

Alta California Regional Center
Finance Committee Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2020
Minutes

Present:

Yang Sun, Chair
Johnny Deng
Ron Mainini
Michelle Rewerts
Steven Sanchez
Retha Seabron
Rita Walker

Board Members:

Carmen Aguilar
Michelle Ramirez

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk

Visitors:

Maureen Fitzgerald

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Financial Officer
Lori Banales, Deputy Executive
Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Finance Committee met at 4:33 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2020, by Webex/ teleconference to discuss: 1) Monthly Financial Report; 2) POS Contracts over \$250,000; and 3) State Budget Update. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Michelle Rewerts made the motion to adopt the Finance Committee meeting minutes of October 19, 2020 as submitted.

1. ***Monthly Financial Report***

Issue: The monthly financial report is reviewed by the Finance Committee prior to presentation to the Board.

Discussion and Action: The September 30, 2020 financial report indicates that ACRC has expended 31% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 25% of Operations (OPS) for the current fiscal year (FY).

Mr. Ahmad expected that ACRC would have received the second amendment (B-2) from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) by now, but the department now expects to release it by the end of the month or early December. He believes that the projected deficit will largely decrease once the B-2 amendment is received.

Mr. Ahmad wanted to provide updated statistics on our client growth since the beginning of the State of Emergency, which was declared in March of this year. Although the number of individuals seeking eligibility (whether it be Early Start or under the Lanterman Act) has somewhat declined over the last six months, ACRC is averaging 44 new clients per month. He noted that some regional centers have reported a decrease in total caseload during the current pandemic.

Mr. Bonnet noted that staff will continue to serve our agency's mission. While the numbers are not as big as they once were, we still are reaching out to let our community know that we are here to assist whenever needed.

Alternative services are still in place for our non-residential service providers. On December 1st, DDS should release the new rate model which will switch service providers from hourly rates to their own uniform monthly rate for clients served under each vendorization.

Without objection, Retha Seabron made the motion to accept the monthly financial statement as submitted.

2. ***POS Contracts over \$250,000***

- There are no contracts to approve at this time.

3. ***State Budget Update***

Issue: The committee needs to review the Governor's State Budget.

Discussion and Action: Governor Newsom will release his proposed budget for the 2021-22 FY by January 10, 2021. During the current pandemic, the State of California has sustained serious damage to our state's economy. The income stream from taxes has decreased sharply due to unemployment.

We, as a service system, were spared cuts in this current FY. The Governor tried to keep our system afloat. Mr. Bonnet noted that service providers are working on developing alternative services and there is discussion across the state on the value of these and how they are helping our clients.

Mr. Bonnet clarified that the 8.2% rate increase which most service providers received in July 2019 does not expire until December 31, 2021. While it's something to think about, this isn't coming in the near future. We need to do everything we can to support our service providers during these difficult times.

Everybody is hoping that a vaccine will be developed that is effective against COVID-19 and be released soon. Our developmental services community should be given some sort of priority when it comes to the availability of the vaccine.

Mr. Bonnet believes that the impact of the recent election may have some effect on federal support for our state, if and when the transition occurs.

- **Information only.**

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 11, 2021**, at 5 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet