

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 10, 2014
Minutes

Present:

Will Sanford, Futures Explored,
Chair
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates, Co-Chair
Jill Bonetti, Opportunity Acres
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION
Gregory Buch, Ph.D., PALS
Gerrit deGelleke, American River
Speech
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, STEP
Eleni Gialoyrakes, Capital Social
Services
Daina Glasson, California Mentor
Tanya Hartle, UCP of Greater
Sacramento, Inc.
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Joy Scott, Tri-County Caregiver
Relief
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Paul Traglio, Capitol Autism
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Ed Doonan, LIFE, Inc.
Susan Miner*, Turning Point
Dawn Montgomery*, HOPE
Consulting
Michelle Payne*, RCCA Services
Sergio Pinto, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Michelle Ramirez*, On My Own
Robin Rhoades*, Southside Art
Center

Visitors:

Donna Bettencourt
Eric Ciampa
Jessica Davis
Bonnie Douglas
Mike Everson
Jennifer Gutierrez
Justin Jammer
Rachel Merriweather
Agnes Ranit
Stan Schmidt
Deurika Seabrooks

Board Members:

Brendan Peacock

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:36 a.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2014, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) Executive Director Comments; 2) Legislative Update; 3) Board Update; and 4) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Will Sanford made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 12, 2014 as submitted.

1. ***Executive Director Comments***

- Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) members have taken on such a commitment in representing all of the individuals served by this agency. The Self-Determination Program is coming. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has until December 31st to submit a waiver amendment to the federal government; the federal government then has 90 days to review the amendment and if they have any questions, the process starts over again. Mr. Bonnet has heard that the department hopes to submit this by the end of September. DDS is eager to see this program happen. The CAC is setting up a multi-faceted taskforce to discuss what self-determination might mean for the 174 individuals that will get to participate in the three-year pilot project. After those three years, anyone who receives regional center services will be eligible to participate in this option. Mr. Bonnet would like a few members of this committee to join this taskforce. If you are interested, please email Ms. West. Five members will be chosen at the September meeting.
 - Mr. Sanford provided a brief description of the Self-Determination Program. He believes that DDS might be expediting this process because in March 2015, they have to come into compliance with all of the other Center for Medicare Services (CMS) requirements.
 - Concern was expressed that clients could potentially purchase services that are not empirically validated. Mr. Sanford shared that there will be a lot of restrictions on what types of services that can be purchased by clients. Health and Safety will be a huge issue, and background checks will be required.
- At last month's meeting, this committee agreed to establish a sub-committee to discuss the difficult to serve. This is an extension of the DC Taskforce plan, because placing individuals into developmental centers is no longer an option. Some individuals may not have received intervention for years and a baseline needs to be established again. Providers have to hire employees who could be at risk of injury. Mr. Bonnet has been working with John Decker to better define the term "deflection". ACRC will be researching ways to vendorize programs that are not at the median rate so that these clients can get assistance. It was noted that this sub-committee is not just for the those with challenging behaviors, it's also for those with significant medical challenges making them a challenge to serve.
 - If anyone is interested in participating on this sub-committee, please contact Ms. West. The group will meet in September after the PAC meeting. Mr. Bonnet will have ACRC staff share what is currently being done.

- Mr. Bonnet has been speaking with the University of Southern California (USC) and they have offered to provide free counseling sessions to our clients/families through their USC Telehealth program. Participants will receive 12 weeks of free 50-minute professional counseling sessions that are highly professional, secure, and HIPAA compliant. This is fully funded through their community give back program. He will be sharing more information at our next Board meeting. Mr. Bonnet believes it will be available to our clients/families by the end of the summer.
- Sutter Hospital announced that they would be discontinuing all hospital dentistry at the end of July for our clients who require anesthesia in order to receive dental services. They have now extended this deadline. A small group of individuals met at Senator Steinberg's office to discuss the development on new resources. Mr. Bonnet has joined one of the sub-groups that will be working on expanding the providers for this needed service. Full sedation dentistry is not always the option for every client.
 - The Achievable Clinic is located in Westside Regional Center's (WRC's) catchment area. As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), instead of the standard Medi-Cal rate, they get an enhanced fee for every person that they see. The Achievable Foundation has approached ACRC to possibly set-up a satellite clinic in our catchment area.
 - Health For All, with John Porteus, has also expressed an interest in partnering with ACRC.
 - Suggestion to check with the MIND Institute to see if they could be of assistance too.
- ACRC's CAC will be going back to Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) on September 9th. Members are going to make sure that the word gets out to the clients who reside there about the upcoming meeting. Mr. Bonnet believes it might be helpful to have some providers in attendance too. If anyone is interested in participating, please let Ms. West know.
- Mr. Bonnet will be asking ACRC's Board of Directors to consider an Employment First Policy. Many regional centers across the state have created one.
 - Mr. Sanford believes that regional centers can have a policy, but until the legislature funds it, it's going to be difficult to implement.
 - Ms. Watilo shared that other Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) offices operate differently from the Sacramento offices, which seem to act as a barrier for our clients.
 - Mr. Bonnet is a member of the California Employment Consortium for Youth (CECY). This statewide group is made up

of clients, regional centers, education, and advocates, but only one service provider. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please let him know.

2. **Legislative Update**

- ACRC has received responses from some providers regarding the minimum wage pass through. The Supported Living Services (SLS) template has been revised.
- Although the Governor vetoed the community stabilization piece of the budget, he has charged Secretary Diana Dooley to establish a taskforce to look at ways to strengthen the community system. She has reconvened the DC Taskforce and they will be meeting on Thursday, July 24th. This is a public meeting so individuals are encouraged to attend and express their concerns.
 - Mr. Sanford will send the meeting information to Ms. West to distribute to committee members.
 - Suggestion was made for the PACs across the state to write letters to Secretary Dooley asking for her to make sure that this taskforce represents the community; ACRC's PAC could take the lead on this. A copy of the signed letter will be forwarded to members.

M/S/C (Jacquie Dillard-Foss) **Before July 24th, the PAC will write a letter to Secretary Dooley asking for a broader representation from the community on the taskforce. (16 in favor)**

- The Senate Select Committee on Autism and Related Disorders will be holding an informational hearing on Tuesday, August 5th, from 10 a.m. to noon, to discuss challenges and innovative solutions pertaining to vocation training and employment.
- The legislature is on recess until Monday, August 4th. The remaining bills need to be approved by Sunday, August 31st.
- Three employment bills are still alive:
 - AB 1626 (Maienschein) – Developmental services: habilitation (restores SE rates to 2008 level). This bill is in appropriations suspense and needs support to get to the Governor's desk.
 - SB 577 (Pavley) – Autism and other developmental disabilities: employment. This bill has been referred to appropriations due to costs related to DDS notifying the public and the legislature of its implementation
 - SB 1160 (Beall) – Developmental services: employment. This bill has been referred to appropriations and discussions with DDS are on-going related to the costs.

- There are several bills that provide more oversight in the residential care for the elderly. Mr. Sanford believes these bills will probably be passed, although there is no money attached to them.
- Ms. Dillard-Foss shared that the federal government has issued very strict guidelines for "joint employment".
- Recently, the Supreme Court ruled that In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers did not have to be unionized. Although, SEIU believes that this ruling only applies to Illinois, California is a big dollar ticket for home health care services.
- President Obama is working on orders to define "Salary Exempt".

3. ***Board Update***

- Mr. Sanford attended the June 26th Board meeting.
 - Nancy Lea recognized all of the Board members for their various contributions over the past year.
 - Modean Gibson was elected Board President, Brendan Peacock was elected Board Vice President, and Cindy Benson was elected Board Secretary.
 - The Board approved his and Ms. Brandon's appointments to the PAC.
 - The Board continues to seek input from the CAC and PAC.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 24th, at 3 p.m.

4. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Creative Living Options (CLO) is hosting a presentation from Art and Claudia Bolton, on Thursday, July 31st, from 4 to 6 p.m. This event is sponsored by Area Board III & V, and will highlight the future of our services.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, September 11, 2014**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet