

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, March 23, 2023
Minutes

Present: Jackie Armstrong, Johnny Deng, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Kelly Pennington, Michelle Ramirez, Anwar Safvi, Steven Sanchez, Retha Seabron, Patty Wallace

Absent (* excused): Carmen Aguilar*, Michelle Rewerts*, Yang Sun*

Staff: Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown, John Decker, Camelia Houston, Kenisha Hurd, Mechelle Johnson, Faye Tait, Johnny Xiong, Lisa West

Facilitators: Amy Fulk

Visitors: Steven Andrews, Jaclyn Balanay, Garrett Broadbent, Maureen Fitzgerald, Breeanne Kolster, Dianne Rose, Kristen Rose

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** – The Board of Directors met at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 23, 2023. Mr. Sanchez read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **Community Comments/Announcements**
 - ◆ Kristen Rose, a mother of a client, shared that her son had an allergic reaction a few years ago and she discovered that respite workers are not allowed to administer an EpiPen. She is attending today’s Board meeting to advocate for ACRC to allow this; requesting an exception to Title 17. Healthy and productive lives should include respite workers providing life-saving measures, when necessary.
 - ◆ Dianne Rose, Kristen’s mother, ran Tri-County Respite Care Services for 16 years. She is requesting that ACRC consider ways to allow for life saving measures so that clients/families can get the true benefits from respite.
 - ◆ Ms. Fitzgerald spent the day monitoring the Senate Subcommittee #3 Hearing on Health and Human Services. Mr. Decker and Jacquie Foss, with Strategies to Empower People (STEP), testified and did an excellent job advocating for Supported Living Services (SLS) to be included in the Department of Developmental Services’ (DDS’) Safety Net.
3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) regular session Board meeting minutes of January 26, 2023; and b) Board Development Committee (BDC), Client Advisory Committee (CAC), Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) minutes.**

4. ***New Business***

- ◆ *Approve Slate of Officers for 2023-24 FY*
 - Mr. Lake shared that the Slate of Officers for the 2023-24 fiscal year (FY) is as follows:
 - President – Dan Lake
 - Vice President – Kelly Pennington
 - Secretary – Michelle Rewerts
 - Treasurer – Anwar Safvi
 - ARCA Delegate – Kelly Pennington
 - Alternate ARCA Delegate – Dan Lake
 - ARCA-CAC Delegate – Amy Lampe
 - Alternate ARCA-CAC Delegate – Steven Sanchez

Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the Slate of Officers for the 2023-24 FY as presented.

- ◆ *Approve CAC Chair and Designated Rep to Board for 2023-24 FY*
 - The CAC has nominated Amy Lampe to serve as their Chair and Tom Hopkins to serve as their designated representative to the Board for the 2023-24 fiscal year (FY).

Without objection, Anwar Safvi made the motion to approve Amy Lampe as the CAC Chair and Tom Hopkins as the CAC Designated Rep to Board for the 2023-24 FY.

- ◆ *Approve ARCA Letter to Assemblymember Wilson*
 - Mr. Lake noted that Ms. Banales spoke about this letter at the Executive Committee meeting earlier this month.
 - Ms. Banales shared that this letter regarding AB 649 expresses appreciation to Assemblymember Wilson for authoring and sponsoring this bill. Regional centers, by law, are the “payer of last resort”. In 2009, ABX4-9 was passed and requires clients/families to appeal denials from other agencies before they can access regional center services. AB 649 would remove this barrier; she is seeking Board approval of this letter.

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the letter to Assemblymember Wilson as presented.

- ◆ *Finance Committee*
Issue: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: The Finance Committee met on March 13th and reviewed the January 31, 2023 financial report.

Without objection, Kelly Pennington made the motion to accept the monthly financial report as submitted.

◆ *Committee Updates*

• CAC

- Ms. Wallace shared that the CAC met on February 14th and March 14th.
 - At the February meeting:
 - Ms. Banales shared that the State of Emergency expired at the end of February.
 - She continued to ask for volunteers to help support ACRC staff in developing ongoing trainings regarding Supported Decision-Making (SDM).
 - Ms. Banales shared information about the upcoming Annual POS Data Meetings that are being held this month.
 - She asked for volunteers to participate in the Association of Regional Centers (ARCA's) Grassroots Day on March 29th.
 - Jennifer Bloom and Mechelle Johnson gave a presentation about the restoration of social recreational services.
 - At the March meeting:
 - Ms. Banales shared that ARCA is hosting a Self-Determination Program (SDP) Webinar on March 30th.
 - She provided more information about ARCA's Grassroots Day and stressed how important it is to share personal stories about how the regional center supports clients/families.
 - The group talked about possibly holding a "Meet & Greet" twice a year to increase participation in this committee.
 - The CAC voted for the Chair and Designated Rep to the Board for the next FY.
 - At both meetings, CAC members shared updates from various advocacy meetings that they attend.

• PAC

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the PAC met on March 9th.
 - Garrett Broadbent has been elected PAC Co-Chair and Designated Rep to the Board for the 2023-24 FY.

◆ *President's Report*

- Mr. Lake shared that Elaine Linn has resigned from the Board for personal reasons.
- Beginning April 1st, the Board will begin Ms. Banales' annual evaluation. Please look for an email from BoardSource and contact Ms. West with any questions.
- Several Board members attended a tour of Mirasol Village and the HALO Clinic on February 14th.

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- Ms. Banales was happy that Board members were able to tour those two community resources on Valentine's Day. She is pleased that Mirasol Village has a community garden to enjoy. Photos from the tour will be included in the agency's April newsletter – *Alta Connections*.
- The ACRC/VMRC Collaborative video was shown. Ms. Banales has been talking about this project for almost a year now and it represents a huge investment in our workforce. Yesterday, ACRC invited our service providers to a meeting to promote this project. Tomorrow, another one will be held in the VMRC catchment area for their provider community.
 - Ms. Banales expressed appreciation to DDS who assisted with funding this project.
 - The Collaborative hired a Public Relations Firm. Inclusion Films is contracted to provide video and digital production.
 - Disability Expo Fairs are scheduled for May 3rd (ACRC) and June 15th (VMRC).
- ACRC has hired 50 new employees since January 1st; 23 employees have left since then – this gives us a net gain of 27 staff. We have an uptick in applications, with 19 new hires slated to start in April.
- On Tuesday, ACRC hosted the first of two Purchase of Services (POS) Data Meetings virtually via Zoom. Ms. Banales shared that our agency has the good fortune of having Elijah Jenkins, ACRC's Data Scientist, on staff. The second meeting will be held next Monday afternoon, to expand on the information and gather ideas from our community. ACRC will then draft a letter to inform the department of planned activities moving forward. This is our tenth year of holding POS Data Meetings; Mr. Jenkins is critical to helping us understand trends in the data.
- Ms. Houston shared that ACRC and DDS participates in the California Autism Professional Training and Information Network (CAPTAIN), a multi-agency collaboration which focuses on decreasing behaviors and increasing quality of life. Mary Rettinhouse, ACRC's ASD Clinical

Specialist, spearheaded a training for three residential service providers. After this training, 92% of the goals were met for the clients they serve. The department wants to upscale this training to regional centers across the state.

- Ms. Rettinhouse will present the training outcomes at an upcoming "Coffee with Community Services" to promote this opportunity to our service providers.
- Nancy Bargmann, Director of DDS, noted at the Senate Subcommittee #3 Hearing today that 160,000 clients of the 400,000 individuals served by regional centers across the state are on the autism spectrum; 120,000 of those are under the age of 22.
- The Board has requested updates on open and closed programs since the last Board meeting. The following are newly vendored services:
 - Psychological Services (2)
 - Clinical Psychologists (2)
 - Forensic Psychologist (1)
 - Personal Assistant (1)
 - Independent Living Services (1)
 - Supported Living Services (1)
 - Adult Residential Facilities (2)
- Closed vendors:
 - Money Management (1)
 - ILS (1)
 - Speech Pathologists (2 – one retired and the other moved out-of-state)
- Ms. Banales shared that the Strategic Plan 2022 End of Year report reflects six months of progress; some goals have been met, while others have not yet since the goals were written for a year. Ms. Johnson, Ms. Bloom and Mr. Decker gave an overview of the four Strategic Focus Areas. It's important to note:
 - Client and Family Support – ACRC conducted 36 outreach presentations in 2022.
 - Employment – ACRC has not yet met the "Number of Participants in Paid Internship Program".
 - Some barriers to this metric are: The State of Emergency and COVID restrictions (which have now been lifted), transportation, and Financial Management Service (FMS) providers not willing to provide wage pass through.
 - Housing – ACRC is striving to ensure that we have Caregiver Succession Plans for those clients who live in their family home. A new housing project in Woodland was recently approved, so we will have more set-asides for our clients.

ACRC will also be hiring a Housing Navigator, which will assist with this Focus Area.

- Community Inclusion and Engagement – ACRC’s Diversity Outreach Workgroup (DOW) has 24 members. This group meets monthly and identifies upcoming holidays, celebrations or significant events for diverse communities and plans campaigns to honor them.

Ms. Banales will plan to report yearly on ACRC’s progress.

◆ *ARCA Delegate Report*

- Ms. Pennington noted that the ARCA Board met on March 17th.
 - It was announced that ACRC will be hosting the next ARCA Academy for Board members across the state on Saturday, April 29th. She encourages Board members attendance.
 - She encouraged Board members to contact their local legislators to request support for Assemblymember Arambula’s Budget request (stabilizing regional center service coordination).
 - Board members can use the “2023 Legislative Packet” that was provided to them earlier this month.
 - If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Ms. Pennington, Ms. Banales or Ms. West.

5. ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales