

Alta California Regional Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, May 28, 2015  
Minutes

**Present:** Jacqueline Armstrong, Cindy Benson, Janet Brandon, Modean Gibson, Nasim Hedayati, Walter Kaweski, Amy Lampe (via phone), Edward T. Lewis, Jon Nelson, Brendan Peacock, Anwar Safvi, Steven Sanchez, Austin Taylor, Kristin Wright (via phone)

**Absent** (\* excused): Romilda Jones\*, Dan Lake\*, Rosa Meza-Villaseñor\*

**Staff:** Phil Bonnet, Alfonso Carmona, Peter Tiedemann, Kristy Tinsley, Lisa West

**Facilitators:** Amy Fulk, Larry Prosser

**Visitors:** Sonya Bingaman, Ed Plon, Sam Seaton, Patricia Servin, Bonnie Thurman

1. **Call to Order** - The Board of Directors met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2015, at ACRC's main office in Sacramento.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision Statements** - All present introduced themselves. Mr. Kaweski read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision statements.
3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved:** a) excused absence for Romilda Jones, Dan Lake and Rosa Meza-Villaseñor b) regular session Board meeting minutes of March 26, 2015; and c) accept Board Development, CAC, Executive, Finance, and PAC reports.
4. **New Business**
  - ◆ *Community Comments*
    - Sonya Bingaman, the Manager of the SCDD Sacramento Office, shared they are in the process of planning their next 5 year state goals. A handout containing this information was distributed for review. Everyone in attendance was encouraged to provide feedback.
  - ◆ *Executive Committee*

**Issue 1:** Revised Independent Living Services Policy

**Discussion and Action:** Ms. Gibson shared that due to a change in the law, ACRC needed to revise their Independent Living Services (ILS) policy. A client can now receive ILS regardless of whether or not they plan to move out on

their own. According to the law, all that is needed for a client to become eligible for ILS is their need to achieve greater independence while living in the home of a parent, family member, or other persons.

A request was made to specify the age of an adult (i.e. 18 years old) in the amended ILS policy. The board voted and majority of the vote was to not include a specific age to identify an adult.

**M/S/C** (Walter Kaweski) **To approve the revised policy as amended.** (13 in favor).

**Issue 2:** Uniform Holiday Schedule

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Bonnet shared that a legal action was taken by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) regarding the elimination of the 14 mandatory holidays in hopes that this ruling would get overturned. The court ruling is scheduled for June 5th. Mr. Bonnet recently discussed this ruling with ACRC's Provider Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC agreed to follow the suggested holiday schedule that is found under Tab 8 of the Board Packet. Mr. Bonnet confirmed that ACRC will continue with PAC's recommended holiday schedule until we are required to do otherwise. A suggestion was made to revisit this topic at the next scheduled board meeting and to determine the best method for being supportive of the PAC's position.

**M/S** (Edward Lewis) **To approve the uniform holiday schedule, with the addition of Indigenous People's Day, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve.**

**M/S/C** (Janet Brandon) **To approve the uniform holiday schedule as submitted.** (11 in favor, 2 opposed)

◆ *Finance Committee*

**Issue:** Monthly Financial Report

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Safvi shared that the Finance Committee met on May 11<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the March 31, 2015 financial report which reflects nine months of expenditures for the current fiscal year (FY). ACRC has expended 75.2% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 73.9% of Operations (OPS).

Mr. Tiedemann is projecting that ACRC will need between \$13.3 and \$14.5 million in additional POS funding for this FY. Currently 18 of the 21 regional centers need additional POS funding, although the DDS has not given any indication that there is not enough money in the statewide budget.

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

◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
  - Mr. Peacock shared the BDC and Executive Committee approved the proposed Officer and Director slate for the upcoming FY, which is as follows:
    - President – Brendan Peacock
    - Vice President – Dan Lake
    - Secretary – Jacqueline Armstrong
    - PAC’s designated representative to the Board of Directors – Janet Brandon

It was confirmed that additional recommendations are allowed. All suggestions need to be M/S/C and added to the slate. Mr. Peacock stated that all recommendations will get discussed at the BDC and Executive Committee meetings.

- Mr. Peacock shared the BDC is currently looking at ways to conduct target marketing at four different ethnic events annually in an attempt to recruit diverse members to participate on our board. Their first target marketing attempt may take place at the “Juneteenth” Festival that is scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> in Sacramento.
- The next BDC meeting is scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
  - Mr. Taylor shared that the CAC held their monthly meeting at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) on May 12<sup>th</sup>. This visit is completed annually.
    - Their visits do make a difference. Recently a client, who spent 57 years in the DC system, moved to a group home, and another client, who has lived in state institutions for over 60 years, is getting ready to move out into the community! Approximately 53 others who will soon experience life changing events when they leave Sonoma.
    - The CAC may be making a video to invite those individuals who use assistive technology to join in on the meetings. Some of Alta’s clients have offered to make themselves available for this project.
    - Phil and Sonya Bingaman are selecting members for the ACRC Self-Determination Advisory Committee. The group will help get the word out about this new service option.
    - The CAC will be electing their Chair and designated representative to the Board at the June meeting.

- Committee members received two presentations – Ross with the Volunteer Advocacy Services Project and Tobias, who consults with Planning Teams and makes sure everyone knows their rights.
    - Committee members shared stories about their lives in the community.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
  - Ms. Brandon shared the PAC met on May 14<sup>th</sup>. They are still working very diligently to make their voices heard and have been communicating to policymakers about just how important the “10 for 10” campaign is to our system.
  - There was a request made by the committee to add a section that includes Legislature Updates on Alta’s website.
  - Ms. Brandon informed the group that Will Sanford is scheduled to meet with a task force in June to work on a video that will outline the Self-Determination Program. This video will be shown to all of those interested in participating on the Self-Determination Program.
  - The Annual Opportunity Fair at SDC and the SDC closure was also discussed during the meeting.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ *President’s Report*
  - Ms. Gibson expressed appreciation to committee members and for their attendance, hard work and dedication that has been displayed over the last several months. She also thanked Ms. Bonnet for allowing Tim Kuwazaki, Intake Supervisor to present the Intake process for individuals over 3 years old. A link containing the presentation has already been submitted to committee members. Hard copies will also be made available.
  - It was announced that starting in July, 15-20 minutes will be dedicated to a standing agenda item during the regularly scheduled board meeting for trainings (i.e. training “spotlight”).
  - Mr. Peacock commended Mr. Lewis for being both nominated and selected for the Centers for Fathers and Families “Father of the Year” award. We are very proud!
- ◆ *Executive Director’s Report*
  - Mr. Bonnet shared information regarding the state budget. The May revision highlights were distributed to the board for review. It was noted that the May revise does not address the “10 for 10” campaign. Both the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees will

take part in a conference committee on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the proposal for 10% increases to SLS, Respite, IHSS and day programs and a 1% - 2.5% increase for the rest of the regional center system. Mr. Bonnet informed the group that there have been multiple protests and demonstrations at the capital in regards to the budget crisis. There will be more information in regards to what the expected changes will be regarding the budget by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Mr. Bonnet announced that he met with Santi Rogers, Director of DDS and his executive staff on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) closure. A decision was made to add an additional 250 slots to the Self-Determination Program (SDP) as a result of the closure.
- Mr. Bonnet shared that he recently met with the ARCA's Directors' Group. During the meeting it was reported that all 21 RCs are currently out of compliance in terms of caseload ratios. Majority of the input received by the group was to ask the DDS for additional funding to hire for more Service Coordinators positions. Short of cutting salaries, or getting an influx of money, there is no solution in sight. Mr. Bonnet declared that he is open to any ideas or feedback regarding ways to meet caseload ratios.
- The first meeting of the Self-Determination Program (SDP) is schedule to take place on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Information regarding the SDP can be found on our website.
- Mr. Bonnet shared that he was very impressed with the CAC's commitment and support for the rest of the clients who are receiving services and supports through our agency. It is believed that this committee will play a major role in the SDC closure.

◆ *ARCA-CAC Report*

- No update was shared.

5. **Closed Session** – At 4:14 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session in order to discuss personnel issues.

6. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 4:38 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which personnel issues were discussed.

7. ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Kristy Tinsley  
Office Manager

cc: Phil Bonnet