

Alta California Regional Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, February 25, 2016  
Minutes

**Present:** Jacqueline Armstrong, Cindy Benson, Janet Brandon, Romilda Jones, Walter Kaweski, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Brendan Peacock, Anwar Safvi, Steven Sanchez, Austin Taylor (via phone), Rita Walker

**Absent** (\* excused): Nasim Hedayati\*, Rosa Meza-Villaseñor, Kristin Wright\*

**Staff:** Phil Bonnet, Lori Banales, Alfonso Carmona, David Lopez, David Rydquist, Peter Tiedemann, Lisa West

**Facilitators:** Amy Fulk, Larry Prosser

**Visitors:** Sonya Bingaman, Jamie Harris, Cheryl Worthley

1. **Call to Order** - The Board of Directors met at 4:06 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2016, at ACRC's main office in Sacramento.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision Statements** - All present introduced themselves. Ms. Walker read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision statements.
3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absence for Nasim Hedayati and Kristin Wright; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of January 28, 2016; and c) accept Board Development, CAC, Executive and PAC reports.**
4. **New Business**
  - ◆ **Community Comments**
    - Ms. Bingaman shared that the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) has received 900 National Core Indicators (NCI) surveys back from the 5,000 that they mailed out to families of clients living at home between the ages of three and 18, who receive one or more services from the regional center. She expressed appreciation to ACRC Service Coordinators (SCs) who helped spread the word throughout the community and encouraged families to have their voices heard.
    - In the near future, SCDD will be awarding a \$20,000 grant in accordance with their 2016-17 State Plan. The plan's goals include: employment, housing, health and safety, early intervention and education, formal and informal community supports, and self-advocacy. Ms. Bingaman welcomes input on what the two areas of

focus for the grant should be; please contact her by March 4<sup>th</sup>. SCDD will be issuing one Request for Proposal (RFP).

◆ *Finance Committee*

**Issue:** Monthly Financial Report

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Tiedemann shared that the Finance Committee did not meet this month. He distributed the January 31, 2016 financial report which reflects seven months of expenditures for the current fiscal year (FY). ACRC has expended 52.4% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 58.3% of Operations (OPS).

Mr. Tiedemann is projecting that ACRC will require between \$298,000 and \$4.5 million in additional POS funding this FY. The deficit range is largely due to the three different rate increases that some providers may receive. Our statewide system needs approximately \$80 million in additional funding.

Mr. Tiedemann expects that ACRC will receive our second budget amendment for this FY by tomorrow or early next week. There are no cash flow issues at this time. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is diligently keeping regional centers informed on what is going on across the state.

- **The monthly finance report was accepted as submitted.**

◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
  - Mr. Lake noted that nomination forms are located in Board members' blue folders. He asked that they be filled out and returned to Ms. West today.
  - The BDC met on February 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the following:
    - Board demographics have not changed.
    - The group is reviewing the Executive Director's evaluation process.
    - We are seeking volunteers for the Nominating Committee.
    - Mr. Lake and Ms. Wright are working on short surveys to help make the Board experience better.
    - The Board Sponsored Trainings are going well. If anyone has suggestions for training topics, please let him know.
    - Ms. Brandon and Ms. Walker are currently discussing outreach events.
    - The committee will be reviewing possible bylaw revisions at the next meeting. Mr. Lake would like clarification on Board member attendance expectations.

- If anyone has ideas for the upcoming September Board Retreat, please let him know.
  - Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
    - Mr. Taylor shared that the CAC met on February 9<sup>th</sup>.
      - The group discussed the Self-Determination Program (SDP) and the Governor's Proposed 2016-17 budget.
      - ACRC has already moved 11 clients out of developmental centers (DCs) this FY.
      - Committee members shared updates from various committees that they serve on.
      - The CAC will be electing the Chair and designated representative to the Board at the March meeting.
  - Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
    - Ms. Brandon shared that the PAC met on February 11<sup>th</sup>.
      - The group is working on hosting a job fair. A survey was sent out to all providers, and so far, 100 responses have been received. After further discussion the PAC may host several job fairs targeting different areas of need. The job fairs may be held at ACRC's Sacramento office.
      - Providers remain committed to spreading the word about the Managed Care Reform.
- ◆ *President's Report*
- Mr. Peacock expressed appreciation to Robin Black, ACRC's Legal Services Manager, for presenting the Board Sponsored Training prior to this meeting – "The Power of the Planning Team".
  - DDS has determined that there is no conflict of interest with Mr. Peacock's employment with Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE).
  - Ms. Walker will be serving on the Board Development and Finance Committees.
- ◆ *Executive Director's Report*
- Mr. Bonnet shared that the State Budget issues are of great concern. The hope was that the extraordinary session of the legislature would be quick, but things are starting to come together. Amazingly, the Governor and both sides of the legislature have come to an agreement on a proposal that would provide for badly needed increases for regional centers and service providers. Secretary Diana Dooley has engaged our service system over the last several years and it has made a real impact. ACRC service providers and clients have played a huge role in the hearings that are taking place at the State Capitol. The plan was for the vote to happen this morning on ABx2-1 and SBx2-2, to increase funding and offer

Managed Care Reform, but it has now been postponed until Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup>. Everyone that Mr. Bonnet has talked to is very confident that the votes are there and the bills will pass. If and when they do, the result would be an increase in funding of more than \$400 million:

- 7.5% increase for salaries and benefits, for both service providers (POS) and regional centers (OPS)
  - 2.5% increase for administrative and other costs, for both POS & OPS
  - Restoration of the supported employment rates to 2006 levels
  - 5% increase for Supported Living Services (SLS) and Independent Living Services (ILS)
  - 5% increase for in-home and out-of-home respite services
  - 5% increase for transportation services
  - 5% increase to Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs)
  - Creation of competitive integrated employment programs, in the form of paid internships and incentive payments for helping individuals obtain and retain employment
  - Increase in vendor audit thresholds
  - A rate study plan
  - Funding for bilingual staff at regional centers and cultural competency training
- Earlier this week, Mr. Bonnet attended a legislative hearing to discuss the plans for the closure of all DCs, with the exception of the secure treatment area at Porterville. The focus of the hearing was on Sonoma DC. The federal government recently found additional concerns regarding the health and safety of those individuals who reside there. Our outstanding Community Placement Team here at ACRC has already assisted 12 individuals into new homes in our community and we have multiple projects underway to ensure that every ACRC client who currently resides at SDC will find a new and better community home before the announced closure of December 2018. ACRC will be hosting another town-hall meeting for all of the clients and families affected by the closure of SDC on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at ACRC's Sacramento office.
  - Next month, ACRC will be sponsoring two community meetings to review and discuss regional center expenditure data.
    - The first meeting will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> in Yuba City.
    - The second meeting will take place at ACRC's Sacramento office on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) will be sponsoring its annual Grassroots Day at the State Capitol on

Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ms. West.

- Mr. Bonnet is the Chair of the ARCA Directors Group. During this morning's conference call, the group discussed the fact that Governor Brown's administration has recently made it known that they have concerns about governance in the regional center system. Although most regional center Boards of Directors are doing a great job, some may be called on to assist others across the state. Mr. Bonnet is committed to providing initial and ongoing training for Board members here at ACRC. He has learned about resources that may be of value to this Board.

◆ *ARCA-CAC Report*

- Ms. Benson shared that she has no report, because she had difficulty connecting to the telephone meeting which was held on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The next in-person meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

5. **Closed Session** – At 5:02 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session in order to discuss legal and personnel issues.

6. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 5:29 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which legal and personnel issues were discussed.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet