

Alliance of Service Providers (ASP)
Meeting Minutes for January 9th, 2019

Present: Loren Freeman (Clearlake Youth Center), Pam Jenson (UVAH), Jacqueline Arnold (CBEM), Sheila Keys (RCRC), Kim Nash (RCRC), Ilene Dumont and Dana Lewis (People Services), Sarah Davis and Felicia (Supportability), Joanne Holiday (Community Catalyst California), Catherine Sundquist (CAE Transport), Sheli Wright (State Council North Coast Office), Jeffery Pocket (Reaching for Independence) Kristy Tanguay, Xaviera Hall (Parents and Friends), Cynthia Swimm and Kelsie Shoffeitt (ABC).

Guest Speaker

Loren Freeman the executive director of the Clearlake Youth Center spoke to the ASP meeting members about his non-profit organization located in Clearlake on Golf Avenue. Loren explained the Youth Center is open Monday through Saturday and the facility is an arcade game style setting. It has pool tables, video games, a full commercial kitchen and holds a boxing class two days a week with 50 students attending. It is mostly designed for ages 8 to 19 but he is working with the local adult day programs so their clients can utilize the facility as it is a safe environment to socialize in. Every Tuesday there is grief counseling supported by hospice. Also, on Fridays from 5:00pm to 8:00pm a local group called “The Landing” attends the facility to meet with peers who are also recovering from addictions in supportive environment for socializing while a free meal is provided. Loren stated E-mail is the best form of communication. Not only is the Youth Center an open facility to the community but it is a referral agency for children in need. In the summer there will be many activities both inside and outside that the clients of the RCRC and local day programs can attend.

Agency Updates

CBEM - Jacqueline Arnold

CBEM has hired two new Critical Intervention Specialists to their team. The CIS positions help RCRC clients with specialized crisis. CBEM has taken on new clients. Due to still being short staffed office staff continue to work in the field.

Supportability – Sarah Davis

Sarah would like to recognize Loren Freeman at the Clearlake Youth Center for welcoming their clients to his facility. The clients enjoy using the Youth Center to each lunch and socialize. She looks forward to continuing utilizing the center.

CAE Transport – Catherine Sundquist

CAE Transport has replaced two work vans in the company. The vans will help transport clients that have moved to Fortuna but still would like to continue to attend their current program in the Eureka.

Reaching for Independence - Jeffery Pocket

Jeffery stated they recently moved into a new building in Crescent City

People Services – Ilene Dumont

The company had festivities for the holidays. Ilene attended the Office of Emergency meeting and she addressed the unfortunate events that occurred during the fires. Red Cross was extremely helpful at the meeting and they stated they will have trainings to be prepared for any future fires and everyone will be welcomed by Red Cross, not turned away. Overall, the meeting went fantastic and Ilene has confidence that the next unfortunate disaster that occurs in our community will go smoothly. Peoples Services has three clients placed in Customized Employment! They are getting ready for the Polar Plunge in February.

Community Catalyst California – Joanne Holiday

The CEO of the company is stepping down and will now be the Executive Chair of the Board. They continue to have difficulty hiring Staff. The main office in San Diego is helping with screening new employees. The budget for 2019 is somewhat worrisome but this gives Joanne time to re-evaluate caseloads. They are not accepting new referrals at this time. Two of the clients attending their program had successful surgery's at Clearlake Dental. The third persons surgery had some complications at the end where his oxygen levels were not stable, and they tried releasing him. The Support Staff contacted Dr. Rick and Dr. Rick contacted Dr. Sullivan in Eureka who was able to speak to the Dental Surgeon and Clearlake Dental kept the client until his oxygen levels were stable. Joanne was so appreciative for RCRC's immediate support!

UVAH - Pam Jenson

They recently found a Job Coach for the company at a local job fair. The Black and White Ball was a success as always. Pam is working with an individual located in Ohio in regard to creating a van with a changing table. This will allow the clients to stay in the community longer instead of having to go back and forth to the office. She recently submitted a request for a new crew cap truck.

Parents and Friends - Kristy Tanguay, Xaviera Hall

While it feels like we are wrapping up many organizational projects, more changes continue to drive more action :-)

- In December, our first RCFE became licensed and we welcomed our first resident to the 4-bedroom home. We are conducting assessments on other individuals who have been referred.
- Our 2nd site for Community Connection day program received its license and can now expand its number of participants.
- We received a grant to build capacity for non-traditional communication supports. These finds will allow us to certify 3 new adaptive technologists on staff.
- We have submitted our proposal to the Regional Center to add a full time Medication Plan Specialist to our SLS program to support participants who are experiencing medication misses
- Our new Job Developer position, funded by an HCBS grant, is going extremely well in developing relationships and job carving in the business community. We have had 5 new job placements! One of our Discovery tools, The Job Club curriculum, will be rolled out in February.
- Our agency is participating in the survey for the 8% plea. Each of our more than 150 DSPs have been asked to help.
- The coast's Polar Plunge for Special Olympics takes place February 9th at Dolphin Isle in Fort Bragg. Enter at the South harbor. Register at 11, Plunge at Noon!

Association of Behavior Consultants – Cynthia Swimm

We have had six months of steady office Staff. The Thanksgiving and Christmas parties were enjoyed by all clients. ABC holds a chili/ pasta/ cook off or a soup day at least once a month to provide a safe and fun environment for all clients to socialize in their local community with community members. Most clients continue to hold volunteer or paid jobs. A client is teaching his new Business Coach, that has a bit of music background, how to play the guitar. The Client also holds band practice, or a rock show every Friday for ABC and the community. He has connected with a peer of his from ABC to play the drums and work very well together. We are working with Cindy CJ on an addendum to the Opportunities Unlimited Program. We are very excited about the additional opportunities we will be able to provide to all who attend our Opportunities Unlimited Program including paid internships.

State Council North Coast Office - Sheli Wright

The North Coast office has been selected to speak about issues and interests at the community workshop on January 24, 2019. Sheli will be speaking with Sheriff Almond about trainings regarding law enforcement and preparedness. There will also be a post certified training to help teach Law Enforcement how to work, engage with and support people with mental health diagnosis and developmental disabilities that they come into contact with while implementing their jobs.

RCRC - Kim Nash (Speaking for Dr. Rick)

Lake County vendors were extraordinary during the fires, making sure all of the consumers and community members were safe. Dr. Rick has written an article of Recognition of our Local Heroes to the Sacramento Bee for publication. There is a management job available in the Lakeport office, they are searching for an individual with solid leadership skills. This year there is less than 10% increase in insurance premiums which is unheard of and excellent for RCRC. RCRC has given a 2.5% increase of pay to their employees since the insurance money was locked in. For the first time in RCRC history there were no deficiencies in audits and all of the documentation was in order. RCRC wants to thank all of the Service Providers as they are always complying and helping track down any missing documents if any. As we know, Sonoma closed at the end of 2018. Health and safety are the number one priority of all clients. There needs to be trainings on the zero-tolerance policy.

Open Discussion

Ilene stated on the future surveys that it should be worded “parent” instead of “single mother”. All meeting attendees agreed. Thank you, Ilene, for catching that.

Next meeting – Wednesday-March 13, 2019, 9-11.