

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Friday, January 23, 2015
9:15 a.m.

Far Northern Regional Center, Redding
1900 Churn Creek Road, Suite 319
Redding, CA 96007

1. Call to Order: 9:15 a.m. by Chairperson, Ronda Dever
2. Roll Call:
 - a. Present: Michelle Phillips, Suzette Serrano, Kathryn E. McCreary, Margaret Shipp, Susan Hess, Roger Hatton, Colleen Ryberg, Jennifer Bowman, Melanie Combes, Chrissie Clapp, Ronda Dever, Leslie Corletto,
 - b. Absent: Don Murphy and Margot Madson
3. Public Input/Open: Introduction of guests: Judy Kruse, Mike Mintline, Robin Larson, Diana Anderson, (FNRC staff), Rob Griffith of Matson and Isom, Ricky and Ashley Sedillos and Ted Hess.
4. Approval of Agenda for January 23, 2015: Motion to approve and second by Suzette Serrano and Roger Hatton. Discussion included the following changes: The Closed session and the report by Sarah May of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North State Office will be deleted and the Audit Review will be heard immediately after the approval of the November minutes. A motion to approve the amended agenda was made and seconded by Colleen Ryberg and Margaret Shipp. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.
5. Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2014: Motion to approve and second by Melanie Combes and Roger Hatton with the following corrections:
 - Page 14: Correct “stores” to “stories” in the Area Board 2 report

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Page 19: Paragraph 2 correct “Chairi” to Chair

Page 19: Consumer Committee report – remove duplicate sentence.

Motion to approve corrected minutes made and seconded by Chrissie Clapp and Colleen Ryberg. No further discussion, motion passed.

6. Report from Chairperson, Ronda Dever: Ronda discussed the upcoming Managed Care webinar and invited the board members to access this training. A Nominating Committee was chosen that consists of Colleen Ryberg, Margaret Shipp and Melanie Combes.
7. Transition to Executive (Closed) Session – W & I 4663, (3), (4), (5):
None - deleted
8. State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North State Office Report, Sarah May, Manager: None - deleted
9. Report from Executive Director, Laura Larson:
 - a. Governor’s Budget Proposals, Highlights: Laura reviewed the Governor’s Budget in relationship to services provided to people with developmental disabilities. The Budget was a “status quo” proposal with no new money being allocated to the system other than for caseload growth and new people being served by Early Start. Regional Centers are all projecting budget shortfalls and the Governor does, thankfully, provide for additional funds to cover much of the shortfall for the current year.
 - b. Self-Determination Status report: Self-Determination is a new voluntary delivery system consisting of a mix of services and supports, selected and directed by a participant through per-centered planning. The program is funded in part by a federal waiver (when approved). The application was sent to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on December 31, 2014. We will need to develop a local advisory committee to oversee the pilot. We will wait until we have further directions from DDS.

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- c. Purchase of Service Expenditure Data Reports: This data is available for viewing on the FNRC website. This data is being posted to show the differences in spending for different ethnic groups. Laura would like to have several community meetings. Possible dates are March 16th at the Butte County Coordinating Council and March 25th at the Tehama County Coordinating Council. She would also like to meet with the Spanish speaking families at Rowell. Several other ideas include a Fiesta-like meeting and participating in the Cinco de Mayo festivities in Red Bluff.
- d. Holidays are for Caring Update: Over 190 people received gifts and approximately \$10,000 received in contributions.
- e. Outreach efforts: We have increased our outreach efforts this year. We have placed ads in the widely distributed Parent Magazine as well as sending out new brochures to clinics, daycare and pediatrician offices. We also developed a postcard that listed our eligibility material on it. This was sent to doctors and healthcare clinics. We think our outreach efforts are working as our intakes are up across all ages.
- f. Other: New rules have been release by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that enhance protections to people receiving services funded by a blend of federal and state dollars. The new rules support values that the Lanterman Act and Far Northern Regional Center embrace. A full community life with activities which reflect integration and meaningful activity

To bring the State into compliance, the Department has created a DDS HCBDB Advisory Group. This group will oversee a transition plan created by the state which will define what changes will need to be made for the state to be in compliance with the new rules. Changes in residential care would include smaller homes, private rooms, keys to rooms and open kitchens.

Laura also mentioned the upcoming workshops that include “Healthy Bowel and Bladder Habits”, and “Supporting the Independent Living Skills of Consumers with an Autism

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Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Developmental Disabilities (DD)”. Both of these workshops will be held in Redding and Chico.

10. Management Reports

- a. Finance Report – Michael Mintline, Associate Director, Administration:
 - i. Purchase of Service Report, FY 14-15: Allocated spending authority from the Department of Developmental Services plus reimbursement of costs from vendors is \$6.4-\$6.7 million or 5.6-5.9% short of Fiscal 2014/15 spending estimates. \$2.5 million or 2.4% of the increase is due to state mandated rate increases resulting from changes in the state minimum wage and a pending increase for certain providers who must comply with laws relating to payment of overtime hours. The remaining \$5.6 million or 5.3% increase in expected expenses is caused primarily by \$1.2 million in Supported Living service expenses, \$1.0 million in out-of-home placement expenses for non-traditional family home agency and specialized residential facilities, and \$.9 million (\$900 thousand) in expenses for all inclusive, or “wrap around” crisis services developed to better serve difficult consumers.

The number of consumers aged 0-3 increased from 489 in June 2014 to 514 in December 2014, partially reversing a significant decline that occurred last fiscal year. The increase is due primarily to legislation restoring the Regional Center’s Early Start program.

The Regional Center’s goal is to place six consumers from developmental centers, out of area facilities, or locked facilities into the community.

- ii. Operations Report, FY 14-15: The Regional Center is projecting \$16 thousand in remaining operations spending

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authority at this time. Remaining spending authority of zero was projected in November 2014. Projected spending authority is slightly under \$15.0 million, which is an increase of \$2.0% from the prior year.

Projected personal Services expenses decreased by \$14 thousand from the November 2104 report due primarily to delays in hiring open Service Coordinator and Accounting Assistant position.

Projected operating expenses increased by \$7 thousand, due in part to bank fee rates that have increased, but will be renegotiated.

- iii. Review of FY 2013-14 Audited Financial Statements and presentation by Matson and Isom: (heard after agenda item #5): Robert Griffith reviewed the Far Northern Regional Center Financial Audit completed June 2014. This was an unqualified audit; meaning that the financial position of Far Northern Regional Center as of June 30, 2014, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended were in accordance with principles generally accepted in the United States of America. There were no significant deficiencies identified and no recommendations.
- iv. Action Item No 1: Line of Credit: It is recommended that the Board of Directors authorize the Associate Director, Administrative Services and Executive Director to sign the Union Bank's Credit and Security agreement and related Authorization to Disburse Agreement, which will enable the Regional Center to borrow \$18,500,000 if the DDS cannot pay its obligations to the Regional Center timely. In addition, it is recommended that the Board of Directors approve a borrowing limit of up to 10% more than the current maximum, or \$20,400,000, if the bank is willing to lend more funds and DDS increases the Regional Center's allocation of funds via contract amendment.

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Motion to approve made and seconded by Margaret Shipp and Roger Hatton, no discussion, motion passed.

- v. Action No. 2: CalPERS: It is recommended that the Board of Directors grant approval to refinance (amortize) the Regional Center's CalPERS unfunded pension liability over a fifteen (15) year term starting July 1, 2015. Motion to approve made and seconded by Margaret Shipp and Roger Hatton, no discussion, motion passed.

- vi. Other: None

- b. Case Management Directions: Judy Kruse, Associate Director, Case Management, North:
 - i. Judy introduced Robin Larson, Case Management Supervisor of the Intake Unit. Robin gave a description of the unit she supervises. They had over 1700 referrals last year for Intake. With the restoration of the Early Intervention eligibility they will be serving more children. The prevention program has been reestablished and will help identify more children for possible/future problems. There are some changes occurring within the unit, including development of a family portal and online application on the FNRC website; and an Intake Clerical Assistant, in order to keep up with the influx of new referrals.

- c. Community Services Directions: Diana Anderson, Associate Director, Community Services:
 - i. Action Item No. 3: Contract No. PST-1736, ADD #1: This contract was previously approved at the Board of Directors meeting on May 15, 2014; however since then the provider has expanded their services and has requested an increase of one thousand three hundred (1,300) miles per month effective August 1, 2014. It is requested that the Board approve contract PST-1736 Addendum #1 with Shascade Community Services (Shasta) (HF0215) for Transportation Services for a total

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maximum contract amount of \$458,304.00. This is a total increase of \$57,408.00 for the (24) month contract period. Motion to approve made and seconded by Colleen Ryberg and Suzette Serrano, no discussion, motion passed.

- ii. Report: The March meeting will launch for the Wellness Initiative and the Food Pantry is expanding into Tehama and Butte counties.

FNRC was approached by families of adult children who are concerned about the long term viability of the regional center system. There are concerned about what happens after they are gone, and there are no siblings or other family members who would provide oversight to their child's life.

They are interest in housing models long established in Denmark and Sweden and being used by seniors in our county. Called "co-housing" families envision a small blended community where they can age with their children and upon their death; other families would continue to look after other members of the community. They also would like large common areas for eating and socializing. This would not be a "disability only" community. This model could be supplemented with individual support services and is very exciting

Diana and Laura met with the United States master architect of these projects who developed and resides in a community in Grass Valley, California. He will be conducting a feasibility study for Butte County. After that process is completed, the Regional Center will step away, and the parents involved will continue with the process.

- d. Human Resources Report: Lauren Leisz, Human Resources Director
 - i. Action Item No. 4: Mike Hanson, Retire Annuitant: It is requested that the Board of Directors appoint Michael

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Hanson to be re-employed by FNRC effective the pay period beginning February 16, 2015, for a period of no more than 12 month, in accordance with Government Code requirements. Motion to approve made and seconded by Colleen Ryberg and Roger Hatton, no discussion, motion passed.

11. Association of Regional Centers Agencies Report, Ronda Dever, Delegate:

- The Association of Regional Center Agencies met last week in Sacramento at the Alta Regional Center. The Department of Developmental Services presented the state budget released by Governor Brown earlier this month. The budget as reported is a “status quo” budget. This means that new money is tied to growth in caseload only. The one piece of good news had to do with a deficiency appropriation which is built in to the budget. This money will be used for the current year Purchase of Service shortfall. There was a great deal of disappointment that there was no new money for our providers or regional center operations.
- .Nancy Bargman presented for the Department of Developmental Services. The Department is involved with Secretary Dooley’s Task Force on Developmental Disabilities. She presented an update on Self-Determination, and talked about the new Home and Community Based Rules that all states must conform to by 2019. Diana Anderson and Laura Larson have been asked to serve on the DDS Steering Community which will help the state come into compliance. DDS will be constructing a webpage showing the new rules and a proposed transition plan.
- Nancy also reported that the Self-Determination Waiver Application has been sent to the Centers on Medicaid Services (CMS). It is expected to take some time for federal approval. Random participant selection will occur in

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Sacramento from a group of interested people in each regional center area

- Executive Director, Eileen Richey, shared the primary focus of ARCA this year, which includes:
 - Support the Lanterman Coalition position of 10% increase this year, and 5% in future years until the system is stable. Ten percent would require \$500 million.
 - The elimination of the Annual Family Program Fee which was introduced in 2009. ARCA believes the \$200 a year is a hindrance for families in accessing services.
 - Support the closure of Sonoma and Fairview Developmental Centers.
- Eileen also discussed the budget strategy which will be a grass roots effort. It must be a local outreach, focusing on who we are and why we are important.
- There was a discussion regarding the ARCA report, “On the Brink of Collapse, The Consequences of Underfunding California’s Developmental Service System”. Orange County Regional Center felt the report was too strong, that the system is not on the “brink of collapse”. There was a long discussion regarding the health of our service system. The report was approved by the full body and will be release as soon as some new figures are received.
- Rick Rollens, ARCA’s Legislative Advisor, provided a report. He shared that there are lots of changes in the Capitol with the largest turnover of legislators in California history. There will be only one returning committee chair, and many people will be a first member, having only held local offices.

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- He also felt that education regarding who our service system served was very important. He stressed that Grass Roots efforts are very important.
- The remainder of the meeting was spent listening to the ARCA Board Committee Reports.

12. FNCC Board Committee Reports and Action Items:

- a. Consumer Committee, Suzette Serrano, Chairperson: The meeting was called to order by Suzette Serrano. Suzette Serrano, Michelle Phillips, and Susan Hess were in attendance. Laura Larson discussed the Board Packet and Action Items. Mike Mintline and Barbara Schubert attended and gave explanations for the financial Action Items. Mary Ann Weston was taking names of those who want to attend the Self-Advocacy Conference this spring. Suzette adjourned the meeting at 3:50
- b. Service Provider Advisory Committee, Jennifer Bowman, Chairperson: The meeting was held Wednesday, January 21, 2014 at 1:30 at the Tehama Visitors Center in Red Bluff with 12 in attendance.

Laura Larson, Executive Director of Far Northern Regional Center presented her report:

- Laura reviewed the current Governor's budget. There were not the increases the committee was hoping for. The State of California has four more years to come into compliance with the rules that will affect service providers. Laura will be meeting with providers in the spring to discuss the changes in more details.
- After discussing the ARCA Paper "On the Brink of Collapse: The Consequences of Underfunding the Regional Center System", there is hope of some budget changes in the Governor's May Revise.

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- Several service providers signed up to receive Outreach information to meet local legislators before Grass Roots Day
- Self-Determination: We wait for DDS direction. This will still take some time.
- The overtime ruling for support staff has been suspended. However the Department of Labor can appeal. The additional money in the Governor's budget allocated for salary increases has been removed.
- Purchase of Service Disparity statistics have posted. Laura is planning to the several family meetings and/or events before the end of March as required by the Department of Developmental Services.
- Upcoming workshops/conferences are: Supporting the Independent Living Skills of Consumers with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Feb. 3rd in Chico and Feb 4th in Redding); Healthy Bowel and Bladder Habits and Quality of Life (Redding and Chico in March).
- Diana Anderson gave an update on the Health and Wellness Initiative.
 - The official launch will be in March.
 - "Passport Project" a journey to health and wellness will be beginning in the day programs
 - The "Be Well" website is up and ready for visitors
 - A newsletter will be available soon
 - One day spring trainings will be scheduled for both direct care staff and administrators
 - Team sports will be starting this spring/summer
- Michael Elterman is leaving the state and has stepped down as a member of SPAC.

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- The next meeting is March 25th at 1:30 t the Tehama Visitor's Center
- c. Membership Committee, Melanie Combes, Chairperson: Melanie, Chrissie Clapp and Susan Hess were in attendance. Interviews were held for the open Member-at-Large position. Four people were interviewed and the Committee made the decision to recommend Ronda Crisp to this position. It was also decided to suggest to the board that Adam Beals be recommended to the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors for the open Siskiyou County position.

Laura discussed Board Composition with the committee, and shared with them the letter that was sent to the Department of Developmental Services regarding the composition of the FNCC Board of Directors.

Melanie adjourned the meeting at 3:10.

A motion to approve the appointment of Ronda Crisp was made and seconded by the Membership Committee and Ronda Dever, no discussion, motion passed.

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

Roger: He is now employed with a food delivery company and he likes his job.

Susan: Susan asked her Service Coordinator if there was a dress code for service providers. The Service Coordinator will ask Community Services if there is a dress code. Susan led the September Membership Committee meeting, as Melanie was unable to attend. Susan gave several board membership applications to people.

Margaret: Special Olympics in Chico is now in the middle of basketball.

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Colleen: Colleen shared an article in the Trinity Journal “They’re a Match”. This was about a man who received a kidney transplant from his wife.

Leslie: Leslie is involved at the Rowell Family Empowerment Agency. The Spanish speaking group will meet the 3rd Friday in February.

Melanie: Melanie attended the Tehama County Coordinating Council. Although the group membership is down, they would like to continue with the Emergency Fair and the awards luncheon. The next meeting may be March 17th at the Tehama County Courthouse Annex at 12:15.

Chrissie: Chrissie also attended the Tehama County Coordinating Council meeting.

Michelle: She is participating in Early Start.

Suzette: At People First, Chico, Meghan Skinner stated there are three new members. This group also had a Christmas party. Nominations have been submitted for new officers, and they are still collecting coats for the Salvation Army. In Paradise, elections were held, gifts are being collected for soldiers, and they had a Christmas party. The Red Bluff People First are revising their bylaws, nominations for officers are being received. They had a Christmas party and donated to the Salvation Army for Thanksgiving. Shasta People First held elections. People First of California will hold their conference in Fresno, June 14 – 16. The Abuse Prevention team went to Bakersfield and did their break-out sessions without helpers.

14. Next meeting: The next meeting will be March 26 and 27, in Redding

15. Motion to adjourn by Melanie Combes and Kathryn McCreary. No discussion, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cynthia R. Presidio".

Cynthia R. Presidio
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary