

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 26, 2024
Minutes

Present: Jackie Armstrong, Garrett Broadbent, Johnny Deng, Tom Hopkins, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Kelly Pennington, Anwar Safvi, Steven Sanchez

Absent (* excused): Carmen Aguilar*, EunMi Cho*

Staff: Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown, John Decker, Camelia Houston, Kenisha Hurd, Mechelle Johnson, Melissa Schuessler, Esperanza Zúñiga, Lisa West

Facilitators: Amy Fulk

Visitors: Steve Andrews, Jaclyn Balanay, Taylor Berry, Stephani Crespin, Doug Bonnet, Danielle du Piesanie, Maureen Fitzgerald, Shaniece Hill, Nadder Mirsepassi

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** – The Board of Directors met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at the Auburn Masonic Hall in Auburn. Mr. Broadbent read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **Meeting Our Mission**
 - ◆ Ms. Banales noted that this part of the Board Meeting’s agenda focuses on partnerships that ACRC is forging in our ten-county catchment area.
 - ◆ Nadder Mirsepassi, father to Sam, expressed appreciation for ACRC’s Self-Determination Program (SDP). About three years ago, Sam transitioned to SDP, and it has been a positive experience, understanding that it is a new program and challenges may arise. Over time, they have had different Service Coordinators (SCs), and each and every one provides support when needed. Compared to traditional services, being able to select services to meet Sam’s person-centered plan is wonderful. Finding services and supports can sometimes be a challenge, but the team works through their options. Sam looks forward to going to work and is taking music lessons.
3. **Training – “Self-Determination Program (SDP)”**
 - Ms. Banales shared that the Board has indicated that they would like to have more information about ACRC’s Self-Determination Program. She introduced Kenisha Hurd, Associate Client Services Director, and Melissa Schuessler, Client Services Manager, who shared a presentation on SDP.
 - As of early September, ACRC has 418 clients participating in this program.
 - Self-Determination is guided by five principles:

- Freedom
 - Authority
 - Support
 - Responsibility
 - Confirmation
- The Self Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) plays an important role in the implementation and oversight of SDP. The committee is comprised of 12 members, six appointed by ACRC and six appointed by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD). Their meetings are open to the public.
 - ACRC and the SDAC work collaboratively to prioritize the use of SDP implementation funds to meet the needs of participants in ACRC's catchment area.
 - Participant Choice Specialist (PCS) positions were created in November 2021 by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). These positions were limited to three years for each regional center. PCSs are not case carrying and provide support to SCs. In late 2022, ACRC made the decision to move to a specialized unit for SDP clients. The unit consisted of PCSs and SDP SCs. Due to challenges of growth in the program and populating the SDP unit with SCs, this past year, the existing SCs in the SDP unit transitioned to join the existing PCSs, and SDP clients moved back to case management units, assigned by zip code.
 - Ms. Schuessler manages ACRC's PCSs. Her team currently consists of seven PCSs, with a plan to hire three more. Positive outcomes with the recent SDP unit restructuring include:
 - Consistency across the agency with implementation of SDP.
 - Training is being provided to all SCs and Managers allowing all clients equal access to SDP.
 - Each unit has an assigned PCS involved and upon request, will receive support within 48 hours of their request.

4. ***Community Comments/Announcements***

- ◆ Ms. Crespin shared that SDP has been wonderful for her family, as well. Since individuals change throughout the year, she is hopeful that the process to approve spending plans can be streamlined.
- ◆ Ms. Fitzgerald acknowledged ACRC's work behind the focus of AB 3291. She also expressed concern regarding the Board's closed session topics.

5. ***Consent Agenda*** – **By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences of Carmen Aguilar; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of July 25, 2024; and c) Board Development Committee (BDC) [approve Steven Sanchez's Term of Office], Client Advisory Committee (CAC), Executive Committee [Jackie Armstrong's COI Mitigation Plan], and Finance Committee minutes.**

6. **New Business**

◆ *Finance Committee*

Issue 1: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: Mr. Ahmad noted that the minutes are under Tab 6 and the financial report is under Tab 7 of the Board packet. ACRC's total budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year (FY) is nearly \$900 million, including both Purchase of Services (POS) and Operations (OPS) dollars. The vast majority of the increase in POS is for the last provider increase phase that will be implemented in January 2025. Caseload growth funding is also embedded into this funding.

In September, ACRC deployed a new caseload management system, putting in place policies and procedures as we move forward. This will make our work more efficient. Clients and families will have information more readily available to them, as well.

Mr. Ahmad shared that ACRC met our annual audit requirements for the last FY.

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

Issue 2: Authorize Line of Credit

Discussion and Action: Each year, the Board must approve the agency's line of credit with U.S. Bank. Mr. Ahmad noted that the line of credit has no fees attached unless ACRC utilizes it, and it is a safety net for our agency to have in place if there are delays in the state's advance at the beginning of the FY.

M/S/C (Pennington) To authorize ACRC's line of credit with U.S. Bank as presented.

◆ *Committee Updates*

- CAC

- Mr. Hopkins shared that the CAC met on September 10th.
 - Ms. Banales asked for the committee's support for AB 3291, which aligns with ACRC's Coordinated Future Planning Initiative.

- Amy McCreary, ACRC's Clinical Services Manager, gave a presentation entitled "An Overview of Dual Diagnosis and Mental Health Resources."
 - Committee members shared information about the various advocacy meetings that they attended.
- PAC
 - Mr. Broadbent shared that the PAC did not meet this month.
- ◆ *President's Report*
 - Mr. Lake expressed appreciation for everyone that attended today's training, along with the efforts of Ms. Banales, Ms. West and Ms. Pennington for today's planning.
 - He also wanted to thank Mr. Broadbent, Dr. Cho, Dr. Deng, Ms. Pennington and Ms. Banales for attending the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Academy in San Bernardino earlier this month.
- ◆ *Executive Director's Report*
 - Ms. Banales is proud that ACRC is on the eve of opening the first Group Home for Children with Special Health Care Needs (GHCSHN) in the state. A video was shared highlighting the home's features. Two children served by ACRC, who currently reside in subacute facilities, will be moving into this home, meeting our commitment to serve children in their home communities.
 - Pictures of ACRC's new Sacramento Office site was shared.
 - Ms. Banales has started speaking with local authorities to increase public transportation options in the area.
 - As the building census grows, Centene will open the cafeteria, where Ms. Banales sees a great opportunity for competitive integrated employment (CIE).
 - ACRC plans to make visiting this new site as convenient and welcoming as possible.
 - ACRC's November Board meeting will include the year-end Performance Contract Data report, as well as the annual NCI Data Meeting.
- ◆ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*
 - The next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, September 27th, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon via Zoom. They will be discussing the Housing Symposium that is scheduled for February 2025.
- ◆ *ARCA Delegate Report.*
 - As mentioned earlier, an ARCA Academy, for regional center Board

members, was held in early September in San Bernadino.

- The next ARCA delegate meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17th, in San Diego.

7. **Closed Session** – At 4:23 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss personnel issues.

8. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 4:38 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which personnel issues were discussed.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales