

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, November 20, 2014
Minutes

Present: Jacqueline Armstrong, Cindy Benson, Modean Gibson, Romilda Jones, Walter Kaweski, Amy Lampe, Edward T. Lewis, Rosa Meza-Villaseñor, Jon Nelson, Brendan Peacock, Anwar Safvi, Austin Taylor

Absent (* excused): Janet Brandon*, Dan Lake*, Steven Sanchez*, Kristin Wright*

Staff: Phil Bonnet, Lori Banales, Alfonso Carmona, Darline Dupree, David Lopez, Peter Tiedemann, Lisa West

Facilitators: Cheryl DeForest, Amy Fulk, Larry Prosser

Visitors: Monique Avers, Nasim Hedayati, Will Sanford, Sam Seaton

1. **Call to Order** - The Board of Directors met at 3:06 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2014, at ACRC's main office in Sacramento.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision Statements** - All present introduced themselves. Ms. Gibson read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision statements.
3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved:** a) excused absence for Janet Brandon, Dan Lake, Steven Sanchez and Kristin Wright; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of October 23, 2014; and c) accept Board Development, CAC, and Executive reports.
4. **New Business**
 - ◆ *Community Comments/Announcements*
 - Mr. Peacock shared that ACRC's Board of Directors has started a new procedure regarding the community comments section of Board meetings. Before the Board takes action on any item, community members will have an opportunity to make comments.
 - ◆ *Board Development Committee (BDC)*

Issue: Vote for potential new Board Membership

Discussion and Action: Mr. Peacock shared that the BDC is submitting Nasim Hedayati to the Board of Directors for membership. Dr. Hedayati provided a brief introduction of herself to those present.

M/S/C (Cindy Benson) **To approve Nasim Hedayati's appointment to ACRC's Board of Directors representing Sacramento County.** (12 in favor, which includes Janet Brandon's vote by proxy)

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

◆ *Executive Committee*

Issue: Employment First Policy

Discussion and Action: Mr. Bonnet noted that the Employment First Policy has been shared with various committees throughout the month and it has been revised as suggested. In October, he discussed the possibility of the Board considering such a policy. David Rydquist, ACRC's Director of Adult & Residential Services, drafted this policy and it was reviewed by ACRC's Executive Committee, the Client Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Provider Advisory Committee (PAC). Employment First is the policy of the State of California, but there are only two other regional centers that have an Employment First Policy (Golden Gate Regional Center [GGRC] and Regional Center of Orange County [RCOC]).

The process with which ACRC drafted this policy drew heavily on input from community members. Mr. Bonnet is part of the California Employment Consortium for Youth (CECY) group. ACRC has hosted several meetings over the last two years to help this group strive for employment opportunities for the developmentally disabled population. Just yesterday, this agency hosted an Employment Workshop for over 100 individuals from across the state. Mr. Bonnet shared a draft of this policy with some of those that attended and they were excited about the prospect of ACRC's Board of Directors adopting it.

M/S/C (Edward T. Lewis) **To approve the Employment First Policy as presented.** (13 in favor, which includes Janet Brandon's vote by proxy)

◆ *Finance Committee*

Issue: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: Mr. Safvi shared that the Finance Committee did not meet in November.

Mr. Tiedemann distributed the October 31, 2014 financial report for review. This report reflects four months of expenditures for the current fiscal year

(FY). ACRC has expended 33.7% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 34.5% of Operations (OPS).

Mr. Tiedemann shared that ACRC will be submitting our projections for this FY to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on December 10th. Our expenditures are trending above last year's by \$3 million; mostly due to the minimum wage increase and growth in different programs. Last FY, we ended the year with a small reserve; that is not likely this FY. Mr. Tiedemann will have more statewide data to share with the Board in January.

There are no immediate cash flow issues at this time. Mr. Tiedemann believes there may be statewide cash flow issues in January or February, but ACRC has two lines of credit available with U.S. Bank.

Mr. Tiedemann explained that ACRC pays some OPS expenditures a month in advance. It is a tight OPS budget this year; we have very little flexibility and we have to live within this budget. The POS budget is usually fully funded, sometimes one to two years after the FY ends.

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

◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
 - Mr. Peacock shared that the BDC finalized the community comments plan and the panel interview questions. He will be mentoring Dr. Hedayati.
 - The next BDC meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7th, at 4 p.m.
- Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Committee members discussed the draft Employment First Policy, which the Board just approved.
 - Mr. Taylor and Monique Lozano participated in an outreach presentation to a local day program; Monique shared information about the CAC and Mr. Taylor shared details about his journey to Yosemite.
 - The group will be looking at expanding their membership in the near future.
 - The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13th, at 2 p.m.
- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
 - On behalf of the PAC, Mr. Sanford thanked the Board for approving the Employment First Policy. He would like to ask the Board to support the Governor in funding this type of policy.

- The committee had a lengthy discussion about the CMS Rule. ACRC's Community Services Department has formed a taskforce to discuss the changes that will be taking place soon.
- The PAC has created a sub-committee to discuss ways to work with clients who have challenging support needs. In our community today, we have several individuals that need the same types of services of those clients who reside in the developmental centers (DCs).
- Senator Jim Beall helped draft a letter to the Governor to ask for additional regional center funding. This FY, the Lanterman Coalition is asking for a 10% rate increase for the entire statewide system.
- The next PAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8th, at 9:30 a.m.

◆ *President's Report*

- Ms. Gibson expressed appreciation to Mr. Peacock for filling in for her the last couple of weeks. She appreciates the time that she was given to take care of things.
- ACRC's Board of Directors will be adopting a family for the holiday season. This is a wonderful tradition and anyone interested in contributing can give Ms. West their donation. Ms. Gibson will be doing the shopping again this year.
- There were five calls to the Board hotline since the last meeting.
 - Three calls were regarding referrals to ACRC. The Intake Department will be following-up on these referrals.
 - One caller was requesting a new Service Coordinator (SC) for her husband. The client is a non-conserved adult, so it is his choice and he does not want a new SC.
 - A mother called seeking clarification on the Intake process. ACRC's Director of Intake & Clinical Services spoke with this mother and provided her with a brief overview of the regional center system.

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- Mr. Bonnet has mentioned the status of our residential services here at ACRC to the Board on several occasions. Darline Dupree, Manager of Community Services, drafted a "Residential Status Report", which was shared with ACRC's Executive Committee earlier in the month. He asked her to come to this Board meeting to discuss it with the entire Board. Ms. Dupree reviewed the report with those present.
 - Currently, ACRC has a total of 396 residential homes that support our clients. There are 49 vacancies in the Level 2

homes, 57 vacancies in the Level 3 homes, 66 vacancies spread across our Level 4 homes, and five vacancies in our Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) homes. Although we have these vacancies, there may be reasons why clients cannot be placed into these homes and providers can also decline to serve any client if they so choose.

- The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) has agreed to consult with an expert for assistance in this matter. The State of California is looking at a shortage of homes across the state. We also have to consider the aging of parents who have their children living with them in the family home.
 - The rates that are controlled by the legislature are a real factor; they do not create wonderful business opportunities for providers across the state. Also, the cost of housing has doubled in some areas.
 - ACRC has two larger residential facilities, however, both of these facilities have been granted a waiver to operate by DDS. We also have a total of 15 residential facilities that are vendored for a capacity ranging between 10 to 15 clients.
 - ACRC's Community Services Department monitors all of these homes carefully.
 - Mr. Bonnet reminded those present that ACRC has a Residential Services Policy which states that preference will be given to homes which serve no more than four clients.
- Mr. Bonnet attended a Self-Determination Conference in Southern California a few weeks ago. This well attended event was sponsored by the Autism Society of Los Angeles, Disability Rights California (DRC), and the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD). Those in attendance were talking about what they were going to do with self-determination, but the guidelines have not yet been released by the department. DDS has until December 31st to submit a waiver request to the federal government to set up a funding process for the program. Details that will be included in the waiver will include the selection process for participants and the list of potential services that would be funded under the program. ACRC will be working with Area Board 3 to sponsor a community training and information event about Self-Determination in 2015. ACRC will have 174 clients participating in the three-year pilot project. This will be an exciting time to open up the array of choices for services for the clients that we serve.
 - There was one call to the comment line since the last meeting. A mother called seeking services for her 21 year old son. The Intake

Department contacted the mother and will be following-up on this referral.

◆ *Community Comments/Announcements*

- On an ongoing basis, Ms. Gibson would like the BDC to review sections of the two manuals with the Board. In addition, she would like the Board to review the bylaws. She believes it is important to understand how we operate as a Board.
 - Suggestion was made to utilize the May Training and the September Retreat for these two items.
- Ms. Lampe shared that the Marysville People First Chapter is holding a BINGO night tomorrow, November 21st, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Round Table Pizza in Marysville. Three cans of food gets you in for free!
- Mr. Nelson would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! We all have a lot to be thankful for.
- The wind ensemble that Mr. Kaweski is a member of is holding a concert this Saturday, November 22nd, at the First United Methodist Church in Yuba City. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m.
- Ms. Benson shared that the Nevada County People First Chapter is hosting a Cornish Christmas from November 28th through December 19th. They are collecting food for a food bank, too.

5. ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet