

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Friday, January 27, 2017  
9:15 a.m.  
Gaia Hotel  
4125 Riverside Place  
Anderson, CA 96007

1. Call to Order: 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chairperson, Ronda Dever
2. Roll Call:
  - a. Present: Michelle Phillips, Adam Beals, Margot Madson, Susan Hess, Roger Hatton, Rod Zikan, Chrissie Clapp, Ronda Dever, Leslie Corletto
  - b. Absent: Ronda Crisp, Kathryn E. McCreary, Margaret Shipp, Colleen Ryberg, Michael Green, William Battles
3. Public Input/Open: Introduction of guests: Ted Hess, Mary Agnes Nolan and FNRC staff – Lauren Leisz, Mike Mintline, Melissa Gruhler, Judy Kruse, Larry Withers.
4. Approval of Agenda for January 27, 2017: Motion to approve and second by Leslie Corletto and Chrissie Clapp. No discussion, motion passed
5. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2016: Motion to approve and second by Margot Madson and Roger Hatton. Discussion: The following corrections are to be made:
  - a. Page 11: Mary Alice > Mary Agnes Nolan
  - b. Page 13: Sacrament > Sacramento
  - c. Page 12: Action Item motions and seconds. Upon further study, these have been deemed correct.
  - d. Page 22: The Self-Determination Committee met October 14, 2016.

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No further discussion, motion passed.

6. Report from Chairperson, Margaret Shipp:
  - a. Due to the Board Chair not being in attendance, there is no report at this time.

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.

No Closed Session necessary.

8. State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North State Office Report, Sarah May, Regional Manager: In Sarah's absence, Mary Agnes Nolan reported. She gave a reminder of the "Exploring Cultural Diversity" conference being held at Rolling Hills in Corning on February 16, 2017. Updates on CalAble will be coming. The SCDD is responsible for forwarding more information regarding trainings, which will include trainings regarding CalAble vs. Special Needs Trusts.
9. Report from Executive Director, Laura Larson: In March, the Board will meet in the Redding office. In addition to the new electronic locks, you will see new flooring, first floor meeting rooms, and outside barriers. These changes are in accordance with the recommendations for more security in and around the Redding office. Two security areas will, also, be established within the offices and the staff will be trained concerning these areas.

All of the Service Coordinators have been hired, with the exception of one backfill vacancy for the Susanville area. The last two positions to be filled are the Cultural and Inclusion Specialist and the Employment Specialist.

With so much hiring happening, the Chico office is looking to expand into one or more buildings separate but near the existing office. Several spots are being explored.

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Governor's Budget 2017-18: Other than growth funds, there was no new money in the budget for Regional Centers. Although, the Governor's budget did include funds for internships for high school students and FNRC is hoping to pilot this. The Department of Developmental Services is going to seek authority to use money to develop new programs for young people coming out of school.

With the new administration in Washington D.C., everything now is "wait and see". The new president is in favor of "block grants" for Medicaid money. However, the money doesn't grow and is normally capped. Therefore, either fewer people get services or less money is routed to services. Therefore, over time, either fewer people are served or fewer services are given. Self-Determination is a Waiver Application, but this could be affected by block grants.

Laura will be developing "Community Conversations" to inform the families about what is happening with different programs and issues. Along with these meetings, FNRC is required to stakeholder meetings inform the public of Diversity issues. These have been scheduled for March.

Finally, the closure of Sonoma Development Center is progressing with Laura attending provider monthly meetings in Sacramento, which provide oversight of regional center progress.

## 10. Management Reports

### a. Financial Report: Mike Mintline, Chief Financial Officer:

#### i. Purchase of Service Report FY 16-17:

- Allocated spending authority from the Department of Developmental Services will fall \$3.9 - \$4.4 million short of Fiscal 2016/17 spending estimates. Expenses may be as much as \$139.4 million, which is an increase of 18.6% from last year, with 13% due to rate increases. These increases are due, significantly, to more costly residential facilities, increased demand for Supported Living and Personal Assistance Services, along with growth in

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Community Integrated Trainings and the restructuring of Supported Employment and Work Programs.

- The current Community Placement Plan (CPP) requests projects expenses of \$2.7 million, including over \$2.2 million in start up cost funding. Over \$1.7 million in start up cost funding has been allocated specifically to develop facilities and programs for persons leaving the Sonoma Development Center.
- ii. Operations Report, FY 16-17:
- The Regional Center is projecting \$49 thousand in remaining operations spending authority at this time.
  - Projected contract spending authority was reduced by \$51 thousand from the November 2016 report because \$79 thousand in funding relating to cultural diversity that we had hoped for may not be received. The Regional Center's Community Placement Plan funding will also increase by \$28 thousand.
  - Personal Services expenses decreased by \$198 thousand due primarily to the resignation of a physician, optimistic hiring dates, and the replacement of retiring staff with staff starting a lower initial pay rates.
  - Operating expenses are projected to increase \$108 thousand primarily due to:
    - Ten vendor trainings;
    - Leasehold improvements in Redding and Chico;
    - Software upgrades
    - Postage meter inventory
    - Furniture for the new first floor meetings rooms
- iii. Review of FY 2015-16 Audited Financial Statements and presentation by KCoe Isom: Margaret E. Kruez presented the results of the most recent audit. This being an extremely clean audit, there were no findings or

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- recommendations. This audit was rated as “unmodified”, which is the highest level that can be given.
- iv. Resignation of Independent Auditors: Due to reorganization KCoE will not be available for these audits in the future. Mike will present several auditor options for the board to consider at the March meeting.
  - v. Other: CalPERS premiums will increase by 30% within the next five (5) years, which will result in an increase in contributions.
- b. Community Services Report: Lisa Odell, Resource Dev/QA Specialist spoke on behalf of Diana Anderson. Lisa had a discussion with the board regarding residential facilities that have converted to four (4) bed homes due to the Federal regulations.
- c. Client Services Report: Judy Kruse, Director: Both Redding and Chico offices are extremely busy. The Children’s Unit (birth through seven) is fully developed. Developing this unit required moving approximately 400 cases, along with multiple office moves. This unit now provides more continuity for the children involved and their families. Another person was added to the Medicaid Waiver team, and with that, 119 people have been added to the Medicaid Waiver.

What’s next? The Operations Manual is being updated in regards to Purchase of Service. The Caseload Ratios must be reported to DDS by March 1<sup>st</sup>; and with the hiring of more Service Coordinators, these ratios will continue to improve.

Looking at the Monthly Activity Report for December, there have been 152 referrals; about half of these were under three years of age.

- d. Human Resources Report: Lauren Leisz, Director: With the latest hirings, FNRC will have 200 staff by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - i. Action Item #1: 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, 2017, for a period of no more than 12 months, in accordance with Government

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Code requirements. This was moved and seconded by Margot Madson and Leslie Corletto. No discussion, motion passed.

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

- a. Laura Larson gave this report in Margaret Shipp's absence: The meeting took place January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that three Regional Center Directors are retiring: Clay Jones, Paul Bilideau, and Jim Burton. Santi Rodgers has been appointed Interim Director of East Bay Regional Center. Eileen Richey will be retiring next month (February). Laura is on the search committee for this position. Amy Westling has been appointed Interim Director. The Governor's budget was discussed and people are worried about the future. ARCA will be following the Federal changes and will be sending weekly updates. The next meeting is in March.

## 12. FNRC Board Committee Reports and Action Items:

- a. Consumer Committee, Adam Beals, Chairperson: The meeting was called to order by Adam Beals at 3:30. Laura reviewed the Action Items and Board packet, specifically the Action item regarding the Retired Annuitant. Meeting adjourned at 4:10.
  - b. Service provider Advisory Committee, Rod Zikan, Chairperson: The meeting was held January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Tehama Visitors Center with 16 individuals present. Due to a scheduling conflict the March meeting will be adjusted.
- Far Northern Regional Center presented by Laura Larson:
    - Paid Internship Program Update: Currently one client is doing mechanic work in Red Bluff and one is employed at the College of Siskiyous in Weed doing computer related work. Please contact Julie Jones at FNRC for more information.
    - FNRC's Self-Determination Committee/Update: There is no new information, and the next meeting will be held in March. (Correction: The next local meeting will be held February 24<sup>th</sup>).

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- Upcoming FNRC Education Events:
  - January 28, 2017: The Magic of Kevin Spencer at Chico State University
  - February 16, 2017: Exploring Cultural Diversity in Rural Communities – Every Matters, at Rolling Hill, Corning, CA
  - February 17, 2017: SIR Series “Train the Trainer” at Far Northern Regional Center
- Department of Developmental Services Dashboard: This is a DDS website that provides multiple statistical indicators regarding Regional Center services
- Governor’s Budget Review: Laura highlighted the Governor’s State of the State address by quoting his “We will not go back” pledge regarding changes that could potentially come from the new federal administration. However, due to federal healthcare funds that may disappear, the system could experience a \$20 - \$30 billion shortfall. Current budget projections for the Regional Center system basically maintain the status quo, but do allow for caseload growth. Home and Community Based Service transition funds have been screened, and are being sent back to Regional centers for proposals to be expanded upon.
- Impact of Washington D.C. proposals on California: The transition to a new administration continues to leave many issues up in the air. California has benefitted from \$6 billion in federal Medicaid funding to help provide services. The new administration’s appointee has proposed “Block grants’ for federal Medicaid funds, which leaves distribution of these funds to the state. This typically means there is little room for growth and potentially creates contention among service systems for general funds.
- Other: Laura had some safety concerns over adequate ILS/SLS staffing for clients. However, after discussions, it became evident that most providers have a strong

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procedure to ensure needed staffing the event of absences.

- Health and Wellness Initiative: Diana Anderson
    - No update.
  - State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North State Office – updates by Mary Agnes Nolan and Sarah May: Sarah May was unable to attend, therefore Mary Agnes Nolan provided an overview on many new services and upcoming trainings.
  - Disability Rights California – update by Kimberlee Candela: Kimberlee gave an overview of services her office has provided through their fiscal year ending July 2016. Cases included issues with Developmental Centers, eligibility issues with Regional Centers (no FNRC cases have gone to hearing), housing issues (especially Section 8 funding and accommodations), income maintenance information as to rights of appeal, referrals to family law, employment issues, educational system cases, and level of service information and referrals.
  - Provider Announcements; Providers commented that increases in funding have made staffing programs easier and moral has improved as well, Nick Herndon and Viola Forge have been promoted at Northern California Adaptive Living Center, with Nick becoming the Executive Director.
  - Next meeting is March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Tehama Visitors:  
**PLEASE NOTE:** This meeting has been changed to March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Hampton Inn in Red Bluff, CA
  - Tentative additional future dates for 2017, May 17, June 21, September 20, November 15:
- c. Finance Committee, Colleen Ryberg, Chairperson: Colleen Ryberg, Committee Chair called the meeting to order.

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Lisa Odell reported for Diana Anderson and briefly discussed the details of the Action Item regarding Anka Behavioral Health, Inc. (Anka Shasta) in the board packet. The action was discussed with a motion and second to accept by Adam Beals and Roger Hatton. No further discussion, motion passed.

Mike Mintline discussed Action Item #3 regarding borrowing ability. A motion to accept was made and seconded by Roger Hatton and Adam Beals. No discussion, motion passed.

Mike discussed the possibility of the board looking for a new auditor as KCoe Isom has changed business partners. The audit and auditors will be discussed at the Board meeting.

Mike also discussed changes coming to CalPERS retirement. There is the possibility of contributions increasing.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10.

- i. Action Item #2: FNRC is requesting that the Board approve Contract #PS-2089 with Anka Behavioral Health, Inc. (Anka Shasta) (PF4737) for Specialized Residential Services effective January 1, 2017 through June 20, 2018 for a total maximum contract amount of nine hundred ninety-seven thousand four hundred ninety-six dollars and forty-six cents (\$997,496.46). Motion and second by the Finance Committee and Margot Madson, No discussion, motion passed with Rod Zikan abstaining.
- ii. Action Item #3: It is recommended that the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director to sign the Agreement, which will enable the Regional Center to borrow up to \$13.5 million for a one year period if the State cannot pay its obligations to the Regional Center timely. If the Regional Center needs more funds than the \$13.5 million, it will attempt to increase the loan and will pay additional commitment fees and interest cost. Motion and second by the Finance Committee and Margot Madson. No discussion, motion passed with Rod Zikan abstaining.

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- d. ~~Executive Committee, Margaret Shipp, Chairperson:~~ Bylaws Committee, Chrissie Clapp, Chairperson: The committee was called to order at 2:17. Laura discussed the Board Composition that is submitted each year and the Department's response. She also discussed the origins of the Member at Large position. The committee is recommending Laura bring a proposal to the board increasing the number of Member at Large positions to six (6). The Bylaw meeting was adjourned at 2:56.
- e. Local Self-Determination Advisory Committee, Ronda Dever, Chairperson: No report, as there has been no meeting. The next meeting will be February 24, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Chico FNRC office.

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

Susan: The Friendship Circle met at a fire station in Chico. They were given a tour of the station and shown the fire trucks and ladder truck.

Margot: Margot is accepting orders for her dog jackets, and is now in the business of dog walking.

Adam: Siskiyou County has been snowed in and in "hibernation". He is now working in the Yreka office of the Siskiyou Opportunity Center, which will afford him more opportunity for advancement.

14. Next meeting: March 23 and 24, 2017 at the Far Northern Regional Office, Redding, California

15.

16. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn and second by Chrissie Clapp and Margot Madson. No discussion, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted

  
Cynthia R. Presidio  
Executive Assistant