

Alta California Regional Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, November 17, 2022  
Minutes

**Present:** Jackie Armstrong, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Elaine Linn, Kelly Pennington, Michelle Rewerts, Anwar Safvi, Patty Wallace

**Absent** (\* excused): Carmen Aguilar, Johnny Deng\*, Michelle Ramirez\*, Retha Seabron\*, Yang Sun\*

**Staff:** Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown, Jordan Eller, Mai Gee Her, Camelia Houston, Mechelle Johnson, Herman Kothe, David Lopez, Johnny Xiong, Lisa West

**Facilitators:** Amy Fulk

**Visitors:** Steve Andrews, Jaclyn Balanay, Phil Bonnet, Garrett Broadbent, Stacey Chang, Selma Craig McIlwain, Anne De Medeiros, Maureen Fitzgerald, Angela Garro, Sandy Hagge, Tong Her, Chris McIlwain, Kidada Medina, Lesa Mellion, Shonna Premock, Jennifer Quynn, Stergios Roussos, Steven Sanchez, Jerry Vang, Mao Vang, Diane Walker, Katherine Wallen

**Interpreters:** Marlene Gaines, Giovanna Wormsbecker

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** – The Board of Directors met at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, 2022, by Zoom/teleconference. Ms. Pennington read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **National Core Indicators (NCI) Data – Public Meeting**
  - Ms. Johnson explained that the NCI surveys are used by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to assess the performance in services and supports provided to people with developmental disabilities.
    - As required, data will be shared on how ACRC performed in the 2020-21 fiscal year (FY) compared to the statewide averages from the 2020-21 and the 2017-18 FYs.
    - It’s important to realize that this survey was conducted during the pandemic, which appears to have been a factor in the answers that were gathered.
  - Mr. Kothe and Ms. Bloom shared data on the following categories:
    - Access
    - Friends and Family
    - Rights and Respect
    - Wellness
    - Medication

- Health
- Community Participation
- Employment and Day Program
- Safety
- Satisfaction
- Choice
- Service Coordinator
- CA Questions
- COVID Questions
- Within this past year, Ms. Banales created an internal Diversity Outreach Workgroup that engages with our community by participating in different events throughout our catchment area.
- The full NCI dashboard is posted on DDS' website.
  - Please submit comments/questions to [ncifeedback@altaregional.org](mailto:ncifeedback@altaregional.org).

3. **Community Comments/Announcements**

- ◆ Ms. Fitzgerald expressed concern about ACRC's process in developing the draft 2023 Performance Contract.

4. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences for Johnny Deng, Michelle Ramirez, Retha Seabron and Yang Sun; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of September 22, 2022; and c) Board Development Committee (BDC), Client Advisory Committee (CAC), Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) minutes.**

5. **New Business**

- ◆ *New Board Member Applicant – Steven Sanchez*

After the mandated year off of the Board, Steven Sanchez has submitted his Board application.

**Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve Steven Sanchez's application for Board membership.**

- ◆ *Approve 2023 Board Training Plan*

**Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to approve the 2023 Board Training Plan as presented.**

- ◆ *Approve 2023 Performance Contract*

**Without objection, Michelle Rewerts made the motion to approve the 2023 Performance Contract as presented.**

◆ *Approve Conservatorship Policy*

**Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the Conservatorship Policy as presented.**

◆ *Finance Committee*

**Issue 1:** Monthly Financial Report

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Ahmad shared that the Finance Committee met on November 14<sup>th</sup>, and reviewed the September 30, 2022 financial report. With 25% of the year elapsed, ACRC has expended 18.7% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 22.3% of Operations (OPS).

ACRC's budget, including the Community Placement Plan (CPP)/Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) funding, is just over \$775 million. Most of the projected POS surplus will be utilized when the 25% service provider rate increases go into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Without objection, Michelle Rewerts made the motion to accept the monthly financial report as submitted.**

◆ *Committee Updates*

• CAC

- Ms. Wallace shared that the CAC met on November 8<sup>th</sup> and October 11<sup>th</sup>.

- At the November meeting:

- The group talked about voting and how important it is to be a part of our democratic process.
- Ms. Banales shared the draft Conservatorship Policy and noted that ACRC staff will focus on promoting the Supported Decision-Making process.
- Ms. Banales encouraged CAC members to attend the Little Hoover Commission hearing on November 10<sup>th</sup> and asked them to share their stories – it's important to have your voices heard.
- Everyone viewed the draft CAC Housing video.

- At the October meeting:

- Ms. Johnson and John Decker reviewed the draft 2023 Performance Contract with the group.
- Kim Leeseman, with People First of CA, shared a presentation entitled "Becoming a Board Member". People First of CA is currently seeking new Board members.

- PAC
  - No report was shared.
  
- ◆ *President's Report*
  - Mr. Lake expressed appreciation to Board members for volunteering their time.
    - Please reach out to Mr. Lake or Ms. West if there is something that you do not understand.
  
- ◆ *Executive Director's Report*
  - Ms. Banales introduced Ms. Eller, ACRC's Specialized Services Manager, who provided information about ACRC's CRDP that was submitted to DDS on Monday.
    - ACRC received 109 responses from this year's CRDP Priorities Survey. The top ten stakeholder priorities for the 2022-23 FY are as follows:
      - Day program
      - Residential
      - Housing
        - We are requesting funding for two additional multi-family housing projects – one in Yolo County and the other in the Lake of the Pines
      - Transportation
      - Mental Health
      - Socials Skills
      - Respite
      - Employment
      - Dental
      - Parenting/Support Groups
    - ACRC has been privileged to be a part of the funding for multi-family housing developments throughout our catchments area. Ms. Banales remains hopeful that the two additional asks will be approved.
      - Clients are due to move into Marisol Village in January 2023.
      - The Cornerstone Project is due to open in 2025; this is still in the early stages of development.
    - Once ACRC receives DDS approval, it will be shared with the Board.
  - ACRC Quarterly Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending September 30, 2022 are included in the Board packet. Each quarter, Ms. Banales would like Board members to review these reports and bring forward questions that they have so that she can spotlight those areas in her report.

- As mentioned at previous meetings, ACRC requested a waiver regarding AB 637 and received approval from DDS to increase the vendor rates for psychological assessments; those numbers will continue to average out.
- At the time that this report was generated, ACRC had 155 clients in the Self-Determination Program (SDP). Ms. Banales is please to share that as of today, that number has grown to 189 and there are an additional 145 clients at various junctures on the path to move forward into SDP.
  - Recently, ACRC created an exclusive SDP unit and those Service Coordinators (SCs) will continue to support and assist the individuals that are in this program.
  - Financial Management Services (FMS) remain an issue; the department has stepped in to assist and regional centers will hopefully have more resources soon.
- ACRC normally have a 5% growth per fiscal year (FY), which equates to an additional four caseloads. ACRC has a "Refer A Friend" program that has been successful; 50 of the 55 individuals that have been hired from this program are still with us. Retention is crucial as we continue to build our agency's workforce.
- The Little Hoover Commission held its first hearing in October, along with a roundtable discussion. Individuals testified about the barriers that they have encountered in the regional center system. A second hearing was held on November 10<sup>th</sup>, which will carry over to an additional hearing that will be scheduled soon.
  - Ms. Banales would like to encourage everyone to share their stories. The results of these hearings will produce suggestions that will go back to the legislature. You can share your story at [LittleHoover@lhc.ca.gov](mailto:LittleHoover@lhc.ca.gov). She believes it is important for the group to know about the good things that our statewide service system does too.
  - In an effort to promote positive things that happen every day at our regional center, Ms. Banales shared two emails that she received within the last few weeks. One of these will also be highlighted in the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA's) "Capitol Currents".
- The Board has requested updates on open and closed programs since the last Board meeting. The following are newly vendored services:
  - Dolphin Swim School Inc. (Sports Club)
  - Quality Life Services (Person Centered Planning)
  - Early Days Autism Center (Behavior Intervention)
  - Geriatric Facilities:

- Abounding Love III
- Golden Legacy Elderly Care II
- Special Therapeutic Services:
  - RPK Forensic Psychological & Consultation Services
  - Miltz Psychological Service Inc.
- Behavior Analysts:
  - Moving Mountains LLC
  - Impact Behavior Analysis & Solutions
- Counseling Services:
  - Jessie Ott
  - The Next Step Therapy
  - Center for Holistic Psychology
- Adult Residential Facilities:
  - Cister's Loving Care Home II
  - Nicobella Home Care Inc.
  - Ella Rose Care
  - Aspen Ridge Communities LLC & #2
  - Bella Hills Care Home
  - Best Life – Eastside
  - Vineyard Home Care Inc.
  - Milestone Carehome Inc.

Closed vendors:

- Stephanie Garo (Speech Pathology)
- MedStar (Transportation)
- Adult Residential Facilities:
  - Cadaway Care Home
  - Sonrise CareHome Inc.
  - Warner's Family Home #2
- ACRC is hosting a Micro-Enterprise Fair on November 30<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- On December 9<sup>th</sup>, we will be returning to our in-person Santa Day/Holiday Celebration which will include traditions from around the world. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

◆ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*

- Ms. Lampe shared that the group met on October 28<sup>th</sup> and reviewed/discussed ARCA's four-year Strategic Plan, which includes:
  - Risk Management
  - Special Incident Reports (SIRs)
  - Stakeholder Input
  - Client Developmental Evaluation Report (CDER)
  - SANDIS (regional center case management software system)

- Affordable Housing
  - Fiscal Year Project
  - The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10 a.m.
- ◆ *ARCA Delegate Report*
- Mirroring what Ms. Banales shared early, Ms. Pennington requested that individuals share their stories with the Little Hoover Commission. If you have an issue, please offer suggestions. Her son is where he is today because of the services that he has received from ACRC. Please take a moment to share the good.
  - The ARCA Board of Directors will meet again in January 2023.
6. **Closed Session** – At 5:40 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss real estate issues.
7. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 6:04 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which real estate issues were discussed.
8. **Adjournment**  
The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales