

Alta California Regional Center
Finance Committee Meeting
Monday, March 8, 2021
Minutes

Present:

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

Board Members:

Carmen Aguilar
Jackie Armstrong
Michelle Ramirez
Anwar Safvi
Jennifer Stratton

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk

Visitors:

DeLayna Eskridge-Brown
Maureen Fitzgerald
Dan Kilmer

Staff:

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

The Finance Committee met on Monday, March 8, 2021, at 4:20 p.m. by Webex/ teleconference to discuss: 1) Monthly Financial Report; 2) Contracts over \$250,000; 3) Review Annual Client-to-Service Coordinator Ratio Report; and 4) State Budget Update. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Michelle Rewerts made the motion to adopt the Finance Committee meeting minutes of February 8, 2021 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 January 31, 2021 financial report indicates that ACRC has expended 54.7% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 54.5% of Operations (OPS) for the current fiscal year (FY).

This past month, ACRC received the second contract amendment from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), which provided approximately \$2.9 million in additional funding; the majority of it designated to POS. Mr. Ahmad is projecting a slight shortfall of approximately \$4.4 million in POS funding for the current FY. He remains in contact with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and believes that the department will make us whole.

The second amendment also included funding for the Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) and Specialized Home Monitoring that is specific to certain projects and positions (i.e., nurses to oversee specialized homes).

Whatever CRDP funding is not utilized must be returned to DDS at the end of the FY.

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

- California's Immediate Action Plan, which was passed last week, offers \$9.6 billion in immediate relief and stimulus for families and businesses hit hardest by COVID-19 in California. Another \$1.9 trillion package will likely be passed by the federal government by the end of this week; how much California will receive from this package is unknown at this point.
- Earlier this week, there was a Microsoft Exchange overseas hack, which affected one regional center in our state. Our Information Technology (IT) staff applied the necessary patches and ACRC is properly protected.

2. Contracts over \$250,000

- There is one contract for the development of a Community Crisis Home (CCH) that ACRC is seeking Board approval on. This home has been identified and pre-approved by DDS to be used for transitioning clients as a step-down facility for individuals moving from the Institute of Mental Diseases (IMD), in order to reintegrate them back into their own community. The contract includes \$299,638 for acquisition of the home, and \$650,623 for funding the home's renovation.
- Prior to this meeting, Ms. Walker requested clarification on ACRC's history of working with Brilliant Corners, and other housing developers, over the years.
 - Ms. Banales shared that back in May 2015, when Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) announced their closure, ACRC began working with Housing Development Organizations (HDOs) to develop specialized homes in the community for all residents.
 - Since 2015, ACRC has awarded California Housing Foundation four projects. It's important to note that this agency will only develop medical model homes, and they use Triple Net Leases.
 - Since 2015, ACRC has awarded Brilliant Corners 14 projects; they do not use Triple Net Leases. They have proven to be successful with every project that they have been awarded, with no major delays related to them as the housing developer. Because of Brilliant Corners team's ability to find properties and manage renovations successfully in our area, DDS has reach out to ACRC to develop specific projects; one specific project is re-purposing one of North Bay Regional Center's (NBRC's) homes.
 - In the 2018-19 FY, ACRC chose not to utilize Brilliant Corners for the first multi-family housing project due to their lack of experience. We developed this project with the Sacramento Housing & Redevelopment Agency and McCormick, Baron & Salazar.

- Mr. Ahmad shared that if the Board approves this contract, the closing of these transactions will happen at the end of this month.
 - Mr. Bonnet noted that DDS is endorsing our collaboration with Brilliant Corners. These homes will be dedicated for the use of our clients for at least 50 years.

Without objection, Rita Walker made the motion to approve the contract with Brilliant Corners as presented.

3. Review Annual Client-to-Service Coordinator Ratio Report

Issue: The committee needs to review the annual caseload ratios.

Discussion and Action: Mr. Ahmad shared that regional centers are required to submit their annual caseload ratios to DDS in March. ACRC’s caseload ratios are as follows:

Category	Actual Ratio	Required Ratio
Medicaid Waiver	84	62
Age 36 mths and under	51	62
Moved from DC, lived in com > 24 mths	35	62
Moved from DC, lived in com between 12 and 24 mths	34	62
Moved from DC within last 12 mths	0	45
All others	89	66

ACRC continues to utilize new options to recruit employees. Mr. Bonnet noted that these ratios are reflective of what is happening across the state. None of 21 regional centers are meeting these mandates this year due to funding issues. Like other regional centers, ACRC has implemented technological advancements to help with the rising cases.

- **Information only.**

4. State Budget Update

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

Discussion and Action: In early January, Governor Newsom released his proposed budget for the upcoming FY, which included standard growth funding. The first two hearings have been held and COVID-19 and caseloads have been topics of conversations, as well as the Self-Determination Program (SDP).

Only a fraction of the 2,500 people chosen for the SDP pilot project have chosen to participate (20%). Every regional center client over the age of three will be eligible to participate in this program in early June of this year. There is concern about the SDP budgeting process. It is very complicated for folks. SDP was supposed to be budget neutral, but the state is finding out that the budgets are approximately 30% higher than traditional services.

ACRC will be participating in the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) virtual Grassroots Day in April. More information will be released soon. Please consider joining our team this year.

- **Information only.**

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 10, 2021**. The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet