

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Friday, June 24, 2016
8:30 a.m.
Gaia Hotel
4125 Riverside Place
Anderson, CA 96007

1. Call to Order: 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson, Margaret Shipp
2. Roll Call:
 - a. Present: Adam Beals, Ronda Crisp, Kathryn McCreary, Margaret Shipp, Margot Madson, Roger Hatton, Colleen Ryberg, Jennifer Bowman, Chrissie Clapp, Ronda Dever, Leslie Corletto, William Battles
 - b. Absent: Michelle Phillips, Susan Hess, Michael Green
3. Public Input/Open: Introduction of guests: Eileen Richey (ARCA), Mary Agnes Nolan (State of California), Sarah May, (SCDD North State Office), Melissa Gruhler, Lauren Leisz, Mike Mintline, Diana Anderson, Judy Kruse (FNRC staff).
4. Approval of Agenda for June 24, 2016: Motion to approve agenda and second by Kathryn McCreary and Jennifer Bowman. No further discussion, motion passed.
5. Approval of Minutes from May 20, 2016: Motion to approve and second by Ronda Dever and Colleen Ryberg. No discussion, motion passed.
6. Report from Chairperson, Margaret Shipp: The Chairperson attended several sessions of the Statewide People First conference, including one directed at support people. The Special Olympics are holding their Northern tournaments in June.
7. Financial Report: Mike Mintline, Associate Director, Administration:

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- a. Year-end report for FY 15-16: There is a projected Purchase of Service spending authority of \$1.3-\$1.5 million. The Regional Center projects an increase in the number of consumers served of 2.7%. Expenses are expected to be \$119.3 million, which is a 7.3% increase from the prior fiscal year. Reporting excess spending authority after years of June deficits is unusual, but many Regional Centers are reporting similar results.

Start up costs funding of \$1.0 million has been allocated specifically for consumers that must be placed from the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC), which is scheduled to close in 2018.

The Regional Center is projecting \$46 thousand in remaining Operations spending authority at this time. Operating expenses estimates increased by a net amount of \$33 thousand due, in part, to a \$25 thousand in equipment expense to purchase workstations, copier/scanners, and office chairs; and \$11 thousand increase in Information Technology (IT) contract expense for teleconference system maintenance and an upgrade to the document imaging system.

8. Speaker: Eileen Richey, Executive Director of the Association of Regional Center Agencies; Issues Impacting the Future of California's Regional Center System:

ARCA represents the Regional Centers before the legislature.

ARCA has a three year Strategic Plan. 2016 is the 50th year of the Lanterman Act.

California is near the bottom of spending for services to people with developmental disabilities due to the low rates that are being paid, along with the highest caseloads.

The Developmental Centers are closing, but California is setting up crisis services.

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2007 – 2009 was the great recession. Provider's rates were cut, caseloads rose, and services were cut. California took \$1 billion in cuts to the service system. The "On The Brink" report compared California rates with the other states, and California was low, even then.

Most new mandates that come from the state are unfunded. Leaving the Regional Centers to pay these mandates from their existing budgets. Many facilities, mostly small family homes are going out of business; and there is not start-up money unless people are coming out of the Developmental Centers – thereby creating a two-tier system.

ARCA collaborated with the Lanterman coalition to make improvements. This year the governor decided to hold a Special Session to address regional center funding, and as a result, the system received a \$500 million dollar increase. In addition, Senator Bell wanted to insure some sustainability for the system. He negotiated a rate study to be completed by 2019. Also, he obtained language for audit relief for service providers.

The governor proposed additional measures in the May revise, which all passed. One of these was that funding was given for an additional 200 service coordinators to be added to the service system. There is now funding to reduce the number of people in ARM homes from six to four. Also funded were several new positions for each regional center for employment and diversity issues. It is anticipated the governor will sign the budget on June 30th.

With the closure of the Developmental Centers, the Department of Developmental Services must develop crisis and zero-reject facilities.

Nancy Bargeman is the new Director of the Department of Developmental Services. She has worked at two regional centers and as a mentor service provider.

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Secretary Dooley is committed to reforming the rate structure for Regional Centers and providers.

The federal government has implemented new rules for CMS, which all states must comply with by March 2019. These new rules include:

- No Federal dollars can be used for services not sanctioned by the Federal government.

- If states are not in compliance, they will begin to lose Federal funding.

- Choice, inclusion, and integration are included in these changes.

High housing costs are becoming a problem as Federal money cannot be used for rent or housing costs. ARCA will be working with the Federal Housing Department to bridge the gap between the State housing Department and regional centers.

Most states now have some sort of self-determination. California is making its third attempt to establish a Self-Determination program.

The nation is becoming more diverse. As all of the states struggle with this issue, how do we serve and involve the minority groups?

9. Speaker: Mary Agnes Nolan, State of California: California's Employment First Policy – "Where Are We Headed?":

- Everyone has employment rights: Including the right to:

 - Integration

 - Inclusion

 - Competitive Employment

 - Employment Equality

10. Self-Determination Advisory Committee Report: Ronda Dever, Committee Chairperson:

The Statewide Committee met in Los Angeles. It was decided that future meetings will be conducted by conference call.

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The local Self-Determination Advisory Committee meeting was held June 3rd in Chico. Sarah May reported that the long wait to implement this program involves the following:

- Some of the Home and Community Based Waiver policies are being altered by the federal government.
- No segregated services can be purchased through Self-Determination, and the federal government wants the regional centers to prove the services are not segregated.
- Locked facilities cannot be part of Self-Determination
- The federal government is not in favor of the client is paying the entity that is paying the client's bills.
- Special Incident Reports (SIRs) will not be done with Self-Determination, and the federal government is concerned about quality assurance.

Committee thoughts:

- Sarah May feels a thorough training program could be developed for service coordinators and the community
- Theresa Rivera thought "The Journey to Adulthood" could be used.
- Al Skaggs is concerned that something could be placed in the intake packets that would be inappropriate.
- Charles mentioned that sometimes it is better when self-advocates speak with each other as they are more comfortable with each other.
- Perhaps a "hot line" could be established.
- All people involved with a client must be fingerprinted – including family members. Theresa will do more research on this.
- Kimberlee Candela will speak with the CAT teams and her own peers for their input and recommendations.
- The programs affiliated with We Care A Lot will be revised and updated.

Laura explained the Budget Categories in Self-Determination. She also mentioned that Community outreach/Pre-enrollment meetings will be held and that DDS is providing the materials and videos that will be shown and distributed.

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Presentation: Person Centered Planning/Thinking Pilot:
Melissa Gruhler, Associate Director of Client Services/Jamie Markham, Mains'I Services

In 2015 Mains'I was provided a grant from the University of Minnesota to begin to become more person-centered. FNRC developed, with Claudia Bolton, a person-centered work group. Marlene McCollum, Rachel Newkirk, Denis Villanueva and Melissa Gruhler will be doing the training. As they are moving toward person-Centered planning, there is now the need to move away from the current way of creating plans. There is a new IPP process and they are not looking more at what is important rather than just structured services. Service Coordinators have been using the new IPP and in March the first Service Coordinator person-Centered training was held for those involved with the pilot. July will complete the training with a final training held in October to gather in any/all Service Coordinators that may have missed the summer training. This is an exciting, energetic process that will now be more inclusive for the client, family and friends. Person-Centered thinking is about digging deeper into the lives of people.

Education and Outreach of Community Members: Draft a Plan for Implementation:

- Laura would like an insert placed in the FNRC annual report.
- The video could be shown at People First meetings.
- The committee needs to begin identifying where the outreach meetings can be held. There will be many rather than one or two large conferences.
- Place the information on the FNRC website.
- Charles mentioned having a "Community Conversation" after the pilot is implemented.

Education of Regional Center Staff: Draft a Plan for Implementation

- Managers will be sent to Sacramento in July. They will, in turn, train FNRC staff.
- Education of Provider Staff: Draft a Plan for Implementation

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- Laura is contemplating two conferences – one in the north area and one in the south, with smaller trainings after.
- Jennifer will bring this issue to the Service Provider Advisory Committee in June.
- Transformation to Person Centered Services from Traditional Group Services: Learning Opportunity and Support of Providers
- John O'Brian and Beth Mount from Atlanta will be training in November with a four-day planning session regarding what services will look like in 2019 and beyond working with one region to create a California Learning Institute.

11. FNCC Board Committee Reports and Action items

a. Finance Committee: Colleen Ryberg, Committee Chairperson: Colleen Ryberg, Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00. Diana Anderson presented the 16 Action Items which consist of residential and transportation contracts over \$250,000.00.

The action items were discussed and passed unanimously with the motions and seconds as follows:

- #1: PS-2014 – Ronda/Adam
- #2: PS-2012 – Roger/Ronda
- #3: PS-2010 – Adam/Roger
- #4: PS-2011 – Roger/Adam
- #5: ps-2013 – Roger/Ronda
- #6: PS-2015 – Roger/Adam
- #7: PS-2016 – Ronda/Adam – Roger abstain
- #8: PS-2017 – Roger/Adam
- #9: PS-2018 – Ronda/Roger
- #10: PS-2019 – Ronda/Adam
- #11: PS-2021 – Roger/Ronda
- #12: PS-2020 – Roger/Adam
- #13: PS-2022 – Adam/Roger
- #14: PS-2023 – Roger/Ronda
- #15: PST-1095 Addendum #5 – Roger/Ronda
- #16: PST-1737 Addendum #1 – Roger/Ronda – Adam abstain

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A motion was made to accept all 16 Action Items. Moved and second by Finance Committee and Ronda Dever. No discussion, motion passed.

Mike Mintline updated the committee on the Purchase of Service and Operations budgets.

The Purchase of Service budget has an excess spending authority of \$1.3-\$1.5 million projected. Growth is at 2.7% with an increase in expenses of 7.3%. Most of the expenses increases are coming from Out of Home, Community Integrated Training, Supported Living and Personal Assistance.

The Regional Center Operations budget is projecting \$46 thousand in remaining operations spending authority. Remaining spending authority of \$41 thousand was projected in May 2016.

DDS will be doing the audit in July and August for 14/15 and 15/16

b. Nominating Committee – by Margaret Shipp, Interim
Chairperson: Review of Slate of officers presented at March meeting:

i. Election of Officers: There were no nominations from the floor. Motion was made and second by Kathryn and Ronda Dever to accept the slate of officers as presented. No discussion, motion passed.

12. 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

Motion to transition to Closed Session: Ronda Dever and Colleen Ryberg. No discussion, motion passed.

Motion to return to Open Session: Colleen Ryberg and Ronda Dever. No discussion, motion passed.

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The Executive Director's evaluation was discussed along with
Labor contract negotiations.

13. Human Resources Report, Lauren Leisz, Human Resources,
Director:
- a. Action item #17: Retired Annuitant, Darlene Leach: It is requested that the Board of Directors appoint Darlene Leach to be re-employed by FNRC effective the pay period beginning July 16, 2016, for a period of no more than 12 months, pursuant to the Government Code requirements. Moved and seconded by Roger Hatton and Colleen Ryberg. No discussion, motion passed.
 - b. Annual Review:
 - i. Abuse/Zero Tolerance Policy: Reviewed with the Board and signed by attending Board Members
 - ii. Whistleblower Policy: Reviewed with the Board and signed by attending Board Members
 - iii. Conflict of Interest Policy: Reviewed with the Board and signed by attending Board Members
14. Report from Executive Director, Laura Larson: Laura received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the State People First Conference.
15. Next meeting: September 22nd and 23rd, Far Northern Regional Office, Redding, California.
16. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn and second by Colleen Ryberg and Jennifer Bowman. No discussion, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted

Cynthia R. Presidio
Executive Assistant