

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2015
Minutes

Present:

Will Sanford, Futures Explored,
Chair
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates, Co-Chair
Gregory Buch, Ph.D., PALS
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Greater
Sacramento, Inc.
Gerrit deGelleke, American River
Speech
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Daina Glasson, California Mentor
Dawn Montgomery, HOPE
Consulting
Michelle Payne, RCCA Services
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Robin Rhoades, Southside Art
Center
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Jill Bonetti, Opportunity Acres
Becky Brubaker*, EGA CT
Ed Doonan*, LIFE, Inc.
Eleni Gialoyrakes*, Capital Social
Services
Susan Miner*, Turning Point
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services

Visitors:

Donna Bettencourt
Donald Blake
Roberta Collins
Andrea Croom
Maureen Fitzgerald
Adriene Gaudet
Cynthia Guilford
Jennifer Gutierrez
Jessica Knuth
Jake Murray
Shelly Pefley
Agnes Ranit
Richard Royse
Adam Ruggles
Stan Schmidt
Sam Seaton
Rachel Temple
Stacy Waite-Ocampo

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
John Decker, Supervisor of
CPP/Forensics Unit
Darline Dupree, Manager of
Community Services
David Rydquist, Director of Adult &
Residential Services
Timothy Swank, Transportation
Coordinator
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:32 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2015, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director Comments; 2) ILS Policies & Procedures (SB 1093); 3) Nomination & Election of Chair and Designated Representatives to the Board of Directors for the 2015-16 fiscal year; 4) Updates; 5) Legislative Update; 6) Board Update; and 7) Announcements /Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Will Sanford made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of February 12, 2015 as submitted.

1. *Executive Director Comments*

- As the State of California conceded that their mandated holiday schedule didn't follow the law, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has informed regional centers to set their own schedules. Mr. Bonnet would like assistance from this group, who represents ACRC's entire group of service providers, so that a "Common Holiday Schedule" can be developed. He noted that the schedule will be strongly recommended, but nothing can be forced.
 - It was shared that the PAC developed a holiday schedule several years ago that worked for all service providers.
 - The change in law didn't just strike out the additional four days, it struck out all of the holidays.
 - It was noted that some providers that were not tied to transportation did not close for the ten standard holiday prior to 2009.
 - Mr. Sanford believes that, as providers, the responsible thing would be to tie being open to client employment.
 - Service providers who will not be taking a particular day off, or substituting the holiday for another day, should keep the regional center informed.
 - Mr. Bonnet believes that reinstating the "Vendor Holiday Schedule" (ten days) prior to 2009 would make it easier for all providers and make transportation more efficient. Ultimately, if this draft schedule makes sense, transportation agencies would not be open these days.
 - There is a reasonableness that providers need to answer – are they open for the clients or are they open because we need to be open?
 - Transportation providers shared that the recent Cesar Chavez's holiday was not cost-effective for them. Some providers transported two to three clients on an eighteen passenger van.

Regardless of how many clients they transport, their expenses are constant. Other providers need to take that into consideration.

- Prior to 2009, the providers that handled their own transportation submitted their holiday schedule to the regional center.
- Mr. Sanford shared that \$25 million was deducted from regional center Purchase of Services (POS) budgets when the mandated holidays were implemented. The legislature will need to add that back into the budget.
- It's important to note that transportation providers should not be able to decide whether or not a client receives services or not.
- If an agency does not rely on closed transportation, providers can choose to be open, although it is up to the client/family whether they want to attend. Alternate holiday schedules will need to be submitted to ACRC's Community Services Department.

M/S/C (Robin Rhoades) **To recommend adopting the presented ten holidays as "ACRC's Annual Holiday Schedule" to the ACRC Board of Directors, with the exception of employment services and/or other services that don't require transportation. Any provider working outside of this holiday schedule will need to secure an amended approved program design.** (15 in favor)

- Mr. Bonnet noted that in the same settlement, the half-day billing rule was included. If a client attends a program, regardless of the length of time, the provider is now allowed to bill the regional center for the entire day.

****Yvonne Soto joined the meeting***

- Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) is under scrutiny. Reveal News has just released an article about abuse at California's developmental centers (DCs). Mr. Bonnet believes it's likely that DDS will be announcing the closure of SDC soon.
 - ACRC hosted a statewide Supported Living Services (SLS) workgroup last month to discuss how regional centers will be serving these complicated clients out in their own communities.
 - Mr. Bonnet recognized Mr. Ranit for his agency's efforts to provide services to medically fragile clients.
 - The Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rules will be part of the roadmap to assist in these closures.
 - DCs will be the focus of the May 7th Senate Budget Sub-Committee Hearing.

- ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) will be holding their meeting at SDC on Tuesday, May 12th. This will be the third year that they have done this.

2. ***ILS Policies & Procedures (SB 1093)***

- Ms. Dupree shared that SB 1093 went into effect in January. With the changes in this bill, ACRC staff have added one sentence to the Board Service Policy, which will be reviewed by ACRC's Board of Directors at their May 28th Board meeting. She read the revised policy out loud to those present. Staff have also updated the corresponding procedure.
 - There is a chance that this change will overlap "tailored day services".
 - A draft copy of the revised Service Policy will be distributed at the May meeting.

3. ***Nomination & Election of Chair and Designated Representative to the Board of Directors for the 2015-16 fiscal year (FY)***

Issue: Committee needs to nominate the Chair and Designated Representative to the Board of Directors for the 2015-16 FY.

Discussion and Action: Ms. Brandon shared that ACRC's Board of Directors recently changed their bylaws which requires that a Nominating Committee draft the Board Officer and Director slate for the upcoming FY. This slate is presented to the Board Development and Executive Committees in May, and then voted on by the entire Board in June.

Because of this change, the CAC and PAC will be required to elect their next FY's Chair and designated representative to the Board of Directors in March/April.

Committee discussed this issue, and Mr. Sanford and Ms. Brandon shared that they had no objection being nominated for another year in their respected positions.

Without objection, Will Sanford is elected as the PAC Chair and Janet Brandon is nominated as the PAC Designated Representative to the Board of Directors for the 2015-16 FY.

4. ***Updates:***

- CMS Rule
 - DDS formed a workgroup that was expanded to include community members. The group is currently deciding who needs to be evaluated; a self-evaluation tool will be a part of this. They are also reviewing the National Core Indicator (NCI) surveys to

see if that data could assist in this process. Some plans have been approved.

- Residential, work activity and day services will be under heightened scrutiny. The transition plan will be looking to see if the programs meet the setting requirement. We will need to be in compliance within four years.
 - It's important to note that 50% of regional center clients are either on the Medicaid Waiver or 1915(i) Waiver.
 - Ms. Dupree shared that ACRC's Community Services Department is looking at what the federal government is doing across different states and being flexible with new vendors in their program designs. They will communicate with established providers to make sure they are aware of the changes that are going to take place. She is open to holding more public meetings to provide an overview of the changes that are coming.
 - DDS will be releasing an outreach video on the upcoming Self-Determination Program. Those individuals that are interested in participating in the pilot project will need to attend some type of orientation, so that they are eligible to apply. DDS will be choosing the participants, but it will be random.
 - Mr. Sanford encouraged everyone to review the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) documents.
- DS (Disability Services) Taskforce 2.0
 - Sub-workgroups continue to meet to discuss community vendor rates and regional center Operations.
 - A report may be released soon.

5. **Legislative Update**

- Mr. Sanford shared the legislators showed strong support on both sides for our issues during the Budget Hearings.
- SB 638 (Stone) – Developmental services: funding and SB 639 (Stone) – Developmental centers: closure. Providers support both of these bills.
- Legislators are reviewing three bills related to housing. Suggested to work with ACRC's Board of Directors or other community partners to come up with a recommendation.
- The Senate Budget Sub-Committee is holding a hearing on Thursday, May 7th, which will focus on DCs.
- AB 1054 (Burke) – Home care services: licensing and registrations: regional center vendors. The bill would keep a database for employees who support persons with developmental disabilities.
- AB 286 (Achadjian) – Developmental services: supported living services. This bill would require direct care workers to complete 15

hours of training in behavioral intervention with three month of being hired.

- AB 662 (Bonilla) – Public accommodations: disabled adults: changing facilities. This bill focuses on access.
- AB 488 (Gonzalez) – Rehabilitation: dignity stipend. This bill would require employers who pay individuals less than minimum wage because of a disability, to pay a stipend.

6. **Board Update**

- Ms. Brandon shared that ACRC's new website is live and she encouraged everyone visit it.
- The Board does not meet in April; the next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28th, at 3 p.m.

7. **Announcements/Comments**

- No announcements/comments were shared.

*** John Decker provided an update on ACRC clients who reside at DCs at 11 a.m.**

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, May 14, 2015**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet