

Alta California Regional Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, March 28, 2024  
Minutes

**Present:** Carmen Aguilar, Jackie Armstrong, Garrett Broadbent, EunMi Cho, Johnny Deng, Tom Hopkins, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Kelly Pennington, Michelle Rewerts, Anwar Safvi

**Absent** (\* excused): Steven Sanchez\*

**Staff:** Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown, John Decker, Laura Griffith, Camelia Houston, Ashley Jean, Mechelle Johnson, Valarie Oldham, Faye Tait, Kris Takeda-Miller, Carol Wilhelm, Lisa West

**Facilitators:** Amy Fulk

**Visitors:** Steven Andrews, Dawn Barnard-Dingman, Nichole Baxter, Eric Ciampa, Kenji Ellsworth, Maureen Fitzgerald, Patricia Kamlley, Jay Kolvoord, Sachiko Konatsu, Deslin Malone, Peter Mendoza, Austin Miller, Diana Miller, Carl Poulin, Michelle Smith, Tammy Smith, Ernesto, Vellasquez, Donna Wymer

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** – The Board of Directors met at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2024. Ms. Armstrong read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.

2. **Meeting Our Mission**

- ◆ Ms. Banales noted that since last November, we have had the opportunity to highlight the good things that are happening in the system that truly represents and upholds our agency’s mission.
- ◆ Mr. Kolvoord, Strategies to Empower People’s (STEP’s) Chief Executive Officer, noted that STEP will be celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 1<sup>st</sup>. For three decades, ACRC and STEP have collaborated in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. He wanted to take this moment to acknowledge Valarie Oldham, an ACRC Service Coordinator (SC), for her efforts in supporting these individuals. She supports deaf and hearing clients and helps their dreams to come true. The individuals served by STEP and their Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) voted and selected Ms. Oldham to receive the “2023 Collaborator of the Year Award.” STEP intends for this recognition to be an annual award.
  - Mr. Poulin shared that he has been at STEP for six years. Ms. Oldham has helped him through the years, transitioning him into a home and helping him feel safe. She is understanding and is always available when he needs assistance.

3. **Community Comments/Announcements**

- ◆ Ms. Konatsu is reported to be a parent of three clients served. Parent addressed concerns with Individual Program Plans (IPPs) and case management assignments.
- ◆ Ms. Fitzgerald noted that there are issues with the hybrid sound system.

4. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences of Steven Sanchez; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of January 25, 2024; and c) Board Development Committee (BDC), Client Advisory Committee (CAC), Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) minutes.**

5. **New Business**

- ◆ *Approve Slate of Officers for 2024-25 FY*
  - Mr. Lake shared that the proposed Slate of Officers for the 2024-25 fiscal year (FY) is as follows:
    - President – Dan Lake
    - Vice President – Kelly Pennington
    - Secretary – Steven Sanchez
    - Treasurer – Anwar Safvi
    - ARCA Delegate – Kelly Pennington
    - Alternate ARCA Delegate – Dan Lake
    - ARCA-CAC Delegate – Amy Lampe
    - Alternate ARCA-CAC Delegate – Steven Sanchez

**M/S/C (Armstrong) To approve the proposed Slate of Officers for the 2024-25 FY as presented.**

- ◆ *Approval Housing Contracts*
  - The Heights on Stockton Blvd. has ten set aside units for ACRC clients consisting of seven one-bedroom units and three two-bedroom units.

**M/S/C (Armstrong) To approve the Mercy Housing contract for \$1 million as presented.**

- The River City Apartments has 15 set aside units for ACRC clients consisting of nine one-bedroom units and six two-bedroom units. The Board originally approved the use of these funds for a project in Nevada County which was unable to succeed due to the high cost of fire insurance in the area. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has approved the reappropriation of the funds for the River City project.

**M/S/C (Pennington) To approve the Chelsea Investment Corp. contract for \$1.5 million as presented.**

- This is a new relationship for ACRC. Staff have met with DanCo Communities multiple times. The Lake Washington Apartments has 19 set aside units for ACRC clients consisting of nine one-bedroom units and ten two-bedroom units. The Board originally approved the use of these funds for a project in Yolo County which was unable to acquire the necessary funding to keep the ACRC set aside units affordable. DDS has approved the reappropriation of the funds for the Lake Washington project to maintain the much-needed housing project in Yolo County. Mr. Decker attended the Yolo County Board of Supervisors meeting last night to share the updated plan.

**M/S/C (Rewerts) To approve the DanCo Communities contract for \$1.85 million as presented.**

◆ *Finance Committee*

**Issue:** Monthly Financial Report

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Ahmad noted that the Finance Committee reviewed the January 31, 2024 financial report at their March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. ACRC continues to follow our strategic hiring plan.

The committee also received a report on the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) stipend training and ACRC's caseload ratios as of March 1, 2024.

**M/S/C (Armstrong) To accept the monthly financial report as submitted.**

◆ *Committee Updates*

- CAC
  - Ms. Lampe shared that the CAC met on March 12<sup>th</sup> and February 13<sup>th</sup>.
    - Ms. Banales asked for feedback from CAC members on the value of the icons on the CAC's and Board's agendas.
    - ACRC's Client Advocates will be sharing the agency's planned activities for the 2024 Performance Contract at upcoming People First Chapter meetings to gather input.
    - At the March meeting, Tony Anderson, with the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), provided an overview of "How a Bill Becomes a Law."

- At the February meeting, Jacob Miller and Reyva Johnson, two of ACRC's Client Advocates, gave a presentation on the People Planning Together (PPT) initiative.
    - CAC members shared updates from the various advocacy meetings that they attend.
  - PAC
    - Mr. Broadbent shared that the PAC met on March 14<sup>th</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup>.
      - He acknowledged Ms. Banales', Mr. Decker's and ACRC staff's hard work on housing. One of the huge barriers for service providers is finding DSPs, as well as housing for clients.
      - The group had a productive conversation regarding service access at day programs. PAC members will be attending the upcoming Adult Day & Employment vendor forum to share how they have adapted to serve clients in their own communities over the years.
      - Several PAC members attended the California Disability Services Association (CDSA) Legislative Conference.
      - All organizations in this arena are advocating to pushing forward the "Don't Delay."
      - Respite workers continue to be paid less than minimum wage.
      - The PAC originally had five committees, which were consolidated down to three, and now, with the establishment of the Capitol Coalition, they now have two. The Capitol Coalition will be able to advance service provider advocacy efforts moving forward.
        - The Vendor Relations Committee is sending out a survey next month.
        - The Communication & Outreach Committee is starting a new listserv to draw feedback from service providers.
- ◆ *President's Report*
  - Mr. Lake expressed appreciation for those in attendance today.
- ◆ *Executive Director's Report*
  - Today, ACRC celebrated our staff in our "Annual Employee Appreciation Day" which is linked to Social Work Awareness Month.
    - Ms. Banales noted that ACRC's current staff total is 724. We have made progress with hiring and retention. Last year, we had 90 vacancies; today we have 44 (22 backfill and 22 growth).

- Over the past several weeks, ACRC has been at the State Capitol.
  - On February 28<sup>th</sup>, ACRC staff, clients and families attended the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 Hearing. Many provided public comments as a counter narrative to offset the negative comments that are out there. The underscoring note across the system is to not delay the rate reform for service providers and have it implemented, as planned, on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It is critical that our legislators share with the Governor how important this is.
  - On March 21<sup>st</sup>, at the invitation of Assemblymember Nguyen, Ms. Banales and key staff were invited to the Assembly floor where they unanimously voted to recognize March as Disability Awareness Month. Tony Anderson, ARCA's Associate Director, joined the press conference afterwards.
    - On Tuesday morning, Ms. Banales, Mr. Decker and Assemblymember Nguyen were invited by self-advocates, supported by STEP, to tour their homes in Mirasol Village. Housing information was shared with the Assemblymember.
- Although we had over 200 registered, 62 individuals attended ACRC's virtual Annual POS Data Meeting on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. The PowerPoint presentation is posted on the agency's website; we are still seeking public input.
- Ms. Banales provided an overview of the Strategic Plan End of Year Report 2023, which will be posted on ACRC's website.
  - She expressed concern regarding the metric that is used in "Measure 4 – Community Inclusion and Engagement." This is lag data pulled from the Performance Contract, and is not an accurate measure across years as the number of individuals in each category (ethnicity and age) changes year to year; it is not a static number. Comparing different percentages each year doesn't accurately state if a regional center is doing better/worse from the previous year.
    - Ms. Banales would like the Board to consider amending this metric to compare the proportionate percentage of clients to the percentage of expenditures. Staff would compare these percentages and research when the variance is greater than 5%.
      - Mr. Lake requested that Ms. Banales have staff draft a proposal and bring it before the Strategic Planning Committee for consideration.
- Our next quarterly newsletter will be released at the beginning of April.

- ACRC's next Community Meeting is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> via Zoom, where staff will share information on ACRC's 2024 Performance Contract.
- The Board has requested updates on open and closed programs since the last Board meeting. The following are newly vendored services:
  - Adult Residential Facility (8)
  - Community Integration Training Programs (3)
  - Transportation (3)
  - Occupational Therapy (1)
  - Out-of-Home Respite (1)
  - Speech Pathology (8)
  - Independent Living Services [ILS] (4)
  - Sports Club (2)
  - Specialized Recreational Therapy (2)
  - Coordinated Family Supports (1)

Closed vendors:

- Adult Residential Facility (6)
- Community Integration Training Programs (1)
- Transportation (2)
- Occupational Therapy (6)
- Speech Pathology (7)
- Physical Therapy (3)
- Counseling Services (3)
- Specialized Therapeutic Services (9)
- Durable Medical Equipment [DME] (2)
- April is Autism Acceptance and Awareness Month.
  - On Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>, ACRC staff will be hosting a booth at the 2024 FEAT Walk & Spring Carnival at Maidu Community Park in Roseville.
  - "Art on the Spectrum" is being held on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Crocker Art Museum.
  - "Art-Tism" is scheduled for Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Pannell Meadowview Community Center in Sacramento.
    - More information can be found on ACRC's website.
- April is also National Deaf History Month. ACRC has two Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialists, and during our monthly Leadership Team Meetings, our management team will be learning a new sign.

◆ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*

- Ms. Lampe shared that the group met on March 1<sup>st</sup> and discussed the legislative hearings that were held in February.
- Their July meeting will be in-person.

- The next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, March 29<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. to noon.
  - ◆ *ARCA Delegate Report*
    - Ms. Pennington noted that the ARCA Board meets six times a year and at each meeting, the group receives a report from DDS. She expressed appreciation to Ms. Banales, ACRC's Executive Team, Managers, Service Coordinators (SCs) and every staff member. Frequently when the department speaks about pilot programs that are happening across the state, it is mentioned that ACRC is taking part in them. Ms. Pennington is proud of all of ACRC's staff for taking the time to work out the kinks and make the pavement smoother for all of the other regional centers, as DDS improves services across the state.
    - The next meeting is scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup>.
6. ***Closed Session*** – At 5:28 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss personnel issues.
7. ***Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion*** - At 6:33 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which personnel issues were discussed.
8. ***Adjournment***  
The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales