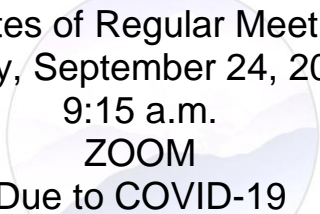


Far Northern Coordinating Council on Developmental Disabilities dba Far Northern Regional Center Minutes



Minutes of Regular Meeting
Friday, September 24, 2021
9:15 a.m.
ZOOM
Due to COVID-19

1. Call to Order: 9:15 a.m. by chairperson Deborah Anderson
2. Roll Call:
 - a. Present: Deborah Anderson William Battles, Adam Beals, Kim Leeseman, Terry Morton, Lori Childres, Timothy Howard, Cali McKinzie, Adrian Hugo, Christina Johnson, Selene Mercado, Araceli Garcia.
 - b. Absent: Daniel Strauss, Andreas Economopoulos, Anne Silcher
3. Public Input/Open Forum: Introduction of guests: FNRC staff: Mike Mintline, Todd Clarkson, Keith French, Larry Withers, Kathy Jennings, Cindy Stratton and Christine Austin. Mary Agnes Nolan (SCDD) Sarah May (SCDD), Alma Janssen (DDS), Sandra Khan (Interpreter), Cindi Freshour (WCAL) and Ryan Duncanwood.
4. Approval of Agenda for September 24, 2021: It was requested to add an Executive Committee Report as #8c and to move Action Item #2 to the Executive Committee as #9ci. Motion to approve agenda and second by Araceli Garcia and Cali McKinzie. No discussion, motion passed.
5. Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2021: Motion to approve and second by Kim Leeseman and Terry M. No discussion, motion passed.

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6. Report from the Chairperson, Deborah Anderson:
 - a. Action Item #1: 2022 Board meeting schedule. The following corrections are to be made to the Action Item:
 - i. Correcting “202” to 2022
 - ii. Correcting 2021 in the body of the Action Item to 2022.

Motion to approve and second by Lori Childres and Araceli Garcia.
No further discussion, motion passed.

- b. Other:
 - i. The committee assignments have been distributed. If any board member would like to change or add committee assignments, please advise Cynthia Presidio, Executive Assistant.
 - ii. Self-Determination brochures have been distributed to all board members. Please hand out these brochures if you have a chance.
 - iii. If you have an opportunity, please attend any or all of the ARCA Board presentation academies. They are very useful.

7. Management Reports:
 - a. Financial Report: Mike Mintline, Chief Financial Officer
 - i. Purchase of Service Report FY 2021-22
 - Cash flow is good, as all cash has been received from the State. At this time the allocation received from the State are sufficient to cover Purchase of Services expenses.
 - ii. Operations Report, FY 2021-22: The following shows the increases and decreases in major areas of the Operations Budget:
 - Salaries and benefits: Increase is due primarily to the projected addition of 14 new, designated positions funded by the current year revenue allocation. Positions include an Emergency Coordinator, Rate Reform Implementation staff, A Deaf Service Community Specialist, Services Coordinators for clients with no or low services, staff to implement Early Start provisional eligibility for three-four year old

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clients. Self-Determination Participant Choice Specialist for Non-English speaking clients.

- Facility Maintenance/Improvement: Increase includes projected leasehold improvements to office space at 1367 E. Lassen Ave., Chico, as they have no more available offices in the main building at 1377 E. Lassen Ave. The new space is expected to have some unassigned offices for persons who may spend some of their time working remotely.
 - Postage: Decrease is due to stocking postage meters in the prior year.
 - IT Equipment: Decrease is due to fewer purchases of iPads and Chromebooks for remote work than in the prior year.
 - Travel: Increase assumes that travel will resume at pre-pandemic levels on January 1, 2022
 - CARES Act revenue: One time funding that will not recur in the current year.
- iii. IT Report: Keith French, Manager of Information Technology: No report at this time.
- iv. Other: None.
- b. Client Services Report: Larry Associate Director, Client Services, South:
- i. Report:
 - Due to increased risk of COVID exposures, the Redding and Chico offices have returned to a partial remote work situation. Staff are working alternate days in the offices, the offices are not full. This arrangement will continue through the end of this year.
 - There has been an increase in requests for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Therefore, outdoor events will be held in Redding and Chico for families to pick up items. There is also the opportunity to receive items at the Work Training Center in Chico and at Custom Imprints in Redding.

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- c. Community Services Report: Todd Clarkson, Associate Director
 - i. Review of the 2022 Performance Contract: Todd Clarkson gave an overview of the Draft 2022 Performance Contract. A meeting will be held via Zoom, October 6, 2021 for public input. This will be formally presented to the Board of Directors at the November 2021 meeting for approval.
 - d. Clinical Services Report: Christine Austin, MD, Medical Director:
 - i. Report: Dr. Austin reported to the board the following:
 - FNRC COVID cases
 - Vaccination update for Clients and Providers
 - Clinical Team projects that include twice-monthly meetings with providers and how staff and providers and are being supported during outbreaks.
 - e. Human Resources: Kathy Jennings Director
 - i. Action Item #2: moved to 9c
8. State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North State Office Report, Sarah May, Regional Manager:
- The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) begins their new five-Year State Plan on October 1, 2021. This plan will focus on Advocacy, Self-Advocacy, Employments, Education, Housing, health & Safety and Self-Determination.
 - The Council adopted the 2022 Legislative Priorities that will direct legislative work for the next year.
 - SB 639, which will end employers paying people with disabilities subminimum wage in California by 2024, has passed the Legislative process. The Governor has until October 10, 2021 to sign the bill into law.

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- SCDD North State and the Sacramento Regional Office are working with the Department of Rehabilitation to develop and provide a four-part training series on employment related topics beginning in November.
- Twenty-one self-advocates across the state participated in a statewide meeting September 23 regarding “Feeling Safe, Being Safe”. This was coordinated with the North State and San Diego Imperial Regional SCDD offices.
- The North State office will be providing trainings on “Understanding the Lanterman Act” (11/14) and “Understanding the Service System” (10/28).
- Although the Butte County Coordinating Council’s Recognition Dinner has been cancelled, the committee will be announcing the “People Who Make a Difference” awards in October.
- SCDD and FNRC are coordinating PPE distribution events in Redding and Chico in October.

9. FNRC Board Committee Reports and Action Items:

- a. Consumer Committee, Kim Leeseman, Committee Chair:
Adrian Hugo presented the minutes for Kim Leeseman. The committee nominated Kimberly Leeseman, Adam Beals, and Adrian Hugo for Committee Chair for 2021-22. Kim Leeseman was elected as the new Chair. The committee reviewed the Board packet and Action Items.
- b. Service Provider Advisory Committee: Anne Silcher, Committee Chair: Melissa Gruhler presented for Anne Silcher. This meeting was held September 22, 2021 with 14 people attending and the following topics discussed:
 - Melissa Gruhler, FNRC Executive Director spoke with the committee regarding the progress of the Self-Determination program. This program is now open to all consumers within the regional center system. The FNRC Self-Determination Program Team of Morgan Curtis, Lai

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Saechao, and Megan Swope are making available education and orientation opportunities for those interested in this program.

- Diana Anderson of FNRC updated the committee regarding the FNRC Wellness Project. This project was created due to the COVID-19 Delta Variant forcing the reclosure of programs. This project has a \$200,000 spending cap of which \$46,000 has currently been spent. Agencies with 1- 50 consumers can qualify for up to \$5,000 while agencies with 51 – 100 can qualify for up to \$10,000. These funds will be used for vaccine incentivization, training and consulting.
 - Diana Anderson reported to the committee about Alternative Services. These Alternative Services affect Day Programs and ILS services. The deadline to apply for this is November 1, 2021. This process was intended to save programs, but is in danger of not continuing unless it can resume its consumer-centered focus.
 - Todd Clarkson, Community Services Director and Tracy Duarte, Community Services Supervisor presented the Draft 2022 Performance Contract, a survey intended for consumers and the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). Tracy Duarte then spoke to the committee regarding the Electronic Visit Verification beginning statewide January 1, 2022.
 - Several consumer success stories were reiterated.
 - The State Council on Developmental Disabilities advised the committee that SB639 is currently awaiting the Governor's signature.
 - The Office of Client's Rights Advocacy reported a complaint they have filed for disability rights regarding distance learning. They are also pushing for more disability employment.
- c. Executive Committee, Deborah Anderson, Board/Committee Chair: A meeting was held by Zoom August 16, 2021 with Deborah Anderson, Lori Childres, Cali McKinzie and Daniel Strauss attending. Mike Mintline, SFO, gave a brief explanation as to why this action is necessary. A motion and second by

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Cali McKinzie and Lori Childres to appoint Suzanne Pitcher to be reemployed by FNRC effective August 16, 2021, for a period of no more than 12 months, pursuant to the Government Code requirements. Therefore, the committee brought this to the board as motion, seconded by Terry M. No discussion, motion passed.

10. Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA): Adam Beals, Representative: The meeting was held August 20, 2021 by Zoom. AB445, which will end parental data collection in regards to Social Security numbers, passed into law August 31, 2021. An ARCA information academy for the board members will be held November 9, 2021 and repeating November 10, 2021.
11. Report from the Executive Director, Melissa Gruhler: Melissa spoke to the board regarding the following topics:
 - a. SB136 will allow for approximately 15 new positions for FNRC:
 - i. Provisional Diagnosis: Eligibility assessments prior to age five.
 - ii. Enhanced Caseload: looking to individual that do not have services, but should. These would be a 1:40 caseload ratio.
 - iii. Self-Determination Participant Choice Specialist
 - iv. Rate Reform Specialist
 - v. Health Safety Waiver Specialist
 - vi. Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing specialist
 - vii. Emergency Response Officer: this person was hired in July and immediately began supporting the Regional Center with the Dixie Fire, and fires that have followed. Melissa reviewed with the board the PowerPoint in the packet regarding the impacts these fires have had.
 - b. FNRC is continuing to move forward with Self-Determination, including orientations and budget development. This is now open to all consumers.
 - c. The Caseload Report is in the Board packet. FNRC was out of compliance in two areas. However, as required, a letter was sent to DDS regarding the compliance plan, along with the

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notification of public meetings. Two additional people have been hired to help address this issue.

- d. We have reviewed the Celebration of Heroes for this quarter and hope to announce those being recognized September 30, 2021.

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

Debbie: if anyone needs help due to the fires, please reach out.

Terry: People 1st of Red Bluff is beginning to see more people attending, and everyone is happy to be meeting in person again.

Araceli: More programs are opening. However, the need for caution due to COVID is still very real.

William: Shasta and Red Bluff People 1st's are planning to distribute flyers to the day programs to attract more people to the meetings.

13. Transition to Executive (Closed) Session, W & I 4663, (a):
- a. Real estate negotiations,
 - b. The appointment, employment evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a regional center employee,
 - c. Employee salaries and benefits,
 - d. Labor contract negotiations,
 - e. Pending litigation

Motion to transition to closed session by Cali McKinzie and William Battles. No discussion, motion passed.

- Review of staff separations and announcement of Labor contract negotiations were discussed. Motion to return to open session by Terry M. and William Battles. No discussion, motion passed.

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14. Next meeting: November 18 and 19, 2021, Gaia Hotel, Anderson, CA
15. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn and second by Cali McKinzie and Lori Childres. No discussion, motion passed. Adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Approval

Respectfully submitted



Cynthia R. Presidio

Executive Assistant/Board Secretary