

Alliance of Service Providers (ASP)
Meeting Notes for March 14, 2018

Present: Sheila Keys, Rick Blumberg, Jerry Freitas, Sierra Braggs, Kim Nash, Cindy Claus-John (RCRC), Pam Jensen (UVAH), Ilene Dumont, Latoya Fortino (People Services), Joanne Holiday (Community Catalyst California), Enrique Uolla (CBEM), Denise Gorny (State Council North Coast Office), Lea Montgomery (Families United), Joe Hernandez (Premier Health Care Services), Jeff Pocket (Reaching for Independence, Sara Pfeiffer (Enriching Lives)

Agency Updates

Trajectory – Written report submitted by Kristie Patterson. Information on upcoming events: The Body Discourse Project will have sensory-friendly performances on March 15 at the Eureka Theater at 10:30 a.m. and March 17 at Synapsis Nova at 7 p.m. There will be a button-making workshop for Autism Awareness month on April 11 from 10-2 at Two Street Art Lab in Eureka; and a Call to Artists for our annual fundraiser, 3x3x3, a miniature art show and silent auction.

People Services

Completed CARF survey and had one recommendation to streamline the strategic plan. They had an article in the paper and a spot on the news to announce their accreditation. The transportation director who left was replaced by the respite director and they are in the process of replacing the respite director with a candidate who worked at Redwood Children's Service.

They are working with RCRC to refine the competitive integrated employment and paid internship service program designs. They received a rate increase for respite workers from \$11.81/hr. to \$11.50/hr. The Chicken Q fundraiser will be held the first Saturday in June. Rumor has it that the chickens may be in the Memorial Day parade riding jet skis with the head chicken wearing a swimsuit over her chicken outfit. They have had difficulty finding qualified candidates to hire so they put out a radio ad. Latoya reported that she likes working at People Services and is working on getting training and certifications so she can train staff in more therapeutic services.

Enriching Lives

They will have an Autism Awareness Event in April on the last Friday of the month, April 27 from 5-7 p.m. in their office. They will be making charms and lanyards. They are currently fully staffed but a direct service employee is planning to leave in May. Continuing Care Reform has generated new requirements for foster family agencies and children's group homes including accreditation requirements. There are concerns that this

may result in fewer residential resources for children because many services will not have the financial resources to obtain and maintain accreditation.

They are piloting a new program of offering staff a 1 month sabbatical after 5 years of service. Sara is happy to announce that she will be on sabbatical from March 30-April 30.

Families United

Lea's long-time program director left on Feb. 28. She has a possible candidate who has 39 years of experience in the business. In the meantime Lea is picking up the duties. Lea did not get a rate increase because she is already paying respite workers \$12.00/hr. After reviewing the status of operations Lea issued a 3 month freeze on new referrals because due to lack of staff families are not able to use their respite hours, even so, they are giving a lot of services to a lot of people. She is working with RCRC to review Personal Assistant Services for possible changes. Lea noted that many of the new hires are not familiar with our services and don't always have the commitment that was prevalent in prior years' applicants.

CBEM (Eureka)

They are fully staffed with 4 people in the field and two administrators. Ukiah has had stable staffing and referrals continue to come in. An Autism Awareness Event at the Discovery Museum for Children in Crescent City is in the planning stage. They are getting involved with the Hoopa community. They have been having situations with police officers and hospital staff whose confrontational behaviors with clients often escalate the behaviors of calm individuals. The officers and medical staff don't want CBEM involved and will ask them to leave. CBEM is continuing talks with the various agencies to see if they want to learn more effective strategies or how CBEM might be helpful.

Premier Health Care Services

They just hired a new coordinator for this area to communicate with families and service coordinators. This utilization coordinator will work to make sure people are getting their authorized services. They will be handing out free back packs to students recommended by service coordinators.

State Council North Coast Office

They are close to hiring a new manager for the office. Vicki Smith from DDS will be covering until April when the new person is hired. They are still not sure how the statewide \$1M deficit will be covered without layoffs. Office technicians are now assigned to more than one office and Debbie is doing Quality Assurance for 27 counties. Denise has been active in housing issues to try to get more affordable housing for clients and staff. Currently the county of Mendocino and Ukiah are considering suspending

inclusionary clauses in the building code so developers do not have to put in affordable housing and pay fees. County supervisors are considering suspending mitigations for 3 months. Concerns are that this would set a precedent that will make it easier for the next developer to do the same. The city of Ukiah is a bit resistant to an annex with land that could not be utilized in perpetuity. Denise's suggestion that they consider duplexes and town houses was met with great disdain. The city is considering giving land on Main St. to the same developer to build apartments. The housing crisis in Ukiah is getting even worse as people from Santa Rosa are moving here to commute to Santa Rosa for work.

Community Catalyst of California

They have a change because their program leader decided to resume being a case manager. Joanne is not sure how this will be resolved. They are doing staff evaluations and the learning curve on their new method has been steep.

Reaching for Independence

Things are going well and they are doing a great job with paid internships.

City Ambulance

Catherine Sundquist submitted this report by email.

We did hire a gentleman for the additional route I mentioned at the last meeting and that additional route is up and running.

HCAR

Submitted this report by email

We have taken out a lease on a new art gallery in Old Town (in Eureka) where we plan to show works by clients and other community artists. We don't have a date for our grand, champagne party opening yet, but announcements will go out as soon as we do.

RCRC

RCRC is fully staffed in Lakeport for the first time in years. They need an intake person for Crescent City. They are working on giving performance feedback to employees.

RCRC received a \$272,00 grant for outreach to Hispanic and Native American communities. There will be Requests for Proposals (RFP) to help with this project.

Purchase of Service Disparity meetings are scheduled for the end of the month. There will be snacks, and interesting program and discussion about how to meet the needs of underserved individuals effectively, efficiently and in a culturally competent manner.

Dr. Lucy Esralu is now training trainers on mental health first aid. This is an awareness training to teach people what to look for to see if a person is at risk. RCRC staff will be trained first, then the community.

An RFP for supported living specialized services is being re-released. The need is especially great in Mendocino and Lake counties. Another RFP is going out for housing and housing support. There will be a Person-Centered Gathering in Petaluma next week.

Dave Hingsburger will be here in May to talk about how to keep people safe at home. There is a transition of behavioral health services to Partnership for clients who are 21 years old or younger.

Competitive employment incentive payments requests are coming in, including some for 6 months and 1 year. One provider is providing paid internships and there will be three more agencies authorized to do so soon.

Behavior Management Meeting

It seems that most providers are using ProAct. Cindy will see if she can coordinate a ProAct “Train the Trainer” training in our area. Providers who are interested will meet after the May ASP meeting and share information about current agency staff ProAct recertification dates, and how many staff they would like to train.

Self-Determination Waiver

The waiver has been submitted to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) and the 90 day review period has begun.

HCBS Transition Plan

CMS has granted California initial approval of its Statewide Transition Plan. There are still several technical issues to be resolved before the state can get final approval. Regional Center service coordinators and providers will be getting training on how to complete self-assessments to evaluate settings for compliance with the new regulations. The links to more information will be sent to Pam so she can distribute to the ASP list.

Emergency Disaster Response Coordination

Latoya who directs the supported and independent living services(ILS &SLS) gave an in-depth presentation about what People Services has done to respond to emergency disasters. They have protocols to follow in case of landslides, fire, earthquakes, floods and active shooters. Protocols are determined based on the miles radius from the initial point of the disaster. Top priority are Red zones within 5 miles of the event. Next zone is yellow. All staff have badge ID's to wear and they use agency vehicles. They coordinate with animal control and EMT to get clients' animals after hard lines are established by police. They keep contact with the shelters and let the regional center and day programs know if a person was not evacuated.

They participate with the Health Care Coalition comprised of medical staff, the sheriff, police and fire personnel. The coalition discusses HIPPA concerns, identifies paperwork that all agencies will accept and identifies what credentials they will accept. It is important to be in partnership because each entity tends to think they are the most important. Partnerships with pharmacies are helpful to get emergency medication and find out what medications pharmacies do not usually have on hand.

People Services gets a release to get and give information for clinics, hospitals and law enforcement during clients' annual meetings. Every client supported by ILS or SLS home has a fire evacuation plan, a 'to go' bag and information about how many pets they have.

There is a Functional Assessment Services Team (FAST) program that is offered by the California Department of Social Services. The purpose of the program is to train and deploy people who have a background in working with or caring for people with a disability or access and functional need.