

POS Expenditure Data Report
Redwood Coast Regional Center
April, 2014

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 reviewed its second data report, completed in late December, 2013 and posted to its web site on January 6, 2014 (the first data report encountered an error in the program that generates the report, which had to be corrected before the report could be run again, thus slightly delaying the completion of the report). In comparison to the first report completed in March, 2013, there were few changes. As last year, 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.

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

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 include the visual, color-coded charts and graphs used at the public meetings on its web site to facilitate better understanding of the data.

II. Results of the Public Stakeholder Meetings

Public meetings were held on February 27, 2014 in Eureka for Del Norte and Humboldt Counties, and on March 6, 2014 in Ukiah for Lake and Mendocino Counties. Sixteen people attended the meeting in Ukiah and fourteen people attended the meeting in Eureka. A set of colored bar graphs and pie charts 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. As in last year's meetings, attendees at the February and March 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. Also similar to last year's meetings, it was noted that when comparing actual expenditures to authorizations for expenditure in all categories, authorizations were higher in every area than actual expenditures.

Three areas in need of improvement for RCRC were also identified during the meetings, and are listed under Section I above. Issues identified in #1 and #2 above remain the same as last year's report, however, issue #3 is new.

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. This work has continued into the current year.
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 has reviewed, and continues to review, all current documents/materials to identify and prioritize the need for translation and publication of these documents.
3. RCRC will update the color-coded graphs and charts presented at this year's meetings based on input received at the meeting, and then include them with the DDS-required data reports on its web site.

A third strategy from last year's report, that "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," continues this year as well.