

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 11, 2014
Minutes

Present:

Will Sanford, Futures Explored,
Chair
Janet Brandon, AIM &
Associates, Co-Chair
Gregory Buch, Ph.D., PALS
Gerrit deGelleke, American River
Speech
Eleni Gialoyrakes, Capital Social
Services
Daina Glasson, California Mentor
Tanya Hartle, UCP of Greater
Sacramento, Inc.
Susan Miner, Turning Point
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
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Jill Bonetti, Opportunity Acres
Becky Brubaker, EGACTION
Jacquie Dillard-Foss*, STEP
Ed Doonan*, LIFE, Inc.
Dawn Montgomery*, HOPE
Consulting
Sergio Pinto*, BEST Consulting,
Inc.
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Paul Traglio*, Capitol Autism
Services

Visitors:

Eric Ciampa
Claudia Loveless
Irma Rossman
Richard Royse
Pete Stirling

Staff:

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

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 9:36 a.m. on Thursday, September 11, 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 July 10, 2014 as submitted.

1. ***Executive Director Comments***

- ACRC received the A-1 contract amendment from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) at the end of August. Even though we have between 600 and 700 more clients, we received a 1.3% decrease

in funding in Purchase of Services (POS). The Operations (OPS) budget wasn't what is needed to hire the need staff either. Mr. Bonnet believes the agency's POS budget will be sufficient, although some providers wait until three years after the fiscal year closes to submit their billing. Because of that, it is hard to project all expenses. He also continues to worry about the rates that are being paid to providers. He reviewed a letter that was sent out a while ago from a group out of Southern California asking Santi Rogers, Director of DDS, for a 10% increase statewide. Mr. Bonnet spoke with Mr. Rogers earlier this week and indicated that the Governor believes that the statewide system is funded appropriately.

- Many legislators are reaching the end of their term (i.e., Senator Steinberg, Assembly member Chesbro, etc.). It is critical that the new legislators know who we are.
- With the rates and the new Medicaid Rule which takes effect five years after the waiver is approved, Mr. Bonnet is concerned about living options for our clients. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rule states that all services funded by the federal government must be inclusive of the general population. Once the Self-Determination Waiver is approved, existing services must meet this criteria as well. Secretary Diana Dooley, with the Health & Human Services Agency, will be submitted the waiver for approval. Once it is approved, the department has 120 days to submit a transition plan, which requires a 30-day review by community stakeholders. The federal government is taking a hard stance on this right now, but we will see how this all plays out. Right now, the rule applies to residential services only, but it is assumed that it will spread to day services as well.
 - Suggestion was made to get licensing involved in this process.
 - Also, have DDS look at the history of how other states submitted waivers to CMS, so that California can do it right the first time.

Once the waiver is approved, Mr. Bonnet believes good things will come from it. This is an opportunity for our system to make sure the money is going towards making the best lives for the people that we serve.

- Mr. Bonnet will be attending the Fiesta Educativa Sacramento 14th Annual Conference at Rosemont High School on Saturday, September 20th. This is a wonderful opportunity to do some outreach with our Spanish community. This is a safe environment where you can reach out to many families. If you are interested in attending, please contact him or Ms. West for more information.
- This Tuesday, September 9th, ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) held their monthly meeting at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). There were over 40 individuals in attendance, as well as clients who

reside there at SDC. The CAC has pledged to go there every year until ACRC has no more clients there. Mr. Bonnet noted that it now costs in excess of \$500,000 per year for a client to live at a DC.

- ACRC will have 174 clients participating in the Self-Determination pilot project. Once the department provides regional centers with the guidance, ACRC will be hosting a free conference so that clients and families can gather more information about this service option. Those clients who chose to participate will only be able to purchase services that are billable to the federal government. The waiver attached to this law, mentioned above, must be submitted by December 31, 2014.
- Two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) that came out of ACRC's Living Options Workgroup (LOW) were released in February. Two service providers have expressed interest in the "Essential Life Skills Training and Support Program". Finding a way to make Supported Living Services (SLS) more affordable is a priority. ACRC received a letter from DDS giving us permission to use existing Family Home Agencies (FHAs) for "Out-of-Home Respite Services". We are still pursuing the option of an out-of-home respite "hotel", similar to *The Respite Inn* in Concord.
- Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC is revamping our agency's website, which will be client focused. If anyone has photos that we can use, please contact Ms. West with the photo and signed release.
- ACRC continues to receive rate adjustment requests from providers in order to pay employees the new minimum wage.

2. **Legislative Update**

- The legislative session ended on Sunday, August 31st. This is also the end of the two-year cycle.
- Some bills are on the Governor's desk waiting for his signature. He has until September 30th to sign them or let the bills die.
 - AB 1595 (Chesbro) – State Council on Developmental Disabilities. This bill would make the Area Board's local offices of the State Council and shift the Area Boards to advisory committees to the local offices. It would also change the types of advocacy they would take on.
 - SB 577 (Pavley) – Autism and other developmental disabilities: employment. This bill is about vocational development, but it requires a waiver.
 - SB 1093 (Liu) – Developmental services: regional centers: culturally and linguistically competent services. This bill would allow clients to receive Independent Living Skills (ILS) services while living in their parent's home.
- A number of seats are up for new legislators. Staffers are key to this process. If anyone wants to assist the candidates with their

campaigns, you will be remembered. Individuals can also write letters of support to the Governor. It is important that we contact the new legislators and educate them about our system so they can fight for us on the hill.

3. **Board Update**

- Ms. Brandon attended the July 24th Board meeting.
 - The Board voted to go “dark” in April, as well as August and December. This group needs to decide whether or not to meet that month.
 - Committee members expressed that they prefer to keep the April meeting on calendar since it is a busy time of year. Like any meeting, it may be cancelled if necessary.
 - The Board voted on two new Board members – Romilda Jones, representing Yuba County, and Rosa Meza-Villaseñor, representing Colusa County.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 25th, at 3 p.m.

4. **Announcements/Comments**

- Mr. Sanford shared that Tanya Hartle will be retiring at the end of this calendar year. Eric Ciapa has been attending these meetings, along side of Ms. Hartle, for several months and has submitted his application to replace her on this committee.

M/S/C (Will Sanford) **To nominate Eric Ciapa for membership to the PAC.** (15 in favor)

- ACRC staff have asked for a volunteer from this committee to present about the PAC at the next Vendor Orientation scheduled for Friday, September 19th, from 9:45 to 10 a.m. – *Dr. Buch volunteered.*
- The DC Taskforce 2.0 is working to develop resources in the community using Community Placement Plan (CPP) funds. This group is now being driven by DDS. The taskforce is tentatively meeting on Wednesday, October 8th; Mr. Sanford will confirm this date with Ms. West once it is official and she will email committee members the information. He is not sure how input into this process will work yet. No sub-groups have met yet.
 - Suggestion to invite Jim Knight, from DDS, to come and speak with this committee – *Mr. Sanford will contact him.*
- Mr. Ranit shared that his agency received a letter that an independent auditor from CMS what will be auditing them.
 - Ms. Payne shared that he may be able to opt out of this audit; she will send him the information.

- Ms. Ramirez asked Cal/OSHA to come out to one of her care homes for assistance and they are now nominating the care home for a "Gold Star".
- Ms. Onesi shared that ACRC will be releasing two new Requests for Proposals (RFPs), which will be posted on our website. One is seeking an agency that can provide behavioral services for clients who live in their family home, and the other is for a psychologist that can administer tests to assist ACRC's Intake Department.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, October 9, 2014**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet