

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Friday, January 29, 2016  
9:15 a.m.

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

1. Call to Order: 9:30 a.m. by Chairperson, Margaret Shipp
2. Roll Call:
  - a. Present: Michelle Phillips, Suzette Serrano, Margaret Shipp, Margot Madson, Susan Hess, Roger Hatton, Colleen Ryberg, Jennifer Bowman, Chrissie Clapp, Leslie Corletto, Adam Beals
  - b. Absent: Ronda Crisp, Kathryn McCreary, Melanie Combes, Ronda Dever
3. Public Input/Open: Introduction of guests: FNRC staff: Rachel Newkirk, Lauren Leisz, Judy Kruse, Diana Anderson. Ted Hess and Mathew Shipp were also in attendance.
4. Approval of Agenda for January 29, 2016: Motion to approve the agenda made and seconded by Colleen Ryberg and Jennifer Bowman. No further discussion, motion passed.
5. Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2015: Motion to approve and second by Margot Madson and Suzette Serrano, with the following changes/corrections:
  - #4: September correct to read "November"
  - #5: January 26 and 27 corrected to read January 28 and 29.No further discussion, motion passed.
6. Report from Chairperson, Margaret Shipp: Rebecca Younger and Margaret Shipp attended the Michael Walling training and found it

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very informative. Colleen Ryberg's Conflict of Interest Waiver has been approved.

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

No closed session necessary.

8. State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North State Office Report, Sarah May, Regional:
- ❖ SCDD continues to manage the Quality Assurance Program through a contract with DDS, using the National Core Indicator (NCI) tool. Surveys have been mailed out throughout California to families that have children between the ages of 3-18 that live at home. For FNRC counties, SCDD, North Coast Office, located in Ukiah, is managing the project.
  - ❖ SCDD submitted most recent Corrective Action Plan Progress report to AIDD on December 31, 2015. SCDD has now submitted 85% of the required items.
  - ❖ Mike Walling training in Chico on January 27<sup>th</sup> "Benefits \* Employment 2016" was successful and attended by 75 people. The surveys showed that people were satisfied with the presenter, information and materials. Another training with Mike Walling is targeted to be organized in January 2017.
  - ❖ Since April 2015, the SCDD State Plan Committee has been facilitating an information gathering process throughout California to develop goals and objectives for the next five year plan. Through the survey process, 3,577 responses were collected. The draft plan is a proposal that includes 17 Objectives within these six Goals:
    - i. Employment
    - ii. Housing
    - iii. Health and Safety
    - iv. Early Intervention and Education (Transition & PSE)
    - v. Formal and Information Community Supports

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## vi. Self Advocacy

- ❖ Beginning February 1, 2016 state law limits the maximum weekly number of hours an IHSS/Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCA) provider can work in a workweek. Providers will be paid overtime if they work more than 40 hours a week, but providers shall not work more than 66 hours a week for IHSS and WPCS combined. CDSS now has an exemption policy for IHSS providers who meet all the conditions on or before January 31, 2016.

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

- a. The Board viewed a news video regarding a local residential facility.
- b. Rebecca Younger will be attending Grass Roots Day in Sacramento. Margaret Shipp and Colleen Ryberg volunteered to also attend.
- c. After the attack in December at Inland Regional Center, other Centers are now adding extra security. Lauren Leisz is in contact with Homeland Security and California Highway Patrol regarding assessment of the security of our building. Lauren is anticipating some security changes in the near future.
- d. The Governor's Budget was released in January with few changes or added funds. We do see additional dollars for the funding of some 200 service coordinators throughout the state. However 600 are needed to meet caseload ratios required by Centers for Medicaid.

There is an infusion of funds to address the needs of service providers who will need to redesign their day time services to meet new federal Home and Community Based Services rules. These new rules will be effective March 2019 and will require among many things, that all services provide services which are individually designed and inclusive.

Residential providers who serve people in Level 4 ARM facilities will have a new rate. That is very good news for those providers. Level 4 homes require high levels of staffing.

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In June the California Legislature went into a special session to address Medical Rates and needs for the regional center service system. The Governor wanted to use a special tax on Managed Care Organizations to fund the new increases. To do so, three votes from Republicans were needed. He was unable to secure those votes. Additional work was done and it appears that the “tax” has been reformed and now is acceptable to managed care organizations and others. It appears that a vote is near. It is hoped that the MCO tax will benefit regional centers as well as providers who rely on MediCal reimbursement.

- e. ARCA has a new report “Beyond the Brink of Collapse”. This report shows California at the bottom in the nation regarding the funding of providers. The report has not been released.
- f. Each year we must post our diversity numbers on our website. Public meetings are required to show these numbers. This year Lynn Fritz, a Native American spiritual leader will present March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Gaia. This presentation will include a drum ceremony and spiritual ceremony. There will also be two small meetings in Redding and Chico in March. Denis Villanueva and Larry Withers will be working on this diversity issue.
- g. The Self-Directed Services Waiver has been sent to the Federal Government. They sent it back with 180 questions to be answered by the state. There will, probably, be no movement until summer.
- h. Laura has been reporting, monthly, on our progress of removing FNRC’s consumers from Sonoma Developmental Center in anticipation of its closure. Fairfield and Porterville Developmental Centers are also slated to be closed.
- i. Our consumer numbers are growing and our medical coverage for autistic children will now be paid by Managed Care – not FNRC.
- j. More trainings are up-coming, including “Inclusion is the Heart and Soul of Community on February 9<sup>th</sup> in Chico and March 8<sup>th</sup> in Anderson.

### 10. Management Reports:

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a. Financial Reports: Mike 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 \$1.3 - \$1.7 million, or 1.1-1.5% short of Fiscal 2015/16 spending estimates. A review of July-November 2015 payments, analytical review of current and prior year expenses, and discussions with Regional management indicate that Fiscal 2015/16 expenses may approximate as much as \$121.7 million, a \$10.6 million or 96% increase from last year. \$2.9 million or 2.6% of the increase is due to state mandated rate increases resulting from changes in that state minimum wage, employee sick leave requirements, and employee overtime requirements. The remaining \$7.7 million of 7.0 % increase in expected expenses is caused primarily by:
- \$2.0 million in Out-of-Home placement expenses
  - \$1.7 million in Community Integrated Training expenses.
  - \$4.0 million that includes Day Training Programs, Prevention Services, Personal Assistant Services, Transportation Services, Supported Living expenses, and other miscellaneous program and services costs.

It is still the goal of the Regional Center to place seven consumers from developmental centers, out of area facilities, or local facilities into the community this fiscal year.

Also, an additional \$1.0 million in start up and \$85 thousand in placement cost funding has been allocated specifically for consumers that must be placed from Sonoma Developmental Center that is scheduled to close in 2018.

- ii. Operations Report, FY 15-16: The Regional Center is projecting \$30 thousand in remaining operations spending authority at this time. Remaining spending authority of

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\$10 thousand was projected in November 2015. Projected spending authority is almost \$15.9 million. This amount includes \$115 thousand CPP funding designated for a Behaviorist position. The purpose of the Behaviorist position is to assist consumers in their transition from developmental centers to the community. Projected Personal Services expenses decreased \$100 thousand from the November 2015 report due primarily to savings resulting from the hiring of eight new employees at lower salary steps than retired or promoted employees. Operating expenses increased by \$80 thousand primarily due to IT hardware and Contracts costs, employee training in Person Centered Planning and other miscellaneous office expenses..

- iii. Other:
- b. Case Management Directions: Judy Kruse, Associate Director, Case Management North
  - i. Introduction of Rachel Newkirk, Case Management Supervisor: Rachel has worked in Chico for about 16 years. Her unit serves people who live independently or at home with family.
- c. Community Services Directions: Diana Anderson, Associate Director, Community Services:
  - i. Action Item #1: Performance Contract: Diana Anderson explained the reason this has been brought to the board for approval. It is requested that the Board of Directors approve the Performance Contract for calendar year 2016. Motion made and seconded to approve by Roger Hatton and Margot Madson. No discussion, motion passed.
  - ii. Community Placement Plan Update: Community Services is working on many projects with approximately \$4 million in funds. One project is a duplex/triplex for people with severe and destructive behaviors. Another project is to training doctors to provide medical services directly where people live. These services will strengthen our community services.

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There will be a Department of Labor training for residential providers on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

- d. Human Resources: Lauren Leisz, Human Resources, Director:
  - i. Action Item #2: Retired Annuitant, Mike Hanson: it is requested that the Board of Directors appoint Michael Hanson to be re-employed by FNRC effective the pay period beginning February 16, 2016 for a period of no more than 12 months, in accordance with Government Code requirements. Motion to approve and second by Suzette Serrano and Margot Madson. No discussion, motion passed.
  - ii. Security Concerns post Inland Regional Center shooting incident: We are working with the FBI and CHP to train staff and evaluate/assess risks throughout the state. They have made a list of priorities, and have found that Regional Centers, along with medical facilities are very low risk. The office will be assessed soon and Lauren will present the recommended changes.
11. Association of Regional Centers Agencies Report, Ronda Dever, Delegate:
  - a. Meeting report by Laura Larson: Most of what was discussed at the ARCA has been presented throughout this meeting previously. Laura mentioned there is a lot of conversation regarding Managed Care and behavioral services for children with autism.
12. FNCC Board Committee Reports and Action Items:
  - a. Consumer Committee, Suzette Serrano, Chairperson: The meeting was called to order by Suzette Serrano. The Board packet and Action Items were reviewed. Laura Larson spoke to the committee regarding the upcoming People First Conferences in Sacramento and Anderson. Laura also spoke regarding Self Determination and the issues that are delaying the implementation of the project. Meeting adjourned by 4:40.
  - b. Service Provider Advisory Committee, Jennifer Bowman, Chairperson: The meeting was held January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Tehama Visitors Center in Red Bluff with 13 individuals present



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- i. Laura Larson presented for Far Northern Regional Center with the following topics:
  - Governor's Budget: There is currently money in the budget for new Service Coordinators. There is also a proposal for money to support the closure of the developmental centers, for changes in federal labor regulations, for Managed Care to provide behavioral services to children with autism and for ARM rates for four-bed facilities. \$15 million has been set aside to provide resources to redesign services to be in compliance with the new HCBS rules effective March 2019.
  - The Managed Care Tax now called "reform" and its implications: Changed wording to reform as opposed to tax. The hope is for increased rates for Medi-Cal providers and the regional center system.
  - DC Closures: RFPs have gone out for new services to assist the placing people in the community.
  - National Core Indicators Family Survey: The State Council has the contract and the surveys have been mailed.
  - Upcoming Educational Events: February 9<sup>th</sup> is the Inclusion if the Heart & Soul of Community in Chico. February 10<sup>th</sup> the residential providers will have training on State and Federal Labor Laws in Red Bluff. A Native American Relational Experience will be held March 23<sup>rd</sup> in Anderson.
  - Purchase of Service Expenditures as They Relate to Race and Ethnicity: FNRC is doing well in this area.
  - Self Directed Services: The Federal government has asked 180 questions regarding this program and the state is in the process of answering.
  - Rate Adjustments: The Sick Leave adjustments are complete and the retro authorizations are being processed. ARM increases will be paid in February for January. There was an issue with the minimum wage worksheets on the website, however, this has



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been corrected and is ready to use. Providers will be receiving an email soon advising them of the Community Services Specialist who will be assisting them with minimum wage calculations. There will also be a process coming for SLS providers to establish a new average for their worksheets.

- The Regional Center has hired several new people to replace those who have retired and promoted recently.
- ii. Diana Anderson gave an update regarding the Health and Wellness Initiative. A meeting is scheduled for February to create goals for the year. An RFP has been issued for a website creator.
- iii. Provider Announcements: The Rural Education Institute is holding a training in May with four speakers. This will include trainings on Prader Willi and Job Coaching and Development.

COVE is beginning their “Biggest Loser” program which includes consumers and staff.

Gallagher and Neilson will be doing a Town Hall at the mover theater in Paradise.

Look for an insert on the Work Training Center in the February 5<sup>th</sup> *Chico News and Review*.

- iv. Next meeting is March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 at the Tehama Visitors Center.

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

Margaret: Margaret asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. Colleen Ryberg, Jennifer Bowman, Roger Hatton and Adam Beals have volunteered for this conference call in March.

Roger: The Food Pantry is going well and growing.

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Adam: Snow in Siskiyou County and the ski park has opened which is very helpful for the economy.

Susan: Susan interviewed Michelle with Butte Home Health Care. Michelle does home visits with our clients.

Jennifer: Redding School of Arts is presenting *The Lion King*

Chrissie: The Tehama Arts Council has a young woman who is working on grant to provide resources to North Valley Services.

Suzette: People First, Chico is planning a pool party and had a holiday party in December. The Paradise and Chico chapters had dances. The Corning chapter is volunteering at the horse facility. Paradise is working on the Region 2 dance and raffle. Red Bluff had a bowl-a-thon, Halloween party and Christmas gift exchange. The Peer-to-peer group will be meeting. The Shasta chapter is growing and is working on a strategic plan and the funding for a no-kill animal shelter. People First of California is working on its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Michelle: People First is busy planning the May conference.

14. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made and seconded by Margot Madson and Michelle Phillips. No discussion, motion passed. .

15. Next meeting: March 24 and 25, 2016, Chico, California

Respectfully submitted



Cynthia R. Presidio  
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary