

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, November 15, 2018
Minutes

Present: Jackie Armstrong, Eric Ciampa, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Anwar Safvi (via phone), Steven Sanchez, Retha Seabron, Yang Sun (via phone), Austin Taylor (via phone), Rita Walker

Absent (* excused): Romilda Jones*, Rosa Meza-Villaseñor, Michelle Rewerts*

Staff: Phil Bonnet, Lori Banales, Alfonso Carmona, Jason Lindo, Peter Tiedemann, Lisa West

Facilitators: Amy Fulk

Visitors: Melissa Kelly, Hope Beale, Paul Platner, Michelle Ramirez

1. **Call to Order** - The Board of Directors met at 4:03 p.m. on Thursday, November 15, 2018, at ACRC's main office in Sacramento.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision** - All present introduced themselves. Mr. Bonnet read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision.
3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences for Romilda Jones, Michelle Rewerts; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of September 27, 2018; and c) accept Board Development, CAC, Executive, Finance and PAC reports.**
4. **New Business**
 - ◆ *Community Comments*
 - No comments were shared.
 - ◆ *Board Development Committee*

Issue 1: Approve New Board Member

Discussion and Action: Paul Platner, from Grass Valley, shared information about himself and his grandson, who is served by ACRC.

Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve Paul Platner's membership to the Board of Directors, representing Nevada County.

Issue 2: Bylaw Clarification – Section 3.06

Discussion and Action: In September 2017, the Board approved a bylaw revision which states that when someone is seated on the Board, their term of office begins. Previously, Board terms were by fiscal year (FY). When the change was made, there was no clarification as to which Board members would be affected by this, although the bylaws state that if no clarification is made about a particular revision, it would be applied to all seated Board members.

Since there is a statutory limit of seven years, the committee would like to clarify that this bylaw revision will apply to all seated Board members.

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to apply this bylaw revision to every Board member. Their term begins on the day that they were first seated on the Board of Directors.

Issue 3: Bylaw Revision – Section 3.08, 3.12, 4.02 and 5.04

Discussion and Action: Last year, the Board voted to decrease the number of Board meetings from nine to six per FY. At the time, it was clarified that the Executive Committee can act on behalf of the Board, if needed.

Part of the BDC's charge is to review the agency's bylaws. Some sections of the bylaws reference a June Board meeting, therefore those sections need to be revised to the May Board meeting.

Ms. Walker noted that the BDC revisited the issue of having a June Board meeting and did not take any action on this.

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to revise the bylaw sections as presented.

◆ *Finance Committee*

Issue 1: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: Mr. Tiedemann shared that the Finance Committee met on November 5th, and reviewed the September 30, 2018 financial report which reflects three months of expenditures for the current fiscal year (FY). With 25% of the year elapsed, ACRC has expended 23.1% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 25.3% of Operations (OPS).

Mr. Tiedemann shared that the POS projections are due to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) by December 10th. He noted that the

department usually grants more funding to regional center's POS budgets, if needed. Regional centers must live within their OPS budget.

Without objection, Dan Lake made the motion to accept the monthly finance report as submitted.

Issue 2: Contracts of \$250,000

- There are no contracts to approve at this time.

Issue 3: Contracts of \$100,000

Discussion and Action: Sharp contacted ACRC and offered to renew our lease for the agency's copiers at a significant discount. The total contract would be for \$8,900 per month for five years and would include eight additional copiers/printers.

Mr. Tiedemann explained that this is to primarily lock in our business and replace our old equipment.

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to approve the renewal of the copier lease, for a total cost of \$8,900 per month for 60 months.

Issue 4: Resolution for Section 218 Agreement – Employee Medicare Contributions

Discussion and Action: Mr. Tiedemann summarized that when ACRC joined the PERS retirement plan in the early 2000's, some required paperwork was missing that would have allowed any employee hired before April 1986 to be covered under Medicare. In June of this year, the Board adopted a resolution to allow the five employees that were affected by this (four of them left) to vote on whether to be covered by Medicare. The vote was held and they all voted to be covered by Medicare.

The Board now needs to adopt a resolution for these four employees to be in Medicare. Mr. Tiedemann clarified that these four employees have been paying into Medicare, as has ACRC.

Without objection, Rita Walker made the motion to adopt the 218 resolution to opt into Medicare for these four employees.

- *Mr. Tiedemann noted that the Executive Committee may need to hold a special meeting, prior to January 2019, in order to act on lease information for the agency.*

◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
 - Ms. Walker shared that the BDC met on November 5th.
 - The BDC is requesting that all Board members review the Board panel interview questions for possible revisions.
 - Please be prepared to present your thoughts at the January BDC meeting.
 - The January Board Sponsored Training will highlight Employment First.
- Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Ms. Lampe shared that the CAC met on November 13th and October 9th.
 - Mr. Bonnet talked about the Camp Fire and how it has affected people who live up north in Butte County. The CAC is going to help a client from Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC) this holiday season.
 - He shared information about California's Self-Determination Program.
 - The group's new project, "Friends Helping Friends" is getting off the ground. Debby Dillon has volunteered to help coordinate visits to clients that have moved out of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). Visits will likely begin in January 2019. Everyone is excited about this!
 - The CAC had a presentation about "Employment Opportunities for Alta Clients" at the November meeting and "What does the DDS-CAC do?" in October.
 - Members shared information about various advocacy groups that they are a part of.

**Austin Taylor joined the meeting*

- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
 - Mr. Ciampa shared that the PAC met on November 8th and October 11th.
 - The group talked about the meeting that Burns & Associates held today in downtown Sacramento. They presented the data regarding the DDS rate study.
 - They had a lengthy discussion about the recent Independent Living Services (ILS) Vendor Forum. During that meeting, ACRC staff and providers talked about ways

in which we can collaborate on issues to better serve our clients.

- The Community Services & Supports (CSS) Subcommittee was formed and met with ACRC staff to suggest ways in which things can run more smoothly between providers and staff. The group prioritized three main areas to focus on:
 - Transparency with Rates
 - Inconsistency in the vendorization process
 - Creative/Collaborative process is lacking on the development of new or innovative programs

◆ *President's Report*

- Mr. Lake expressed appreciation for those that are in attendance today.
- Rosa Meza-Villaseñor has resigned from the Board due to personal reasons.
- Traditionally, the Board has adopted an ACRC client for the holidays and we plan on doing this again this year.
- The Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA's) Grassroots Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3rd.
- Mr. Lake wished everyone a wonderful holiday season.

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- Mr. Bonnet went up to FNRC and Butte County yesterday to offer ACRC assistance to those individuals who have lost their homes to the Camp Fire that broke a week ago today. Most of those individuals are scattered around Chico. At least 200 clients have been affected by this fire, and he has talked with DDS to help figure out a way in which ACRC can help our sister regional center. This is an emergency situation and we have been promised flexibility from the department on ways in which we can get assistance to these clients. Supported Living Services (SLS) may be used to assist, in collaboration with the families. Every single one of their clients apparently survived the fire. It is the absolute heroics of folks that more people weren't lost, although there are several still unaccounted for. There are a few funding opportunities that we can provide to you if you are interested in helping out. Hopefully we can learn from this tragedy. We will continue to do everything that we possibly can to assist.
- Yesterday, Mr. Bonnet was supposed to participate in a Direct Support Professional (DSP) Workforce Committee meeting to discuss the crisis that we have on our hands. As the number of eligible regional center clients continues to rapidly expand, the number of

DSPs who are trained, willing, and able to serve continues to decline. It has been difficult for service providers to keep up with the demands that clients/families have. This is a multi-faceted crisis. The rate structure that has been set up for our service providers does not allow them to compete with other employers. At the same time, just minutes ago, the DS Taskforce concluded their meeting where the data analysis of the recently concluded study of California's rate structure for regional center service providers was reviewed. Amy Westling, ARCA's Executive Director, shared with Mr. Bonnet that there were a lot of concerns expressed about the validity of the survey. By March 2019, Burns & Associates will have their final recommendation to DDS.

- This year marks ACRC's 25th Annual Santa Day! The celebration will be held on Friday, December 14th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. here at the Harvard Street office. Mr. Bonnet encourages everyone to come and visit the hundreds that will be attendance. Additionally, ACRC staff will coordinate the very popular *Adopt-a-Family*, the *Giving Tree*, as well as food drives that will support our clients and their families.
 - DDS and Governor Brown will be hosting the annual State Christmas Tree lighting ceremony at the State Capitol on Thursday, December 6th, at 5 p.m. Traditionally, the switch is flipped by a child who receives regional center services.
 - California's new Governor-elect, Gavin Newsom, has pledged to strongly support California's developmental disability service system. Mr. Bonnet had the pleasure of meeting him earlier this year and remains hopeful that Mr. Newsom's connection to our community will be positive. Typically, when there is a change in leadership, those individuals that hold appointed offices submit their resignation letters and the new Governor chooses whether or not to accept them. Mr. Bonnet remains hopeful that Nancy Bargmann will remain the Director of DDS. Governor Newsom will have a super majority in both houses, which will make governing easier for him.
 - Mr. Bonnet has heard that overall budget projections for the State of California remain optimistic.
- ◆ *ARCA Report*
- Ms. Walker attended ARCA's Strategic Planning Retreat on October 18th & 19th, in San Diego.
 - The group is working on their goals and their focus areas for the 2019-20 FY. Everyone has limited resources. They will be meeting again to review the input that was received. Once the ARCA Board adopts the plan, Ms. Walker will share it with this Board.

- ARCA has wonderful staff who write noteworthy reports. The latest is entitled “Building a System for Tomorrow – Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities to Lead Inclusive Lives”. This report focuses on essential resources that the developmental services system needs to build a system for the future in full compliance with evolving federal and state expectations. The four areas of focus are:
 - Supporting community participation in housing and employment.
 - Service to diverse communities.
 - Supporting people with complex service needs.
 - Supporting dynamic service coordination.
 - As Mr. Lake mentioned earlier, many Board members have attended ARCA’s Grassroots Day. It is extremely important that ACRC has volunteers to help us establish relationships with our local legislators and their staff. Please keep this on your calendar – April 3rd.
5. **Closed Session** – At 5:07 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session in order to approve minutes.
6. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 5:17 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which closed session minutes were approved.
7. **Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet