

Vendor Advisory Committee
Minutes of the meeting
September 28, 2004
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Present: Louis Chiofalo, SDS; Nicky Boyette, OADS; Sue Nissen (for Beth Atton), NVSS; Carol Fremault, CRA; Don Morgan, BAFS; David Mauger, Christopher House; Lance Parker, On Our Own; Phyllis Peterson, PhilHaven; Cami Weaver; BI; Mick Woodson, ARC Solano

Excused Absence: Stan Higgins, OADS

Guests Present: Nancy Gardner, NBRC; Nary Callison, Community Access Plus; Sam Seaton, Pride Industries; Edith Thomas, Connections for Life; Jennifer Kohfield, Community Support Network; Dorothy Norton, Community Support Network; Karen Lustig, Aldea SLS; Darelyn Pazdel, Pride Industries; Jaynette Underhill, Dungarvin CA; Donna Feingold, Moving Forward; Richard Ruge, NBRC; Mike Harper, NBRC

I. Introductions and Acceptance of Minutes - Don M. moved and Nicky B. seconded to accept the minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

II. Agenda Changes or Additions - No additions; "VII. Announcements" moved to third.

III. Announcements

- A) Carol F. announced that her agency will have a spaghetti feed/guitar jam fundraiser on November 6, 2004; raffle tickets are available.
- B) Don Morgan announced that his agency Bay Area Family Services will be closing due to the rate freeze in effect. With the approval of NBRC, an outside agency will provide services and maintain continuity. This announcement led to discussion of other agencies (particularly RSP's) going out of business. Don acknowledged the support and assistance provided by Nancy and the Regional Center.
- C) Carol F. discussed the concept of mentoring new VAC members, whereby a "seasoned" VAC member will assist in initiating a new VAC member; i.e., Carol will mentor David Mauger.

IV. Group Reports and/or Clarifications

- A) Best Practices Training Update – Carol F. reported positive feedback on the training on disaster preparedness provided by Mike Harper and Richard Ruge. She also noted that there will be a day-long conference on autism in the spring, 2005. There will be a maximum of 225 slots available.
- B) Sonoma Vendor Group - no report
- C) Napa-Solano Vendor Group - no report
- D) Legislative
 - 1. CRA - Conference next month conflicts with VAC meeting.
 - 2. ARCA - Nancy G. is waiting to see what the Governor does with impending legislation
 - 3. Budget & Bills Update
 - ✓ NBRC planning for next budget; early figuring indicates significant Purchase of Service deficit (as much as \$4 million) largely due to the recent Habilitation transfer.
 - ✓ Brief discussion around CPP related activities.
 - ✓ Nancy reported on Alta California Regional Center, i.e., top management resigned; managers from other areas and/or regional centers will assist in running the regional center in the meantime; the Board was not dissolved; continued cost overruns for an extended period.

V. Policies and Procedures Update at NBRC - No discussion

VI. Presentations

- A) Mike Harper and Richard Ruge, NBRC - Disaster Preparedness - Existing emergency systems are not prepared to handle special populations. Richard suggested we set up our agencies as centers of disaster preparedness to take care of special populations until other services are available. Consumers need to be trained to take care of themselves because usual supports cannot be counted on during disasters. Go-Kits (ready-to-go bags of emergency supplies) will be made available by NBRC, especially for those living independently. On November 15, there will be a meeting in Sacramento to discuss including preparedness for special needs persons as part of general community preparedness.

- B) Jay F. Gaillard, Gaillard Insurance Services - After 43 years in the health and human services field, Mr. Gaillard went into business “to help the helpers.” He wants his insurance business to “make significant contributions for nonprofits by brokering for a variety of insurance companies in order to provide the best deals possible.”

VII. New Business - no new business

VIII. Vendor Support Time – Vendors Only 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.- No discussion.

Minutes taken by Nicky Boyette.