

**Present:** Kristi Patterson (Trajectory), Enrique Ulloa, Mallory Sammons, Barbara Sprout, Kelly Weber (CBEM), Catherine Sundquist (City Ambulance), Sara Pfeiffer (Enriching Lives), Sheila Keys, Cindy Claus-John, Kim Nash, Dr. Rick Blumberg (RCRC), Angela (Community Catalyst), Angie Salo and Tina Michaels, (NCALC), Ilene Dumont (People Services) Denise Gorny(SCDD), Gary Muench, Sarah Davis (Supportability), Pam Jensen (UVAH)

**1. Agency Updates:**

- **CBEM** – is fully staffed, they are doing outreach for new referrals and supporting clients leaving Sonoma Developmental Center. Will be participating in Autism Awareness month by having game nights at the Rec. Center in Lakeport.
- **SCDD** – Denise reports that Dawn Morley is retiring as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. Tomorrow is her last day in the Ukiah office. Looking to develop new housing in Eureka and working to try to increase more affordable housing. There are limited autism events in Lake and Mendocino counties because there are fewer providers. Denise's son Tony turns 50 this month.
- **NCALC** – Reports that they now have more staff and are doing well.
- **People Services** – Ilene reports that four long-term clients have recently passed away. They were able to remain in their homes. Two more clients have recently been diagnosed with dementia. She is excited about the development of new program designs that will include work components. They have a new coffee service at the Clearlake site. They offer healthy choices of baked items. The Art Gallery is doing very well and helping artist earn money. The last open house had \$1,000 in sales. The first Saturday in June is the date for their annual Chicken-cue fundraiser in Lakeport. They are also getting more job applicants who can pass fingerprint and drug testing. They think the increase in pay is attracting more qualified applicants.
- **Enriching Lives** – Will be providing an Autism Awareness event on April 1st from 5-8 p.m. that coincides with Arts Alive. They will have sensory art activities and food. Laminated cards with information on ASD will be available at the event. They will contact Denise at SCDD to get the applications for I.C.E. cards to have at the event as well. There is a new accreditation process for foster family agencies required by Department of Social Services and Community Care Licensing. They are pursuing an exemption because they are certified by RCRC. There is a new law for children of the Social Services system to be placed with families rather than with group homes in the child welfare system. They are struggling to find quality direct support professionals. They are going through a new process to learn structured interviewing protocols for potential family home providers. They recently held a waffle breakfast and Bayside Grange for staff and persons served.

- **City Cab** – Reports that they are fully staffed and they have received complaints that drivers are ON time. City Cab will have a team in the Autism Walk on April 8<sup>th</sup> and will bring a cab down for the community to see.
  - **CBEM** – Enrique reports that they are still fully staffed up north. CBEM is willing to be of service to any kids who are transitioning from foster homes into group homes. They too are participating in Autism Awareness month and will have a sensory day at the Discovery Museum in Humboldt County. They plan to hold an Adult Bingo Date for people with Autism in Crescent City.
  - **Trajectory** – Kristi reports that they have received two grants, one from Humboldt Area Foundation for a collaborative performance piece with Synapsis, a local theater collective and Dell’ Arte International The Body Discourse Project. Funding will be used for a school tour. The second grant is from the California Arts Council and will be utilized to send two staff to attend the conference “Disability as Spectacle” in Los Angeles through UCLA which explores visibility/invisibility of disability in the performing arts and media. Kristi was also granted a scholarship to attend the Developmental Disability Public Conference in Sacramento March 26 thru 28, 2017. Trajectory “3x3x3” a miniature art show and silent auction will be held on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 6 to 9 p.m. and will feature tiny art, tiny food and tiny cocktails. Trajectory will host an Autism Awareness month screen printing party on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 to 6 p.m. at Alleyway Arts. People are asked to bring an item of clothing that they would like to screen print an Autism Awareness design on.
  - **Supportability** – Gary reports that Supportability has opened a satellite office in Clearlake to hold trainings and meetings with service coordinators on IPP’s. They too are receiving many applicants for jobs.
  - **UVAH** – Pam reports that one care home has a van in the shop for 2 weeks so UVAH is sending staff to the home. This makes it more difficult having employees in two locations to ensure breaks and arrange lunches but we are getting through it. We are short on staff due to turnover which has made it difficult to keep one particular client and those near her safe. Until there is consistency with responses to her negative behaviors between us and home support staff we anticipate her behaviors to continue escalating. We are asking the regional center to arrange for other supports until we are fully staffed. UVAH had its annual staff holiday dinner in January this year. Pam attended a riveting session on the Purchase of Service disparity data. Pam reported on a disturbing case of client abuse.
2. **RCRC Report** – Kim Nash provided the following updates:
- **Allegations of abuse** – What are allegations? It is noted that statewide there are low levels of prosecutions of staff who have allegedly abused clients. It is important for providers to talk with past employers about staff as fingerprints and systems checks may not be sufficient. Department of Labor limits the types of

questions you can ask former employers. If you have to remove a staff on an allegation of abuse it is important to get APS and/or law enforcement to prosecute or to clear the allegation by investigation. It is important to have safety protocols for personal care. It's important to remember that staff who are removed from service because of alleged abuse can move from area to area to avoid prosecution and still serve clients.

- **AB918** –As of January 1, 2017 AB918 requires DDS to track and follow up on any report(s) of chemical and physical restraints. This new bill allows DDS to track restraints across the State that are being used. RCRC does not support the use of physical restraints. RCRC uses a positive behavior approach. Chemical restrain PRN medications are being tracked. There are several RCRC mechanisms to assist with looking at support needs to reduce behavior concerns as well as the use of medication. For example, the regional center nurse can go to doctor appointments as needed.
- **FFF** - RCRC is encouraging providers who offer service supports to clients to remember that all clients need to be getting plenty of fiber, fluids and making friends. It's the year of the three F's. If we assist people in getting hydration and good fiber in their diets we may begin to see a reduction of medications for GI issues.
- **April is Autism Awareness Month** – There are many events scheduled in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Fewer events are scheduled in Mendocino and Lake Counties. It is believed that due to the BHT transition in which Partnership is the primary funding source, there have been difficulties in finding behavior support providers and maintaining those providers in the counties of Mendocino and Lake. Because there are limited events in Mendocino and Lake Counties we are encouraging any providers who wish to put on an event to “go for it”. Please contact Sierra Braggs who is located in the RCRC Eureka office for further information and/or support. Kim also notes that a recent report and study is looking at the lifespan of people with ASD. Those with ASD have a lifespan that is approximately half that of a typical individual. The primary reasons being studied for the shorten lifespan is accidents which are the highest factor. In particular, the accidents are often drownings around the ages of 4-5 years. It is important for all individuals with ASD to get supports for swim lessons to reduce the risk of downing.
- **Flu and Pneumonia** – It is important for all service providers to encourage staff and/or clients to stay home when ill and to send home those who are coming in sick. There have been increases in deaths related to pneumonia that started as the flu. Vaccinations for flu and pneumonia are tools to help reduce flu in our communities. Providers are asked to notify the community resources manager if home support cannot be reached when clients need to go home because they are ill.

- **Department of Labor (DOJ)** – The new salary requirements for overtime exemptions at the Federal level are on hold. There are different requirements for state and federal exemptions.
- **HCBS Proposal Grants** – The expected date for grant announcements has passed. There has been no response from DDS about the grant proposals.
- **AB2-1 Funds** – The State still has not developed a systematic statewide tracking tool for providers to utilize. Two RCRC providers have been recommended to DDS to assist with a tool development.

**Executive Director Report:** Dr. Rick Blumberg provided the following update:

- **Healthy Individuals and Healthy Communities** – Dr. Rick has been in his new position as Executive Director for three months and is enjoying his new position and working with service providers. Dr. Rick’s focus is on healthy individuals and healthy communities and wellness for people served, families and providers. Psychotropic medications can shorten life expectancy especially for individuals with Autism. RCRC has been working to create services that focus on wellness such as the UCSF CART Services that is working with local hospitals and clinics on the health needs of people with disabilities to make sure they receive appropriate treatment. RCRC will be offering more trainings on non-medication interventions to help support clients. Additionally, RCRC needs to improve outreach at public and local cultural events. RCRC is in the process of hiring the Diversity Outreach employee to assist in these efforts. He also addressed the importance of getting young people interested in our field of work and increasing the diversity of the workforce.
  - **Dr. Jed Baker Trainings** – Dr. Baker will be presenting in April and the trainings will be filmed for individuals who are unable to attend the training and would like the information. He also discussed the importance of providing more education opportunities for providers and regional center employees. Dr. Rick will be leading and arranging for several trainings over the year.
  - **RCRC Staffing** - Dr. Rick reports that RCRC has been challenged by many staff vacancies, recent retirements and new positions. RCRC has had some very good hires and that our goal is to build a strong, local work force in our community.
3. **Incentive Payments for Competitive Employment** – It is noted that the first incentive payments are being processed.
4. **Open Discussion: Crisis Intervention** - Cindy Claus-John led a discussion around the use of positive and productive strategies for crisis intervention. Providers shared the crisis intervention strategies they use. People talked about the different types of trainings available to train staff. Providers requested an opportunity to come together and discuss in more detail what works/doesn’t work and the techniques of different crisis intervention protocols. Kim Nash and Cindy Claus-John agreed to coordinate a future meeting with providers who have

ASP Meeting  
Wednesday, March 22, 2017

crisis intervention strategies and wish to come together to discuss them. Providers would also like to discuss local issues about the use of chemical restraint, the use of PRN medications and the monitoring of residential programs regarding chemical restraint.

**5. Next Meeting is Wednesday, May 17, 2017 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**