

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Friday, September 23, 2016
9:00 a.m.
Gaia Hotel
4125 Riverside Place
Anderson, CA 96007

1. Call to Order: 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson, Margaret Shipp
2. Roll Call:
 - a. Present: Michelle Phillips, Adam Beals, Ronda Crisp, Kathryn McCreary, Margaret Shipp, Susan Hess, Roger Hatton, Colleen Ryberg, Jennifer Bowman, Michael Green, Chrissie Clapp, Ronda Dever, Leslie Corletto, William Battles
 - b. Absent: Margot Madson
3. Public Input/Open: Introduction of guests: Allan Smith (DDS), Mike Mintline, Diana Anderson, Melissa Gruhler, Lauren Leisz, Kathy Jennings (FNRC Staff).
4. Approval of Agenda for September 23, 2016: Approved by consensus.
5. Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2016: Motion to approve and second by Ronda Dever and Adam Beals. No discussion, motion passed.
6. Report from Chairperson, Margaret Shipp:
 - a. Action Item #7: 2017 Board Meeting Schedule: Motion to approve and second by Colleen Ryberg and Roger Hatton. It was decided by consensus to move the May 2017 meeting to May 19th. No further discussion, motion passed.
 - b. Other: A presentation was made to out-going board member, Jennifer Bowman.

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

7. Transition to Executive (Closed) Session, W & I 4663 (a),

- (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 and second to move into Executive Session by Colleen Ryberg and Jennifer Bowman. No discussion, motion passed.

Real Estate negotiations, Employee salaries and benefits, and a Whistleblower complaint involving FNRC staff were discussed.

Motion and second to move out of Executive Session by Ronda Dever and Roger Hatton. No discussion, motion passed.

8. State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North State Office Report, Sarah May, Regional Manager: Sarah May not in attendance; no report
9. Report from Executive Director, Laura Larson: Laura attended the State Council on Developmental Disabilities Executive meeting. A large portion of the agenda was Far Northern Regional Center's Conflicts of Interest. The council carefully questioned Laura, but ultimately approved all of the waiver requests.

This year's budget is very good. The Department of Developmental Services has provided funds for a Paid Internship program. This program is meant to encourage competitive integrated employment for individuals with developmental disabilities. These internships will be tracked by the Regional Center.

Laura spoke regarding the spending differential in Purchase of Service for Asians and Hispanic clients. Focus groups were held this past summer where staff met with families. It was decided that moving "Support Centers" would be established in the North and South of our region to facilitate families. A grant request of over \$600 thousand has been submitted to help with this project. Outreach will

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

also be established to contact more Native and African American families.

ARCA wants an equity study that Far Northern will help support financially.

The second week of November starts the California Learning Institute with John O'Brien and others. Teams will attend these meetings about how the programs and system will be changing to a more individualized person-centered system.

10. Management Reports

- a. Financial Report: Mike Mintline, Chief Financial Officer:
 - i. Purchase of Service Report FY 16-17: Tabled until November
 - ii. Operations Report, FY 16-17: The Regional Center is projecting a deficit of \$82 thousand in operations spending authority at time. Less caseload growth funding was received than expected due to slow growth in the number of new consumers during the quarter ending June 30, 2016. In addition, the Medicaid Waiver caseload dropped significantly, which will cause a drop in Federal funding. However, the Department of Developmental Services funded 100% of rent of which has helped offset expenses. The Regional Center is looking to add five new Service Coordinators along with a large increase in Community Placement Plan (CPP) funds due to the closure of Sonoma Developmental Center. Personnel expenses will be directly affected by next year's funding.
 - iii. Other – None
- b. Community Services Report: Diana Anderson, Director
 - i. Action Item #8: 2017 Performance Contract: It is requested that the Board of Directors approve the presented performance Contract for calendar year 2017. Moved and seconded by the Colleen Ryberg and Kathryn McCreary. No discussion, motion passed.
- c. Client Services Report: Judy Kruse, Director: Melissa Gruhler spoke for Judy Kruse. Patricia Roth has been promoted to supervisor of Chico Early Intervention. Person-Centered

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

training is progressing and the new IPPs are being used. A pilot group was created to move from the SANDIS IPP into the Person-Centered IPP. Four FNRC staff will be certified to train the Service Coordinators. All Service Coordinators will be trained by October. This has become a unique opportunity to learn more about clients and their families. It will be a slow transition, but all clients will be onboard within a year. Having the new IPP in SANDIS will help identify, more easily, those qualified for the Medicaid Waiver. After October the Person-Centered Thinking will be inviting vendors to participate.

- d. Human Resources Report: Lauren Leisz, Director: Lauren introduced Kathy Jennings, Human Resource Specialist recently hired by FNRC.

11. Association of Regional Center Agencies Report, Margaret Shipp, Delegate

- a. August 19, 2016 meeting report: At the dinner, members discussed how people are placed on their respective Board of Directors.

A grant has been submitted by ARCA for a three-year project to study Purchase of Service funding disparities among and between ethnicities served by the regional centers throughout the state of California.

The Self-Determination project is still waiting for Federal approval of the plan, and is therefore, at a stand-still.

Housing needs for clients were discussed.

Eileen Richey has decided to stay with ARCA for two more years before retiring

12. FNRC Board Committee Reports and Action Items:

- a. Consumer Committee, Chairperson: The meeting was called to order by Roger Hatton. Adam Beals was elected as the chair for 2016-2017. In Siskiyou County, Opportunity Center is one example of changes happening in the work programs. People

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

are now getting paid minimum wage rather than sub-minimum wage. However, with this change, many people are now working fewer hours. Another change is the addition of internships for training. The new SANDIS person-Centered Plans are being introduced. They are very detailed and long. However, they will be very meaningful for clients and their families. The Board Packet and Action items were reviewed, including the 2017 Board meeting schedule and the 2017 Performance Contract.

- b. Service provider Advisory Committee, Jennifer Bowman, Chairperson: The meeting was held September 21st at the Tehama Visitors Center with 14 individuals present.

The Far Northern Regional Center report was presented by Julie Jones, Melissa Gruhler and Judy Kruse:

Brandi Seaters from We Care a Lot Foundation, spoke about the VOTE! Project. The VOTE! Project would like to visit vendors and help educate people about the importance of voting and how they can be active voters.

The Governor's Budget has a new Paid Internship Program. Julie Jones reviewed these new programs along with the Community Integrated Employment Program. Julie also shared information about grant money that is available to promote community integration to help make the changes to become HCBS compliant. The deadline for turning in grants to Julie is September 30th. They will then be forwarded to DDS in November.

The Performance Contract for 2017 will be up on the FNRC website and copies of the contract will be brought to the next SPAC meeting.

The new SANDIS IPP has been rolled out to all service coordinators. The IPP is more person-centered and has combined the annual reviews and the goals that were on the IPP to show what is important to the individual.

FNRC's Self-Determination Committee. Melissa Gruhler let the group know that we are continuing to wait for approval from the federal government but that the committee is still continuing to meet.

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

Providers asked about the audit tool that will have to be filled out for the recent rate increases. One provider said they thought that the tool would be released in October. Julie will investigate and provide an update.

The Health and Wellness Initiative was presented by Julie Jones:

Katie Inks is working with a survey class at Chico State about creating a survey that can be used with our clients to identify their personal health and wellness.

Kimberlee Candela announced that she is doing a client rights training for providers on October 13th in Redding and on October 20th in Chico. CEU's are available for both trainings.

Laura Larson will be the keynote speaker at the Butte County Coordinating Council's annual banquet on October 6th.

Nominations for the new SPAC chairperson were submitted. Rod Zikan was elected to this position, with Nick Herndon to remain as vice chair.

Two new member applications were submitted.

The next meeting is November 16th at 1:30 p.m. at the Tehama Visitors Center.

- c. Finance Committee, Colleen Ryberg, Chairperson: Colleen Ryberg called the meeting to order at 2:30. FNRC staff, Lisa Odell, presented the six Action Items which consist of residential and transportation contracts of \$250,000.00. Laura Larson gave a brief description of the closure of Sonoma Developmental Center and the reason for Start-up homes that are included in this list of Action Items. The Action items were discussed and passed unanimously with the motions and seconds are follows:

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

- i. Action Item #1: It was requested the board approve contract PS-2034 with First Transit, Inc. (PF4661) for CPP Start-Up funding for Transportation Services effective June 1, 2016 through April 30, 2018 for a total maximum contract amount of \$250,000.00. Moved and seconded by Ronda Dever and Roger Hatton.
- ii. Action Item #2: It was requested the board approve Contract #PS-2056 with California Vocations, Inc. (Redwood House) (PF4646) for Specialized Residential Services effective December 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019 for at total maximum contract amount of one million three hundred fifty-five thousand three hundred forty-nine dollars and sixty cents (\$1,355,349.60). Moved and seconded by Ronda Dever and Roger Hatton.
- iii. Action Item #3: It was requested the board approve Contract #PS-2055 with California Vocations, Inc. (Pine House) (PF4645) for Specialized Residential Services effective December 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019 for a total maximum contract amount of one million three hundred fifty-five thousand three hundred forty-nine dollars are sixty cents (\$1,355,349.60). Moved and seconded by Adam Beals and Ronda Dever.
- iv. Action Item #4: It was requested the board approve contract PS-2052 with California Mentor (PF4659) for CPP Start-Up funding for Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Severe Health Care Needs (ARFPSHN) for adults effective June 28, 2016 through April 30, 2018 for a total maximum contract amount of \$393,670.00. Moved and seconded by Ronda Dever and Adam Beals
- v. Action Item #5: It was requested the board approve contract PS-2053 with California Housing Foundation (PF4655) for CPP Start-Up funding for Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Severe Health Care Needs (ARFPSHN) for adults effective June 01, 2016 through April 30, 2018 for a total maximum contract amount of \$650,000.00. Moved and seconded by Roger Hatton and Adam Beals.

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

- vi. Action Item #6: The Board approve contract PS-2035 with California Housing Foundation (PF4655) for CPP Start-Up funding for Specialized Residential services for adults effective June 1, 2016 through April 30, 2018 for a total maximum contract amount of \$250,000.00. Moved and seconded by Roger Hatton and Ronda Dever.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded by Ronda Dever and Adam Beals. No discussion, motion passed. Adjourned at 3:00.

These six Action Items were brought before the Board as one item. It was moved and seconded by the Finance Committee and Kathryn McCreary. No discussion, motion passed.

- d. Membership Committee, Chrissie Clapp, Chairperson: A Motion was made by Roger Hatton and Ronda Dever to reappoint Michelle Phillips as a Member-at-Large. No discussion, motion passed. This was brought before the board for approval as a motion by the Membership Committee and seconded by Ronda Dever. No discussion, motion passed.
- e. Local Self-Determination Advisory Committee, Ronda Dever, Chairperson: The Committee met August 12th. Topics discussed were:
 - i. The proposal of the State Council to set the agendas for each local committee. This was rejected. However, the State Council is developing a letter that will be distributed to each local committee outlining the procedure to place all local agendas and minutes on the State Council website.
 - ii. A presentation was made regarding the Financial Management Services by Premier.
 - iii. Theresa Rivera of Rowell Family Empowerment spoke regarding the “recommendations for System level Changes”
 - iv. Jennifer Bowman reported on the Self-Determination Conference. This conference centered on Education and Outreach of Community.

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

v. The next meeting will be October 14, 2016 in Chico.

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

Margaret: Margaret advised the board of the Supported Life Conference and distributed the brochures for the conference.

Michelle: People First of Red Bluff will be buying pet food for the homeless in community. Michelle will be working with her peers regarding the new SANDIS IPPs.

Kathryn: The mother of a board member has been accepted into a newer, larger, assisted living home.

Adam: In September, the Opportunity Center changed to the new minimum wage system. This as caused a large shift in the system culture due to Social Security issues.

Leslie: The Family picnic at Whiskeytown was a great success; about 200 people attended.

William: The Region 2 People First has begun planning for the 2018 conference at the Gaia Hotel in Anderson.

Susan: Made in Paradise will be holding a holiday open house.

Jennifer: Thank you to the board for her time here.

Colleen: Former board member, Paul Adams, passed away; his memorial is pending. There will be a Harvest Festival in Weaverville on October 1st. Shascade has a nice shop now in Weaverville.

Chrissie: The Coordinating Council is revitalizing itself. The Circle of Champions lunch will be held October 26th.

Rebecca Younger informed the board about the film "Learning How to Dance in Ohio" that will be shown in Chico.

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

14. Next meeting: November 17th and 18th at the Far Northern Regional Office, Redding, California.

15. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn and second by Ronda Dever and Adam Beals. No discussion, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted

Cynthia R. Presidio
Executive Assistant