



Redwood Coast Regional Center

Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community

August 15, 2013

Allan Smith
Department of Developmental Services
Regional Center Operations Section
P. O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

Dear Allan,

Please find attached Redwood Coast Regional Center's required Purchase of Services Expenditure Report due today. I have utilized the format requested by our contract language, and hope that the report provides you with useful information.

While our turnout was small, we had very thoughtful input from the two public meetings we held. We are going to be posting the graphs/charts that Patrick Okey developed for the meetings on our web site shortly, as part of the feedback received at the meetings indicated that the visual representation of the information was more "user friendly."

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Clay Jones
Executive Director

cc: P. Okey, Director of Administration
M. Block, Director of Client Services
K. Nash, Director of Clinical and Community Services

CJ/ko

POS Expenditure Data Report
Redwood Coast Regional Center
August 13, 2013

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 2013-2014 Contract.

I. Issues identified by RCRC POS Expenditure Data

Redwood Coast Regional Center has studied the first data report received and posted to its web site in March, 2013. Comparative data between RCRC, the geographic area served by RCRC, and all regional centers statewide as compared to statewide populations by primary ethnicity/race show a marked difference in the overall percentages of ethnic groups within the RCRC catchment area compared to statewide data. However, the relationship of 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. As there is not yet statewide data for all areas of measurement, it is not possible at this time to make similar comparisons in other areas of the report. RCRC does intend to seek independent professional consultation this year to further assist us in our understanding and interpretation of RCRC data and, where available, RCRC measures compared to statewide measures.

The following issues were identified by the data, and by public meetings held in June.

1. The Redwood Coast Developmental Services Corporation Board of Directors (the governing board for Redwood Coast Regional Center) does not currently meet requirements for adequate representation of Hispanic community members.
2. RCRC needs to publish more informational documents, both on paper and electronically, in Spanish.
3. RCRC should seek more connections with other community groups/agencies which serve underrepresented populations.

II. Results of the Public Stakeholder Meetings

Public meetings were held on June 25, 2013 in Ukiah for Lake and Mendocino Counties, and on June 27, 2013 in Eureka for Del Norte and Humboldt Counties. Eight people attended the meeting in Ukiah and nine people attended the meeting in Eureka. A set of colored bar graphs and a pie chart were prepared as handouts and discussion guides for the meetings. Each graph/chart was a visual representation of the data posted in our web site report, with the applicable set of spreadsheet numbers included on the same page as the graphs/chart.

Discussion was held regarding each measure provided in the report. Attendees at the meetings commented in particular on the differences in ethnic representation in RCRC's catchment area compared to that of the state as a whole, as well as the similarity between

the percentages of regional center clients served compared to its own catchment area, and the comparison between all twenty-one regional centers and the statewide overall ethnic demographics. In addition, it was noted at both meetings that when comparing actual expenditures to actual authorizations for expenditure in all categories, authorizations were higher in every area than actual expenditures. This was also true for all regional centers statewide.

Three areas in need of improvement for RCRC were also identified during the meetings, and are listed under Section I above.

III. Proposed Strategies

Proposed strategies for issues identified under Section I above include:

1. Carrying out a plan to provide community outreach, information, and encouragement with the goal of recruiting and retaining RCDSC Board members who represent Hispanic communities across our four county area. The RCDSC Board currently is engaged in this plan, which includes outreach through RCRC service coordination and other staff, public service announcements in varied local media (in both English and Spanish), and direct outreach by current board members to potential future members of the board.
2. Publishing more documents and informational bulletins in both Spanish and English. This includes a recently completed and updated Spanish translation of the primary introductory brochure regarding RCRC services, as well as all other general informational materials. The agency management team is reviewing all current documents/materials to identify and prioritize the need for translation and publication of these documents.
3. RCRC will engage in outreach and communication with various area agencies/community groups which serve underrepresented community members, such as Fiesta Educativa, Tribal Health Services, and others.

In addition to the above strategies, and as previously mentioned in Section I, Redwood Coast Regional Center will seek professional consultation from an independent source which is skilled in both data analysis and strategies for the development of cultural competence in support of parity for all persons served.