migdol for PAC membership.**

#### 5. ***COVID-19 Impact Discussion***

- Service providers expressed appreciation to ACRC staff for their assistance with all of the directives that have been released by the department.
- New DDS Guidance on Alternative Service
  - On August 31<sup>st</sup>, DDS released a directive regarding alternative billing framework for service providers. With the end to absence billing on July 31<sup>st</sup>, there needs to be a plan in place for alternative services so that nonresidential service providers can continue to serve our clients.
  - In their Directive, the department explains when alternative services do not apply. They also explain what alternative services should include.
  - DDS will require service providers to complete monthly reporting after the first initial two-month assessment period. More guidance should be released prior to November 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - In the month of October 2020, service providers will be required to complete, review or amend the Individual Service Plans (ISPs) for the clients that they will be providing alternative services to.
  - ACRC will be required to send a confirmation letter to clients who have expressed an interest in alternative services.
  - Mr. Decker and Mr. Ahmad will be drafting a billing memo to help clarify some items for service providers.
  - DDS has stated that if service providers are not doing anything differently, they should continue to bill for services as they would normally do.
  - For the accountability piece, this situation allows service providers a chance to shift things to Person-Centered Planning.
  - More information will be shared when ACRC's Community Services hosts a Webex Nonresidential Service Provider Vendor

Forum regarding Alternative Services on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 3 p.m.

*\*Due to time constraints, remaining agenda items will carry over to the next meeting.*

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, October 8, 2020**, 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