

Alta California Regional Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, March 26, 2015  
Minutes

**Present:** Jacqueline Armstrong, Cindy Benson, Janet Brandon, Modean Gibson, Nasim Hedayati, Romilda Jones, Walter Kaweski, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Jon Nelson, Brendan Peacock, Steven Sanchez, Austin Taylor, Kristin Wright

**Absent** (\* excused): Edward T. Lewis\*, Rosa Meza-Villaseñor\*, Anwar Safvi\*

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

**Facilitators:** Cheryl DeForest, Amy Fulk, Larry Prosser

**Visitors:** Monique Avers, Jamie Harris, Shanna James, Sarah Kennedy, Sheryl Ledford, Sabrina Nugent, Ed Plon, Bonnie Thurman

1. **Call to Order** - The Board of Directors met at 3:02 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2015, at ACRC's main office in Sacramento.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision Statements** - All present introduced themselves. Mr. Lake read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision statements.
3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved:** a) excused absence for Edward T. Lewis, Rosa Meza-Villaseñor, and Anwar Safvi; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of February 26, 2015; and c) accept Board Development, CAC, Executive, and Finance reports.
4. **New Business**
  - ◆ *Community Comments*
    - No comments were shared.
  - ◆ *Executive Committee*

**Issue:** Proposed Bylaw Revision

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Peacock shared that the proposed bylaw is under Tab 6 of the Board packet. This bylaw would change the terms of office for Board members. Currently, Board members have one term consisting of seven years. This proposed change would take the full seven year term and break it down into three terms (two years, two years, and three years). If

their term is up, Board members would inform the Nominating Committee if they wish to continue their voluntary Board service.

This bylaw increases the Board Development Committee's oversight of the Board's demographics. It also provides us with advance notice of pending vacancies and gives Board members options.

It's important to note that prior to the change in the Lanterman Law to the seven-year term, ACRC used to have two three-year terms for Board members.

Mr. Taylor suggested moving the three-year term to the beginning and following it with the two additional two-year terms, but the majority of the Board preferred the terms the way they were written in the proposed bylaw.

**M/S/C** (Cindy Benson) **To approve the proposed bylaw as submitted.** (14 in favor)

◆ *Finance Committee*

**Issue:** Monthly Financial Report

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Tiedemann shared that the Finance Committee met on February 9<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the January 31, 2015 financial report which reflects seven months of expenditures for the current fiscal year (FY). ACRC has expended 58.1% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 58.1% of Operations (OPS).

ACRC received our third contract amendment from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on March 5, 2015. It included \$449,400 in OPS, \$6.7 million in POS, and \$82,647 in Community Placement Plan (CPP) funding.

Mr. Tiedemann is projecting that ACRC will need between \$12 and \$14 million in additional POS funding for this FY. He shared that all of the twenty other regional centers are projecting a deficit too, but DDS continues to believe there is enough money in the statewide system.

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

Committee members also discussed ACRC's \$23 million revolving line of credit with U.S. Bank. This line of credit is used when DDS has cash flow issues. U.S. Bank can only offer us \$11 million without a fee. If we wanted the \$23 million line of credit, it would include a \$90,000 annual fee, plus interest. These fees are due to changes in banking regulations.

Mr. Tiedemann has been speaking with the bank and the other regional centers. He will continue to explore what options we have and keep the Finance Committee informed; we clearly need this line of credit.

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Mr. Tiedemann shared that regional centers are required to submit their annual caseload ratios to DDS by March 1<sup>st</sup>. ACRC's caseload ratios are as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Actual Ratio</b>	<b>Required Ratio</b>
Medicaid Waiver	84	62
Age 36 mths and under	53.9	62
Moved from DC since 4/14/93, Lived in Community > 12 mths	67	62
Moved from DC within last 12 mths	41	45
All others	86	66

The agency would need to hire an additional 60+ Service Coordinators (SCs) in order to come into compliance with these mandates.

- **Information only.**

- ◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
  - Mr. Peacock expressed appreciation to committee members for all of the hard work that they have accomplished over the last several months. They revamped the Community Comments Plan, brought on some great Board members, reworked the panel interview questions, and developed the bylaw revision that was approved today.
- Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
  - Mr. Taylor shared that David Rydquist attended the meeting on Mr. Bonnet's behalf. He provided an update on the two legislative hearings that were held earlier this month.
  - The Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA's) Grassroots Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at the State Capitol. Mr. Rydquist encouraged committee members to contact their local legislators and make their stories as personable as possible.
  - The CAC's Annual trip to Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Taylor is on the planning sub-committee.

- The Self-Determination Program is still waiting final details.
- Committee members shared updates from the advocacy groups that they are a part of. They are very active in what they do and it's great to see the community involvement and support.
- The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference will be held on Friday & Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Sacramento.
- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
  - Ms. Brandon shared the PAC did not meet this month. Instead, members were encouraged to attend the Senate Budget Sub-Committee Hearing on March 12<sup>th</sup>, and keep the "10 for 10" a priority.
  - Even though the Board goes "dark" in April, the PAC will be meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ *President's Report*
  - Ms. Gibson reminded everyone that the Board of Directors does not meet in April, but three committees are - the Nominating, Personnel Ad-Hoc and PAC.
  - The Board will be holding a training on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, about ACRC's Intake Process. Lunch will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the training will take place from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., the Board meeting will begin at 3 p.m., and then the Board will be going out to dinner at 5 p.m.
    - A suggestion was made to incorporate smaller trainings into Board meetings and/or video tape this training so that it can be shared with anyone who isn't able to attend.
- ◆ *Executive Director's Report*
  - Mr. Bonnet shared ACRC's new website that went live last week.
  - The POS Variance Meetings were held last week – one here at ACRC's Sacramento office and the other at the Serna Center in South Sacramento. As required by law, Mr. Bonnet will send a report to DDS detailing what was discussed. It's important to note that the data is still not analyzed. ACRC staff will continue to make sure that clients' needs are met; this is our primary concern. Mr. Bonnet expressed appreciation to staff who volunteered to translate.
  - As mentioned earlier, two budget hearings were held this month. Approximately 400 people attended the rally at the State Capitol on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bonnet believes our statewide regional center system has received more legislative support this year than in many prior years. While it's not equal across the board, providers have varied rates and some might not stay in business without some significant changes to our system. Since regional centers are not meeting the

mandated caseload ratios, there is a chance that the State could lose the federal dollars attached to the Medicaid Waiver clients. Many legislators have signed onto Senator Beall's letter asking for the state's support of the "10 for 10" campaign.

- Back in 2009, DDS implemented a *uniform holiday schedule*, which required that all regional center service providers observe the same 14 unpaid holidays every year. The ARC recently sued DDS over their implementation of this schedule and won; the department will not be appealing this decision. Mr. Bonnet plans on working with the PAC to develop a recommended holiday schedule for service providers. There is an issue with those providers who do not provide their own transportation; they have to work with transportation vendors who are open in order to have clients go to their programs. Half-day billing was included in this lawsuit. Now, if a client attends any moment of their day program, the service provider can bill for the entire day.
- ARCA Grassroots Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Ms. West or Mr. Bonnet.
- Back in 2009, the State of California ended all Denti-Cal benefits for adult regional center clients. Continuing issues are what Denti-Cal pays providers and what benefits are actually available. A stakeholder meeting is scheduled for next Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Sacramento to continue to discuss this issue. ACRC staff will be in attendance.
- DDS submitted the application to the federal government last December for the waiver for the Self-Determination Program. Since there was no public input, the application was sent back to the department with further requirements. Regardless of when it starts, ACRC is required to create a local advisory committee in conjunction with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD). Our deadline for creation of this committee is June 1<sup>st</sup>. SCDD and ACRC will pick five members each for this committee. The goal is to have representatives from a diverse group. Self-determination will be a great option for clients that are served by the regional center system. Mr. Bonnet will continue to keep the Board informed as more information is released.
- The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is currently working on their five-year plan, which will establish goals and objectives that will help guide their work locally and statewide. Information regarding their two upcoming meetings were distributed for review.
- Mr. Bonnet showed the trailer of "Where Hope Grows" to those present.

◆ *ARCA Report/ARCA Equity Committee*

- Mr. Kaweski shared that the bi-monthly ARCA Board of Directors meeting was held on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, in Sacramento.
  - DDS, the Department of Education and the Department of Rehabilitation have joined together in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that reflects their mutual agreement that opportunities for integrated, competitive employment shall be given the highest priority for working age individuals with intellectual and development disabilities regardless of the severity of their disabilities.
  - The group discussed SB 644 (Hancock) – Limited Examination and Appointment Program: persons with developmental disabilities. This bill seeks to create an internship program for job placement at a state agency. It would also change the employer’s focus from a written test to the actual job performance. This is a terrific move for the state!
  - The Equity Committee will be meeting on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Westside Regional Center to discuss the study that researchers from USC’s Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA) conducted to determine the causes for the disparities in service delivery found in under-served populations in California.

◆ *ARCA-CAC Report*

- Ms. Benson shared that the ARCA-CAC held a telephone meeting on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Information about this meeting is summarized in the CAC minutes of March 10<sup>th</sup> that are under Tab 3 of the Board packet.

◆ *Announcements*

- Mr. Kaweski shared that his son is moving into his own apartment, with the assistance of INALLIANCE.
- Ms. Lampe shared that the Peer Advocacy Connection’s next Regional Meeting will be held at the Lion’s Gate Hotel in Sacramento on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Ms. Lampe will be participating in the Bocce Ball competition at the Special Olympics on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet