

Alta California Regional Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, May 23, 2024  
Minutes

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

**Absent** (\* excused): Carmen Aguilar\*, EunMi Cho\*, Steven Sanchez\*

**Staff:** Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Jennifer Bloom, DeLayna Eskridge-Brown, Camelia Houston, Faye Tait, Lisa West

**Facilitators:** Amy Fulk

**Visitors:** Jaclyn Balanay, Taylor Berry, Maureen Fitzgerald, Melanie Gonzales, Peter Mendoza, Karen Mulvany, Tim Pierce

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** – The Board of Directors met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2024. Ms. Rewerts read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **Meeting Our Mission**
  - ◆ Karen Mulvany and her husband are grateful for the positive problem solving that occurred in early 2024. Their daughter lives in her own home with Supported Living Services (SLS) and a few years back, she needed additional services after contracting COVID. In early 2024, she contracted COVID again and Mechelle Johnson identified a service provider that had been used during COVID and took the time to see if this service was available to clients served in SLS, since her daughter’s SLS staff were not able to support her. “Heart of Humanity” was able to provide their daughter with support for five days. ACRC came up with a creative way to address this problem.
3. **Community Comments/Announcements**
  - ◆ Ms. Lampe won first place at a Bocce Ball Tournament.
  - ◆ Ms. Rewerts is assisting the Director of “Funny Money,” with props and in the lighting booth.
4. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences of EunMi Cho and Steven Sanchez; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of March 28, 2024; and c) Client Advisory Committee (CAC) [approve CAC Chair and Designated Rep to Board for 2024-25 FY] , Executive Committee [approve 2024-25 FY Board Meeting and Board Committee Meeting Schedules], Finance Committee and**

**Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) minutes.**

**5. New Business**

◆ *Approve Slate of Officers and ARCA Representatives for 2024-25 FY*

- Mr. Lake shared that the Slate of Officers and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Representatives 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 2024 Performance Contract*

- Ms. Bloom and Ms. Houston shared the integration of the feedback that was received from our stakeholders and community through May 8<sup>th</sup>. ACRC has a designated email address that is available year-round – [performancecontractfeedback@altaregional.org](mailto:performancecontractfeedback@altaregional.org).
  - They reviewed the newly planned activities, as noted in red font in the draft. (see attachment)
- The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has indicated that they will provide ACRC with the 2023 year-end data by August 31<sup>st</sup>. ACRC plans to hold a public meeting to review this information at the November Board meeting.
- Ms. Banales noted that all of these measures are important and there are many other endeavors that help to bring us closer to the outcomes that we work towards throughout the year.

**M/S/C (Hopkins) To approve the 2024 Performance Contract as presented.**

◆ *Approval CPP Contract – Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home (EBSH)*

- DDS has approved this project under ACRC's Community Placement Plan (CPP). Brilliant Corners will locate, acquire, and renovate a property that will operate as an EBSH.

**M/S/C (Armstrong) To approve the Brilliant Corners start-up contract for \$750,000 as presented. (one abstention)**

◆ *Finance Committee*

**Issue 1:** Monthly Financial Report

**Discussion and Action:** The Finance Committee met on May 13<sup>th</sup> and is recommending acceptance of the March 31, 2024 financial report.

Mr. Ahmad noted that ACRC is expected to live within our Operations (OPS) and Purchase of Services (POS) allocations. We received an extra allocation that included funding for tuition reimbursement and specialized services.

ACRC has 18 staff members that have utilized the tuition reimbursement benefit, where they can be reimbursed for up to \$10,000 per FY. We continue to promote this opportunity to our staff, as well as new hires. This pilot will end on June 30, 2025.

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

**Issue 2:** Approve Independent Audit Firm

**Discussion and Action:** The Finance Committee is recommending approval of Devant, CPAs as ACRC's independent auditor for the FY ending June 30, 2024.

**M/S/C (Hopkins) To approve Devant, CPAs for the 2024 FY independent audit.** (one abstention)

◆ *Committee Updates*

• CAC

- Mr. Hopkins shared that the CAC met on May 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Ms. Banales shared that the Governor held a press conference about his plans to balance the state's budget. She also shared information about the "Don't Delay" rally at the State Capitol on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - The committee nominated the CAC Chair and designated representative to the Board for the next FY.
  - The group reviewed the Supported Decision-Making materials and the newly drafted Emergency Response Communication Cards.
  - CAC members shared updates from various advocacy meetings that they attend.

- PAC
  - Mr. Broadbent shared that the PAC met on May 9<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>.
    - The group received a great introduction from Michael Mercado and Melinda Kimball from ACRC's Community Services Department. The PAC commends ACRC for their efforts in supporting the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.
    - Service providers are closely following the efforts to reform PAGA – "Private Attorneys General Act."
    - The California Disability Services Association (CDSA) is supporting AB 2423 (Mathis). This bill will require DDS to review and update the rate models every two years, beginning July 1, 2025.
    - The group reviewed the requirements for Special Incident Reports (SIRs) for SLS providers. Since SLS is a 24/7 service, service providers are required to report special incidents, even if staff are not present at the time of the event.
    - ACRC is hosting Southside Unlimited's two-day "Unlock the Power of Person-Centered Thinking" Training on May 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.
    - The PAC confirmed Lindsey Dyba as the PAC Chair and himself as the Co-Chair/designated representative to the Board for the 2024-25 FY.
    - The Vendor Relations Committee sent recommendations to Mr. Decker for consideration.
      - Have ACRC post the Client Services and Supports guide to the agency's website, alongside the Community Services and Support guide.
      - Periodically mention the location of the guides during Friday's "Coffee with Community Services."
      - Continue to host more in-person Vendor Fairs, both in Sacramento, as well as outlying areas.
- ◆ *President's Report*
  - Mr. Lake expressed appreciation to Ms. Banales and Ms. West for coordinating the Board's Training today.
  - Ms. Rewerts is terming off the Board on June 30, 2024. The Board is grateful for her contributions over the last seven years.
- ◆ *Executive Director's Report*
  - The Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 held a secondary hearing today and noted that the Governor's proposed budget is described as

choosing to “destabilize the developmental service provider community with a delay in the anticipated final step of rate reform, creating more barriers to needed services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

- Ms. Banales, Mr. Decker, and two Board members attended the “Mayday Mayday Don’t Delay” rally at the State Capitol on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Banales remains hopeful that the promise of entitlement will be upheld. Without a robust service system, some Individual Program Plan/Individual Family Service Plan (IPP/IFSP) goals are fractured with limited services.
- ACRC’s Client and Family Survey launched on January 1, 2024, and Ms. Banales stated that she would share quarterly data with the Board. She reminded everyone that the survey is tied to the IPP.
  - For the first quarter – January through March 2024:
    - 7,988 surveys were sent out; 993 were completed – 12% return rate, which is considered high for a standard survey.
    - Of the surveys returned, 686 respondents requested “no change” to their IPP or service delivery.
    - The largest request was to receive more information from the regional center.
    - 97% of the respondents were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their IPP and their Service Coordinator (SC).
    - Regarding the location for IPPs, 42% preferred virtual meetings, while 39% preferred the client’s or family home.
    - Respondents’ ethnicities were as follows (top 4): White = 38%, Spanish/Latin = 19%, African American = 11%, and 8% declined to specify. This follows closely with our current client representation which reflects: 41.5% White, 18.4% Spanish/Latin, 11.6% African American.
- Ms. Banales noted that the “ACRC Quarterly Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending March 31, 2024” is included in the Board packet under Tab 11.
  - The number of applicants for Lanterman Intake (three years and older) has been trending upwards over the past few years. ACRC’s internal resources are not sufficient in getting people through the process within the mandated timeline. We are recruiting community clinicians and providing clinical training as an incentive to gain more vendors. Ms. Banales is also requiring Client Services Managers (CSMs) to complete a

minimum of two social assessments monthly. We know that we need to do better, and we are working to do so.

- One of the top priorities of our agency is to recruit and retain staff. At the time of this report, ACRC's staff count was 726. Today, we are close to 750. We are also recruiting interns in an effort to attract individuals to our service system.
- The SIR percentage has gone down. Two of Mr. Decker's Managers have refined our internal process to mitigate any delay from the reporting we are responsible for; this will assist in pushing us towards 100%. Ms. Banales expects that these numbers will be up next quarter.
- In July, it will be close to a year since ACRC transferred our transportation services to R&D Transportation. They provide oversight to service providers and have identified areas of service that clients need. R&D Transportation also reminds our residential service providers about DDS' Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) grant opportunities that are available.
  - More information will be shared at the July Board meeting.
- In April and May, ACRC staff:
  - Presented at Yolo County Town Hall Meetings in Esparto and Winters.
  - Presented and attended the Local Partnership Agreement (LPA) Summit at Sierra College.
  - Provided public testimony to AKT Development in Folsom and El Dorado Hills.
  - Provided public testimony at the Sacramento Housing Committee and City Council.
  - Are presenting at an Annual Conference for Housing Authorities, alongside DDS and California Affordable Housing Agency (CalAHA).
  - Attended the Special Olympics for Roseville City School District Youth Athletes Program.
- The Board has requested updates on open and closed programs since the last Board meeting. The following are newly vended services:
  - Care Homes (11)
  - Geriatric Facility (2)
  - SLS (2)
  - Independent Living Services [ILS] (1)
  - Community Integration Training Program (1)
  - Therapy & Counseling Services (17)
  - Educational Services (1)
  - Sports Club (12)
  - Camping Services (2)

- Specialized Recreational Therapy (1)
- Creative Art Program (1)
- SD Support Services (2)
- Personal Assistance (1)
- Transportation (1)

Closed vendors:

- Care Homes (7)
  - ILS (1)
  - Therapy & Counseling Services (8)
  - Specialized Recreational Therapy (1)
  - Transportation (1)
- The UC Davis MIND Institute is holding their 2024 Summer Institute on Neurodevelopmental Disabilities on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Sacramento.

◆ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*

- The next meeting is scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup>, from 11 a.m. to noon.
- They plan to hold an in-person meeting in July.

◆ *ARCA Delegate Report*

- The next meeting is scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup>, in Sacramento.

6. **Closed Session** – At 4:25 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss real estate and personnel issues.

7. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 5:23 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which real estate and personnel issues were discussed.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales