

Alliance of Service Providers (ASP)
Meeting Notes for September 14, 2016

Present: Sheila Keys, Cindy Claus-John, Kim Nash, Jerry Freitas (RCRC) Pam Jensen (UVAH), Dawn Morley (State Council, North Coast Office), Catherine Sundquist (City Ambulance), Ilene Dumont (People Services), Joanne Holliday (Community Catalyst California), Gary Muench, Sarah Davis (Supportability), Jeff Pockett (Reaching for Independence) H. S. (Parent Vendor), Rene Quintana (Rural Human Services), Kristie Patterson (Trajectory), Jolleen McCleod (Changing Tides), Anita Beers (Gaining Ground), Lea Montgomery (Families United).

Agency Updates

Community Catalyst California – They are planning some changes in Consumer Advisory topics having thoroughly covered safety topics.

Gaining Ground – They serve approximately 70 people helping them get jobs.

Reaching for Independence They got new carpet and furniture thanks to a donation from Furniture Design.

Families United – They opened a small office in Ukiah after years of using Starbucks because they have access to wi-fi there. Staffing turnover the last two years is the highest it has been in 26 years of business. She asked her staff if they wanted wage increases or increased benefits. They opted for the wages. She is still looking to see if she can add more benefits. The agency has been getting a lot of referrals and is steadily growing. She has purchased a new house that she plans will be able to accommodate her daughter long into the future.

Trajectory – They held their annual art sale fundraiser. The theme was Bigfoot.

City Ambulance – They purchased three new vans. Catherine is now the transportation manager. She will use the vans to shorten the routes and times it takes clients to get to services.

Rural Human Services – “Client College” is into its fourth year. They had a cook off at the farmer’s market showing people how to prepare the foods they buy there. They are providing IEP training in Crescent City. On Sept. 30 there will be a Jobs First Job Fair from 10-3 in Crescent City.

People Services - Ilene Dumont reported that her staff response to the Clayton Fire was great. They started pitching in on Sunday afternoon. The art gallery in Clearlake will be having its 2nd show. It is a festive event with artists, guitar players and they sell art. Last year the event was held on the same day the Valley Fire started. They are getting two replacement vans. One of her clients has been diagnosed with cancer. He told his mom that the only thing he never got to do was graduate. A graduation event was held for him. He graduated from all the volunteer jobs he had. NCO presented him a plaque. It was a very moving event.

Ilene is working on the budget to determine staff wage increases in light of the new monies for this purpose. She will look at the CMS survey after the budget is completed. They participated in a local event, Grill'n on the Green. People Services received the Rookie of the Year award for their chicken wings. There will be a wine auction this week-end that benefits People Services. They will also participate in the Rotary Challenge Bike ride in the hopes of winning \$3,000 (again) for their rest stop.

State Council-North Coast Office – The state council is no longer in high risk status with the federal government. Their new state plan has been accepted, they are no longer on reimbursement status and there are only 4 items left on the corrective action plan that will soon be completed. They have contracted with “Warmline”, a parent training institute to provide I.E.P. training throughout the 4 county area.

The council is currently doing research on legislative priorities. Please let them know if you have any ideas requiring legislation.

UVAH- We are getting ready for our 26th annual golf tournament. It is our major fundraiser. Our Adult Education Block grant started in July and 4 people have gotten jobs since we now have someone in position to do that job. 2 work at Walmart, a cashier and “uc” clerk, one person is a stocker at Walgreens and one woman is a care assistant at an assisted living facility. We are working on developing performance objective for the next fiscal year based on feedback from employees about what is working and not working for clients, employees and the agency. Two clients we serve have been living in motels for over 6 months because they cannot find an apartment to rent. We are currently looking to fill 5 staff vacancies.

Supportability – They have to put referrals on a waiting list because of difficulty finding employees after the loss of housing due to the fires. It is very hard finding people who can pass the fingerprint clearance. They have started putting up fliers and that has helped get a couple people hired. Managers are spending most of their time providing direct service. Gary and Sarah just got recertified for Pro-Act.

RCRC Report

Kim Nash reported that the search is on for a new Executive Director for the Redwood Coast Regional Center. Valley Mountain regional center is also looking for a new director. RCRC remains on a corrective action plan for caseload ratios because they have approximately 3 fewer service coordinators than the ratios require. Kim applauded the efforts of service providers during the Clayton Fire. Regional center staff did shelter reviews and trauma assessments. It was noted that people who require minimal supports need more training on what to when evacuation is required.. One man walked to town looking for a shelter.

The regional center has had Active Shooter response training for shooters in an office and in the community. Kim recommends providers contact the local police or sheriff departments for training.

RCRC adjusted approximately 300 rates per ABx2. DDS has yet to provide any information about how they will track the funds to ensure they are used properly. State-wide there are starting to be pay differentials based on service codes. In some cases the way the increases were structured has made situations worse for providers.

RCRC has requested \$350,000 for 3 years via a grant process from DDS to address cultural equity issues.

RCRC has requested clarification on paid internships and incentive payments for competitive integrated employment. They asked of definitions of terms and identification of the regulations that apply so that they may properly interpret funding requests from providers. Dawn asked for a copy of the questions. If more than one entity asks the questions an answer might be given sooner.

Upcoming trainings: Sept 17- a showing of “We Speak for Justice” will be held at the Arcata Theater in the afternoon. It is a great venue for the celebration of 50 years of the Lanterman Act.

Oct. 17 in Eureka and Oct. 18 in Ukiah, Dr. Barry will train on working with people who have trauma. Our counties have very high ASIS scores which is a measure of trauma experienced by a person. Poverty, lack of sufficient food and substance abuse experienced by a child are major contributors to trauma that leave people susceptible for abuse.

A CPP grant was funded that will provide training by UCSF hospital staff for hospital doctors on treating patients with developmental disabilities. The first training will be at UVMC in Ukiah.

ASP Website Update

There is now an Alliance of Service Providers tab under About Us tab on the RCRC website. The schedule and brief description of the group are on the site. Dawn will send Kim the July minutes to post. The ATT call-in number will be added to future agendas and they will be posted on the site as well as the chair's email address.

HCBS Compliance Evaluations and Proposals

Providers who this applies to are encouraged to complete the evaluations and submit proposals that will help them comply with the new standards. There will be another meeting with RCRC on this topic in Ukiah and Eureka via video conference on Sept. 19, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

DOR Career Training and Counseling Services

DOR will have a conference call on this topic on Sept. 23 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. There is some question if DOR intends to train all people who earn less than minimum wage or just those who are supported employment clients. They have hired 7 staff to complete the trainings state wide.

Open Discussion

One provider was concerned that clients RCRC Board members may not be getting their Board packets far enough in advance before the board meeting in order to have the time the client and client's facilitator need to review the material. It was suggested to ask the client RCRC Board Members and their Facilitator for their feedback if there is enough days in advance to assist the client in preparing for the RCRC Board Meeting.

Next meeting is Monday, October 31, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.