

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, October 9, 2014  
Minutes

**Present:**

Janet Brandon, AIM &  
Associates, Co-Chair  
Jill Bonetti, Opportunity Acres  
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION  
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Greater  
Sacramento, Inc.  
Gerrit deGelleke, American River  
Speech  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP  
Susan Miner, Turning Point  
Dawn Montgomery, HOPE  
Consulting  
Michelle Payne, RCCA Services  
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare  
Services  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO  
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism  
Services  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Will Sanford\*, Futures Explored,  
Chair  
Gregory Buch\*, Ph.D., PALS  
Ed Doonan\*, LIFE, Inc.  
Eleni Gialoyrakes\*, Capital Social  
Services  
Daina Glasson\*, California Mentor  
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,  
Inc.  
Michelle Ramirez\*, On My Own  
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art  
Center  
Joy Scott\*, Tri-County Caregiver  
Relief

**Visitors:**

Steven Andrews  
Roger Chapman  
Kayleigh Davis  
Maureen Fitzgerald  
Adriene Gaudet  
Tanya Hartle  
Vanessa Moore  
Mirella Quaranta  
Agnes Ranit

**Staff:**

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director  
Jean Onesi, Manager of Community  
Services  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:38 a.m. on Thursday, October 9, 2014, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director Comments; 2) Updates; 3) Legislative Update; 4) Board Update; and 5) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

*\*\* Committee members acknowledged Tanya Hartle, who is retiring, for all the years of service to individuals with developmental disabilities – 35 years at UCP! \*\**

**Without objection, Janet Brandon made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of September 11, 2014 as submitted.**

**1. Executive Director Comments**

- Once a year, regional centers must review their Performance Contract with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Mr. Bonnet shared that in the past, regional centers were rewarded for what they had accomplished. It's important to note that when speaking to the clients that we serve, they are not always in agreement with some of the ways DDS gauges particular measures. He believes that this may be the last year that the department uses this form; the state may be moving to the National Core Indicators (NCI) when reviewing regional center's performance.
  - Mr. Bonnet reviewed the 2015 Performance Contract with those present. The availability of community resources presents an issue when looking at some of these measures.
- Earlier this week, Mr. Bonnet began discussions with ACRC's Executive Committee about possibly developing an Employment First Policy for our agency. UCLA's Tarjan Center has been working for over three years on a project to make sure that individuals with developmental disabilities have the choice of employment. He shared that other regional centers have adopted a policy, and he will begin working with staff to draft a policy for ACRC.
  - DDS is collecting data on this issue; Denyse Curtright, with DDS, is part of the California Employment Consortium for Youth (CECY) group.
  - Currently, California is doing poorly when compared to the national average of employment for individuals with developmental disabilities; California is at about 13%, compared to the national average of 20%.
  - Ms. Dillard-Foss suggested forming a Regional Center Chamber of Commerce. If we want to be innovative, we need to start talking to employers and getting their buy in.
  - The question remains – is it better to work four hours a week and feel like you are contributing, or is the minimum wage the biggest issue?
  - Employment First is now part of the Lanterman Act (W&I Code §4646.5). We need to speak with our legislators about increasing the tax incentive for employers who hire individuals

with developmental disabilities. Clients and families continue to worry about the loss of benefits.

- If committee members have any suggestions regarding this policy, please contact Mr. Bonnet and Ms. Brandon. He will share a draft with this committee in November.

## 2. **Updates:**

- CMS Rule
  - We talk about being more client-friendly and more client-focused. By late December, DDS will have to submit a “plan to plan” to the federal government that must comply with a lot of requirements. Then the final plan is due to the fed government in March 2016. The expectations are going to be very different from “old school” programming. Mr. Bonnet believes regional centers and service providers will need to change the way they do things or they will go away. He will send the link to committee members so that they can learn more about the new rule. If a client is on the waiver, they will not be able to choose a service that doesn’t bring in federal dollars.
    - A conference call about the plan is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be an opportunity for public comments.
- DS (Disability Services) Taskforce 2.0 [formerly DC Taskforce 2.0]
  - Mr. Bonnet, Mr. Sanford and Ms. Dillard-Foss attended the taskforce meeting yesterday. Five new members have joined this group.
  - California’s Health & Human Services Agency’s Secretary Diana Dooley talked about triaging the categories of discussion – minimum wage, looming overtime issues and the new CMS Rule. Housing and Safety were in the same category.
  - Peggy Collins shared that she believes the foundation of our system is crumbling from years and years of cuts. We have to shore it up in order for it to continue. The budget process has already started. Mr. Bonnet believes that Ms. Collins will be working to fix our system.
  - Instead of talking about spending more, the Secretary believes we need to talk about spending money differently.
  - Secretary Dooley acknowledged the mission of the developmental disability service system.
  - The Lanterman Coalition is asking for a 10% across the board increase with a 5% increase every year after until we have an equitable system.

### 3. **Legislative Update**

- On Tuesday, the Department of Labor (DOL) issued a suspension of the order of enforcement for the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) regarding joint employment, but this does not change the law. The overtime law will still end on December 31<sup>st</sup>, and joint employment is still affected. The California Supported Living Network (CSLN) met with the DOL in Washington DC last week to discuss this issue further. They are still looking for technical assistance on this piece. This also needs to align with the new CMS Ruling.
  - In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) overtime continues to be a concern. Ms. Dillard-Foss encouraged providers to look on the Department of Social Services (DSS) website to see what they are asking clients to sign.
- The State Senate Human Services Committee is holding an informational hearing in Los Angeles this afternoon to share information about the Lanterman Promise. Mr. Bonnet will send committee members the link to the live-streamed website.

### 4. **Board Update**

- Ms. Brandon attended the September 25<sup>th</sup> Board Retreat and meeting.
  - At the Board Retreat:
    - Eileen Richey, the Executive Director of the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), gave a presentation on the role of ARCA at the national and state level, which included information about the Self-Determination Program and the new CMS Rule.
    - Community and Residential Services provided an overview of ACRC's Residential Services.
  - A new Board member was voted on, representing Placer County – Steven Sanchez.
  - Mr. Bonnet provided those present with more information about the Self-Determination Program and the new CMS Rule.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 3 p.m.

### 5. **Announcements/Comments**

- Ms. Payne shared that her agency has received several letters from DDS denying particular service codes.
- Mr. Ranit shared that access hospital dentistry is still an issue for some of our clients.
  - Ms. Payne will be attending a Denti-Cal workshop on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Disability Rights California (DRC). She will share information with this group in November.

- Mr. Bonnet attended a meeting with Senator Steinberg's office a few months ago and it was the consensus of several present that some clients use sedation when it may not be the best choice.
- Ms. Watilo inquired if ACRC will be a part of the community-based vocational development services pilot project associated with SB 577 (Pavley).
  - Mr. Bonnet shared that we have not heard yet.
- Ms. Brandon shared that the Challenging Support Needs Sub-Committee will be meeting after the November PAC meeting.
- Mr. Ranit expressed appreciation to ACRC for letting United Residential Care (URESCA) use this room to meet on Tuesday morning. He shared that this group is meeting to discuss ways to support change and educate the legislature on who we are. They have 30 members so far, and are advocating for themselves and the issues in their communities. The group meets on the first Tuesday of every month.
  - Ms. Brandon will share this information with residential providers in Auburn and Grass Valley.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, November 13, 2014**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet