

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

Present: Jacqueline Armstrong, 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, Austin Taylor, Kristin Wright

Absent (* excused): Nasim Hedayati*, Romilda Jones*

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

Facilitators: Cheryl DeForest, Amy Fulk, Larry Prosser

Visitors: Sonya Bingaman, Shanna James, Sarah Kennedy, Sam Seaton

1. **Call to Order** - The Board of Directors met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2015, at ACRC's main office in Sacramento.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision Statements** - All present introduced themselves. Ms. Meza-Villaseñor 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 Romilda Jones; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of January 22, 2015; and c) accept Board Development, CAC, Executive, Finance, and PAC reports.
4. **New Business**
 - ◆ *Community Comments/Announcements*
 - No comments were shared.
 - ◆ *Finance Committee*

Issue: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: Mr. Safvi shared that the Finance Committee met on February 9th and reviewed the December 31, 2014 financial report which reflects six months of expenditures for the current fiscal year (FY). ACRC has expended 50.5% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 50.7% of Operations (OPS).

Mr. Tiedemann is projecting that ACRC will need between \$19.5 and \$21.4 million in additional POS funding for this FY. This amount is slightly down from last month's projections due to the elimination of the 5.82% rate increase for Supported Living and Respite vendors. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be adjusting regional center's budgets due to the recent federal ruling overturning this rate increase.

ACRC's POS expenditures are up by over \$7 million during the first six months of the current FY, as compared to the same period over the prior FY, due to growth in the number of clients served in many programs, as well as the cost of the minimum wage increase that affected some vendor rates.

ACRC has no immediate cash flow issues at this time.

Mr. Tiedemann shared that the statewide system is currently projecting the need of between \$280 and \$300 million in additional POS funding for this FY. We will continue to monitor the federal dollars coming into the system.

A few years ago, there was a change in the law that required each provider who billed over \$250,000 in a FY to have an independent audit. Currently, Senator Beall and Senator Huff are introducing new legislation that would change this requirement to vendors who make \$500,000 and above. If the vendor has a "clean" audit, they would not have to conduct another audit for another two years. This bill would offer some financial relief to small budget providers.

Mr. Tiedemann shared that the DDS auditors have been at the agency for four weeks now and there have been no significant findings.

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

◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
 - Mr. Peacock shared that the BDC continues to monitor the Board's demographics and search for a balance.
 - Committee member's reviewed ACRC's "Board Member Code of Conduct" Policy, which is included, for reference, in the Board Packets under Tab 9.
 - The group had a brief discussion about the Nominating Committee, who will be drafting the slate for Board Officers for the next FY.
- Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Mr. Taylor shared that Mr. Bonnet spoke to the committee about ARCA's Grassroots Day and encouraged everyone to

reach out to their local legislators and invite them to an upcoming CAC meeting.

- Mr. Taylor is still in contact with Santi Rogers' office at DDS. He is hoping that Mr. Rogers can come to one of the CAC meetings.
- A small sub-committee will be meeting to plan for the annual trip to Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC), which is scheduled for May 12th.
- The group reviewed an employment website (www.worknow1.com). Mr. Taylor expects the website will be put to good use.
- Mr. Bonnet encouraged everyone to support the Lanterman Coalition's "10 for 10".
- Committee members provided updates from advocacy groups that they are a part of.
- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
 - Ms. Brandon shared that the PAC will not be holding a meeting in March. Instead, committee members will be attending the Senate Budget Sub-Committee hearing at the State Capitol on March 12th. They are also encouraging everyone to attend the rally and Assembly Budget Sub-Committee hearing on March 4th.
 - Supported Living Services (SLS) could possibly be used as a service option for individuals involved in the forensic system. The Challenging Support Needs Sub-Committee will be meeting to discuss this issue further.
 - The committee is seeking the Board's support of the Lanterman Coalition's "10 for 10", which Mr. Bonnet spoke about at last month's Board meeting.

M/S/C (Janet Brandon) **To recommend that ACRC's Board of Directors support the Lanterman Coalition's "10 for 10".**
(14 in favor)

- **Mr. Bonnet will draft the support letter.**

◆ *President's Report*

- Ms. Gibson expressed her appreciation to those Board members who make an effort to attend these meetings in person.
- There were three calls to the Board hotline since the last meeting.
 - A mother called inquiring about the Intake Department's records review for her son.
 - A mother called with concerns about her son's care.
 - A mother called wanting to refer her 18 month old son to ACRC's Early Intervention Department for a speech evaluation.

- Within this last calendar year, the Board adopted and approved a new bylaw which states that the Board President will appoint a Nominating Committee who is charged with drafting a slate of Board Officers for the next FY. This proposed slate will be reviewed by the BDC and the Executive Committee, and then it will be brought before the full Board as an action item at the June meeting.
 - Board members were encouraged to fill out the green sheet and return it to Ms. Gibson by the end of this meeting.
 - Ms. Gibson read aloud a thank you note from the family that the Board of Directors adopted during the holidays.
- ◆ *Executive Director's Report*
- Mr. Bonnet shared that the California Legislature will be holding two critical public hearings to discuss funding for the developmental services system:
 - The Assembly Budget Sub-Committee 1 Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4th, at 1:30 p.m.
 - The Senate Budget Sub-Committee 3 Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 12th, at 9:30 a.m.
- These hearings may be the only opportunity for public comment regarding the priorities for the coming year. The Lanterman Coalition is sponsoring a rally for their "10 for 10" campaign outside of the Capitol on March 4th. Mr. Bonnet has heard that it appears that the movement is to have DDS set the rates for all providers; it will be interesting to see if this happens. He encouraged everyone to attend the rally and hearings.
- ACRC has scheduled two POS Variance Meetings – the first meeting will be held at ACRC's Sacramento office on Monday, March 16th, at 3 p.m., and the second meeting will be held at the Serna Center in South Sacramento on Wednesday, March 18th, at 3 p.m. ACRC staff will share the agency's POS expenditure data with all interested parties. Flyers are available for anyone that is interested in attending. Mr. Bonnet clarified that these meetings are a requirement of law and regional centers are still requesting that the department analyze the data. ACRC staff will continue to work with clients and families in various different languages.
 - Mr. Bonnet and Mr. Tiedemann shared a preview of our agency's new website that will be "soft launched" within the next month. We are hoping that this becomes a viable tool that is useful to our community. This website will look the same on a mobile device; it is also optimized for iPads. Mr. Tiedemann noted that ACRC holds a contract with the website developers, so we can get assistance at a moment's notice. Website maintenance will be done internally.

** Edward T. Lewis joined the meeting*

- Earlier today, ACRC hosted a forum for Service Coordinators (SCs) and dental providers to get the latest updates on California's Denti-Cal program. A special hearing at the State Capitol is scheduled for March 17th, to discuss Denti-Cal services and rates of reimbursement. Kaiser patients have been able to keep these services, while Sutter Hospital has recently further restricted the use of their surgical facilities for anesthesia dentistry.
 - More detailed information will be shared with all Board committees, including the CAC and PAC.
- ACRC's CAC will be holding its annual meeting at Sonoma Developmental Center on Tuesday, May 12th. This is a great opportunity to reach out to ACRC clients who still live at the State-run institution. Several of our service providers have expressed an interest in joining this outreach effort. If any Board members would like to participate, please let Ms. West know.
- "ACRC's Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending December 31, 2014" were distributed for review. Mr. Bonnet noted that the agency's Community Placement Program (CPP) goal is actually a FY goal, so we should be able to meet it by June 30th. If anyone has any questions, please contact Mr. Bonnet and Mr. Tiedemann.
- Mr. Bonnet met with Sonya Bingaman, the Regional Branch Manager of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) yesterday to discuss the Self-Determination Program. Jointly, we have begun recruitment efforts for our local advisory committee. This committee will be composed of 11 members who will advise us on outreach efforts to educate our community about the Self-Determination Program and to help with recruitment efforts for potential participants in our Pilot Project that will include approximately 175 clients over the next three years. Mr. Bonnet shared that DDS did not comply with some of the requirements for the federal application waiver, so the clock will be reset and regional centers will continue to seek guidance from them regarding this. One thing that is certain is that clients who participate in this program must pay a fiscal intermediary to manage their budgets. Interested individuals can take a Self-Determination Advisory Committee flyer and application with them today. All applications must be received by April 15th. After the members are chosen, this advisory committee will meet monthly.
- There were five calls to the comment line since the last meeting.
 - Three individuals called seeking services from ACRC. The Intake Department is following-up on these inquiries.

- A mother called and shared that she was disappointed that her son's SC is no longer working at ACRC. She is happy with the services that her son receives, just misses the SC that they had for several years.
 - An individual called just to let us know that ACRC is an outstanding organization!
5. ***Closed Session*** – At 4:05 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session in order to discuss a personal issue.
6. ***Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion*** - At 4:14 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which a personal issue was discussed.
7. ***Adjournment***
The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet