

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Friday, September 25, 2015  
9:15 a.m.  
Far Northern Regional Center, Redding  
1900 Churn Creek Road, Suite 319  
Redding, CA 96007

1. Call to Order: 10:40 a.m. by Chairperson, Margaret Shipp
2. Roll Call:
  - a. Present: Michelle Phillips, Suzette Serrano, Ronda Crisp, Kathryn McCreary, Margaret Shipp, Margot Madson, Susan Hess, Roger Hatton, Colleen Ryberg, Jennifer Bowman, Melanie Combes, Chrissie Clapp, Ronda Dever, Leslie Corletto, Adam Beals
  - b. Absent: None
3. Public Input/Open: Introduction of guests: FNRC staff: Judy Kruse, Jackie Johnson, and Mike Mintline. Ted Hess, Marcus Stuart, Thor Smith, Ricky and Ashley Sedillos. .
4. Approval of Agenda for September 25, 2015: Motion to approve the agenda made and seconded by Ronda Dever and Jennifer Bowman. No discussion, motion passed.
5. Approval of Minutes from June 26, 2015: Motion to approve and second by Suzette Serrano and Ronda Dever. No discussion, motion passed
6. Report from Chairperson, Margaret Shipp:
  - a. Action Item #1: 2016 Board Meeting Schedule: It is requested that Board of Directors approve the 2016 Board meeting schedule as submitted. Motion to approve and second by Margot Madson and Roger Hatton. No discussion, motion passed.

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- b. Other: Motion to hold one 2016 Board of Directors meeting in Chico. Motion made and seconded by Margot Madson and Chrissie Clapp. No discussion, motion passed.
  - c. Motion to hold the Chico meeting in April 2016 made and seconded by Roger Hatton and Ronda Dever. No discussion, motion passed.
  - d. Margaret Shipp distributed information regarding the Supported Life Conference in October. She also passed out information regarding employment and AAC Communication that are both in conjunction with the Supported Life conference.
7. Transition to Executive (Closed) Session – W & I 4663, a (1), (2), (3), (4), (5),
- (1) Real estate negotiations.
  - (2) The appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a regional center employee.
  - (3) Employee salaries and benefits.
  - (4) Labor contract negotiations.
  - (5) Pending litigation
8. State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North State Office Report, Sarah May, Regional: All Area Boards and their Executive Directors have been reclassified and renamed as Regional Offices and Regional Office Managers.

The State Council has been working on the State Plan. The Regional Offices projects, collaborators, trainings are being reported to the State Council monthly. The Regional Offices are also identifying, and reporting to the State Council, the number of people with developmental disabilities and families that are either involved with the planning or who have benefitted from the trainings and/or events. The State Council has received close to 3000 survey responses which has been released in 16 languages. The current survey results can be found at [www.scdd.ca.gov](http://www.scdd.ca.gov).

The State Council submitted the most recent Corrective Action Plan Progress report to AIDD on September 1, 2015. 76% of requested items were submitted with 73% compliance. It is hoped that California will be removed from “high risk reimbursement” status soon.

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Charles Horne-Nutt is the North State Regional Office's representative to the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network. Mr. Horne-Nutt attended the meeting in Sacramento September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

The North State Regional Office is working on several local projects included the planning and organizing of the Butte County Coordinating Council's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Recognition Celebration scheduled for October 15, 2015. This year's honorees have been selected and congratulation letters are being prepared.

The Circle of Champions recognition is also being planned for October by the Tehama County Coordinating Council. This event honors those who have made significant contributions in Tehama County.

The North State Regional Office remains an active member of regional coalitions, including the Diversability Advocacy Network (DAN) that meets monthly to discuss current issues and healthcare updates on behalf of consumers that are Medi-Cal or Medicare recipients. A town hall meeting will be held at the Chico Family Masonic Center on December 1<sup>st</sup> regarding the 1-year anniversary of the implementation of the mandatory Medi-Cal Managed Care in our region.

### 9. Report from Executive Director, Laura Larson:

- a. Laura reported on several retirements occurring at Far Northern Regional Center.
- b. A Service Provider Summit will be held November 4<sup>th</sup>. This summit will be a sharing event for the vendors/programs to share ideas.
- c. A Person Centered Training will occur this Monday and Tuesday.
- d. The Regional Center service system is going through a major transition. The programs will need to change with the next few years, especially those that are housed in large buildings with many people and segregated from the community. The regulations requiring integration into the community. Several years ago, the board passed a policy regarding having no more

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than 30 people in a day program. Laura will be developing a service strategy to develop employment for consumers.

- e. The Self-Determination Waiver has not been sent to Washington D.C.
- f. One of FNRC's Consumer Advocates, Kim Leeseman, is speaking to people in school regarding what happens after you leave school. What are your choices?. She is also speaking about housing – where will you live? What are the choices?
- g. In August Laura presented the National Core Indicators and Far Northern Regional Center's wellness efforts in Orange County.
- h. Rowell Family Empowerment lost a federal grant and is now downsizing. Laura has approached them regarding targeted outreach to underserved populations.
- i. The closure of Sonoma Developmental Center is slated for 2018. The average length of stay here is 30 years. FNRC has 10 people living there, and we are working to develop options..
- j. The Special Session has not resolved our funding issues.

### 10. Management Reports:

- a. Financial Reports: Mike Mintline, Associate Director, Administration:
  - i. Purchase of Service Report FY 14-15: The Regional Center is still projecting a deficit of \$1.6 – 1.7 million in spending authority. However, the Department of Developmental Services will be correcting that soon. Due to mandated rate increases and growth, expenses for this fiscal year are expected to be \$111.9 million, and increase of 6.2% from the prior year. Six consumers from developmental centers have been placed into the community.
  - ii. Operations Report, FY 15-16: The Regional Center is projecting \$255 thousand in remaining operations spending authority at this time. Projected spending authority is slightly under \$15.8 million. This amount is an increase of \$760 thousand, or 5.0% from the prior year. The Regional center expects to fill current Service Coordinator vacancies timely and also hire new Service Coordinators. Several other positions are also expected

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to be filled, including one additional Human Resource Specialist and a Behavioral Specialist. Funding for this position was allocated as part of the Sonoma Developmental Center closure. Operating expenses are projected to increase from the prior fiscal year by \$146 thousand. These projected expenses are primarily due to \$35 thousand for a HIPAA risk assessment that is required because the Regional Center is defined as a Business Associate in its Master Contract with the State of California Department of Developmental Services and \$22 thousand in increased communication expense because the Regional Center no longer qualifies for a state CalNet program subsidy.

- iii. Action Item #2: Bank signers: It is requested the Board of Directors approve Colleen Ryberg, Laura Larson, Michael Mintline, Renee Meagher, Judy Kruse, and Barbara Schubert to sign checks on company accounts. Motion made and seconded by Roger Hatton and Suzette Serrano. No discussion, motion passed.
- iv. Other: A substantial audit finding was found regarding Access Homes. A resolution proposal has been presented to the Department of Developmental Services.
- b. Case Management Directions: Judy Druse, Associate Director, Case Management North
  - i. Introduction of Jackie Johnson, Case Management Supervisor: Jackie began in the FNRC Redding office in 1986. She left FNRC in 1997 to live and work in Haiti before coming back to FNRC. Jackie supervises 12 Service Coordinators in Chico. Her unit has all of the foster children and the majority of consumers in Supported Living. She also worked for 10 years with people with autism. She is now part of the Captain Community, which includes SELPA members and Dr. Lisa Benaron. The Community seeks to provide training and best practices to children with autism.
- c. Community Services Directions: Diana Anderson, Associate Director, Community Services:

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- i. Sonoma Developmental Center Closure Report: Executive Director, Laura Larson, spoke on this topic previously in her report.
- ii. Action Item #3: Performance Contract: Diana gave a brief explanation regarding why the performance Contract exists. Changes in the 2016 Performance Contract include:
  - ✓ Special Outreach Project was added
  - ✓ A National Core Indicators section was added.
  - ✓ The date of the National Core Indicators and Purchase of Service have been combined.

Diana mentioned that one place FNRC is falling behind is the intake timelines. This is due to the increased outreach and the new consumers coming in at a faster pace than we thought.

It is requested that the Board of Directors approve the Performance Contract for calendar year 2016. Motion to approve the 2016 Performance Contract moved and seconded by Roger Hatton and Ronda Dever. No discussion, motion passed.

- d. Human Resources: Lauren Leisz, Human Resources, Director:
  - i. Action Item #4: Retired Annuitant, Tonya Guthrie: It is requested that the Board of Directors appoint Tonya Guthrie to be re-employed by FRNC effective the pay period beginning November 16, 2015, for a period of no more than 12 months, pursuant to the Government Code requirements. Motion to approve and second by Roger Hatton and Colleen Ryberg. No discussion, motion passed.

11. Association of Regional Centers Agencies Report, Ronda Dever, Delegate:
  - a. August 20, 2015 meeting report: The ARCA meeting was held on August 21, 2015 at Harbor Regional Center in Torrance, CA. Topics discussed were:
    - Board Representative and past ARCA Chair talked about the World Special Olympic Games which he was very

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involved in. He stated it was one of the highlights of his life, and he will be forever grateful for the inspiration the event gave him and his family.

- There was a discussion about the Special Session of the Legislature and what it means for our service system. Rick Rollins commended the regional centers and service providers for the wonderful work they have done bringing to the attention of the legislature the plight our system is in.
- We were updated on the status of the Self Determination Waiver Application. ARCA's response was in a letter dated August 12, 2015 by Eileen Richey, Executive Director.
- We have a very interesting presentation by Mike Monk, a Partner at Musick Peeler and Garrett. He provided a brief review of two presentations he has given to regional center boards. One on conflicts of interest, and on the responsibilities of regional center board members. That presentation in your board packet.
- We discussed our three-year Strategic Plan Priorities for 2015-16. This is also in your board packet.
- Our next ARCA function will be held in San Diego in mid October. We will be approving our Strategic Plan. Any suggestions or questions will be welcome.
- There was a discussion regarding the ABLE Act. This is a tax-free savings account to aid those with disabilities.
- The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lanterman Act will be next year. A committee is beginning work on this celebration

### 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 was elected by the committee to serve another year as Chairperson.
  - The Board packet and Actions Items were reviewed. Laura Larson explained all four of the Actions including the Performance Contract for 2016 that the board will vote on.

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- Members of the committee raised concerns about whether or not people receiving independent living services should be working on keeping their homes cleaner. Some people don't know who to keep their house clean and some choose not to. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:00.
- b. Service Provider Advisory Committee, Jennifer Bowman, Chairperson: The meeting was held September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Tehama Visitors Center in Red Bluff with 14 individuals present
  - i. Laura Larson presented for Far Northern Regional Center
    - The closure of Sonoma Developmental Center is a very emotional and political issue. The closure will happen by 2018.
    - Laura distributed the evaluations self-assessment evaluation forms to the providers for the new Federal Home and Community Based Standards. The Federal Government has not approved the Status of Transition Plan.
    - The Self Determination Waiver Application has not been approved and may, only, be approved after the Federal Transition Plan's approval. The Department of Developmental Services has created a Self-Determination video that will be shown at the community informational meetings. The Self Determination Regional Advisory Committee met September 18<sup>th</sup> and will meet again January 15<sup>th</sup>.
    - No news yet regarding the Legislative Special Session.
    - The state has an Employment First Policy. Laura is going to draft one for our regional. Under the new federal ruling, no one under the age of 24 can be referred to a sub-minimum wage program.
    - Laura discussed the 2016 Performance Contract and National Core Indicators.
  - ii. A Service Provider Summit is schedule for November 4<sup>th</sup>. This will consist of four sets of panels of providers



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discussing what they are currently doing in their programs regarding Health and Wellness.

- iii. Siskiyou Opportunity Center was voted the best nonprofit in Siskiyou County. Mains'1 is hosting a karaoke event in Chico on November 7<sup>th</sup> and Kimberly Candela gave an update on Client's Rights activities.
- iv. New next meeting is November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Tehama Visitors Center.

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

Suzette: People First BBQ in Chico was held together with a Healthy Living Presentation. Chico and Paradise People Firsts are working on a dance together. Corning had a Health Living Presentation. Paradise had a "Me and You" presentation. Ref Bluff is talking about helping a fire victim and a Halloween costume contest. Shasta completed the 14/15 Strategic Action Plan and donated to the Red Cross for fire victim and a no-kill animal shelter.

Michelle: We Care a Lot is celebrating the 20/10 anniversary with a dance on October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Chico Grange.

Margot: Margot has been working – crocheting, knitting and sewing dog clothes. She is now working on a swimsuit line for dogs.

Susan: Susan interviewed the Monica, the Executive Director at the Oroville Chamber of Commerce. Monica was born in Oakland, California and previously worked at a library in London before moving to Paradise in 2001. The chamber hosted a concert in the park.

Adam: A new Greyhound bus station is under construction in Yreka. Some of the people who lost homes in the Boles Fire are rebuilding, while some have left the area.

Chrissie: The Tehama County Coordinating Council is becoming more active. Today they are having an Emergency Preparedness

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Fair at the Fairgrounds, where “Go Bags” are being handed out. The first weekend of November is the Art Walk in Red Bluff.

Colleen: An Art Festival will be held October 3<sup>rd</sup> in Weaverville. This is being held in conjunction with a World Bike Tour October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. This event brings people from all over the world to ride for 24 hours.

Leslie: Leslie is now employed at Head Start, where she is continuing with the Spanish speaking families.

Roger: The new gym opened in August. More than 30 people have signed up.

14. Next Meeting: November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015, in Redding.

15. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made and seconded by Roger Hatton and Margot Madson. No discussion, motion passed. .

Respectfully submitted



Cynthia R. Presidio  
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary