



San Bernardino Regional Office

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes

12/12/2020

Location: *Virtual Meeting via ZOOM*

Posted on <http://www.scdd.ca.gov/sanbernardino.htm>

Members Present

Violet Arellano, **Member-At-Large**
Douglas Perkins, **Chair**
Ronald Allan
Reginald Davis
Christina Christenson-Rockwell, **Vice Chair**
Carmela Garnica
Kim Risser
Eric Aguilar
Ernie Saldana

Members Absent

Cathy Rosas
Cindy Cox
Lanette Hollowell
Maia Pawooskar, **Secretary**

SCDD Staff

Tamica Foots-Rachal, Regional Manager
Tania Morawiec, Deputy Director of Regional Operations
Holly Bins, CRA/VAS Manager
Julie Hillstead, VAS CPS II
Robbin Puccio, CRA CPS II

Guest Presenter

Geri Crippen-Richardson, Community Program Specialist II
County of Riverside, Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
Adult Services/CARE Program

Public

Samantha Bell
Kevin Butscher

Meeting called to order at 10:02 am

Quorum established
Welcome/Introductions

Approval of Minutes



Voting on the minutes – 10/10/2020, Carmela Garnica Motion to Approve the minutes, Carmela Garnica removed Motion to Approve minutes. Christina Christenson-Rockwell motion to table Approval of minutes until February 13, 2021 RAC meeting. Kim Risser 2nd's Motion. Tabling minutes for approval until February 13, 2021 RAC meeting – approved.

Meeting New SCDD Deputy Director – Regional Operation

- **Tania Morawiec**
 - Worked as a national Employment First subject matter expert on a U.S. Dept of Labor grant, a policy consultant for the CA Institute of Behavioral Health, and Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Trainer for Alameda County. Served as Illinois Statewide Employment First Manager within the Office of the Secretary, IL EFSLMP Core State and Vision Quest Coordinator, and lead IL IPS Trainer. During her tenure as the State of Illinois Employment First Manager she worked across 5 Divisions of the Illinois Department of Human Services to create policy advancement in competitive, integrated employment services.
 - **Call to Action – SCDD State Plan Strategies** and the important role of the RAC in proving a regional picture that will help determine the supports and/or services needed in each goal. Requesting RAC members to reach out to local community contacts/leaders in order to reach an impactful regional view of needs and focus. This will assist State Council in not only creating the State Plan, but this also provides a statewide view of growing and/or systemic needs.
 - Self-Advocacy

- Employment
- Education
- Health
- Safety
- COVID-19 Vaccine Information and Input Sessions – Speak with Executive Director Aaron Carruthers regarding COVID-19 Vaccine questions or concerns. This information will be provided directly to workgroups.
 - Wednesday, December 16th – 8:30-10:00 AM
 - Thursday, December 17th – 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
 - Friday, December 18th – 3:30-5:00 PM
 - Friday, December 18th – 6:00-7:30 PM

Motion

Chair Douglas Perkin motions for Vice Chair Christina Christenson-Rockwell to conduct the remaining RAC meeting. Carmela Garnica 2nds motion. Motion approved

Presentation: Mandated Reporter

- Geri Crippen-Richardson – C.A.R.E (Curtailing Abuse Related to the Elderly) Program est. 1997 – Riverside County
 - DPSS Adult Services Division for Seniors and independent Adults consist of **four** branches:
 - **C.A.R.E**
 - What is CARE? The Curtailing Abuse Related to the Elderly (C.A.R.E) Program is a branch of DPSS Adult Services that addresses elder and dependent adult abuse through advocacy, education, training, and coordination of interagency collaboration.
 - Community Anti-Fraud Education & Mandated Reporter Training
 - M.D.T. (Multi-Disciplinary Teams) – C.A.R.E. Team & Coordination
 - Six teams for the Riverside County: Blythe, Palm Desert, Perris, Riverside, Homeless and the Elder Abuse Forensic Center C.A.R.E. Teams
 - Improve coordination among multiple agencies
 - Education & Networking
 - Consumer Fraud Advocacy
 - Who we serve?

- Dependent Adults (18-64)
PC 368(h) and W&IC 15610.23(a)
 - Elderly (65 and older)
PC 368(h) and W&IC 15610.27
- **A.P.S.** (Adult Protective Services)
 - Provides protective services and short-term case management for elders and dependent adults.
 - Preventive social work assistance
 - Assessments
 - Investigations
 - Intervention in cases of abuse or neglect
- **I.H.S.S** (In-home Support Services)
 - An income qualified program that helps pay for services provided to the elderly and the disabled so that they may remain safely in their homes.
 - Laundry
 - House cleaning
 - Grocery shopping
 - Personal care services
 - Transportation to medical appointments
- **Public Authority**
 - Maintains a registry of screened and trained Home Care Providers
 - Provides a list of screened Home Care Providers for referral to IHSS recipients
 - Facilitates trainings for recipients and caregivers
- A Dependent Adult is any person;
 - Between the ages of 18-64
 - Who has physical or mental limitations that restricts his or her ability to carry out normal activities or to protect his or her rights.
 - It also includes any person between the ages of 18-64 who has been admitted to a 24-hour health facility.
PC 368 (h) W&IC 15610.23 (a)
- Caretaker
 - Any person who has the care, custody, or control of, or who stands in a position of trust with, an elder or dependent adult (whether paid or not)
PC 368 (i)

- What is abuse?
 - Physical
 - Includes Sexual Abuse
 - Financial
 - Includes Consumer Fraud
 - Abduction (crossing a Stateline)
 - Abandonment
 - Isolation
 - Mental Suffering
 - Neglect/Self Neglect
- Physical/Sexual Abuse Indicators
 - Inadequately explained fractures, bruises, welts, sores or burns
 - Unexplained sexually transmitted diseases
 - Abrasions on arms, legs, or torso that resemble rope or strap marks
 - Internal injuries evidenced by pain, difficulty with normal functioning of organs, and bleeding from body orifices
 - Victims are brought to different medical facilities for treatment to prevent medical practitioners from observing a pattern of abuse
 - Delay between onset of injury and seeking medical care
- Financial Abuse/Exploitation Indicators
 - Sudden, unjustified selling of property
 - Missing/stolen/transferred money or property
 - Caregiver has control of elder's money but is failing to provide for elder's needs
 - Radical changes in handling personal financial affairs
 - Unpaid bills (adequate funds)
 - Disparity between assets and living conditions or lack of amenities victim could afford
- Potential Isolation Indicators
 - Living in remote areas with little outside contact
 - Individuals with minimal contact or no contact with family/friends
 - Prevention of an individual's ability to receive mail, phone calls, visitors, etc.
 - False imprisonment
- Emotional Abuse/Mental Suffering Indicators
 - Unexplained or uncharacteristic changes in behavior, such as withdrawal from normal activities, unexplained changes in alertness

- Caregiver is verbally aggressive or demeaning, controlling, overly concerned about spending money, or uncaring
- Neglect/Self Neglect Indicators
 - Dehydration or Malnutrition
 - Unrelated “Bed” Sores
 - Absence of assisted devices or lack of medical aids
 - Poor hygiene and lack of clean or appropriate clothing
 - Lack of adequate food or home without adequate facilities (stove, refrigerators, utilities, working plumbing)
 - Absence of medication or over medication
 - Person confined to bed is left without care
 - Person with Dementia left unsupervised
 - Home cluttered, filthy, disrepair as fire or safety hazard
- Riverside County Adult Protective Services (APS) Process
 - APS – Offers immediate protection and short-term case management to Seniors and dependent adults who are victims of abuse.
 - Interview victim, suspected abuser, and collateral contacts
 - Assess the victim’s abilities, strengths, and limitations
 - Contact Law Enforcement when it is suspected that a “5150” is warranted for protection of the client
 - Cross report suspected criminal activity to Law Enforcement with or without victim’s consent
 - Determine the appropriate intervention
 - Link the victim and family with community resources
 - Use the Multi-Disciplinary Team for difficult cases
 - APS Clients
 - That are competent legally retain all their rights
 - Have the right to refuse services
 - Consent Required:
 - Any victim of Elder/Dependent adult abuse may refuse or withdraw consent at anytime to an investigation or provision of services. APS shall act only with consent UNLESS a violation of the penal code has been alleged.
 - In the event the client lacks capacity and does not have the capability to grant consent, then APS may act on their behalf.
W&IC 15636 (a&b)
- Capacity/Client’s Right to Self-Determination

- Reporting Guidelines and When to Report
 - If you observe, have knowledge of, are told about or reasonably suspect abuse, YOU MUST REPORT IT.
 - Any mandated reporter, who in his/her professional capacity, or within the scope of his or her employment, has knowledge of an incident that reasonable appears to be abuse, abandonment, isolation, financial abuse, or neglect, or is told by an elder or dependent adult that he or she has experienced behavior constituting abuse, or reasonably suspects abuse, shall report the known or suspected abuse by telephone immediately.
- How to Report:
 - APS online Reporting visit: <https://www.reporttoaps.org>
 - Immediately, or as so as practicably possible to the APS Hotline: 1 (800) 491-7123
 - By written report (SOC 341) within 2 working days fax to (951) 358-3969
- Reports should include:
 - Name if reporter
 - Name and age of victim
 - Present location of victim
 - Names and addresses of family members responsible for the victim's care, if known
 - Nature and extent of the victim's condition
 - Date of the incident
 - ANY other information, including information that led the Reporter to suspect abuse, requested by the agency receiving the referral.
- Where to Report
 - Long Term Facility – Ombudsman
 - State Mental Hospital – State Department of Mental Health
 - State Developmental Center – State Department of Developmental Services
 - Other – APS & Law Enforcement
- What happens after you call?
 - Cross report made to police (if not from police!)
 - Triage
 - Immediate Response (within 24 hours)
 - Urgent Response (within 2-5 calendar days)
 - 10-Day Response (within 10 calendar days)
 - Private face-to-face interview is done
 - Protective issues are investigated

- Assessment is made of victim's strengths, weaknesses and protective needs
 - Client is linked to community services
- Mandated Reporter
 - Any elder or dependent adult care custodian, including an administrator or an employee of any "protective, public, sectarian, mental health, or private assistance or advocacy agency or person providing health services or social services to elders or dependent adults."
- Multiple Reporters
 - When two or more Mandated Reports (MR's) are present
 - Jointly have knowledge or suspicion
 - Agree that the report will be made by a selected member
- Revisions to Reporting:
 - Senate Bill No. 496 revisions:
 - Broker-dealer and investment advisers are now in the mandated reporter's category when financial abuse is suspected.
 - APS is required to report known or suspected financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult by a broker-dealer or investment adviser to a investigator from the Department of Business Oversight.
- Legislative Protections
 - Can't be held criminally or civilly liable for making referral, unless knowingly made false report
 - Can't be held criminally or civilly liable for taking photographs of suspected victim of Elder or Dependent Adult (DA) abuse to provide to the investigating agencies
 - Any mandated reporter who, pursuant to a request from an APS agency or local law enforcement agency, provides the requesting agency with access to the victim of known or suspected Elder or DA abuse shall not incur civil or criminal liability as a result of that access.
- If the Mandated Reporter Fails to Report
 - The abuse results in death or great bodily injury;
 - Punishable:
 - Up to one year in County jail
 - Fine up to \$5,000
 - Or Both
- Reporting Party Confidentiality
 - The identity of any person who reports under this chapter shall be confidential and is closed only among the following agencies:

- Adult Protective Services
- Community Care Licensing
- Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Law Enforcement/D.A.
- Public Guardian/Probate Court
- Department of Consumer Affairs – Division of Investigation
- If Confidentiality is Violated
 - Misdemeanor punishable by not more than:
 - Six months in County jail
 - A fine up to \$500
 - Or both

Open Discussion – Systemic Issues

- Inyo/Mono County
 - Self-Determination – Kern Regional Center & State Level have appointed four consultants for help fast tracker Self-advocates selected for Self-Determination. There are 35 self-advocates eligible for the transition from traditional services to Self-Determination and a goal to transition 5 Self-advocates by the end of December 2020.
 - Housing – Availability, cost, and not ADA accessible.
 - Employment – Availability is restricted due to COVID-19. Employers having to close store down, biggest employer in area Kmart closed their doors. Need of finding ways to encourage employers and local business to hire self-advocates.
 - Inyo County win for ADA – Caltrans is doing a lot of ADA work by creating sidewalks and sidewalks near highways close by two large mobile home parks near the Rite Aid and shopping centers.
 - Unfortunately, there are individuals in the community that strongly oppose these sidewalks from being developed and placed in around this area. There seems to be a need to educate the community of the value and strengths self-advocates bring to the community.
 - Electrical Shut-offs – There was a big fire over 100 structure where lost, 3 self-advocates and their families were affected. Still no availability on generators for when power is shut-off and charging stations availability.
 - Zero COVID-19 Rapid testing, care providers are told to have antibodies testing instead of COVID-19 testing because it has faster time to receive the results. Individuals are having to

manage with limited care due to care providers waiting for results that can take 10 – 14 days to receive results.

- Kern Regional Center – has an answering service in place for phone calls and are able to provided a 24 hour counseling service.
- San Bernardino County
 - Proposed cuts to In-home support services – can jeopardizes individuals’ ability to continue to live independently in their community.
 - Chino Valley School Special Education Class are open running on a traditional setting, no hybrid schedule. How is State Council helping other Special Education Classes to promote opening schools for Elementary ages.
- Riverside County
 - Due to the COVID-19 situation there is a lot of isolation. More than ever we need to be vigilant for signs of abuse.
 - Blythe there is no COVID-19 “Rapid Testing” all test provided come back between 5-10 days. Only Rapid testing is provided 45 miles into Arizona.

Public Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda

- Samantha Bell – Provides free therapy to children and has been In contact with some Regional Center Clients. Question what are the transitional step and what does that entail?
 - Traditional Services transition to Self-Determination were self-advocates have control over their budget and can locate vendors traditionally not available or vendored thru Regional Centers to obtain services.
- Ronald Allen – There is a Self-Determination movie coming from Central Valley Regional Center he provided an interview for. Wants to share how Self-Determination worked for him in keeping his independence.
- Tamica Fouts-Rachal provided a short overview of San Bernardino Regional Office Annual Overview 2020. Will provide a copy to all RAC members and public in attendance.

Meeting adjourns

- Carmela Garnica motion to adjourn meeting, Reggie Davis 2nd's.
Meeting adjourned at 12:24pm

Next Meeting

- Saturday, February 13, 2021