

Alliance of Service Providers (ASP)

Meeting Notes for July 12, 2017

Present: Sheila Keys, Cindy Claus-John, Kim Nash, Rick Blumberg, Sierra Braggs (RCRC) Pam Jensen (UVAH), Denise Gorny (State Council, North Coast Office), Joanne Holliday (Community Catalyst California), Enrique Ulloa, Barbara Sprout (CBEM- Creating Behavioral and Educational Momentum), Gary Muench, Sarah Davis (Supportability), Ross Jantz (HCAR), Sara Pfeiffer (Enriching Lives), Barbara Nelson (Diane Cathay Center)

Agency Updates

HCAR – Will having a Massive Summer Barbeque and Membership meeting on July 21 from 11:30-1:30 at their Searles St. location.

Enriching Lives – They are planning a late August summer BBQ in Fortuna that will include horse and carriage rides. They hired a coordinator for two programs and are looking for quality direct service staff. In late September, they will be hosting the Direct Service Professional Residential Training Year 1.

CBEM-They are celebrating their 1 year anniversary. In the Eureka area they helped 64 during the first year. They have capacity to work with more people including people in crisis or transition. Just let the service coordinator know if you see a person in need. The Ukiah office is down two CIS staff. They may be able to fill one position if the person can find housing. They currently have 2 people on a waiting list, however things should open up by August. They are serving 4 people in Fort Bragg. Next week, they will giving a presentation in Lakeport to the Law Enforcement Chiefs' Association on how to effectively communicate with people with developmental disabilities.

Diane Cathay Center – They too are having difficulty finding employees. They are working on their HCBS grant and have ordered 2 greenhouses to develop some employment services. They anticipate having wholesale and retail sales.

State Council-North Coast Office – No one has been hired to replace Dawn Morely yet. They are looking at an August 1 target date. There will be a Family Caregiver Stress work shop on July 29 from 9:30-2:30 at the Adult Day Health Services Library in Eureka. Also in Eureka, on July 20 Tri-county independent living will have a presentation about how people with communication issues can get access to temporary I pads and software to see if helps them interact with others.

UVAH- Pam reported that UVAH has 4 staff vacancies and is having a hard time balancing the budget due to a \$40,000/yr. increase in health insurance. They had a 2-day Pro-Act training for several staff.

Community Catalyst California – Their office manager is out for knee surgery, and the staff leader is out of town with her daughter and several people are on vacation in addition to being short staffed so they are currently not able to accept any new referrals. All of this is taking its toll on Joanne.

Supportability – They are moving their office from Lakeport to Kelseyville. They will have a larger building in downtown with the iconic Norton Dodge sign. They hope to complete the move by Labor Day.

Supportability staff have been collecting data since they started services. After consultation they now have a process to analyze the data to make helpful changes in a person's life and services. They are starting to get more client requests for employment assistance and have had a couple of self-referrals. More people seem to know about them since the Valley fires.

Lakeport is developing a senior and disabled housing project that will not be affordable family housing. Rebuilding efforts are focusing on creating housing for people with money especially in the Cobb Mountain area.

People Services – Ilene emailed the following report since she was on vacation this week. People Services, Inc. has begun working on the CMS Funding contract requirements so we can begin the hiring process for our Job Development and Employment Specialist in July.

We had a very successful Chicken-Que fundraiser on June 3rd, 2017. Our gross proceeds is a little over \$20,000.00.

We are upgrading our Safety Program and expanding our drills to include "Active Shooter"; "Workplace Violence"; and getting more detailed on our response for "disaster" management. So far the Lakeport Police Department has taken an active role consulting us at our 11th Street site in Lakeport regarding a plan of action for "active shooter" and "workplace violence".

Health Benefit renewal is very disturbing with a 15% increase. Our Workers Compensation rates also have raised significantly. Both of these are making a huge negative impact on all budgets across the Agency.

We have outgrown our Administrative Bookkeeping/Payroll server and the QuickBooks Pro software, so we have to make some major purchases to upgrade.

We are having another Agency wide PRO ACT training for all staff during July. This takes two full day Saturdays to achieve certification. People Services, Inc. has two certified Trainers.

RCRC Report

Since Dr. Rick started in his job as the Executive Director he has not been able to spend as much time as he would like up north due to weather and personal family issues. Please feel free to invite him to meetings and to visit services.

Starting in July, the regional center will offer trainings every month usually on the third Thursday of the month. Training will be available via WebX and archived on the RCRC website. The first training will be an overview of Developmental Disabilities by Dr. Rick as they have a trial run and hope to work out any kinks with this new format. On Aug. 24, 2017, Dr. Dan Baker will discuss Wellness. Webinars will be advertised on the RCRC website.

Kim reported that in late July-August there will be a training with Scott Shepard for residential support providers to look at Individual Service Plans and simple support plans. There will be 2-day trainings in Eureka and Ukiah with follow-up trainings throughout the year.

Dr. Lucy Esralew, neuropsychologist is coming in every 6 weeks until she relocates in January to cover Dr. Rick's previous duties.

There has been no response from the DDS regarding the survey that providers are supposed to submit by October per AB 2-1x.

RCRC start-up finding monies have been delayed due to community placement plan dollars being applied to closure plans for Sonoma, Fairview and Porterville. RCRC is hoping to get funds to enable a housing agency to get grants to build affordable housing and inclusive housing stock.

The hiring process to find a replacement for Cindy's Community Resource Manager position is in progress.

Efforts are underway by some in the Ukiah area to waive the inclusive housing law to reduce or eliminate the requirement to provide housing for low income people. Denise will keep us apprised of housing meetings so we can advocate for building affordable housing for our clients and staff.

Competitive job placement incentive monies

A procedure and forms have been developed and are being piloted with an eye to making changes as needed.

Paid Internship Program

Providers are asked to let Cindy and Sierra and Service Coordinators know in advance when looking for internship opportunities. They are still working with the fiscal department to finalize payment procedures for providers. Providers are advised to review Program services designs to see if any amendments are necessary to comply with Paid Internship requirements. Cindy and Sierra are available to consult as needed.

Employment Specialist and Job coach training

The 3-day training scheduled for August 8-10 is full. The training is sponsored by the Mendo/Lake Adult Education Consortium and Redwood Coast Regional Center.

Open Discussion

State Rate Study and Staff shortages

Rick noted that the cost of health and other employee benefits needs to be addressed. These costs are threatening the fiscal stability of service providers. He also suggested that there needs to be outreach to students to give them an understanding of human service job opportunities to help them “get a fire in their belly” for the creative and fun opportunities this type of work offers.

Mental Health First Aid Training

Joanne has a resource to provide a 2-day training. She will work with Kim and Barbara to set up a training.

Client Nutrition and Wellness

Joanne noted that as clients age we are starting to see the negative impact a lifetime of poor nutrition is having on their health. In many cases, they are getting diet preventable illnesses. Experience has shown that in many cases staff do not have the knowledge about how to shop and cook healthy meals so they cannot teach clients. There was a suggestion to work with local hospitals who often offer nutrition classes and to have clients and staff attend together. Physicians can also refer individual patients to nutritionists.

Next meeting Pam will work with Donna to create a schedule after the RCRC Board of Directors approves its meeting schedule for the new fiscal year. We will expand the video participation to include Crescent City per a request from a provider up there.