

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Friday, June 27, 2014  
Far Northern Regional Center, Redding  
Redding, CA 96007

1. Call to Order: 9:10 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, Ronda Dever, Susan Hess, Margot Madson, Don Murphy, Troy Rathburn
  - b. Absent: Chrissie Clapp
3. Public Input/Open: Introduction of guests: Judy Kruse, Melissa Gruhler, Mike Mintline (FNRC staff), two staff members from the Department of Developmental Services and Ricky Sedillos.
4. Approval of Agenda for June 27, 2014: Motion to approve and second by Margot Madson and Andreas Economopoulos.
5. Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2014: Motion to approve and second by Andreas Economopoulos and Suzette Serrano.  
Corrections to be made are:
  - a. Page 1: Heading – change Anderson to Redding
  - b. Page 1: Roll Call – Susan Hess to be removed from “Present”.
  - c. Page 17: Date of next meeting is June 26 and 27.  
No further discussion, motion passed.
6. Report from Chairperson, Ronda Dever:
  - a. Presentation to Board Member, Andreas Economopoulos: Mr. Economopoulos has served seven years on the FNCC Board of

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Directors and was presented with a gift in recognition of his longtime service and advocacy.

- b. Other: Mr. Stephen Bell has served approximately three years on the FNCC Board of Directors and is resigning to pursue employment opportunities for adults with autism.
7. Transition to Executive (Closed) Session – W & I 4663, (3), (4), (5):  
Motion to move into Closed Session made and seconded by Margot Madson and Roger Hatton. No discussion, motion passed.
- a. Linda Carpenter presented an update on pending litigation.
8. State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Regional Office Report, Sarah May, Executive Director: Sarah May could not attend, so the report was presented by Laura Larson.
- **SCDD Updates:**  
*Sarah May, Executive Director* reviewed information from the May 29<sup>th</sup> State Council meeting including the hiring of Dr. Michael Clark, Ed., as the Interim Executive Director for the Council. Dr. Clark will start on a part-time basis on June 16<sup>th</sup> and he plans to serve in this capacity for six months to a year while the Council's search committee continues to recruit for a permanent Executive Director. Dr. Clark has extensive experience in the developmental disabilities field including being a parent and having been an Executive Director of Kern Regional Center for 25 years and he served as the Chair of Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA) finance committee for 16 years.  
She also reported the Governor is currently working on appointing a new Chief Deputy Director to the Council. Sarah also shared with the board after January 2015; the Governor will no longer have appointing power for any positions at the Council. This is part of the changes per AB 1595 (Chesbro).
  - **AB2 Projects & Updates:**  
Sarah informed the board of some of the systemic advocacy issues she is working on in collaboration with Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC), Office of Clients Rights (OCRA) and Disability Rights California (DRC). This includes the recent

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changes in reimbursement rates for dentistry procedures under Medi-Cal Managed Care and major medical providers no longer willing to provide dental procedures to Medi-Cal patients.

*Betty Carlton, Community Program Specialist* shared with the board the Disability Advocacy Network (DAN) will be putting on Medi-Cal Managed Care trainings with the health plans in our rural communities to educate consumers and families about the Rural Expansion and mandatory enrollment. Further, she reported DAN is monitoring the effects of limited health providers in our rural communities.

9. Report from Executive Director, Laura Larson: Laura reviewed the signed Governor's Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15. Although the Governor kept a cap on new spending as promised, we were able to see the restoration of the Early Start program which was significantly changed in FY 2008-09 in response to the recession. The restored service will begin in January.

The budget contained new service models to address people who currently live in developmental centers:

- Crisis services at Sonoma and Fairview Developmental Center
- Community State Staff Program expansion
- Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes
- Community Crisis Homes

There were rate adjustments for Supported Living Services, In-Home respite, and personal assistants in response to changes in federal overtime requirements.

Regional Centers can now fund insurance deductible if the service is related to the developmental disability.

Laura brought attention to a number of items in the Director's Report.

10. Management Reports
  - a. Finance Report – Michael Mintline, Associate Director, Administration:

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- i. Purchase of Service: There is a deficit in spending authority of \$4.2 - \$4.4 million. Even though the state's cash flow is poor, Far Northern's cash flow is good due to recent reimbursement from DDS.

Community Services is developing services for the consumers that are coming out of the developmental centers. These new services coupled with more individualized day programs are adding to an increase in costs.

- ii. Operations Report: Janice Clarkson, Assistant to Administration Director: The Regional Center is currently projecting \$11 thousand in remaining Operations spending authority.

Expenses increased \$3 thousand due to adjustment of estimated savings from leaves of absence.

A 7% increase in insurance costs is being absorbed by FNRC. Worker's Compensation costs are also increasing.

- iii. Tour of new Administration office space: The Board was taken on a tour of the recently remodeled Administration area of the Redding office.
  - iv. Other: Mike is requesting copies of Driver's Licenses and vehicle insurance from board members who are requesting mileage reimbursement.
- b. Case Management Directions: Judy Kruse, Associate Director, Case Management, North:
    - i. Report: Melissa Gruhler, Case Management Supervisor spoke to the board. She supervises a majority of Shasta County cases and some Tehama County Supported Living cases. Melissa, along with Sarah Reed, manage the Supported Living cases in the Redding area. She has three Service Coordinators that specialize in Supported Living. Melissa also manages online training modules for Service Coordinators and, for some modules, all staff.

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- c. Community Services Directions: Diana Anderson, Associate Director, Community Services:
    - i. Action Item No. 1: It was requested the board approve contract PS-1778 with Resources for Rural Community Development (P82367) for CPP Start-Up funds effective July 1, 2014 through March 31, 2016 for a total maximum contract amount of \$415,000.00. Approval moved and seconded by Stephen Bell and Margot Madson. No. discussion, motion passed.
11. Association of Regional Centers Agencies Report, Andreas Economopoulos, Delegate: The ARCA meeting was held June 20, 2014 in Glendale, California. The night before the ARCA meeting ARCA Board Delegates and staff attended the ARCA Annual Awards Meeting. We had a very good speaker and ARCA recognized the work of volunteers and regional center staff who have worked on ARCA work groups and committees this past year. The next morning the ARCA meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. Highlights of the meeting were:
- We had a presentation on the National Core Indicators by Valerie Bradley, Human Services Research Institute, and Mary Lee Fay, from the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services. The presentation looked at California scores compared to national scores.
  - They also had a presentation on Diversity efforts. Golden Gate Regional Center has worked with the Stanford Design School on new ways of reaching out to minorities, and they had some very good ideas about how to reach people. Some of those ideas we may try in our area.
  - Eileen Richey gave a report on the accomplishments reached by ARCA this year. Andreas was most happy about Early Start. That would not have happened without ARCA making it their number one, most important issue. Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell was also very helpful in this restoration. Early Start will not begin until January, so that gives time to spread the word.
  - .Election of new officers – all previous officers were reelected.

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- Rick Rollins discussed several bills ARCA is following.
- The Department of Developmental Services provided a report. They were able to get a bigger loan for our service system from the Department of Finance. This will help regional centers not run out of money as early in the year, as we wait for federal dollars reimbursement. There were dollars in the budget for new models of service for people who have difficult behaviors.
- The Department is optimistic about the budget year.
- It was a good meeting, and my last ARCA meeting. But I am hopeful to come back on the board in the future. I have enjoyed being your representative on ARCA.

### 12. FNCC Board Committee Reports and Action Items:

- a. Consumer Committee, Michelle Phillips, Chairperson: Our committee met yesterday (6/26) at 3:00. All members were present and we had three guests, Margaret Shipp, Ronda Dever and Amy Westling from ARCA.

ARCA is updating their website and they wanted to interview people who were serving on regional center boards. Amy videoed each of us for the website. She asked us what we thought of being on the board and how did it help each of us and our friends. Her son is going to edit the tapes and put them on the website. Everyone did very well in the interviews. We can't wait to see ourselves on the ARCA website!

We also talked for quite some time about the People First Conferences that we attended. We attended the Statewide People First Conference in San Francisco and our local People First Conference in Anderson. We all agreed that we liked our local conference best because it had better workshops and was well thought out. The food was an issue for some in San Francisco, but not in Anderson.

We spent some time reviewing the Action Items in the board packet and the adjourned the meeting at 4:30.

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- b. Service Provider Advisory Committee, Jennifer Bowman, Chairperson:
- i. Far Northern Regional Center presented by Diana Anderson
    - What is in the Governor's Budget: Early Start was restored effective January 1, 2015. A Crisis Center will be developed at Sonoma Developmental Center.
    - Minimum Wage increase implementation: FNRC has been contacting vendors that will be impacted with the increase.
    - There was discussion regarding SB855 and the impact of overtime on providers. There is an increase in the budget to cover some of the overtime increases.
  - ii. FNRC Health and Wellness Initiative:
    - Update Report: The Wellness website is up and live. Requests for Proposals are posted on the website. One example is a stipend for writing an article for the website. A Provider symposium will be held in September. A "Killer Moves" training will be held in October, with "Stress Kills" in the spring of 2015.
  - iii. Provider Announcements: The "Get Set" program is beginning the week of June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - iv. The next meeting will be held September 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at the Tehama Visitors Center in Red Bluff.
- c. Membership Committee, Melanie Combes, Chairperson: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Melanie Combes. After a review of the Service Provider Advisory Committee applications, Gayle Cronic and Nancy Humiston were both approved and appointed to this committee. Moved and seconded by Colleen Ryberg and Michelle Phillips. No discussion, motion passed.

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A motion was made and seconded by Stephen Bell and Suzette Serrano to approve the reappointment of Michelle Phillips to the board. No discussion, motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded by Colleen Ryberg and Michelle Phillips to approve the reappointment of Troy Rathburn to the board. No discussion, motion passed.

The Membership committee then presented these nominations to the board for approval:

- Gayle Cronic – Motion by committee, seconded by Margaret Shipp, no discussion, motion passed.
  - Nancy Humiston – Motion by committee, seconded by Andreas Economopoulos, no discussion, motion passed.
  - Michelle Phillips – Motion by committee, seconded by Roger Hatton, no discussion, motion passed.
  - Troy Rathburn – Motion by committee, seconded by Margot Madson, no discussion, motion passed.
- d. Nomination Committee by Ronda Dever, Board Chairperson:  
Review of Slate presented at March meeting.
- i. Elections: After a review of the slate presented in March and nominations from the floor, the following board members were elected to the following positions:
    - ✦ Ronda Dever – Chairperson
    - ✦ Michelle Phillips – Vice Chairperson
    - ✦ Troy Rathburn – Secretary
    - ✦ Margaret Shipp – Treasurer
    - ✦ Kathryn McCreary – Parliamentarian
    - ✦ Ronda Dever – ARCA Representative
    - ✦ Troy Rathburn – ARCA Alternate

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

Suzette: Suzette shared her experiences at the People first Conferences she attended. She was very proud of the local effort put forth for the regional People First Conference. She felt that everyone took their responsibility seriously. When she was at the Statewide Conference, she was able to see the new Agnews Developmental Center Museum. Suzette shared her thoughts on the museum and her wish that they would focus on the people who lived and died there more.

Michelle: Michelle announced that the Tehama County Coordinating Council will be sponsoring their Circle of Champions lunch in August.

Margot: Margot talked about the small business she has started and the clothing for dogs she is making. She said she is making money and is happy.

Margaret: Margaret attended the Butte County Coordinating Council meeting. She also shared that as part of our Health Initiative we should encourage people to participate in summer Special Olympics. She would like to see more people involved and more people walking, playing basketball, golfing, bowling and baseball. They even have bocce ball games, now. She feels that people who live in group homes would enjoy these events.

Stephen: Stephen thanked the board for the time he has spent with them. He has learned a great deal and hopes to see people in the future.

Troy: Troy talked about Section 8 housing.

Susan: Susan has recently interviewed a dentist and she shared her insights with the board.

Andreas: Andreas thanked the board for seven years of meetings. He has enjoyed himself and will come to the meeting now and then to share information on what he is up to. He is also working on establishing a homeless shelter in his town.

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Kathryn: Kathryn mentioned that Jean Phillips has spent a month in the hospital but is now home.

Ronda: Challenger baseball traveled to the River Cats game and were brought out onto the field during the National Anthem.

14. Next meeting: The next meeting will be September 25 and 26, in Redding

15. Motion to adjourn by Suzette Serrano and Stephen Bell. No discussion, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted



Cynthia R. Presidio  
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary