

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, March 24, 2022
Minutes

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

Staff: Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown, John Decker, Camelia Houston, Mechelle Johnson, David Lopez, Jacob Miller, Johnny Xiong, Lisa West (& attached listing)

Facilitators: Amy Fulk

Visitors: Breeanne Burris, Maureen Fitzgerald, Paul Hughes, Peter Mendoza, Maxine Milam, Karen Mulvany

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** - The Board of Directors met at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, 2022, by Webex/teleconference. Ms. Armstrong read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **Training – “Caregiver Succession Planning”**
 - ACRC continues to move forward on the Coordinated Future Planning (CFP) initiative.
 - Mr. Decker and Ms. Johnson gave an update on this initiative.
 - Conversations are happening with older caregivers to develop a plan regarding who will be the next caregiver, etc. These conversations will eventually be rolled out to every client/family.
 - Staff have developed eight different one-page flyers to provide information about various living options.
 - We are focused on making sure staff use plain language and information is translated.
 - ACRC is working together with the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California (CCCC) Initiative.
 - SCs are asking clients/families what they wish to have documented in case they are not able to speak on their own behalf. ACRC’s Individual Program Plan (IPP) Training and IPP templates were combined to include the information from both the Advanced Care Planning and Coordinated Future Planning.
 - ACRC will be holding two staff trainings – the first will include Managers and Clinical Staff, and the second training will be for SCs.
3. **Community Comments/Announcements**
 - ◆ Elizabeth Garden, ACRC staff, stated that she is speaking on behalf of over 400 employees. Morale is low.

- ◆ Angela Roberts, ACRC staff, spoke on behalf of another employee who fears retaliation. The individual believes that staff should be able to continue to work remotely.
- ◆ Paul Hughes mentioned that ACRC's website does not have any information about Board members. He suggested that the Board consider adding more.
- ◆ Erin Sterling, ACRC staff, would like ACRC staff to have access to the Board. It would be helpful to be able to contact Board members directly.

4. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) regular session Board meeting minutes of January 27, 2022; and b) Board Development Committee, Client Advisory Committee (CAC), Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) and Strategic Planning Committee minutes.**

5. **New Business**

- ◆ Approve Service Access & Equity Policy

Discussion and Action: Ms. Walker advised that this policy was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting this month and they are recommending Board approval.

Ms. Banales shared that ACRC has taken a proactive approach to service access and equity. Staff crafted a Board policy that reflects the core values of our organization. This policy will be the foundation that we use to determine how to move forward, through resource development, training and supporting our staff, and hiring staff that speak the languages of our community.

As we move forward with our quarterly newsletter, we want to increase the languages that we have it printed in. By the end of the year, we hope to have 12 languages in total.

Without objection, Dan Lake made the motion to approve the Service Access & Equity Policy as presented.

- ◆ Approve Board Member Term of Office

Discussion and Action: Mr. Safvi shared that Dr. Sun's term ends in May of this year. The BDC is recommending the approval of his next three-year term.

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to approve the next three-year term for Yang Sun.

- ◆ Approve Slate of Officers and ARCA Representatives

Discussion and Action: On March 14th, the BDC approved the slate as noted under Tab 9 of the Board packet. Ms. Armstrong is not able to fill the ARCA-CAC position; Amy Lampe will be nominated for this seat.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the slate as modified.

- ◆ Approve Draft Metrics for Strategic Plan

Discussion and Action: Under Tab 10, please find the draft metrics for the Strategic Plan, which continue to be revised. Mr. Lake clarified that outcomes will be defined at a later time; this is a work in progress.

The April 9th meeting is a workgroup meeting to discuss the design of the Strategic Plan; this is not a committee meeting.

Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the draft metrics for the Strategic Plan as presented.

- ◆ Approve May Board Meeting Time Change

Discussion and Action: The proposal is to move the May 26th Board meeting start time to 3 p.m., due to a Board Training earlier that day.

Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the time change for the May 26th Board meeting.

- ◆ *Finance Committee*

Issue 1: Monthly Financial Report

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

Mr. Ahmad highlighted that ACRC has a sufficient amount of funding. Burns & Associated released the third batch of rate increases last night. The projections should be more accurate moving forward.

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

Issue 2: OPS Contract over \$100,000

Discussion and Action: Mr. Decker shared that this contract is with Columbus to implement a statewide staffing pool. Tri-Counties Regional Center (TCRC) is holding the contract for Southern California regional centers and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has requested that ACRC hold the one-year pilot contract for Northern California regional centers.

Columbus plans on holding public meetings to help service providers understand how this staffing pool will be used.

DDS and regional centers are interested in seeing how this project may assist clients, families and direct support professionals (DSPs) that may be affected by other natural disasters as our state moves into the fire season.

Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the OPS contract as presented.

◆ *Committee Updates*

• CAC

- Ms. Wallace shared that the CAC met on March 8th and February 8th.
 - At the March meeting:
 - Ms. Banales shared that CAC members will have the option of meeting in-person at the May committee meeting.
 - The group discussed the Board's work on the Strategic Plan and Ms. Banales gathered volunteers to join the Housing Focus Group.
 - Jacob Miller, ACRC's new Client Advocate, introduced himself to members. He will be working closely with David Lopez to assist clients and families.
 - At the February meeting:
 - Hewitt Matanari, ACRC's Emergency Response Coordinator, gave a brief overview of his background and his role at the regional center. He also talked about the importance of "Go" kits, since disasters are happening more frequently.

• PAC

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the PAC met on March 10th and February 10th.

- COVID-19 has been less of our conversation. We have seen less exposures and positive cases, but the staffing crisis remains an issue.
- The PAC is interested in working collaboratively with the Board on other issues as they present.
 - PAC Workforce Letter
 - Under Tab 13 of the Board packet, please see a letter to support the acceleration of the rate study.
 - PAC Matrix
 - The updated PAC matrix is under Tab 14.
 - The committee will be focusing recruitment on specific areas.
- Members are drafting a meeting list to show the PAC's representation across statewide groups.

◆ *President's Report*

- Ms. Walker read aloud the following statement:

“The Alta California Regional Center Board of Directors wants to take this opportunity to thank the Alta staff for their service over these past two years in the pandemic. These were difficult times for all, full of many personal challenges, service delivery challenges, safety and health concerns, and twists and turns. We thank you for your dedication to the individuals and families served by Alta and your flexibility, adaptability and perseverance these past two years.

As we all emerge from this pandemic and move out into the new normal, having staff returning to the office to be physically present for clients and families, community partners, and one another, is of great value.

So, thank you Alta staff for all your work and your commitment to Alta's mission.”

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- As mentioned in Ms. Wallace's CAC report, ACRC has hired another Client Advocate, Jacob Miller. Ms. Banales shared that we, as an agency, promote employment for the clients that we serve.

- Ms. Bloom introduced Mr. Miller, who has already started attending meetings with clients/families. He gave a brief introduction of himself.
- Sonya Bingaman, with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) has been a valuable partner over the years. She is retiring on Friday, April 1st. Her work has been meaningful and she has changed the lives of many. ACRC values our collaborative partnership with SCDD.
- The Halo Dental Clinic has passed the Fire Marshall clearance and will have a soft-opening soon. This clinic will utilize specialized equipment to safely serving our clients. Ms. Banales believes the outcomes will be great. Clients, not only in our region, are interested in these services.
 - Mr. Decker noted that ACRC has a contract with the clinic – they will provide services to clients for ten years from the date of opening.
 - This is a federally qualified health center – they will receive reimbursement at a higher rate than Denti-Cal.
 - ACRC staff will be working with Halo’s dental coordinator.
- This past Monday, we welcomed staff back into the office two-days per week. Ms. Banales is committed to working with staff and stressed that the clients and families served are of the utmost importance. ACRC is a public-facing organization, which means that when individuals come into our offices, we need to have staff to meet with them. She feels strongly about bringing staff back into the office for 40% of their work week.
- The first Friday in March is National Employee Appreciation Day. ACRC is highlighting staff throughout the month.
- Over the first quarter of this calendar year, ACRC has seen a net gain of 39 employees; as of April 1st, we will have 570 staff. Ms. Banales noted that we have incorporated some different ways of recruiting and have seen good results; utilized some ideas from our recruitment/retention workgroup.
- Ms. Johnson shared that ACRC currently has 79 clients in the Self-Determination Program (SDP); 29 new clients since the last Board meeting. We contribute the growth to our outreach efforts, education and awareness.
 - Financial Management Services (FMS) are difficult to secure because of the shortage of FMS agencies to meet SDP participant needs.
 - ACRC has reached out to three potential providers; one of them has made a commitment (courtesy vrending them).

- We have onboarded two of the three Participant Directed Specialists; the third is slated to start on April 1st.
 - These individuals will assist clients/families, as well as service providers.
 - They will be helping our Accounting Staff with the SDP budgets.
- We hold weekly staffings/discussions for staff to learn more about this program. We also will be scheduling additional community trainings in multiple languages.
- Upcoming meetings:
 - The mandated Purchase of Services (POS) Expenditure Meetings are scheduled for:
 - Monday, March 28th, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday, March 30th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon
 - The newly approved Service Access & Equity Policy will be promoted at these meetings.
 - Helen Neri, ACRC's Cultural Diversity Specialist, Herman Kothe, ACRC's Training Manager and Ms. Johnson will participate in these meetings.
 - The public meeting for the National Core Indicators (NCI) will be scheduled in May, with public notice given in April.
 - DDS has interactive NCI indicators for all 21 centers posted on their website.
 - ACRC is required to hold a public meeting regarding our agency's caseload ratios. Normally, when we do not meet a particular ratio, we have reached out to community partners for their input. Due to the \$84 million that has been infused into the state's budget for staffing, DDS now requires regional centers to hold public meetings prior to the new fiscal year (FY).
- ARCA Grassroots Day is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5th. This day provides opportunities to speak with legislators and share information about the regional center system and talk about the initiatives. The five key advocacy points are:
 - Modernizing Core Staffing Formula
 - Repeal of fees on families
 - SB 883 (Eggman) & AB 2378 (Irwin) – ARCA is co-sponsoring both of these bills
 - Provider rate reform acceleration
- The Board has requested updates on open and closed programs since the last Board meeting. The following are newly vendored services:
 - Ridgeline Pediatric Olivehurst
 - Merakey Competency Restoration Program

- Prime Adult Development, Inc.
- Therapeutic Riding and Off-Track Rehabilitation
- Mindset Wellness
- Access Medical Care, Inc.
- Grimes Heating and Air Inc.
- Love and Serenity of Elk Grove II
- Edenic Have #3
- Ofodire Care Home II
- Pond Brook Home, Inc.

Closed vendors:

- Strategies for Change (change in ownership; looking to vendor)
- Hardesty Small Family Care Home (has not served clients in the last four years)

◆ *ARCA Delegate Report*

- ARCA's written comments on the Governor's 2022-23 FY proposed budget is under Tab 15 of the Board packet.
- Under Tab 16, please find a copy of the Lanterman Coalition's budget priorities letter, which include the acceleration of the rate study and revision to the core staffing formula.
- Recent ARCA Board of Directors discussions and presentations from DDS have covered:
 - SDP – this program now has 1,242 participants, with an increase of 569 clients since July.
 - FMS – the group spoke about some of the barriers that people are facing and the need to have enough capacity, statewide.
 - The restoration of social recreation services – this is not the social recreation of 2009; these services now center around the importance of community inclusion.
 - The importance of ARCA's Annual Grassroots Day – if you have any questions, please contact Ms. West.

◆ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*

- Ms. Rewerts shared that at the last meeting Amy Westling talked about performance incentives for regional centers. Members also provided reports on their regional centers.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 15th.

6. **Closed Session** – At 5:57 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss personnel issues.

7. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 6:55 p.m. the Board

reconvened in open session following a closed session in which personnel issues were discussed.

8. ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales

ADDITIONAL ACRC STAFF

Alejandra Rendon	Jenifer Riley	Samantha Morgan
Alex Casado	Jeremy Hemmer	Sarah Gray
Allana Burton	Jessica Garcia Soto	Sasha Gomez-Bautista
Angela Roberts	Jolanna Araujo	Shawna Holmstrom
Anna Armbruster	Judy Licciardello	Shelli Spandow
Ashley Lambert	Karina Leon	Sophia Salgado
Barbara Friedman	Kathleen Haught	Stacy Blaine
Barbara van Ingen	Kathy Pelletier	Susan Guzman
Bethaney Temby	Katie Robert	Tarra La Valley
Betsy Moore	Kay Johnson	Tash Villa
BJ Thompson	Kristen Sorabji	Teresa Lopez
Bobby Powell III	Lauren Rasmussen	Teri Doyle
Brandy Stewart	Linda Savage-Mitchell	Tessa Elwell
Brennen Boyle	Lindsay Mitsuhashi	Traci Steinmetz
Caitlin McClelland	Lisa McClelland	Vanessa Lull
Camille Fiori	Lisa Stewart	Vanessa Moreno
Candice Calero	Lisa Wilson	Vanessa Orr
Claudia Smith	Lucee Phan	Wendy Ward
Cynthia Root	Luis Cruz	
Dan Kilmer	Lupita Gomez	
Deborah Hayes	Mai Gee Her	w/Del Mallory (SEIU)
DeLayna Eskridge-Brown	Mal Zaglewska	
Denise Salinas	Margarita Ramirez	
Denise St. Clair	Maria Beatriz Gonzalez	
Destinie Vang	Maribeth Dabuit	
Elizabeht Garden	Marijn Peeters	
Ellie Robertson	Markley Brown	
Erica Contreras	Maria Reynoso	
Erin Sterling	Marjolyn Deurloo	
Gaby Garcia	Marsha Smith	
Hannah Dunham	Mary Jane Fabro	
Heather Coleman	Maryam Saad	
Heather Hollingworth	Mattie Parfitt	
Heather Rykert	Megan Leach	
Heidi Young	Michelle Hannan	
Hillary Santiago	Morgan Enright	
Holly Stiles	Nancy Iseri	
Isabella Vega	Nancy Thao	
Janet Miranda	Ninci Lopez	
Janett Bassett	Rachael Elam	
Janice Eastburn	Rebecca Gilliam	
Javier Barajas	Rhonda Davenport	
Jazmin Kung-Gunion	Robin Rager	
Jennifer Amaro	Ronica Morris	