

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Friday, March 27, 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: Suzette Serrano, Don Murphy, Kathryn McCreary, Margaret Shipp, Margot Madson, Susan Hess, Roger Hatton, Colleen Ryberg, Jennifer Bowman, Melanie Combes, Chrissie Clapp, Ronda Dever, Leslie Corletto, Adam Beals, Ronda Crisp,
 - b. Absent: Michelle Phillips
3. Public Input/Open: Introduction of guests: FNRC staff: Lauren Leisz, Diana Anderson, Mike Mintline, Judy Kruse. Guests: Bonnie Thurman (DDS), Andreas Economopoulos (CAC), Ted Hess and Mathew Shipp.
4. Approval of Agenda for March 27, 2015: Motion to approve the agenda made and seconded by Margot Madson and Suzette Serrano. Discussion included making the following changes: In the absence of Sarah May, Manager of the SCDD, North State Office, Andreas Economopoulos will be reporting on the Consumer Action Committee and the Finance Committee report will be added as 12d. Motion to approve the amended agenda made and seconded by Jennifer Bowman and Suzette Serrano. No further discussion, motion passed

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5. Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2015: Motion to approve and second with the following corrections by Colleen Ryberg and Suzette Serrano:
 - Page 13: Correct “wais” to wait
 - Page 13: Correct “DD” to DDS
 - Page 15: Correct 5.605.9% to read 5.6-5.9%
 - Page 15: Correct \$.25 million to read \$2.5 millionNo further discussion, motion passed.

6. Report from Chairperson, Ronda Dever:
 - a. Action Item No. 1: Correction of September 2014 minutes: It is requested that the Board approve the Amended Minutes of September 26, 2014 as follows:
 - Report from Chairperson, Ronda Dever:

It was noted by the Chairperson that Troy Rathburn has resigned from the Far Northern Coordinating Council’s Board of Directors to serve on the Area Board 2, State Council on Developmental Disabilities Board of Directors. Roger Hatton was asked by Board Chairperson, Ronda Dever, if he would consider replacing Mr. Rathburn as Board Secretary. Mr. Hatton agreed and will fill the position until June 2015.

Motion to approve made and seconded by Margaret Shipp and Jennifer Bowman, no discussion, motion passed.
 - b. Welcome of new members: Chairperson, Ronda Dever, introduced and welcomed, new Board Members, Ronda Crisp and Adam Beals.
 - c. Evaluation of Executive Director Committee to be chosen. As in previous years, the Board Chair, Ronda Dever, and Consumer Chair, Suzette Serrano will be on this committee. Jennifer Bowman volunteered to also join this committee.

7. Transition to Executive (Closed) Session – W & I 4663, (3), (4), (5):

Motion to move into Closed Session made and seconded by Suzette Serrano and Ronda Crisp, no discussion, motion passed. An update on current litigation was discussed during closed session.

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8. ~~State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North State Office Report, Sarah May, Manager:~~ Association of Regional Center Agencies, Consumer Advisory Committee Report, Andreas Economopoulos, Member:

The Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) is promoting a Housing Committee workshop which was to have occurred in January.

CAC is developing a Facebook page to keep members updated and connected.

Andreas is on the Legislation Committee that works on legislation issues, and he updated the board on several bills.

The CAC committee would like to see ARCA's documents in simpler language that everyone can understand.

Andreas reported on improved transportation in Siskiyou County. A transportation center hub that will include city buses and Greyhound will be built. Andreas hopes that consumers will be hired as bus guides.

9. Report from Executive Director, Laura Larson:

Diversity: The Regional Center is mandated to have at least one community meeting to discuss purchase of service expenses and how dollars are spent between different racial groups. This year FNRC elected to have a number of presentations, but in addition to a standard presentation, two workshops were developed to discuss the topic of Multicultural Awareness in Human Services.

Laura contracted with Julie Garza-Withers to speak at the workshops. They were well attended with over 130 people attending in two locations. As a result of this on-going effort, we are beginning to see good and effective efforts put forth on the hiring of people who speak the language of our clients.

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Early Start: With the January 1, 2015 restoration of Early Start, Far Northern received many new people into the system. This influx has strained the current Service Coordinators. Because of the inability of the Regional Center to hire the appropriate amount of people to bring the caseloads into compliance with DDS regulations for the past two years, public meetings will be scheduled and Laura must meet with the union to gather views on how to remedy the situation. All of the Regional Centers are out of compliance with caseload ratios.

Grass Roots Day: Kim Leeseman, Margaret Shipp, Tammy Torum and Mary Ann Weston will be attending this event in Sacramento in mid April. This group will be meeting with legislators and/or their staff to speak about the underfunding of our service system and what steps need to be taken to stabilize the system.

National Core Indicators: The National Core Indicators will be used as the instruments to evaluate the outcomes of the work of the Regional Centers. Hopefully, the National Core Indicators will help us bring about needed changes. The most recent report shows Far Northern doing very well in many areas.

Home and Community Based Service Committee: Laura and Diana Anderson have been placed on this committee.

Legislation:

AB449: will allow people to save more the \$2000 per year and not impact their SSI. It is a bill to implement the ABLE Act.

AB 1335: Affordable Housing

AB 373: Prohibits sexual relations between residential housing staff and residents.

Self-Determination: The Department of Developmental Services has asked that an advisory committee be developed from each Regional Center. The Committee's composition is

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listed in statute. A three-year pilot is set to begin once the waiver application has been cleared in Washington D.C. Far Northern will be allowed 62 people for the pilot program. In order to be considered for the pilot, the consumer or family must attend one of the public meetings that will be held this summer throughout the region.

In May, the board meeting will include trainings on addressing the serving communities with diverse needs as well as developing on instrument to evaluate how we are doing. Laura would like to have additional trainings on the National Core Indicators and Self-Determination.

10. Management Reports

- a. Finance Report – Michael Mintline, Associate Director, Administration:
 - i. Purchase of Service Report, FY 14-15: It is expected that our costs will be close to \$112,564 million. Far Northern has a current projected deficit of approximately \$2 million. This represents an increase of 6.8% in expenses over the prior year. About 1.8% of this increase is due to the increases in provider rates, which include the newly mandated changes in the state minimum wage laws. The top four expenses that have increased are: Out of Home Expenses, Supported Living Expenses, Crisis Services Expenses, and Personal Assistance Expenses.
 - ii. Operations Report, FY 14-15: The Regional Center is projecting \$37 thousand in remaining operations spending authority at this time. Remaining spending authority of \$16 thousand was projected in January 2015. The increase in expenses is due, in part, to the filling of three Service Coordinator positions and the expectation of filling six other existing positions very soon. It is also projected that another three Service Coordinator positions will be filled by the end of the year.

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- iii. Other: None.

- b. Case Management Directions: Judy Kruse, Associate Director, Case Management, North:
 - i. Report: Judy spoke about a 13-year old boy who had been arrested several years ago. This young man had been sent to Juvenile Hall for assaulting a man. Juvenile Hall did a referral to the Regional Center and he was found eligible. He was sent to a residential care home for the teens. He did well at home and school. His older sibling has also been placed in a residential facility and both are doing well and see each other frequently.

- c. Community Services Directions: Diana Anderson, Associate Director, Community Services:
 - i. Action Item No. 2: Contract No. PS-1862: It is requested the Board approve contract PS-1862 with IPS Services, Inc. (PF4463) for Specialized Residential Crisis Services effective April 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017 for a total maximum contract amount of \$1,620,000.00. Motion to approve and second by Suzette Serrano and Melanie Combes, no discussion, Jennifer Bowman abstained, motion passed.
 - ii. Action Item No. 3: Contract No. PS-1865: It is requested the Board approve contract PS-1865 with Mid Valley providers, Inc. (PF4396) for Specialized Residential Services effective April 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017 for a total maximum contract amount of \$745,188.66. Motion to approve and second by Margot Madson and Suzette Serrano, no discussion, Jennifer Bowman abstained, motion passed.
 - iii. Action Item No. 4: Contract No. PST-1869: It is requested the Board approve contract PST-1869 with Paratransit Services (HF0339) for Transportation Services effective April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2018 for a total maximum contract amount of \$593,344.44. Motion to approve and second by Roger Hatton and

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Adam Beals, no discussion, Jennifer Bowman abstained, motion passed.

- iv. Report: Diana explained that the house on Wyndham Lane is supporting a gentleman with Prader-Willie. This home has been developed with the concept that the kitchen is not locked, but is stocked with healthy choices. A service provider from Wisconsin will be coming in the spring to train our service provider regarding best practices to serve people with Prader-Willie.

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. ARCA's President, Fernando Gomez, brought forward a proposal of partnership with the producers of film called "Where Hope Grows". It co-stars David DeSanctis, and he is one of the first actors with Down Syndrome to play a leading role in an English language film. This is a feature length film that focuses on Calvin, a man with many problems who works at a local grocery store. This film is endorsed by multiple Down Syndrome advocacy groups and religious organizations, and has received support from the Special Olympics and Best Buddies.
- There will be no increases in the ARCA dues this year.
- The full content of ARCA's report "On the Brink of Collapse, the Consequences of Underfunding California's Developmental Services System, February 2015" can be found on ARCA's website: www.arcenet.org. The report compares California's fiscal effort to other states, rates for residential, day and supported employment services and includes the number of program closures since 2011.
- ARCA has been asked to testify in seven out of eight budget hearings this year. The budget hearings are going very well, with much support voiced for our regional center system. The outreach to local legislators is working and we are being encouraged to keep up the good work.

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- The Legislative Committee had its first meeting on March 6, 2015. Rick Rollens provided an update on a number of new bills that impact our service system.
- The Strategic Planning Committee met on February 3rd. ARCA will be writing their new three-year strategic plan for 2016-2018 in October. Ronda would like to see our Board of Directors come up with some priorities for our center that could be shared in October.
- The Slate of Officers was presented for voting in June.
- Many ARCA members were upset about the Disability Rights California report “Reporting of Purchase of Service Data by the Regional Centers and the Department of Developmental Services, February 2015). Some centers feel this report is presented in a way which is unfair and increases tension between groups of people.

12. FNCC Board Committee Reports and Action Items:

- a. Consumer Committee, Suzette Serrano, Chairperson:
Committee Members present: Suzette Serrano, Margot Madson, Susan Hess, Roger Hatton, Adam Beals and Ronda Crisp. The meeting was called to order by Suzette Serrano. New members, Adam Beals and Ronda Crisp were welcomed.
 - Diana Anderson reviewed Action Item 2, 3, and 4. Laura Larson reviewed Action Item 1.
 - All committee members will be attending the People First Conference in Fresno in June 2015.
 - Laura discussed Self-Determination. If you want to be considered for the pilot program, you must attend at least one of the public meetings that Far Northern will be holding this summer.
- b. Service Provider Advisory Committee, Jennifer Bowman, Chairperson: The meeting was held Wednesday, March 25,

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2015 at 1:30 at the Tehama Visitors Center in Red Bluff with 17 in attendance. The following items were discussed:

- Uniform Holiday Schedule: Community services will be asking day/work programs providers what holidays they will be taking off the next fiscal year. Providers will get reimbursed for March 31st if they provide services.
- Several SPAC members met with their local legislator in Butte County. Jennifer will be meeting with Brian Dahle in the near future to discuss issues regarding the Regional Center system.
- FNRC will be setting up an advisory committee with the State Council and Client's Rights Advocate to provide oversight to the regional center in regard to the Self-Determination pilot project.
- The state will need an approved transition plan in order to implement new CMS regulations within the next four years. FNRC will be conducting conferences to educate providers.
- The Budget Hearings are going well.
- Information regarding FNRC Purchase of Service numbers and the Underserved Populations (Diversity) has been distributed. Providers who attended the Multicultural Awareness meetings were enlightened regarding this issue and felt the meetings were educational.
- Employment First has a memorandum regarding the MOU between California Department of Rehabilitations, DDS and the California Department of Education on their website.

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- The Health and Wellness Initiative 2015 will be launched, June 24th in Red Bluff. An independent consulting program focusing on financial matters has begun. COVE is preparing a puppet theater relating to social skills
- The next meeting is June 24th at 1:30 p.m. in Red Bluff.

c. Nominating Committee, Melanie Combes, Chairperson

i. Presentation of 2015-2016 Slate of Officers.

Nominations for the 2015-2015 year were determined during a meeting via conference call on March 3, 2015. The following slate of officers was developed to be presented to the Board of Directors in March:

Chairperson	Margot Madson
Vice-Chairperson	Ronda Dever
Secretary	Susan Hess
Treasurer	Colleen Ryberg
Parliamentarian	Kathryn McCreary
ARCA Rep	Ronda Dever (no vote)
ARCA Alternate	Adam Beals

- d. Finance Committee, Margaret Shipp, Chairperson: As no quorum was present, this meeting was informational only. Mike Mintline discussed the “Review of Spending Trends”, which include the purchase of Service deficit, the rising costs, and some of the bigger reasons for the rising costs. he detailed why the costs have risen from \$105,373 million in the Fiscal year 2013/2014 to over \$112,000 million for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. These increased expenses include Out of Home, Supported Living, Crisis Service, and Personal Assistance Expenses. It was decided to review the Actions Items in the Consumer Committee.

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

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Kathryn: Kathryn attended the Multicultural event in Chico. She also mentioned that a former board member has been in the hospital.

Margaret: Special Olympics has completed their basketball tournament, with 482 lunches being served during this event. Track and Field, Bocce Ball and swimming are beginning. Track and Field now includes a walking competition. She will be presenting on diabetes at a self-advocacy conference May 1st.

Leslie: Leslie is continuing to work with the Spanish speaking families on how to access services.

Roger: The food pantry is expanding to over 150 people and is moving into Red Bluff and Siskiyou County. It is very successful.

Colleen: The movie "High Ground" will be shown in Weaverville by Focus Film Festival. The Veterans, the Lions and the Art Council are some of the sponsors.

Don: Don has had several contacts with case management issues over the past several months

Melanie: The Tehama County Coordinating Council met and Laura came and spoke at the meeting. The group would like to continue the Emergency Fair and possibly have FNRC bring the Emergency Trailer to the next fair. They would like to change the awards luncheon to the fall of the year.

Adam: Adam reiterated the fact that there are limited resources in Siskiyou County, including work and recreation opportunities. He would like FNRC to help create more opportunities for people.

Susan: Susan Hess interviewed Maureen Watkins. Maureen was born in Australia. She has never before worked with

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people with disabilities; however, she will listen to you and is working the “hot Line” for Friendship circle.

Suzette: Suzette attended the bus meeting on March 17th. They are currently working on a bus shed in front of her apartment.

Andreas Economopoulos (former board member): Andreas spoke of the peril of human trafficking. He will be gathering more information and will share with the board at a later date.

14. Next meeting: The next meeting will be May 20 and 21, in Redding

15. Motion to adjourn by Roger Hatton and Margot Madson. No discussion, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted



Cynthia R. Presidio
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary