

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, May 26, 2022
Minutes

Present: Carmen Aguilar, Jackie Armstrong, Johnny Deng, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Kelly Pennington, Michelle Ramirez, Michelle Rewerts, Retha Seabron, Yang Sun, Rita Walker, Patty Wallace

Absent (* excused): Elaine Linn*, Anwar Safvi*

Staff: Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown, John Decker, Camelia Houston, Mechelle Johnson, Dan Kilmer, Johnny Xiong, Lisa West

Facilitators: Amy Fulk

Visitors: Steven Andrews, Jaclyn Balanay, Maureen Fitzgerald, Robert Kyhn, Peter Mendoza, Sarah Norberg

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** - The Board of Directors met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2022, by Webex/teleconference. Ms. Ramirez read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **Community Comments/Announcements**
 - ◆ Ms. Fitzgerald shared that at the Caseload Ratios Meeting earlier this month, she mentioned that ACRC ranks 19th out of the 21 regional centers in Operations (OPS) funding. She believes that the Board should advocate for more funding.
 - ◆ Ms. Fitzgerald will soon be commenting on the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) response regarding public comments at committee meetings.
3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) regular session Board meeting minutes of April 11, 2022 and March 24, 2022; and b) Board Development Committee, Client Advisory Committee (CAC), Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) minutes.**
4. **New Business**
 - ◆ Approve CAC Designated Representative to Board for 2022-23 FY

Discussion and Action: The CAC is recommending Patty Wallace to serve as their designated representative to the Board for the 2022-23 fiscal year (FY).

Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve Patty Wallace as the CAC’s Designated Representative to the Board for the 2022-23 FY.

- ◆ Approve Slate of Officers and ARCA Representatives

Discussion and Action: The following is the proposed Slate of Officers and Association of Regional Center (ARCA) Representatives for the 2022-23 FY:

Dan Lake – President

Anwar Safvi – Vice President

Michelle Rewerts – Secretary

Yang Sun – Treasurer

Dan Lake – ARCA Rep

Kelly Pennington – ARCA Rep (alternate)

Amy Lampe – ARCA-CAC Rep

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to approve the slate as presented.

- ◆ Approve 2022-23 FY Board Meeting Schedule

Discussion and Action: Ms. Walker noted that the 2022-23 FY meeting schedule follows the Board's tradition schedule.

Without objection, Michelle Rewerts made the motion to approve the 2022-23 FY Board Meeting Schedule as presented.

- ◆ Board member's Conflict of Interest (COI) Mitigation Plan

Discussion and Action: Ms. Armstrong has been fortunate to secure employment with one of our service providers, Progressive Employment Concepts. The law allows for the Board to submit a mitigation plan, so that she can continue to serve on the Board of Directors. Ms. Walker noted that the plan should be modified to reflect that the Board reviewed and approved this plan, not the Executive Committee.

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to approve Jackie Armstrong's mitigation plan as revised.

◆ *Finance Committee*

Issue 1: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: The Finance Committee is recommending acceptance of the March 31, 2022 financial report.

Mr. Ahmad noted that the committee reviewed the financial position of ACRC's OPS and Purchase of Services (POS) budgets. The group also discussed the impact of implementing the rate study and what DDS has determined as benchmark rates over all service categories. It was noted that rate increases will be implemented over the next few years. The goal is to bring parity to each provider within the same service category. ACRC has completed the first round of rate increases.

In regards to ACRC's hiring plan, the agency has hired 160 individuals within the last 12 months; the annual average pre-pandemic was approximately 60.

The state's budget for the near-term future is robust, understanding that things can change with the impending recession.

ACRC received the C-3, the third amendment to the current FY's budget, and the A-9 amendment for the 2019-20 FY. Mr. Ahmad explained that typically the later amendments are specific to late billings, while this amendment was designated for COVID-19 contractor payments.

Without objection, Michelle Rewerts made the motion to accept the monthly finance report as submitted.

Issue 2: Contracts of \$250,000 and above – Cornerstone Village Multi-Family Housing Development in Elk Grove

Discussion and Action: Ms. Banales noted that ACRC recently received notification from DDS on our approved Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) projects and several contracts will need Board approval prior to the end of the FY.

Mr. Decker shared that ACRC has been granted approval for a second multi-family housing project. AbleLight Cornerstone Village is an 84-unit complex, located off of Bruceville and Laguna, that will have 21 units set aside for individuals with developmental disabilities. Rent and utilities will be set at 1/3 of the renter's wages.

This \$2.1 million CRDP start-up contract will allow ACRC to work with AbleLight, Inc. and The John Stewart Company (developers). Mr. Decker

clarified that a portion of the Light of the Valley Lutheran Church's property will be used for this affordable housing project.

Without objection, Kelly Pennington made the motion to approve the AbleLight, Inc./The John Stewart Company contract as presented.

◆ *Committee Updates*

- CAC
 - Ms. Wallace shared that the CAC met on May 10th.
 - The committee approved a letter requesting reform of the Core Staffing Formula (CSF).
 - They talked about working with Ms. Banales in drafting "Client Corner" articles for ACRC's quarterly newsletters.
 - Members will be working with ACRC staff to create a video showcasing the different living options that are available to clients as part of the agency's Strategic Plan.
 - They nominated the CAC Chair, Amy Lampe, and the designated representative to the Board, Patty Wallace, for the 2022-23 fiscal year (FY).
 - Members provided updates from the various advocacy meetings that they attend.
- PAC
 - Ms. Ramirez shared that the PAC met on May 12th and April 14th.
 - Eric Ciampa, the PAC Chair, is stepping down and Lindsey Dyba has been elected as the PAC Chair for the next FY.
 - Ms. Ramirez and Mr. Ciampa are part of ACRC's workgroup that is working on a collaborative hiring project with Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC).
 - The California Community Living Network (CCLN) is currently working on an assistive technology project.
 - The PAC's Vendor Relations Committee has been working with ACRC's Community Services Department.

◆ *President's Report*

- No report was shared.

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- Kelsey Reyne, ACRC's Community Services Specialist, shared a presentation "Accessing Dental Care for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities" with those present.
 - On April 22nd, she partnered with the California Dental Association on the Legislative \$50 million Budget Ask. This

one-time allocation to build and expand existing special needs dental clinics and outpatient surgery centers would assist with:

- Increasing access to dental care for clients with intellectual/developmental disabilities
 - Shortening the line for hospital dentistry
 - Developing settings that are appropriate for the individual's level of need
 - Allowing individuals to access services in their own communities
 - Creating opportunities for partnerships
 - Reducing utilization of emergency services for dental needs
- ACRC and the Health and Life Organization (HALO) Dental Clinic, located on El Camino Avenue, are in the process of developing ongoing specialized services for ACRC clients.
- In addition to the multi-family housing project that the Board approved earlier, DDS has approved ACRC's development of a Community Crisis Home and a Group Home for Children with Special Health Needs. ACRC's Community Services Department has released Request for Proposals (RFPs) in order to select service providers to develop these projects. Once they have been selected, Ms. Banales will seek the Board's approval of these two additional CRDP contracts prior to the end of the FY.
 - Additional projects, which do not need Board approval, are:
 - A Mobile Crisis Service to assist in stabilizing clients with acute episodes through short-term intervention.
 - An Assistive Technology demonstration unit at Mirasol Village.
 - This funding is for developers to purchase the initial equipment, as identified, and purchase the subscription costs.
 - ACRC made a commitment to work with DDS if they chose to make this a vendored service for the State of California.
- The May Revise promotes avenues to support the direct support professionals (DSPs) shortage with a multi-prong strategy, which includes internships. Regional center employees will also have an option for scholarships for advanced healthcare schooling. For Early Start, DDS is looking for ways to create more eligibility opportunities for children (e.g., separating expressive/receptive language, lowering the percentage deficit from 33 to 25%, including Fetal Alcohol Syndrome as a risk factor, etc.). The department believes this action will bring in approximately 4,000 more children to our

statewide service system. Regional centers remain concerned about staffing issues. The tailored day service option will be ending on December 31st. These are all things that people have been anticipating and now we have a date.

- ACRC is working on a collaborative project with Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) to promote our service system as a whole. The group is working with service providers to develop a media campaign and hashtag that will land on a website.
 - An in-person meeting is scheduled for June 23rd.
- ACRC's Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending March 31, 2022 are included in the Board packet.
 - Our client population continues to grow (6.5% increase).
 - We are starting to see a back-up when determining eligibility under the Lanterman Act. ACRC currently has three psychologist positions open. These numbers will continue to be affected as we work to figure out other opportunities to complete assessments.
 - Our agency has hired 152 new employees within the last 12 months. Our attrition has been significant, as well. We have 14 new hires slated to start on June 1st, with approximately six more on June 16th.
 - For Special Incident Reporting (SIR), the standard is 90%. Last quarter, we were at 87.7%, and that percentage has dropped to 81.7%. ACRC received double the number of SIRs with the Omicron surge that took place during the first quarter of this calendar year.
 - Status U clients are those individuals that have been determined "provisionally" eligible. For these cases, regional centers must complete a comprehensive assessment to determine if the child is eligible under the Lanterman Act by age five.
- The required National Core Indicators (NCI) stakeholder meeting will be held in August.
- Ms. Banales shared that ACRC has decided to join the Lanterman Housing Alliance, knowing that housing is one of the focus areas of our Strategic Plan.
- The Board has requested updates on open and closed programs since the last Board meeting. The following are newly vended services:
 - Lincoln Training Center
 - Dr. J and Associates Psychological Services
 - Tahoe Ability Program
 - Goldenlife Inc.
 - Love and Serenity of Elk Grove

Closed vendors:

- Training Toward Self-Reliance (TTSR)
 - ACRC received a five-day notice – 100+ clients affected.
 - Decisions have been made for 51 of 72 client utilizing Independent Living Services (ILS).
 - All six clients in parenting classes have connected with other services.
 - 39 out of 58 clients have been able to find another day program
 - ACRC held two public meetings for clients and families affected by this providers closure.
- Susan Trunnell MFCC
- Homecare Services
- H Patterson Family Care Home
- Dalton Von Striver Care Home

◆ *ARCA Delegate Report*

- Understanding that we are currently in the midst of budget season, under Tab 16 of the Board packet, please find ARCA's letter regarding their position on the May Revise.
 - It's important to note the shared concerns about Financial Management Services (FMS) and their request for an additional investment to strengthen the FMS options for transition services.
- The Senate Concurrent Resolution 91 is under Tab 15, declaring May 2022 "Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Inclusion Month."

◆ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*

- Ms. Rewerts shared that the group met yesterday:
 - Members gave reports on their regional centers.
 - They continued discussing the Affordable Housing Advocacy Project and possibly teaming up with the Lanterman Housing Alliance.
 - The group will be voting on their new Chair at the June meeting.

5. **Closed Session** – At 4:24 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss personnel issues.

6. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 4:49 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which personnel issues were discussed.

7. ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales