

Alta California Regional Center
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, January 13, 2025
Minutes

Present:

Dan Lake, President
Kelly Pennington, Vice President &
ARCA Rep
Steven Sanchez, Secretary
Anwar Safvi, Finance Comm. Chair
Amy Lampe, ARCA-CAC Rep
Carmen Aguilar, Member-at-Large

Board Members:

Jackie Armstrong
Garrett Broadbent
EunMi Cho
Tom Hopkins
Akkia Pride-Polk
Ceasar Seabron

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk
Naomi Smith

Visitors:

Steve Andrews
Maureen Fitzgerald
Peter Mendoza
Paul Stroub

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Operating
Officer
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client
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 13, 2025, at 4:21 p.m. to discuss:
1) President's Report; and 2) Executive Director's Report.

Without objection, Dan Lake made the motion to adopt the Executive Committee meeting minutes of November 12, 2024, as submitted.

1. *President's Report*

- Mr. Lake will be sending a survey to Board members within the next week.
- The Personnel Committee, which he will be Chairing, will be asking for the Board's approval to move forward with the Executive Director's annual evaluation.

2. *Executive Director's Report*

- Ms. Banales reminded everyone that ACRC's Executive Committee will be reviewing the agency's quarterly dashboards moving forward. The "ACRC Quarterly Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending December 31, 2024" were sent to everyone prior to this meeting. She highlighted the following:
 - Regarding the eligibility determination for Early Start, in the prior quarter we were at 38 days and this quarter we dropped to 35 days (an average of 34 days). We remain well within the statutory guidelines.

- We continue to see an increase in referrals for Lanterman eligibility. The last quarter, we were at 157 days and that has increased to 179 days. Ms. Houston shared that ACRC is working with a contractor to strategize and evaluate our agency's processes. It is noteworthy to inform the Board that we have additional in-house support; we are utilizing Client Service Managers (CSMs) to assist with completing social assessments. Our staff are working overtime, and we have independent contractors, as well. Psych associates are assisting, and we have also posted a Request for Proposal (RFP) on our agency's website for licensed clinical psychologists.
- We are continuing to grow the "Age 5 and under" caseloads, adding a new unit recently. These caseloads require quarterly contact to get the clients situated with appropriate services. The "All Others" caseloads are trending down, which is tied to growing our staff count.
- ACRC grew by 20 employees in the last quarter, and we are set to onboard an additional 22 on January 16th. We currently have 68 vacancies; 26 are growth positions, and 27 are backfills for Service Coordinator (SC) positions.
- The agency's turnover rate has gone down to 3.2, with 50 new hires in the last quarter. We have focused our attention on attracting interns; we have contracted with universities to onboard 43 within the last 12 months.
- Targeted Case Management is how regional centers draw down federal funding to the State's General Fund. ACRC has a requirement of 400 units per month per SC. This quarter, we have trended down; Ms. Banales equates this to having two months of the quarter with an increase in vacations, as well as our recent transition to a new case management tool, Atlas, which holds a learning curve for staff. ACRC management has shown grace to allow staff time to learn the new system.
- Our Federal Programs Unit continues to shine in finding clients to put on the Medicaid Waiver. ACRC is the fourth largest regional center across the state, and we draw down the second largest in federal dollars for this program.
- ACRC continues to implement new strategies in reporting Special Incident Reports (SIRs) to DDS within the two-day requirement.
- There is an increase in "provisionally eligibility" clients.
- ACRC continues to onboard clients that are interested in the Self-Determination Program (SDP).
 - Ms. Banales noted that there has been an increase in SDP budgets.
- Autism is the primary eligibility diagnosis. It is important to note that an individual can qualify for services under more than one category.
- Of the clients served by ACRC, two-thirds are male, and one-third are female.
- 89% of ACRC clients speak English, 7% speak Spanish, and under 1% speak Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, or use Sign Language.
- Living at home with family or guardian remains at the top of the residence type at 84%, followed by Independent Living Services (ILS) at 7.5%,

- Community Care Facilities (CCF) at 4.9%, and Supported Living Services (SLS) at 2%.
- The highest Purchase of Services (POS) categories of service remain at residential facilities, day programs and SLS.
 - ACRC has identified three clients that are currently living in Southern California and have been affected by the wildfires. Two are safe and ACRC staff are actively working on transporting the other client, who lives in a skilled nursing facility, back to our area (she wants to come back).
 - The statewide regional center system is offering resources as we continue to learn more about the devastating circumstances. We are preparing ourselves to be available in any way possible.
 - Governor Newsom released the proposed \$322.2 billion 2025-26 fiscal year's (FY's) budget on Friday. The Department of Finance believes there will be a modest surplus, while the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) is projecting a deficit of \$2 billion.
 - The number of individuals served by regional centers in the community is expected to increase to nearly 505,000 in the 2025-26 FY.
 - Our statewide service system's portion of the state's budget includes \$19 billion in funding; an increase of 20% since last year.
 - This year, we are looking at the implementation of AB 1147, specifically the Public Records Act (PRA). The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) meetings are scheduled for the end of this week.
 - ACRC's Client and Family Survey has completed its first full year. Ms. Banales plans to have a conversation with the Board because the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is implementing their own satisfaction survey attached to the standardized Individual Program Plan (IPP).
 - She will be sharing the year-end report at the end of this month.
 - DDS has contracted with WestEd and will be launching a series of family surveys aimed at gathering and understanding the transition and inclusion experiences of children ages three to 11 years old who receive regional center services. This project is called SATISFY (School Age Transition and Inclusion Support for Families and Youth).
 - LEAD-K, Language Equality & Acquisition for Deaf Kids, is holding a "Love and Literacy Across California" free event on Saturday, March 15th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at NorCal Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing, located in Sacramento.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 10, 2025**. The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales