



Redwood Coast Regional Center

Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community

POS Expenditure Data Report Redwood Coast Regional Center **April, 2015**

This report is provided to the Department of Developmental Services as required in Article VII: Miscellaneous, Section 6(b)(i) of Redwood Coast Regional Center's 2014-2015 Contract.

I. Issues identified by RCRC PS Expenditure Data

Redwood Coast Regional Center has reviewed its third data report, which was completed and posted to its web site on January 5, 2015. The data does not show significant changes from the prior two years' reports related to the diversity of the persons served within the four-county catchment area. As in the past, the data does show a noteworthy difference when compared between RCRC and the geographic area it serves and all regional centers and the citizens served across the entire state. What is perhaps more significant is that the relationship of the percentages between people served by RCRC and people residing in the four-county area served by RCRC is very similar to the same relationship of percentages between all regional centers and the statewide population.

The following issues were identified by the 2014 data, and by public meetings held in late March, 2015.

1. The Redwood Coast Developmental Services Corporation (RCDSC) Board of Directors (the governing board for Redwood Coast Regional Center) continues to search for representatives of the area's Hispanic communities to serve on the RCDSC Board. Recruitment and retention of Hispanic board members continues to be less than adequate to ensure legally mandated representation
2. RCRC needs to conduct extensive outreach into area Hispanic communities. This includes translation of informational documents, IPP's, and other service-related materials; outreach to Spanish-language newspapers and local publications; attending Spanish-language events offered through parent groups, Family Resource Centers, school districts, and others; and offer more information through the RCRC web site in Spanish.
3. RCRC needs to also conduct outreach to area Native American tribes, including attending cultural competency training which is periodically offered by various tribal entities.

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II. Results of the Stakeholder Meetings

Public meetings were held on March 24, 2015 in Ukiah for Lake and Mendocino Counties, and on March 26, 2015 in Eureka for Del Norte and Humboldt Counties. Five people attended the meeting in Ukiah, and six people attended the meeting in Eureka, which was a significant drop in attendance over each of the first two years.

Professional Spanish language interpreters were made available at each of the meetings. The meetings were held from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. to accommodate working clients and parents, as they have been in the past. The meetings were announced via the RCRC web site, through regional center staff, and via flyers in all offices and other locations, all for more than 30 days prior to both meetings.

All meeting participants received a handout containing color coded graphs and charts of the POS Expenditure data from 2014, in an easy-to-understand format. The graphs and charts were prepared by RCRC and served as discussion guides for each meeting. This year, the charts and graphs also contained required new information regarding expenditures based on types of living arrangements and age, and more information regarding numbers and percentages of persons receiving no services during 2014. The handout packet also contained notes this year that explained how race and ethnicity are further defined by the state, and also how primary languages are further defined (for example, what languages are contained under the heading "Asian"). A page was also provided that offers definitions of terms used in the expenditure data, such as diagnostic categories, and types of residences.

Discussion was held regarding each measure provided in the report. There was adequate time for questions and responses, and also group discussion at each meeting. As noted earlier in this report, a substantial amount of time during each meeting was given to discussion of potential further outreach efforts that could be made to Hispanic and Native American individuals, families, and communities. These discussions led to identification of new strategies that RCRC can pursue throughout the rest of the year, particularly in response to identified areas in need of improvement. These are listed above under Section I, and continued below in Section III. *Proposed Strategies.*

III. Proposed Strategies

Proposed strategies for issues identified under Section I above include:

Issues 1 & 2: Engage throughout the year in outreach activities to individuals, families and community members who self-identify as Hispanic, in a variety of settings, and through multiple means. Specifically, through activities such as Fiesta Educativa, public school events, and other community settings, and through Family Resource Centers, local Hispanic radio stations and Spanish language newspapers. Additionally, provide continued cultural competency

training for all regional center staff, assure translation services of IPP's and all other relevant documents as well as web site announcements and information.

Further, invite members of our communities to attend RCRC events which provide interpreter services and information that is culturally sensitive and desired by individuals and families.

Issue 3: Engage in outreach to Native American individuals, families and community members through participation in cultural understanding and competency trainings which are offered by United Indian Health and other tribal offices.