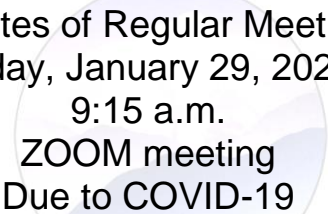


Far Northern Coordinating Council on Developmental Disabilities dba Far Northern Regional Center Minutes



Minutes of Regular Meeting
Friday, January 29, 2021
9:15 a.m.
ZOOM meeting
Due to COVID-19

1. Call to Order: 9:15 a.m. by Chairperson Deborah Anderson
2. Roll Call:
 - a. Present: Deborah Anderson, Adrian Hugo, Andreas Economopoulos, Cali McKinzie; Christina Johnson, Daniel Strauss, Lori Childres, William Battles, Anne Silcher, Terry M., Leslie Corletto, Araceli Garcia, Adam Beals, Selene Mercado, Kim Leeseman
 - b. Absent: Lisa Lauderdale, Timothy Howard
3. Public Input/Open Forum: Introduction of guests: FNRC staff: Mike Mintline, Audra Feeback, Larry Withers, Christine Austin, MD, Todd Clarkson and SCDD North State Office Regional Manager, Sarah May, Mary Agnes Nolan (SCDD), Cindi Freshour (WCAL), Julia Blair, (Interpreter), and Phil Perez, DDS Liaison.
4. Approval of Agenda for January 29, 2021: Motion to approve agenda and second by Adrian Hugo and Terry M. It was noted that Larry Withers would be reporting in place of Wayne Doerning. No further discussion, motion passed.
5. Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2020: Motion to approve and second by Cali McKinzie and Andreas Economopoulos.
Corrections to be made as follows:

Page 7: Correct Terry Mxxxxx > Terry M.

Page 7: Show Lori Childres as present

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Page 8: Correct COVDI-19 > COVID-19

Page 11: Correct Bord > Board

Page 11: Correct lead > led

Page 12: Correct San Diego > San Diego Regional Center

No further discussion, motion passed.

6. Report from the Chairperson, Deborah Anderson:

- a. Introduction of new Board Members: Selene Mercado, Araceli Garcia, and Adrian Hugo. Two new members have been added, but were unable to attend today – Lisa Lauderdale and Timothy Howard.
- b. Other: Deborah mentioned to the board the Board Training that will be held March 13, 2021.

7. Management Reports

- a. Financial Report: Mike Mintline, Chief Financial Officer
 - i. Purchase of Service Report FY 20-21: Contract allocation is expected to be as much as \$12.75 million more than projected expenses. Projecting Purchase of Service expenses is more difficult this fiscal year due to COVID-19. This projection includes actual expenses for five (5) months and assumes that expenses for day program and transportation services will start to revert to pre-COVID-19 levels starting May 1, 2021. Due to COVID-19 DDS is concerned that clients are not receiving the services they need. Starting December 2020, if a provider can render “alternative” services to clients in addition to what they provide customarily, they may receive a different and monthly rate. The following expense categories are projected to change significantly from the prior year:
 - Out of Home expenses may increase by over \$7.2 million, or 14.5%.
 - Work Programs expenses may decrease by .3 million, or 11.1% due to the redesign of Work Activity Programs into Community Integrated Training programs with higher rates and an emphasis on work in the community.

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- Transportation expenses may decrease as much as \$.7 million, or 8.7%, due to the closure of day programs and reduced public transit use.
 - Respite expenses may rise by as much as \$2.3 million due primarily to rate increases.
 - Supported Living expenses may increase by \$4.7 million, or 18.0%. This is due to frequent requests for twenty-four hour care, additional staffing and supplemental and minimum wage rate increases.
 - Other expense categories increasing are:
 - Community Integrated Training
 - Specialized Autism programs
 - Personal Assistance
 - Individual Family/Training
 - Non-Medical Services, programs and other authorized services
- ii. Operations Report, FY 20-21:
- Salaries and benefits increase from prior year: \$852,126 (5.1%) Increases will result from the full year cost of negotiated \$100 per month salary increase effective April 1, 2020, additional \$100 per month increase in the current fiscal year effective November 1, 2020. Additional expenses due to new service coordinator positions hired to cover caseload growth, hiring current open positions that have been vacant due to COVID-19, and negotiated remote Work pay of \$25.00 per month, retroactive to April 2020. Savings in medical insurance costs offset increases.
 - Facilities Rent increase from prior year: \$59,775 (5.1%) Reflects increase of \$28k due on Red Bluff lease, COLA on leased facilities as required and full year of increase on Chico and Redding leases.
 - Communications increase from prior year: \$50,554 (31.7%). Expense for increased bandwidth to accommodate continued remote work and increased remote meetings. Overage fees for data usage. IT has updated plans to reduce overage going forward.

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- Insurance, increase from prior year: \$35,083 (25.1%): Increase expected in next policy year beginning February 2021.
 - Legal increase from prior year: \$16,404 (18.5%): Expense has increased with pandemic related consultation and union requests.
 - Several categories have seen decreases due primarily to COVID-19.
- iii. Other: None.
- b. Community Services Report: Todd Clarkson, Associate Director
- i. Community Services update: Far Northern Regional Center paid contract payments total of \$2,420,865.67 in November 2020, and \$2,191,904.14 in December 2020. Between November and December 2020 17 new service provider vendorizations were completed and 16 vendor files were closed.
- c. Client Services Report: Larry Withers Associate Director, Client Services, South
- i. Client Services update: Case Management hiring will be completed by February 16th. These positions include two Regional Center clients hired as temporary Office Assistants and a Retired Annuitant.
 - Person Protective Equipment (PPE) continue to be delivered to homes and distributed at the Redding and Chico offices. The PPE distribution is in collaboration with Sarah May and the Disability Action Network.
 - Clients are doing new and creative things during the shutdown, including taking classes, learning musical instruments and getting married.
- d. Clinical Services Report: Christine Austin, MD, Director Clinical Division
- i. COVID-19 update: The Clinical team is meeting every morning with Case Management and the nurses regarding clients who have tested positive. Daily contact is being encouraged with home quarantined and hospitalized clients during this time. Calls with providers are occurring two times per month to discuss what is new and/or changing.

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Each county is determining to whom the vaccine is being distributed. FNRC is trying to keep clients and providers updated on this process. Public Health offices are meeting with FNRC one or two times per week regarding the vaccine rollout.

The Clinical team is teaming with Community Services regarding how to properly use the PPE and testing individuals. This will begin with Shasta, Butte, Tehama and Glenn counties.

8. State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North State Office Report, Sarah May, Regional Manager
 - With Laura Larson retiring from her position as the Manager of the North Coast SCDD office, Sarah May will, again, be covering this area. The next meeting is February 12, 2021.
 - The 2020-2021 SCDD Quality Assurance Project using the National Core Indicator Tool (NCI) In Person Survey Cycle started early December 2020 and will continue through June of 2021. During the IPS cycle, a random sample of 400 adult consumers from each regional center will be surveyed. The NCI survey is important to learn about the California service delivery system and to compare results with other states to collaborate on any national initiatives.
 - The next SCDD Festival of Learning Event will be February 16, 2021. For more information, visit www.youningquisitiveminds.org.
 - The next PPE and Food Bag Distribution event is scheduled for February 27, 2021 in Redding and March 27, 2021 in Chico.
 - Mary Agnes Nolan reported on the following topics:
 - Statewide Self-Advocate Chats
 - Statewide Self-Determination meeting, February 16, 2021.
 - Celebration of Heroes Art contest
 - We Care A Lot Foundation's "Get Connected Program"
 - Disability Thrive trainings regarding Alternative Residential Services
 - Backpack giveaway
 - SCDD Community Program Development Grant Cycle 44
9. FNRC Board Committee Reports and Action Items:

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- a. Finance Committee, Daniel Strauss, Chair: Todd Clarkson, Associate Director, Community Services gave a brief explanation of Action Item #1 regarding contract PS-2450 with Restpadd Recovery Services, Inc.
 - i. Action Item #1: Contract PS-2450, Restpadd Recovery: Motion and Second by Finance Committee and Lori Childres to approve contract PS-2450 with Restpadd Recovery Services, Inc. (PF5223) for CPP/CRDP Start-up funding for a Community Crisis Home effective February 1, 2021 through March 31, 2023 for a total maximum contract amount up to \$271,000.00.

No discussion, motion passed.
 - b. Consumer Committee, Andreas Economopoulos, Committee Chair: Melissa Gruhler reviewed the Board Packet and Action Item with committee members Andreas Economopoulos, Terry M., Adam Beals, and William Battles.
 - c. Service Provider Advisory Committee: Anne Silcher, Committee Chair: Melissa Gruhler spoke to the committee regarding COVID-19, The Proposed Governor's Budget and Self Determination. Diana Anderson and Todd Clarkson spoke regarding Alternative Delivery Services. Committee members shared success Stories. State Council on Developmental Disabilities and Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy gave updates. The next meeting will be March 24, 2021.
10. Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA): Adam Beals, Representative Adam reported to the board about the upcoming Board Academy. This Academy will occur Saturday, March 13, 2021 with a rebroadcast on March 17.
11. Report from Executive Director, Melissa Gruhler: The need to explore models that have the potential to enhance the fiscal sustainability of the developmental services system was a topic for discussion. There is also the need to pursue rate reform for the developmental services system along with the need to advocate for an equitable and sustainable regional center operations funding methodology.

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Melissa spoke to the Board regarding the need for more inclusive communities. These communities would increase integrated employment opportunities and increase affordable integrated housing options. Along with these, the inclusiveness would enhance regional centers' responses to the needs of individuals and families from culturally and ethnically diverse communities. Community members are being encouraged to participate in the legislative process.

As of January 27, 272 FNRC clients have tested positive, with the majority (119) in Shasta County. 148 out of the 272 have been asymptomatic, and two are currently hospitalized. The Clinical team continues to advocate for our clients to have the best and most complete care, and Melissa is very appreciative of this effort by staff and providers.

Highlights of the proposed budget are:

- AB 2083 position - Funding for Foster Care
- Emergency Planning and Preparation positions for each Regional Center
- Five positions statewide for forensic specialists.
- 21 positions to help access and navigate the Regional Center system
- Purchase of Service funds to address COVID-19 response
- Allotment for wage increases
- An attorney for forensic analyst for Department

Self-Determination continues. Orientations are being conducted on ZOOM and 82% of those selected have completed the orientation. 74% have completed their budgets and 54% have completed their spending plan. Some individuals have chosen to opt-out, and it is unknown if DDS will have another draw prior to July. The implementation of the Self-Determination Program (SDP) has caused increases in community understanding of the value of person-centered thinking and planning and regional centers' capacity to meet the needs of those with complex needs through strategic resource development.

Staff are anxious to meet and connect with people again. It will still be a few months before all staff are in the office.

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Celebration of Heroes is continuing with the poster contest and nominations. Heroes will be acknowledged and given plaques.

12. Announcements, Reports, Questions and Answers, Summary
Comments: All Board members

Deborah Anderson said thank you to the new members and is hoping for a face-to-face soon. She also is encouraging members to take advantage of the board trainings being offered.

William: People First Shasta is having meetings and will be sending out flyers. Red Bluff, Chico and Corning are doing well.

Andreas: We Care A Lot is establishing a Grief mentoring program over ZOOM. SAY presentations will be done through ZOOM. Andreas also wanted to warn people if they are expecting a stimulus check to carefully look at their mail so check is not thrown away.

Terry: Tehama County People First met via ZOOM. Vaccines were discussed as well as "Get Connected". People First of Red Bluff is looking for people to join the ZOOM meetings.

13. Transition to Executive (Closed) Session, W & I 4663, (a): None needed.

14. Next meeting: March 25 and 26. Motion to adjourn and second by Andreas Economopoulos and Araceli Garcia. No discussion, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted



Cynthia R. Presidio
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary