

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2020
Minutes

Present: Carmen Aguilar, Eric Ciampa, Johnny Deng, Romilda Jones (via phone), Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Ron Mainini, Paul Platner, Michelle Rewerts, Luis Rivera, Steven Sanchez, Retha Seabron, Yang Sun (via phone), Rita Walker

Staff: Phil Bonnet, Iqbal Ahmad, Lori Banales, Jennifer Bloom, Camelia Houston, Jason Lindo, Andy Ponce, Lisa West

Facilitators: Amy Fulk

Visitors: Hazel Aldax, Jaclyn Balanay, Sonya Bingaman, Breeanne Burris, Greg Geeting, Eric Kosta, Maxine Milam, Michelle Ramirez, Juliana Roura

1. **Call to Order** - The Board of Directors met at 4:03 p.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2020, at ACRC's main office in Sacramento.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision** - All present introduced themselves. Mr. Deng read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision.
3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved:** a) regular session Board meeting minutes of November 21, 2019; and b) accept Board Development, CAC, Executive, Finance and PAC reports.
4. **New Business**
 - ◆ *Board Training – “Community Resource Development Plan”*
 - Those present received an overview of the Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) from John Decker, ACRC's Director of Community Services. He is currently working with ACRC's Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) to develop a long-term housing plan for the agency (five and ten-year plan).
 - ◆ *Community Comments*
 - Ms. Bingaman shared that the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SDCC) is still collecting surveys to assist with building their 2022-26 State Plan. You can either fill out a hard copy or log onto their website and complete one online.
 - In collaboration with Disability Rights California (DRC), the SCDD-Sacramento office is holding a training entitled “How to Read My IEP Document” on Thursday, February 6th, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the SCDD-

Sacramento Office located at 3831 N. Freeway Blvd., Suite 125, in Sacramento.

- SCDD staff shared a presentation at the Medi-Cal Dental Advisory Committee (MCDAC) meeting:
 - Sutter Hospital was shocked to learn about the issues that clients are facing when trying to access anesthesia dentistry; they formed a workgroup.
 - A representative from Liberty Dental offered to assist with a training. They want to make sure that day programs and residential settings are doing everything to promote basic dental health.
- Ms. Bingaman expressed appreciation to ACRC for their efforts to increase their presence on social media.

◆ *Board Development Committee*

Issue: Approve Board Member Term Extension

Discussion and Action: The Board needs approve Rita Walker's next three-year term.

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to approve Rita Walker's term extension.

◆ *Outreach Discussion*

- On Monday, ACRC had an information booth at the *MLK 365 March for the Dream Diversity Expo*. Agency staff continue to look for volunteer Board members.
- If you're not following ACRC on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, you're missing out. We just featured a story about ACRC's Client Advocate, David Lopez. The agency has doubled our followers on all of these avenues, and Mr. Bonnet assured Board members that staff have developed a strategy for dealing with potential negative comments.
- This weekend, ACRC is hosting our first orientation for those individuals that are participating in the Self-Determination Program (SDP).
- In March, ACRC will be holding our Annual Purchase of Services (POS) Expenditure Meetings.
- ACRC's Arts & Crafts Spring Festival is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

◆ *Finance Committee*

Issue 1: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: Mr. Ahmad shared that the Finance Committee met on January 13th, and reviewed the November 30, 2019 financial report which reflects five months of expenditures for the current fiscal year (FY). With 41.7% of the year elapsed, ACRC has expended 37.2% of POS and 41.7% of Operations (OPS).

Mr. Ahmad is projecting that ACRC will need approximately \$19 million in additional POS funding for this FY. This is mainly due to the recent implementation of the 8.2% supplemental rate increases that most of our service providers received as of January 1st. These were officially approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The expectation is that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will fully fund this amount. Mr. Ahmad expects two more amendments throughout the year.

Without objection, Steven Sanchez made the motion to accept the monthly finance report as submitted.

Issue 2: Contracts over \$250,000

Discussion and Action: This contract is for the acquisition and renovation of an Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home (EBSH). Brilliant Corners is the service provider that will be operating and managing it. ACRC has received the funding from DDS for this project. The total amount of the contract is \$600,000 (\$300,000 for acquisition and \$300,000 for renovation).

Mr. Decker shared that ACRC still has clients in the Secure Treatment Program at Porterville Developmental Center; hopefully some of these clients will be transitioned into this new home once it's completed. The home will have a specialty for psychiatric care, with an additional behavioral component.

Mr. Bonnet encourages the Board's support for this contract.

Without objection, Steven Sanchez made the motion to approve the contract for Brilliant Corners as presented.

Issue 3: Independent Audit Report

Discussion and Action: Earlier this month, the Finance Committee reviewed the independent audit report, which is posted on our agency's website.

The audit had no material findings; it is a clean opinion.

The Board and Mr. Bonnet commended Mr. Ahmad and his staff for their hard work.

Without objection, Ron Mainini made the motion to approve the Independent Audit Report as presented.

◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
 - Ms. Walker shared that the BDC met on January 13th.
 - Board members are encouraged to fill out the forms that are being distributed so that the Nominating Committee can draft the Slate of Officers for the 2020-21 FY; it will go before the BDC and full Board at the March meetings.
 - The Board needs to decide what we want to do for the upcoming May Board Training – time commitment, subject matter, etc. The committee will discuss this topic further after the ARCA Training at the end of February.
- Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Ms. Rewerts shared that the CAC met on January 14th.
 - Mr. Bonnet talked about how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. opened the door for people to say that all people are created equal and should be treated so.
 - He gave an overview of the Governor's proposed budget for the next FY.
 - The group shared about their "Friends Helping Friends" visits.
 - Members gave updates from various meetings that they have attended.
 - The group discussed possible spotlights/presentations for upcoming CAC meetings.
- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
 - Mr. Ciampa shared that the PAC met on January 9th.
 - This meeting was held before the Governor's proposed budget was released.
 - Several stakeholder groups have met and they are very thankful for the rate increases; 80% of revenue goes to their staff. A few key services were not included in the 8.2% supplemental rate increases that went into effect on January 1st – Early Start Specialized Therapeutic Services, Independent Living Services (ILS) and Infant Development Programs. If approved, these services will receive a rate increase on January 1, 2021.
 - Service providers are focused on the budget season from now to June.

◆ *President's Report*

- Mr. Lake expressed appreciation for everyone's continued hard work.
- The Personnel Committee is drafting an "ACRC Executive Director Succession and Recruitment Policy". We are also working on the Executive Director's job description and annual evaluation.

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- ACRC's "Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending December 31, 2019" were distributed for review. The dashboard includes the Board's recent request for county by county statistics related to eligible diagnosis of the 25,912 clients that we serve.
- The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is holding their meetings across the street at the Hilton Hotel.
 - Nancy Bargmann, Director of DDS, just joined us – she expressed appreciation to the Board for their leadership, dedication and service.

Board members are welcome to attend the main Board meeting which begins at 8 a.m. tomorrow morning, January 24th. This is a tremendous opportunity to meet other representatives from all of the 21 regional centers across the state. ACRC staff will be giving a presentation about our Kala program, which is an innovative approach we are using to support clients who are affected by behavioral challenges as well as mental health needs.

- Earlier this month, Governor Newsom released his proposed budget for the 2020-21 FY. It includes more than \$1 billion in additional funding for our statewide service system.
- In December, Dr. Ghaly, the Secretary of the Health & Human Services Department, attended the initial meeting of the newly reconstituted Developmental Services (DS) Task Force. There are several workgroups within the task force who are working with DDS and others to help plot a course for the future of our service system. Initially, they are working on ways to best measure the value and effect of services for those who receive them.
- ACRC will be launching an updated website before summer, which will include a one page profile on our Board of Directors. Mr. Bonnet would like to get an updated photo today to include our newest Board members.
- We are happy to announce that ACRC's new Placerville office has now officially opened in the heart of downtown Placerville.

◆ *ARCA Report*

- Ms. Walker reminded Board members that if they'd like the information from the ARCA Board meetings, please let her know so

that she can share through email; if you'd like a hard copy, please let Ms. West know.

- Ms. Walker shared some information that ARCA has distributed:
 - "What Does a Service Coordinator Do? In Service to Make a Difference".
 - A copy of a letter that they sent to Governor Newsom in October 2019 requesting that he consider three areas when he was developing his proposed 2020-21 FY budget for DDS.
 - Early Intervention Access
 - Rate Study Implementation Follow-Up
 - Regional Center Operations Funding
 - "Better, Fairer Service Access – Why Service Coordinators Matter" – this document explains the concern of large caseloads and the effect that they have on the people that we serve.
 - The Lanterman Coalition's proposed multi-year strategic plan to restore health, safety, and opportunity for Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
 - As Mr. Bonnet mentioned, the next Board meeting is tomorrow, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Hilton hotel across the street. The March 20th Board meeting will be held here at ACRC's Sacramento office.
 - The ARCA Academy will be held on Saturday, February 22nd, at ACRC's Sacramento office.
 - Tuesday, April 21st, is ARCA's Grassroots Day. This is an opportunity for interested individuals to go to the State Capitol and talk to our local legislators about advocacy. Those that have attended in the past have learned a lot from the experience. ARCA will be hosting an orientation dinner the night before. More information will be forthcoming.
- ◆ *ARCA-CAC Report*
- Ms. Rewerts attended the last meeting which was held on January 10th in Sacramento.
 - Members gave reports of what is taking place at their regional centers.
 - The group discussed the ARCA-CAC's 2020 Priorities, which include:
 - Funding and Sustainability
 - Public relations Campaign
 - Inclusive Communities
 - Housing
 - Flexible and Sustainable Service Models
 - Person-Centered Thinking

- They did a mock hearing so members could learn how to communicate with their legislators.
 - The group reviewed some questions that have been gathered about the upcoming ARCA Grassroots Day.
 - They received information on a new bill that was passed on January 1st about apartment complexes having to accept Section 8 housing vouchers.
 - They reviewed how a bill is passed and what Service Coordinators (SCs) do (e.g., prepare Individual Program Plans [IPPs], assist clients with transportation, know about each person's disability and help with other health issues, etc.).
- The next teleconference is scheduled for March 6th. The next in-person meeting will be held on Friday, April 17th, in Sacramento.
5. **Closed Session** – At 5:39 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session in order to discuss legal issues.
6. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 5:58 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which legal issues were discussed.
7. **Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet