

Alta California Regional Center  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Monday, January 10, 2022  
Minutes

**Present:**

Rita Walker, President  
Anwar Safvi, Vice President  
Yang Sun, Finance Comm. Chair  
Michelle Rewerts, Secretary &  
ARCA-CAC Rep  
Jackie Armstrong, Member-at-Large  
Carmen Aguilar, Member-at-Large

**Board Members:**

Dan Lake  
Amy Lampe  
Ron Mainini  
Kelly Pennington  
Michelle Ramirez  
Retha Seabron

**Facilitators:**

Amy Fulk

**Visitors:**

Steve Andrews  
DeLayna Eskridge-Brown  
Maureen Fitzgerald

**Staff:**

Lori Banales, Executive Director  
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Financial Officer  
John Decker, Director of Community  
Services  
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &  
Clinical Services  
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client  
Services  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee met on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 4:45 p.m. by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Approve Updated Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Service Policy; and 2) Executive Director's Report.

**Without objection, Rita Walker made the motion to adopt the Executive Committee meeting minutes of November 8, 2021 as submitted.**

1. ***Approve Updated Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Service Policy***

- Ms. Banales shared that the current budget restored social recreation services for our clients (suspended W&I Code §4648.5). As part of this requirement, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) asked regional centers to review their current policy.
  - Ms. Johnson noted that this revised policy incorporates children and adults and promotes age appropriate activities, so that individuals can fully and actively participate in all aspects of life.
  - This policy promotes full inclusion, also recognizing that all individuals may not be ready for this opportunity. ACRC will look at every request with a person-centered approach.
  - ACRC wants to create opportunity and flexibility.
  - Staff will be trained to this policy, as well as the corresponding procedure.

- Ms. Banales clarified that beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, requests for social recreation have been brought before ACRC's Best Practice Committee so that we implement common practice. She expressed appreciation to Ms. Johnson and her team – a lot of time has been spent to make sure that there is as much consistency across the state as possible.

**Without objection, Michelle Rewerts made the motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the updated Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Service Policy as presented.**

## 2. **Executive Director's Report**

- Ms. Banales shared that her team is drafting a Service Access & Equity Policy related to diversity and disparity. She believes that ACRC should have a policy indicating what our regional center stands for.
  - She will be seeking the Board's support with this policy. The draft will be brought forward in March.
  - Ms. Banales would like to share this new policy at ACRC's annual POS Expenditure Meetings.
  - Mr. Decker noted that ACRC wants to ensure that clients have broad access to services, and that services are not dependent on where they live or their ethnic background.
- Ms. Banales hopes that Board members have had the opportunity to read ACRC's first quarterly newsletter – "Alta Connections".
- Ms. Banales was hopeful that ACRC could implement a return to the office date of February 1<sup>st</sup> (two days in the office & three days remote). When reviewing the COVID-19 numbers, from July 6<sup>th</sup> thru November 30<sup>th</sup>, we were in the midst of the Delta variant. During this time, ACRC tracked 310 clients, 109 direct support professionals (DSPs) and 19 staff. Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Omicron variant presented itself and ACRC has now tracked 117 clients, 73 DSPs and 17 staff. The September 28<sup>th</sup> Public Health Order (PHO) required regional center staff to be fully vaccinated by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Now we have a new PHO requiring staff to be boosted by February 1<sup>st</sup>. ACRC is making every effort to get in line with this requirement. Ms. Banales knows that being in the office holds value for staff, but she has made the decision to push out the return to the office date. She is hopeful that within the next few weeks we will see cases diminish.

3. **Closed Session** – at 5:26 p.m. the Executive Committee adjourned to executive session in order to discuss personnel issues.

4. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** – at 5:41 p.m. the Executive Committee reconvened in open session following a closed session in which personnel issues were discussed.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 14, 2022**. The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Lori Banales