

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Friday, January 24, 2014
Gaia Hotel
Anderson, CA 96007

1. Call to Order: 9:30 a.m. by Chairperson, Ronda Dever
2. Roll Call:
 - a. Present: Michelle Sedillos, Suzette Serrano, Stephen Bell, Kathryn E. McCreary, Margaret Shipp, Andreas Economopoulos, Roger Hatton, Colleen Ryberg, Jennifer Bowman, Melanie Combs, Chrissie Clapp, Ronda Dever, Susan Hess, Margot Madson
 - b. Absent: Don Murphy
3. Public Input/Open: Introduction of guests: Mike Mintline, Judy Kruse, Doreen Albaugh, and Lauren Leisz (FNRC staff members), Betty Carlton (Area Board 2,) and Ted Hess.
4. Approval of Agenda for January 24, 2014: Motion to approve and second by Margot Madson and Suzette Serrano. No discussion, motion passed.
5. Approval of Minutes from November 22, 2013: Motion to approve and second by Andreas Economopoulos and Stephen Bell. Motion passed.
6. Transition to Executive (Closed) Session – W & I 4663, (3), (4), (5): No closed session.
7. State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Area Board 2 Report, Sarah May, Executive Director, presented by Betty Carlton:
 - a. The next AB2 board meeting will be held February 13th and 14th, 2014 at the Oxford Suites in Redding.

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- b. The process for the SCD/AB2 Program Developmental Grant Cycle 37 begins in February. The community should receive the Request for Proposal by April 2014.
- c. An Employment First page is being developed for the Council's website; this page will be a resource site for information on the Employment First Legislation. The Council is also developing an explanatory brochure in approximately 30 languages for consumers and families.
- d. The Department of Developmental Services has convened a stakeholder workgroup to advise the department on Self-Determination implementation. A plain language brochure is being developed, also.
- e. Current individual advocacy cases involve individual school based IEP issues and eligibility for FNRC services.
- f. Other advocacy issues being addressed are:
 - i. Providing training and information to the community about the expansion of Medi-Cal Managed Care, and the restoration of certain benefits for non-severe Behavioral and Mental Health services.
 - ii. Participating in the Shasta County SELPA Program Advisory Committee
 - iii. Participating in the Shasta County Transition Partnership.
 - iv. Developing a Transition Partnership in Butte County in collaboration with Butte County SELPA and Butte College.
 - v. Participating in the Transition Through Adulthood Projects and Think Transition with UC Davis MIND Institute, Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.
- g. The Area Board 2 attends the monthly meetings of the Butte and Tehama Coordinating Councils, the Diversability Advocacy Network (DAN) and the SCAN Foundation. AB2 also participates in the Rural Children's Special Health Coalition.
- h. The State Council on Developmental Disabilities is required to submit a corrective action plan to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) no later than February 14, 2014 to address issues identified in the Monitoring and Technical Assistance Review System (MTARS) report. Among other issues, the MTARS report cited over 20

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years of concerns regarding Budget, hiring authority, membership and State Council Leadership and Activities. (The complete report and accompanying documents is available on the SCDD website) The AB2 is committed to working to address the issues identified in the MTARS report and will keep the community informed as information becomes available.

- i. Applications are available online for the Governor Appointed vacancy on the Area Board 2.
 - j. The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) is recruiting for a representative. The applications are due February 21st with interviews being conducted in early March. The next SSAN meeting is March 24th and 25th in Sacramento.
 - k. The FNRC Health and Wellness Initiative subcommittees have been busy developing project goals and structure.
8. Report from Executive Director, Laura Larson:
- a. Governor's Budget: During the period of recent budget deficits, the Legislature enacted many reductions to the regional center system to yield savings to the state General Fund. While some provider rate reductions have been restored, other reductions and rate freezes (dating back to 2003) have remain in place. The Governor's budget proposes an increase for mainly for caseload growth and increased service utilization. There is also a state-mandated increase in the hourly minimum wage and recent federal labor regulations impacting home care workers.

the Governor's budget does not address other needs of the service system. It appears that the Governor is focusing on paying down past state debt and addressing state infrastructure needs.

The Department of Developmental Services operates four 24-hour facilities known as developmental centers. They serve a total of 1300 or less than one percent of the population supported by the Department of Developmental Services. Each DC is licensed by the Department of Public Health and certified

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by them as Skilled Nursing Facilities, intermediate Care Facilities.

They have a long history of problems related to the quality of care provided. The Administration convened a task force to address the future of the developmental centers. The plan released recognized the need to reevaluate the role of DC's in light of the historic trend of moving away from institutional setting into the community. The report also recognized the need for community services improvement in order to serve the complex needs of many of the developmental center clients.

The Governor's budget provided funds for facility improvement in order to maintain certification of the existing DCs and continue to bring in federal matching funds.

- b. December 20, 2013 letter from DDS ON Board Composition: A letter was received by FNRC from DDS speaking to our board composition. In response to the letter the FNRC By-laws Committee will meet and discuss the issue.
- c. Self-Directed Services update: A meeting will be held in conjunction with the Area Board 2's Board Meeting on February 14th. At this meeting, Laura Larson will discuss the Diversity/Ethnic issues in regards to the Self-Directed Services. It was also noted that Laura met with the Rowell Family Empowerment Center and a small number of families to determine what the Regional Center can do to be more efficient and helpful.
- d. Annual Expenditures and Authorized Services Data and Stakeholder meetings: Meetings were held on January 18, 2014 in Red Bluff with another scheduled for February 18th in Redding.
- e. March Board of Directors meeting: The March meeting will be at the Redding office in the newly expanded conference room.
- f. Status Report on Developmental Center future: Not discussed.
- g. Holidays are for Caring: Over 150 consumers were presented with holiday gifts and approximately \$11 thousand was received by generous donors.

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- h. Other: Grass Roots: Mary Ann Weston will be coordinating the board members that will be attending this event in March. Ted Gaines: Mary Ann Weston, Mike Mintline, Laura Larson and Diana Anderson met with two staffers from State Senator Ted Gaines' office and escorted them to several worksites (day programs).

9. Management Reports

- a. Finance Report – Michael Mintline, Associate Director, Administration:
 - i. Purchase of Service: A deficit in spending authority of \$7.4 – 7.7 million is projected. This increase in expenses includes a restoration of 1.25% rate cut for most providers. Other major increases are being seen in the area of Community Integrated Training. This service code addresses the needs of adults with day time services. New services are specialized needs and emphasizing work. Also contributing to the increase are Out of Home expenses. We are seeing people with more challenging needs.

Specialized Autism expenses are adding to this increase. Regional Center management planning an advertising and promotion plan to ensure the public is aware of the services offered by the Regional Center.

The Regional Center's goal is to place five consumers from developmental centers into the community. This current plan projects expenses of almost \$1.0 million, including \$550 thousand in start-up cost funding.

- ii. Operations Report: The Regional Center is currently projecting \$52 thousand in remaining operations spending authority. This is a \$16 thousand increase over the \$35 thousand reported to the Board of Directors in November 2013. This change has occurred because of the following:

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- Projected spending authority increased \$2 thousand due to a change in the estimate of Community Placement Plan funding for this fiscal year.
 - Expenses decreased \$28 thousand due to greater than expected delays in hiring vacant positions and replacement of personnel at lower salary steps.
 - Operating expenses estimates are projected to increase by \$14 thousand.
- iii. Other: Financial statements will be issued this next week by the independent auditors. These statements will be unqualified, with little change from last year.
- b. Human Resource Report – Lauren Leisz, HR Director:
- i. Action Item No. 1: It is requested that the Board of directors appoint Michael Hanson to be re-employed by FNRC effective the pay period beginning February 16, 2014, for a period of no more than 12 months, in accordance with the Government Code requirements. Motion and second: Roger Hatton and Andreas Economopoulos. No discussion, motion passed.
 - ii. Other: Whistleblower policy; this policy needs to be brought to the board on an annual basis. No vote necessary – informational only.
- c. Case Management Directions: Judy Kruse, Associate director
Case Management North: Judy introducing supervisors from Redding and this month introduced Doreen Albaugh, Case Management Supervisor, Early Intervention (ages 0 – 3). Doreen supervises five Service Coordinators in Chico and three in Redding. Doreen provided the Board with her background and the eligibility criteria for Early Intervention.
- d. Community Services Directions: Diana Anderson, Associate Director, Community Services:
- i. Community Placement Plan (CPP): Diana could not attend; however, a pictorial catalog of the various homes

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purchased by our housing foundation has been completed and was made available for the Board Members to review.

10. Association of Regional Centers Agencies Report, Andreas Economopoulos, Delegate: An ARCA meeting was held on January 17, 2014 in Sacramento at the ALTA Regional Center. The meeting was very positive. People were happy about the appointment of Santi Rogers as the new Director of the Department of Developmental Services. Santi has been the Director of San Andreas Regional Center for many years. He also has worked at DDS as a Deputy Director and has been the Director of two Developmental Centers; one was Stockton Developmental Center, which he closed. People feel that they now have someone at DDS that understand the problems the regional centers are faced with.

The Governor's Budget was reviewed, and ARCA's position statement was approved. Those materials are in your packet. ARCA's annual audit was presented and approved. There were a number of internal documents approved such as a new logo, personnel policies, and investment policies. We had a presentation on the Achievable Medical Clinic at Westside Regional Center. This Clinic serves only people with developmental disabilities. ARCA staff presented a draft report called the *Inadequate Funding for Service Provision in California*. Everyone felt the report was very well done, and that perhaps the report could be used by provider groups as well as regional centers to bring attention to the difficult times providers are facing. The next meeting will be held on March 21st in Sacramento again.

11. FNCC Board Committee Reports and Action Items:
 - a. Consumer Committee, Michelle Sedillos, Chairperson: Present at this meeting was: Michelle Sedillos, Susan Hess, Andreas Economopoulos, Roger Hatton, Suzette Serrano, Troy Rathburn, Margot Madson. Meeting was called to order by Michelle Sedillos. The one Action Item was discussed. Then, while HR Director, Lauren Leisz, was completing the Conflict of

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Interest forms with individual board members, the committee was completing the annual Biographical and Compliance forms. Laura then discussed the Purchase of Service Expense charts that were included in the board packet. Adjourned at 4:15

- b. Service Provider Advisory Committee, Jennifer Bowman, Chairperson: The SPAC meeting was held January 22, 2014 at the Tehama Visitors Center in Red Bluff. The following agenda items were discussed:
 - i. Far Northern Regional Center presented by Laura Larson
 - Governor's Budget: The minimum wage increase and fund to repair developmental centers.
 - ARCA White Paper on Inadequate Rates for Service Provision in California
 - new DDS Director, Santi Rogers
 - new POS Diversity Numbers: Informational meeting at the next Area Board 2 meetings.
 - ii. Area Board 2 Report presented by Betty Carlton
 - Update on Managed Care: Implemented.
 - Area Board 2 Report: Employment First work group created definitions for categories. The SCDD grant RFP will be issued in April. The next AB2 meeting will be February 13th and 14th.
 - iii. Health and Wellness Initiative
 - Update Report: This committee is becoming involved in community wellness fairs and the website is almost complete. More employment opportunities are being created. "Attack of the Killer Foods" training will be held in April.
 - iv. Provider Announcements:
 - Beth Gallagher will be conducting a training in Chico on "Person-Centered Planning" March 18.
 - Beacon is beginning to assist with mental health care under Partnership.
 - Tehama Country Visitors Centers is featuring photography of Coby Walters and Frank Smith.

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v. Chair and Vice Chair election:

- Jennifer Bowman and Nick Herndon were renominated for SPAC Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

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

Kathryn: Free organ concert in Chico at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church on Feb 9th 3:00 – 4:30 to benefit the Work Training Center.

Michelle: Michelle and Ricky Sedillos are expecting a baby in the summer.

Margot: Margo is recovering from a recent surgery

Suzette: A new thrift store – ARC will be opening a new thrift store in Paradise. People First conferences will be held in Anderson and San Francisco.

Roger: Roger has a new grandson.

Andreas: People First of Yreka has been stagnant. Changes and decisions need to be made regarding disbandment and the remaining funds. Paramedics in Siskiyou County are being trained to help patients understand when to go to the hospital and to help people in their homes to avoid the emergency transport to the hospital.

Susan: Susan interviewed Troy Rathburn, a bus guide with Mains'I. He was Susan's bus guide and taught her how to ride the bus when her work office moved. Susan also learned that Mains'I has day programs that include teaching math, reading, drama and exercise. During her interview with Troy, Susan learned that his hobbies include hiking, camping, sports and the 49ers.

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Troy: Troy is working more hours and may possibly be doing presentations with Little Red Hen and COVE regarding the bus guides. Bus fares have increased. However this has not stopped people from riding the bus as more people are being recruited as bus guides.

Chrissie: The Tehama County Coordinating Council is in the beginning stages regarding an organic garden being developed on some donated land.

Margaret: Special Olympics are, currently, in basketball season.

Ronda: Reminded the board about Benefits and Employment meeting that will be held.

13. Next meeting: The next meeting will be March 27 and 28, in Redding

14. Motion to adjourn by Margot Madson and Suzette Serrano. No discussion, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted



Cynthia R. Presidio
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary