

Alliance of Service Providers (ASP)
Meeting Notes for January 4, 2017

Present: Sheila Keys, Cindy Claus-John, Kim Nash, Jerry Freitas, Rick Blumberg (RCRC) Pam Jensen (UVAH), Denise Gorney (State Council, North Coast Office), Jaison Chand, Catherine Sundquist (City Ambulance), Joanne Holliday (Community Catalyst California), Jeff Pockett (Reaching for Independence) H. S. (Parent Vendor), Katherine Clark (Community Employment Links), Enrique Ulloa, Mallory Sammons, Barbara Sprout, Kelly Weber (CBEM-Creating Behavioral and Educational Momentum), Christine Patterson,(Trajectory), David Weafer(Disability Rights)

Agency Updates

CBEM-The Ukiah office opened in July, they have had difficulty filling staffing positions, that require a Master's degree but now have some promising candidates. They have 18 clients in Ukiah. They are contracted to provide crisis intervention services for people and families at risk in order prevent problems, address critical moments in time. Up north they have 6 staff and are getting 4 more to serve 26 clients so they will be able to take referrals.

Community Catalyst California – Things are stable but they were more short-staffed than usual during the holidays.

State Council-North Coast Office – Denise shared a resource, on how to eat well on \$4/day. It is called Good and Cheap. It is a cookbook with great pictures for people with limited incomes. The federal government has issued 80,000 Section 8 rental assistance vouchers for low income people. There is still a lengthy waiting time to get a voucher and utilization is often limited by lack of available rentals.

Parent Vendor- Holly reported that Santa visited the RCRC offices. The offices were festive and it was enjoyed by all. Holly did a training on special needs trusts in 2002. It is still a good thing for people with developmental disabilities. With the new CalABLE (Californians Achieving Better Life Experiences) program individuals with disabilities can save up to \$14,000 without risking their benefits. Policies and procedures are still being developed. Other states already have similar programs. She stated that Redwood Coast Village has local ridesharing options and other services to help older adults stay in their homes. They are struggling to allow membership by persons with developmental disabilities stating that there are other services to support them. They have services in Arcata and Fortuna. Holly urges people to check their website.

Trajectory helps artists with career development.

City Ambulance – They got two more vehicles and another bus on the way in their effort to shorten routes to reduce ride times. They are able to accommodate people with disabilities including those who cannot speak.

Community Employment Links- Things are going well, they have a good staff.

They have assisted folks who want competitive employment to have their I.P.P.'s amended to reflect that goal. They are spending much time with families and clients to explain why employment is a good goal and understand how Social Security benefits may be impacted once a person starts earning money. CalABLE will positively impact people who are concerned about having more than \$2,000 in their savings accounts.

Disability Rights David is available to provide training for providers on how to protect client rights, abuse reporting and other topics. They are currently looking for accessible office space in Eureka.

RCRC Report

Dr. Rick Blumberg was introduced as the new RCRC Executive Director. He reported the governors' FY 16/17 provided funding for 200 service coordinator positions across the state. There is also money to increase services for the underserved, to increase employment services and training to achieve cultural competency of regional staff and Board members. ABX2 1 put nearly a half billion dollars into the service system. This helped to increase regional center and service provider staff pay. Providers will also receive money if needed to increase employees pay to meet the new minimum wage. The regional center budget is doing alright but there are several positions that need to be filled due to medical and pregnancy leaves and new positions.

Kim reported that minimum wage increased and mileage reimbursement changed as did IHSS rates effective January 1, 2017. In two weeks RCRC will send information on how to apply for rate increases for only those staff paid less than the new minimum wage and post it on their website.

ABX 2 1 service provider rate increases are based on service codes. A percent of the increase needs to be spent on direct care wages and the balance on administrative expenses. DDS will need a report on how the money was spent so they have developed a draft tracking report for providers to complete. Providers will need to provide a report for each vendor number. One provider stated they opened a separate checking account to hold the increased revenue to ensure they spend the money correctly. RCRC has the AB x 2 1 rate increase worksheet posted on the RCRC Website.

Dr. Jed Baker will be here in April to provide training on social skills, managing frustration and other topics. He is highly regarded nationally. Training will be April 24 in Ukiah followed by client consult for Ukiah and Lake Counties on April 25. Eureka's training day will be April 26 with consults on April 27. Pam asked to see if Dr. Baker would agree to being videotaped so the information could be shared with staff who are not able to attend.

Due to CPP funding Dr. Clarissa Kripke for UCSF has been working with local hospitals and clinics to help them better support patients with developmental disabilities. She had two training with UVMC and there was a high level of participation. The goal is to make people healthier.

There will be another CalABLE Webinar soon. David Weafer from Disability Rights advised that he is quite knowledgeable about how it works in other states.

Clients' Rights Advocate Presentation

David Weafer gave an overview of Disability rights California. They provide legal assistance to clients for issues related to their disability. They can participate in IEP and IPP meetings; work with Special Education, IHSS, Social Security, and MediCal issues. They can help with eligibility and appeals. They must work with clients directly and can work with conservators and parents. They are available to explain client rights and benefits to providers. They cannot help take away a person's rights. They are available to represent clients at administrative hearings, help fill out paperwork and provide translators and translations. Someone can be referred if they are told that the person needs help to understand their rights.

Procedures to bill for competitive job placement incentive monies

Community service managers will be helping service coordinators to implement these procedures due to the limited service coordinator staffing. So that is who providers should contact. For a provider to receive incentive payments clients need to have an employment goal in their IPP or have them amended, and service design templates must include helping people work. After 30 days, 6 months and 1 year, the provider needs to present proof that the person has been working. This could be a W-2, copies of paycheck stubs, timecards or written confirmation of wages from employers. Providers can get incentive payments from every employer if clients' have more than one job.

Self-Determination Advisory Committee

We are waiting to hear if DDS has submitted a revised waiver. The local committee is now meeting every other month and would love to have a client or parent from Del Norte County join the group.

Competitive Integrated Employment Blueprint

Individuals shared their views on the proposed document. The deadline has passed for public comment and we are awaiting the revised blueprint. It may provide for opportunities to collaborate between DDS funded entities, the Department of Rehabilitation and the local education agencies.

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 22, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.