

## **Alliance of Service Providers (ASP)**

Meeting Notes for May 2, 2018

Present: Sheila Keys, Rick Blumberg, Jerry Freitas, Sierra Braggs, Cindy Claus-John (RCRC), Pam Jensen (UVAH), Ilene Dumont,(People Services), Joanne Holiday (Community Catalyst California), Malory Simmons, (CBEM), Denise Gorny, Sheli Wright (State Council North Coast Office), Lea Montgomery (Families United), Cynthia Swimm, Dan Hubbard (ABC), Christie Tanguay, Xavier Hall (Parents and Friends), Brian Marrier (Autism Advocacy Intervention), Nick Wright (Mendocino College Disability Resource Center), Jordon Mayers (Community Employment Links), Catherine Sundquist (CAE Transport), Kristi Patterson (Trajectory), Valerie Johnson (Independent Adult Services), Jeff Pocket (Reaching for Independence)

### **Agency Updates**

#### UVAH

The Spring Fling Dance was held on April 13. The annual bowling fundraiser was on April 28. We are fully staffed as of today. Ballots for UVAH's Board of Directors will be sent out next week. At this point we are looking for an additional member. The Emergency Succession plan for the Executive Director is complete. Next we will work on planned E.D. departure and senior management. 4 staff went to the person-centered planning gathering in Petaluma. We have started an Employment Committee to get staff trained up on the skills needed for self-discovery assessments and job coaching. We had a training on paid internship procedures. We are looking at a pet grooming business for our first one.

#### ABC Lake County

They had a Cinco de Mayo party and a spring dance. There was a client band that played. They had a bowling rip with the Mendocino group. 17 of 19 people have paid employment. The Employment Training Specialist is training staff. They hired 9 more people.

#### State Council

They are finishing the Quality Assurance Assessments and looking at next year's plan. Please notify her if you have any burning desires that you would like the state Council to focus on in the new plan. Sheli is getting to know what trainings are available to and needed by clients and others. She will be attending Disaster Planning through Health and Human Services on May 15. The MITT transition panel will be held on May 10 for high school students and their parents. Denise will have a brief presentation about ICE (In Case of Emergency) cards. They have Planning for Your Future fliers.

### Parents and Friends

Staff are getting training via the College of Direct Supports, CPR training by in-house staff and 2 people attended the Person-Centered Gathering in Petaluma. They are building a 4-bedroom residential care facility for seniors. There will be tracking throughout. They hope to open in June. They are anticipating reaching capacity(30) for their Community Connection program so they applying to licensing for a new license. They have been getting referrals and 10 new staff. 4 clients got jobs and they will be offering the paid internship program soon.

### People Services

They are hoping for an operational rate increase. Their health insurance has gone up 9%, liability insurance by 10% and gasoline costs are increasing. They will have their spring dance on Friday. This will be their first prom. Women are getting their hair styled, there are make-up artists and they are shopping for dresses from the thrift store. It will be a dinner-dance held in Kelseyville. The annual Chicken Q fundraiser is coming up. They will be adding ladybugs and bees for the county BBQ. They will be attending a licensed facility disaster training in Sacramento. Their local Emergency Response Coalition is back up and running. Services in Lakeport are growing again. They need 3 more referrals to break even. They have their first paid internship and are close to starting their second. Ilene is preparing a CIE/PIP cheat sheet to help staff using these new programs. Succession planning is happening in earnest with Ilene's planned departure.

### Community Catalyst

They will participate in the Human Race on Saturday. The Consumer Advisory Committee has been hosting events with healthy food options like a salad bar. All but one person tried eating something new. They are working with staff and clients on how to get fiber and nutrition in their diets. They are not fully staffed. They are pleased with how the PayCom hosting a statewide board event in September.

### CBEM

They need to hire one more critical intervention specialist in Ukiah. They are starting a crisis intervention team with autism youth and their parents. Typically people participate 3-6 months.

### Community Employment Links

They have 2 new clients and need to hire one person. They are preparing for the Farmer's Market Crafts Fair. They presented the Paid Internship Program to employers, including the district manager at a new store, at the local job fair. They will attend the Smith River job fair too. It is a great opportunity for clients to meet potential employers.

### Families United

Lea still needs a program director. She has been over extended doing two jobs. She is short on staff, especially on the coast. She had to let some staff go who were not keeping with their required trainings. There is still a freeze on referrals. Lake County families are approaching her about hiring family members. Each situation has to be looked at carefully to see if it is a good fit depending on family dynamics. Lea's daughter completed her ABC book and it is going out for publishing. Trajectory helped with this project. The digital form can be downloaded from Amazon.

### Trajectory

The annual 3x3x3 tiny art show was completed and the performance ensemble is wrapping up. One of their artists was hired as a curator for the Humboldt County Fair!

### Reaching for Independence

The internship project is going well and has resulted in two paid jobs so far. Their lawn care service has 198 customers.

### Autism Advocacy Intervention

This is a private for-profit agency located in Lake County. They support a couple Head Start classes in Mendocino County. They have a great working relationship with the high schools in Lake County. They work well with public schools who request training and support services. They offer clinics in Clearlake and Nice and provide parental training in homes. They strongly encourage parents to form their own support groups.

They have 13 employees of whom 10 are registered behavior technicians. The company is applying for non-profit status. They have a significant wait list and will not overwhelm themselves. They are fully staffed but have room for more.

### Mendocino College Disability Resource Center

Nick introduced himself as the coordinator counselor for the entire district. He is hoping to connect and collaborate with service providers and the regional center. The college will be offering some classes that clients may be interested in. They will have an opening for an audio-assistive technology specialist soon.

### Independent Adult Services

Valeri is still working on retiring. The manager at Social Security has left and this has negatively impacted the services some clients are receiving so Valerie is continuing to work with them.

## **RCRC Report**

There is an RFP out for diversity outreach in Humboldt and Mendocino counties to connect with the Native American and Hispanic communities. The regional center hopes to use the Promotora-cultural ambassador approach.

Dr. Rick is continuing to focus on keeping people safe. Our area has a high rate of abuse. The plan is to train people who use services. Dave Hingsbuger will be providing trainings in Crescent City and Lake County this month.

Donna Landry retired after 37 years of service.

RCRC has contracted with the Rural Housing Development Corporation to develop affordable housing in our 4 county area. RCRC is working with them to match people to existing openings.

The Person-Centered Gathering was very beneficial. Thanks to Sheila Keys for coordinating this. Self-Determination informational meetings will start in June. Meetings will be held in English and Spanish. RCRC has 25 slots available for interested clients.

DDS will select people from a random drawing. Clients must attend an informational meeting to submit their name to be part of the program.

There are voter registration forms in all regional center offices.

## **Rate Study**

Providers will be receiving surveys that the consultants hired by DDS will use to recommend new rates for services. It is important for all providers to complete the survey. It will be online. A survey has to be completed for every service code that a provider offers. The survey will be coming out soon and will have a short turn-around time. Everyone is urged to respond and to seek help if needed to complete the survey.

## **ASP Vendor Representative**

Dr. Cynthia Swimm was elected to be the representative to the RCRC Board of Directors.

## **Live Well**

Valerie shared information about Live Well a program offered by Ukiah Valley Adventist Health. It is a 8 week program designed to support the whole person. They provide, assessment, case manager support and classes based on assessment results to help individuals start the journey for mental and physical health. This is very beneficial for people at risk for diabetes and other significant health issues.

## **Open Discussion**

Members were urged to advocate with legislators for a 4% rate increase to help cover cost increases and elimination of the 5 furlough days from the governor's proposed budget.