

**Far Northern Coordinating Council on Developmental
Disabilities dba Far Northern Regional Center
Minutes**

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Friday, March 29, 2013
Gaia Hotel
Anderson, CA 96007

1. Call to Order: 9:16 a.m. by Vice Chair, Stephen Bell
2. Roll Call:
 - a. Present: Michelle Sedillos, Suzette Serrano, Stephen Bell, Margaret Shipp, Andreas Economopoulos, Troy Rathburn, Colleen Ryberg, Jennifer Bowman, Melanie Combes, Ronda Dever, Susan Hess, Margot Madson,
 - b. Absent: None
3. Public Input/Open: Introduction of guests: Introduction of guests: FNRC staff in attendance were: Diana Anderson, Kay Cullis, Judy Kruse, Mike Mintline. Other guests included Ted Hess, Betty Carlton, Ricky Sedillos, and Kathy Brian of DDS.
4. Approval of Agenda for March 2, 2013: Motion to approve and second by Andreas Economopoulos and Ronda Dever. No discussion, motion passed.
5. Approval of Minutes from January 25, 2013: Motion to approve and second by Don Murphy and Colleen Ryberg. No discussion, motion passed.
6. Welcome to new Board Member, Suzette Serrano: Vice Chair, Stephen Bell welcomed Suzette Serrano, representing People First and Chrissie Clapp, representing Tehama County.
7. Transition to Executive (Closed) Session – W & I 4663, (2), (5): No closed session.
8. Report from Executive Director, Laura Larson:

Far Northern Coordinating Council on Developmental Disabilities dba Far Northern Regional Center Minutes

- a. National Core Indicators: A statewide “report card” called the National Core Indicators has been issued by the Department of Developmental Services. This report card illustrates in chart form the services/choices that are offered to consumers. Far Northern Regional Center received very high marks in most areas. For the next several board meetings these findings will be presented to the board in small increments. The complete 900 page report is currently on the Department of Developmental Services website for viewing.
- b. Medi-Cal Managed Care Expansion: This topic will be presented by Betty Carlton, Area Board 2.
- c. Health Faire: Forwarded to May meeting
- d. Other:
 - i. Meet Your Neighbor: Mary Ann Weston has researched town councils for our area and has talking points that will be used to speak with local legislators regarding Far Northern Regional Center.
 - ii. A public hearing will be held regarding an ethnicity study completed by the Department of Developmental Services. The results of this study is now on the Far Northern website.
 - iii. A sequel to the film “...that’s me” is being planned. This film will focus on relationships within the consumer community. The board approved, by consensus, this project.
 - iv. With several additional service coordinators being hired, Far Northern is now in compliance with the required caseload ratios.
 - v. Laura spoke about the Co-pay, Co-insurance and insurance deductible issue in our area. Since the unemployment rate is so high in the FNRC catchment area, this is not a large issue. A legal opinion was given to ARCA regarding making co-pays and it was recommended that the regional centers should be paying co-pays. However, several regional centers are choosing not to pay these (FNRC being an exception). Currently there is legislation being adopted to conform all regional centers to pay deductibles. This could become a difficult

Far Northern Coordinating Council on Developmental Disabilities dba Far Northern Regional Center Minutes

- to implement as deductibles are usually set for a family rather than the individual.
- vi. ARCA's position regarding the Annual Family Program Fee is that this program should sunset.
 - vii. Several bills are being tracked by ARCA, including: AB1041 (Employment First), SB321 (Performance contracts), SB555 (Individual Program Plans and Individual Family Service Plans), SB468 (Statewide Self-Determination Project).
 - viii. Self-Directed Services: This plan is continuing to develop and expand.
 - ix. Alliance of California, Autism Organizations have sent a letter to the Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 on Health and Human Services in support of the ARCA proposal to restore Early Start eligibility to pre-2009 criteria.

9. Management Reports

- a. Finance Report – Michael Mintline, Associate Director, Administration:
 - i. Purchase of Service FY 2012-2013: A deficit in spending authority of \$6.6 - \$6.8 million is projected. While consumer growth currently is 2%, expenses are expected to increase as much as 5.4%. Some of the increases can be attributed to these causes: Expenses for children ages 0-3 are rising due to a 15% increase in the number of monthly hours served per consumer. Expenses for consumer ages 3-5 have risen due to greater numbers of consumers continuing to receive service after an autism diagnosis. In addition to the 3% rate reduction restoration, the average cost of out-of-home placements increased by 16% as difficult to serve consumers are increasingly placed in Specialized Residential Facilities.
 - ii. Operations Status Report: The Regional Center is currently projecting \$107 thousand in remaining operations spending authority. This is a \$1 thousand decrease over the \$108 thousand projection reported to the Board of Directors in January 2013. However the

**Far Northern Coordinating Council on Developmental
Disabilities dba Far Northern Regional Center
Minutes**

projected spending authority increased \$2 thousand overall due primarily to an increase in estimated interest revenue. Several new employees are expected to be hired to replace a number who are retiring and have resigned. Federal funds have been delayed. However, there is a plan in place to offset the tardiness of the cash flow with all June bills expected to be paid in July.

- b. Resource Development Directions, Diana Anderson, Associate Director, Community Services: Two Health Fairs are being planned – one in Redding, presented by Cozine and one in Chico presented by Rural Education Institute. Employees and interested community members have been asked to serve on the Health Fair Committee. Two new day programs are coming to Redding, including “College Plus”. Diana gave a brief overview of the Action Items (Contracts) that are being brought before the board:
 - i. Action Item No. 1 – PST-1594 Contract: Shasta County Opportunity Center (H82705) for Transportation Services effective April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2016 for a total maximum contract amount of \$669,921.00. Motion made and seconded by Madson and Economopoulos. No discussion, motion passed.
 - ii. Action Item No. 2 – PST-1595 Contract: IPS Services, Inc. (Joaquin Home) for Specialized Residential Services effective April 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015 for a total maximum contract amount of \$1,296,000.00. Motion made and seconded by Economopoulos and Rathburn. No discussion, motion passed.
10. Develop committee for slate of officers, Vice Chairperson, Stephen Bell: Jennifer Bowman, Melanie Combes, Ronda Dever and Troy Rathburn volunteered to be the Nomination Committee for the establishment of the slate of officers for 2013/14.
11. Association of Regional Centers Agencies Report, Andreas Economopoulos, Delegate: The ARCA meeting was held March 22, 2013.

Far Northern Coordinating Council on Developmental Disabilities dba Far Northern Regional Center Minutes

The Director of the Department joined us by phone. She said that they have worked hard to work out agreements on Sonoma Developmental Center with both the Federal and State government. They are addressing problems and will continue to be funded. They are now meeting with management teams.

Terry shared the following in regards to where the budgets ended up: 2009/10 – no shortfall, 2010/11 – no shortfall, 2011/12, very tight but \$26 million in additional federal funding is coming in due to the good work of regional centers.

DDS continues to work with the federal government to obtain approval on a new waiver called the 1915i. If approved it will bring over \$530 million dollars to California. DDS believes approval will come, and if it does it will solve many cash flow problems for regional centers.

ARCA Director, Eileen Richey gave a report on upcoming budget hearings. The hearings will be held April 11 – 17th. She believes the following issues will be discussed:

1. Sonoma Developmental Center abuse
2. Lanterman Developmental Center closure
3. Autism insurance bills – who should pay the co-pays and deductibles for families?
4. Annual Family Fee Program – people think it is too much work and not enough money has come in to keep this program going.
5. Information on POS funding by ethnicity or race or by type of disabilities. Also questions will come up about why costs are different between centers.
6. The dues for ARCA will remain the same as the current year.

There is a lot of legislations and many pending bills. One bill, SB468 is regarding Self-Directed Services. ARCA formed a committee on this bill.

There will be a family rally on autism on the same day as budget hearings.

Far Northern Coordinating Council on Developmental Disabilities dba Far Northern Regional Center Minutes

There was a letter sent to ARCA about the need to have more consumers on ARCA's Board of Directors.

There was a new slate of officers introduced.

12. Area Board 2 on Developmental Disabilities Report, Sarah May, Executive Director: Presented by Betty Carlton: The next AB2 board meeting will be held April 11th and 12th.

Linda Deasey and Jan Ross have both been appointed to the AB2. Effective March 22, 2013, Governor Brown has selected two current AB2 members, Verdine Mertens and Rosie Ryan, to serve another term of office.

The AIDD has completed their review of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities and the regional Area Boards. The State Council is awaiting the final report from the AIDD. The AIDD has provided up to date information on the potential impact on the Federal sequestration, although at this time the full impact of sequestration remains in the hands of the legislators.

AB2 has been actively involved in numerous advocacy cases in Butte, Shasta, Siskiyou and Tehama counties. Current individual advocacy cases centralize on individual school based IEP matters, FNRC eligibility and Regional Center agency based individualized services. AB2 actively participates in several systemic advocacy groups including the Shasta County Transition Partnership and the Shasta County Transition Committee. AB2 is currently working the Butte County SELPA to develop a transition work group for the southern counties.

AB2 actively participates in each of the monthly Coordinating Councils in Butte, Tehama and Shasta counties.

AB2 actively participates in the monthly DAN (Diversability Advocacy Network) coalition meetings, as well as the monthly SCAN Foundation's California Coalition monitoring of the rollout of the

Far Northern Coordinating Council on Developmental Disabilities dba Far Northern Regional Center Minutes

Coordinated Care Initiative and the Affordable Care Act and Rural Children's Health Coalition.

Medi-Cal Managed Care providers have been identified and contracted for the rural Northern counties; the rural counties break down into a seven county carve-out (Shasta, Lassen, Modoc, Siskiyou, Trinity, Del Norte, and Humboldt); Partnership COHS (County Operated Health Services) model. The remaining 18 counties geographic plan model; Anthem Blue Cross and California Health & Wellness Plan; these counties include Butte, Glenn, Plumas and Tehama counties. Partnership Health hosted a stakeholder/team meeting on Medi-Cal planning and development in Redding on March 13th for Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties. The rollout timeline has indentified as June 2013, with beneficiary notifications being sent out beginning in April 2013 (to align with the identified 90 day, 60 day and 30 day mandatory enrollment notification(s) for beneficiaries).

AB2 participated in the Shasta County SELPA Community Advisory Committee's Annual Appreciation Night on March 23, 2013 at the Gaia Hotel in Anderson. A total of thirty (30) students, teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators, along with the other special education service providers an support staff were honored at this event. The Shasta Union High School District's Workability program received the 2013 Program of the Year Award. The recipient awards were hand crafted ceramic sculptures designed and created by consumers attending Artistic Endeavors, a Far Northern Regional Center day program based in Redding. The adult consumers that were primarily responsible for creation of the awards spoke to the audience about the Artistic Endeavors program. The event was attended by approximately 185 people.

13. FNCC Board Committee Reports and Action Items:
 - a. Consumer Committee, Committee members present: Margot Madson, Troy Rathburn, Michelle Sedillos, Susan Hess, Andreas Economopoulos, Susan Hess, Suzette Serrano. Meeting was called to order by Mary Ann Weston. An election

Far Northern Coordinating Council on Developmental Disabilities dba Far Northern Regional Center Minutes

was held and Michelle Sedillos was chosen as the chair. The Board Packet and Actions Items were discussed as well as Medi-Cal Managed Care Expansion, upcoming Health Fairs and the National Core Indicators. Adjourned at 4:05.

- b. Service Provider Advisory Committee, Jennifer Bowman: Diana Anderson presented for Far Northern Regional Center presented the following topics:
 - i. Pending legislation that can be found on the ARCA website.
 - ii. ICF rate reductions – 10% reduction retro to July 1, 2012.
 - iii. Budget Hearings
 - iv. Health Plans (see explanation above by Betty Carlton, AB2)
 - v. Results of the National Core Indicators
 - vi. Reports on Purchase of Service Ethnicity survey

Betty Carlton reported from the Area Board 2 regarding their new member, Managed Care and their advocacy work.

Upcoming Health and Wellness Fairs:

- vii. June 25 at Simpson University in Redding being presented by Cosine Health Strategies
- viii. June 12 at the Masonic Center in Chico being presented the Rural Education Institute.

Provider announcements: Focus Film Festival will be showing “Embraceable” at the COVE on April 18. Shasta County Opportunity Center will be celebrating 50 years in October.

Client’s Rights Advocate, Andrew Holcombe is retiring and will be acknowledged at the next SPAC meeting on May 15th.

- c. Family Advisory Committee, Stephen Bell, Chairperson: No report.
- d. Bylaws Committee, Margaret Shipp, Chairperson: Committee members present were Margaret Shipp, Margot Madson, Melanie Combes and Colleen Ryberg. The meeting was called

Far Northern Coordinating Council on Developmental Disabilities dba Far Northern Regional Center Minutes

to order by Margaret. The new bylaws were re-reviewed with the following changes:

Page 2: Article V, Section 1 (C): add “or legal guardian”

Page 3: Change Domestic Partner to Co-habiting.

Page 10: Add Parliamentarian to officers

Page 10: Article VII, Section 2 (A): Correct year to “each year.

Page 11: Article VIII, Section 1: The Committee Addendum letters will be corrected to reflect the correct order as two standing committees are being removed.

Page 12: Section 3 is to read “The Executive Director shall submit reports to the Board as required and additional reports as needed.”

- e. Membership Committee, Melanie Combes, Chairperson: Committee members present were Melanie Combes and Michelle Sedillos. The meeting was called to order by Melanie. Two new board members will be introduced at the Board meeting. There continues to be opening in Glenn, Plumas, Lassen and Shasta counties. The committee is to explore ways to recruit new members from these areas.

14. Announcements, Reports, Questions and Answers, Summary Comments, All Board Members:

Troy: Mains’l did a presentation on the College Plus program and is helping with teaching people to ride the Chico bus system. He is also educating himself about diabetes.

Margot: She will be speaking to the governors in Washington D.C. regarding needed care for the disabled vs. the money that is available.

Suzette: Andy Holcomb, Client’s Rights Advocate will be speaking at the People First meeting.

Ronda: Challenger Baseball begins in April.

Far Northern Coordinating Council on Developmental Disabilities dba Far Northern Regional Center Minutes

Colleen: Colleen informed the board of “Alpine House”; a residential treatment facility in Weaverville that serves people with behavioral issues. This is free for those in need as it is funded by Mental Health.

Margaret: She gave an update on Grass Roots Day that she attended with Mary Ann Weston and Andreas Economopoulos. They went in as a group with Alta Regional Center. Employment First was the topic and our new state representative, Brian Dahle, was very receptive and interested in learning about the regional center service system. Margaret is working with the Wellness Fair in Butte County. The Special Olympics swimming is beginning in April as well as track. Bocce Ball is now accepted a Special Olympics sport.

Susan: Marlene McCollum, Case Management Supervisor in Chico had some advice about Facebook and Twitter: Watch what you post to these websites – if you are not careful, you can get into trouble.

Andreas: His church in Yreka is distributing lunches to the homeless on Sundays. A COMPASS group went bowling on St. Patrick’s Day with another group from a local high school. Andreas will be competing in a Toastmaster’s event in Willis.

15. Next Meeting: May 16 and 17, in Anderson, California.
16. Adjournment: Motion was made and seconded by Dever and Economopoulos to adjourn the meeting. No discussion, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Cynthia R. Presidio
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary