

Alta California Regional Center  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Monday, May 10, 2021  
Minutes

**Present:**

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

**Absent:** (\* excused)  
Retha Seabron\*

**Board Members:**

Carmen Aguilar  
Jackie Armstrong  
Michelle Ramirez  
Anwar Safvi

**Facilitators:**

Amy Fulk

**Visitors:**

Steve Andrews  
DeLayna Eskridge-Brown  
Maureen Fitzgerald  
Tanisha Gordon-Flowers  
Judy Licciardello  
Samantha Morgan  
Barbara van Ingen  
Paul Wurst

**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, May 10, 2021, at 4:14 p.m. by Webex/ teleconference to discuss: 1) Monthly Financial Report; 2) Select & Engage Independent Audit Firm; 3) Contracts over \$250,000; 4) Update on Start-up Contracts/Projects; and 5) State Budget Update. All present provided self-introductions.

**Without objection, Michelle Rewerts made the motion to adopt the Finance Committee meeting minutes of March 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 March 31, 2021 financial report reflects nine months of expenditures for the current fiscal year (FY). With 75% of the year elapsed, ACRC has expended 71.9% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 73.2% of Operations (OPS) with significant expected expenditures to occur and catch up around the end of the fiscal year.

After receiving the B-2 allocation Mr. Ahmad believes that ACRC has sufficient POS funding for this FY, understanding that additional OPS invoices are pending.

Our Accounting Department is currently working on closing out this FY.

The Governor has not yet released the May Revise. Within the latest \$1.9 trillion federal stimulus package, \$350 billion was allocated to state and local institutions, with approximately \$30 to \$40 billion coming into the State of California. Most of the funding is one-time monies and Mr. Ahmad is hopeful that the Department of Finance will provide regional centers with additional funding.

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

2. **Select & Engage Independent Audit Firm**

**Issue:** The committee will select and engage an Independent Audit Firm.

**Discussion and Action:** Regional center may utilize the same auditor for five consecutive years. AGT has performed ACRC's independent audit for the last three years. They are located in Redding, CA and are considered "local"; asking for a nominal 2% increase over last year's fees and they have not required a FASB CalPERS valuation yet compared to other firms that have, this would have been an additional expense.

When preparing to engage another independent auditor after the 2022-23 FY, Ms. Walker suggested providing the Board with information specific to how auditors handle CalPERS, so that they can make an informed decision.

**Without objection, Yang Sun made the motion to recommend that the Board engage AGT for the next two FYs as our independent auditor.**

3. **Contracts over \$250,000**

- There are no contracts to approve at this time.

4. **Update on Start-up Contracts/Projects**

- At the request of Ms. Walker and Dr. Sun, Mr. Ahmad provided a brief update on the contracts and projects that the Board has approved over the last several FYs.
  - six homes are up and active; two of which have changed providers
  - seven homes are in development

5. **State Budget Update**

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

**Discussion and Action:** Governor Newsom will be releasing the May Revise for the 2021-22 FY's budget on Friday. Interesting enough, the Governor shared information today that California is about to experience a \$75 billion surplus to begin the upcoming FY; this is mainly due to federal monies that have been

pumped into states. Also, many individuals have made a lot of money through the stock market and those people have to pay taxes on their earnings.

Governor Newsom is proposing another California stimulus; \$600 checks will be sent to low to moderate income earning families. The hope is that this money will assist those that have fallen behind on rent, utilities, etc. due to the pandemic.

It is expected that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will release their summary of the May Revise on Friday, and typically the Secretary of Health & Human Services holds a forum to provide more details. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) will be analyzing the May Revise, as well, and by the close of business that day, we will probably have a better understanding of the proposed changes to our statewide service system.

The Self-Determination Program (SDP) is expected to be available as an option to any eligible client over the age of three by the middle of June. Ms. Banales shared that ACRC has a very active Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC). ACRC staff are hosting Q&A Sessions bimonthly to provide more information to interested individuals. Among the limited number of individuals that are currently participating in this program, SDP budgets are running 30% higher than traditional services. This program is supposed to be budget neutral.

- **Information only.**

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 14, 2021**. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet