

Alta California Regional Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, October 23, 2014  
Minutes

**Present:** Cindy Benson, Janet Brandon, Modean Gibson, Walter Kaweski, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Edward T. Lewis, Rosa Meza-Villaseñor, Jon Nelson, Brendan Peacock, Anwar Safvi, Steven Sanchez (via phone)

**Absent** (\* excused): Jacqueline Armstrong\*, Romilda Jones\*, Austin Taylor\*, Kristin Wright\*

**Board Advisor:** Nancy Lea

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

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

**Visitors:** Jamie Harris, Zachary Miller, Ed Plon, Sam Seaton, Bonnie Thurman

1. **Call to Order** - The Board of Directors met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2014, at ACRC's main office in Sacramento.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision Statements** - All present introduced themselves. Ms. Lampe read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision statements.
3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved:** a) excused absence for Jacqueline Armstrong, Romilda Jones, Austin Taylor and Kristin Wright; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of September 25, 2014; and c) accept Board Development, CAC, Executive, and PAC.
4. **New Business**
  - ◆ *2015 Performance Contract*  
**Issue:** Approval of 2014 Performance Contract

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Bonnet shared that each year we review ACRC's performance contract with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Throughout the month, each committee has reviewed this document.

Mr. Bonnet provided an overview of the contract and answered questions.

**M/S/C** (Janet Brandon) **To approve the 2015 Performance Contract as submitted.** (11 in favor)

◆ *Finance Committee*

**Issue:** Monthly Financial Report

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Safvi shared that the Finance Committee did not meeting in October.

Mr. Tiedemann distributed the September 30, 2014 financial report for review. This report reflects three month of expenditures for the current fiscal year (FY). ACRC has expended 24.9% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 26.8% of Operations (OPS).

As noted previously, with the A-1 allocation, DDS has allocated the majority of the funding for this FY. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) and the department continue discussions regarding the allocation methodology for this year. DDS was able to find sufficient funding to balance the 2013-14 budget, but there are strong concerns that there will be no reserves for this FY. ACRC's annual projections are not due to the department until mid-December, but Mr. Tiedemann believes the state will need significantly more money to balance this FY.

It is customary for ACRC to prepay some of the initial OPS bills at the beginning of the FY. Mr. Tiedemann noted that we have to live within our OPS budget, which will make it difficult to hire more Service Coordinators (SCs) to assist with our growing population.

ACRC has no immediate cash flow issues at this time.

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

◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
  - Mr. Peacock shared that, with the assistance of Kristin Wright and Walter Kaweski, the committee has drafted new interview questions which they will be using on November 5<sup>th</sup> when they interview two new Board applicants.
  - The BDC is starting to implement mentorships for new Board members. Mr. Peacock will be Mr. Sanchez's.
  - The next BDC meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m. Interviews will be held beginning at 3 p.m.
- Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
  - No update was shared.

- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
  - Ms. Brandon shared that the group spent a good portion of its meeting discussing the new Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rule and how it might affect the way services are delivered in the future.
  - Will Sanford and Jacquie Dillard-Foss attended the Disability Services (DS) Taskforce meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> and provided the committee with an update.
    - Those present discussed the minimum wage increase, the looming overtime issues, the new CMS Rule and housing and safety.
    - The Lanterman Coalition is asking for a 10% across the board increase with a 5% increase every year after until we have an equitable system.
  - The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) regarding joint employment and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) overtime continue to be a concern with providers.
  - The Challenging Support Needs Sub-Committee will be meeting after the November PAC meeting.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ *President's Report*
  - Ms. Gibson is amazed at the great work that the committees do. She wasn't able to attend the CAC and PAC meetings this month, but read the minutes. Ms. Gibson also expressed appreciation to Mr. Bonnet, Mr. Tiedemann and Ms. West for their hard work.
  - One of ACRC's clients was assaulted earlier this month and her family had to stay at a hotel for a short period of time. Ms. West contacted Ms. Gibson seeking approval, along with Mr. Bonnet, for a \$500 donation from the Consumer Assistance Fund. This request was approved.
  - There were two calls to the Board hotline since the last meeting. Both callers wanted to refer a family member to ACRC for services. These calls were forwarded to the Intake Department for appropriate follow-up.
  - Ms. Gibson shared that her family is experiencing some challenges and she has asked Mr. Peacock to Chair the Executive Committee and Board meetings in November. She will attend by phone, if possible.

***\*Rosa Meza-Villaseñor joined the meeting***

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- Mr. Bonnet shared that the new CMS Rule continues to prompt a lot of dialogue during recently held ARCA meetings. Federal funding is critical to our system.
- October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. ACRC continues to host the statewide California Employment Consortium for Youth (CECY) meetings. This group is tasked with increasing the number of individuals with developmental disabilities who have competitive employment. They encourage skills be taught to people so that when they leave school, they have skills that can be marketed. It appears that soon, anyone under the age of 24 will not be able to be admitted to a "sheltered workshop", because the belief is that when you start, you rarely leave, though there are certain circumstances that will allow participation in sheltered activities. ACRC is hosting an Employment First Transformation Institute Conference on November 19<sup>th</sup>. This day long training is for service providers who wish to transform their services and become more inclusive and responsive to the needs of our community.
- Mr. Bonnet has begun discussions about drafting an Employment First Policy for ACRC with the Board's committees and advisory committees. Employment First is now part of the Lanterman Law and two other regional centers have a policy such as this. With the Board's support, he will develop a draft policy and bring it before the Board during the November meetings.
- Living options continue to be a concern across the state. As the Chair of the ARCA Director's group, Mr. Bonnet has discussed this topic at several meetings, including one last week. Each regional center is experiencing the closure of homes, decreasing quality of care, and a reduction in vacancies. As an agency, ACRC has encouraged residential providers to have no more than four clients in a home, so that they can have their own bedrooms. The rates also need to be equitable. Mr. Bonnet is pleased that this topic is getting more attention across the state; residential services are possibly the most critical service regional centers provide to our most vulnerable clients.
  - ACRC has been awarded a substantial monetary gift from the estate of one of our clients who has recently passed away. The family has requested that the funds be used to help improve the ACRC client housing situation in El Dorado County. We are considering using the money as start-up funding to assist a local non-profit in the establishment of an out-of-home respite program, but Mr. Bonnet is concerned that something like the "Respite Inn" may not meet the new CMS Rule.

- ACRC will be hosting a “Holiday Art Show” on December 11<sup>th</sup>. This show will feature wonderful works of art that will be for sale. Santa Day will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup>. This year’s celebration is going to be held across the street at the Hilton Hotel to help accommodate our ever-growing attendance.
  - Mr. Bonnet has attended several meetings between regional centers and DDS to try to finalize the proposed selection process for participants in the upcoming Self Determination Pilot Program. It is believed that some version of a random selection process for the pilot project would be fair. He reminded everyone that after the initial three year pilot, this option will become available for all people over the age of three years who receive regional center services.
  - There were two calls to the comment line since the last meeting.
    - An anonymous individual called to complain about his neighbor’s outbursts. ACRC staff have spoken with this caller on several occasions and due to HIPAA guidelines, no information can be shared.
    - An individual called with concerns for her sister’s health and safety. Both the Service Coordinator (SC) and Supervisor have contacted this individual and will be following up with her again.
  - “ACRC’s Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending September 30, 2014” were distributed for review. Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC would need to hire approximately 50 new SCs in order to meet the mandated caseload ratios. He reviewed the document with those present.
- ◆ *ARCA Report*
- Mr. Kaweski shared that the bi-monthly ARCA Board of Directors meeting was held at Harbor Regional Center (HRC) on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.
    - The CMS Final Rule was a major topic of discussion at this meeting. The goal of this rule is to “normalize” life for individuals with disabilities; provide them with freedom of choice and movement. The rule will be difficult to implement. Santi Rogers, Director of DDS, shared that this plan is in a constant state of change and regional centers will be focusing on this issue for the next five years. All services must meet new standards no later than March 17, 2019, in order to continue to receive federal funding. Those present agreed that we need to be consistent with our messaging about this rule.
    - Rick Rollins reported that the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2013 has been approved by Congress. The Act establishes tax-exempt ABLE accounts to assist individuals with

a disability in building financial resources to pay for qualified disability expenses.

- Celeste Donohue, from USC, provided the ARCA Board with an introduction to Telehealth, a completely virtual counseling and therapy clinic that uses the latest online and video technologies to serve a diverse set of clients including adults, children, couples, families, and military personnel.
  - As Mr. Bonnet has mentioned at previous meetings, USC is offering 12 weeks of free counseling sessions, provided in English or Spanish, to regional center families/caregivers. ACRC is participating in this program.
- As of January 1, 2015, Early Start criteria for services will revert to pre 2009 policies.

◆ *ARCA-CAC Report*

- Ms. Benson shared that the ARCA-CAC met on Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, in Sacramento.
  - The Self-Advocacy Workgroup talked about getting the ARCA-CAC Facebook Page up and running by their next meeting in January.
  - The Legislative Workgroup talked about issues that ARCA is watching such as jobs and housing.
  - Committee members talked about their regional center's activities; Ms. Benson shared information about ACRC's CAC trip to Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC).
  - Amy Westling, with ARCA, handed out flyers about ARCA's Role and Organization.
- The next telephone meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. The next in-person meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, in Sacramento.

◆ *Community Comments/Announcements*

- Mr. Prosser shared that his grandson was born on Tuesday morning – everyone is healthy and happy!
- Ms. Brandon attended the CAC meeting this month; it was a great meeting and she encouraged those who haven't been to go to one.
- Ms. Lampe will be going to North Lake Tahoe in December and yesterday was her birthday!
- Mr. Nelson appreciates the new table arrangement; no one has their back to our visitors!
- Mr. Miller expressed appreciation for the positive feedback about the CAC. He enjoys working with Mr. Bonnet.
- Mr. Lopez and Mr. Miller participated in a Youth Bullying Rally at the State Capitol on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Rydquist shared that today is Lori Banales' birthday!

5. **Closed Session** – At 4:37 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session in order to discuss legal issues.
6. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 4:52 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which legal issues were discussed.
7. **Adjournment**  
The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet