

Alta California Regional Center
Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
Minutes

Present:

Anwar Safvi, Vice President
Yang Sun, Finance Comm. Chair
Jackie Armstrong, Member-at-Large
Carmen Aguilar, Member-at-Large
Ron Mainini, Member-at-Large

Absent: (* excused)

Rita Walker*, President
Michelle Rewerts*, Secretary &
ARCA-CAC Rep

Board Members:

Dan Lake
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
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 4:37 p.m. by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Deliverables in Board Facilitation & Support Request for Proposal; 2) Performance Contract 2021 Review & 2022 Public Input; and 3) Executive Director's Report.

- Mr. Andrews shared that the Sacramento County Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council, along with Marty Omoto, would like ACRC to consider adding a public policy measure focused on internet access to its Performance Contract with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The measure would then track those clients/families that benefit from the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. This would ensure positive outcomes for those that are served by the regional center.

Without objection, Anwar Safvi made the motion to adopt the Executive Committee meeting minutes of September 13, 2021 as submitted.

1. *Deliverables in Board Facilitation & Support Request for Proposal*

- ACRC is not ready to release the Request for Proposal (RFP) until the deliverables are reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee.
 - Mr. Decker shared the draft deliverables.
- Ms. Banales is confident that we can release the RFP, and have something in place by January 1st for all Board members.

Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the deliverables for the RFP as presented.

2. Performance Contract 2021 Review & 2022 Public Input

- A few months ago, Ms. Banales shared the timelines for the Performance Contract with this committee. She is having staff provide an update on our agency's current contract with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). This is also a platform to receive community input for next year's Performance Contract. We met with the Client Advisory Committee (CAC) this afternoon and we will be sharing the same information with the Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) on Thursday.
 - Mr. Decker and Ms. Johnson reviewed ACRC's 2021 Performance Contract.
 - It's important to note that the current planned activities were developed by incorporating community input over the years.
 - If anyone would like to provide input, please email Ms. West, who will forward to appropriate staff.

3. Executive Director's Report

- Ms. Banales noted that the number of daily COVID-19 cases are declining, but individuals are still testing positive. One day last week we reported no new cases. Since July 6th, we have reported the following to DDS:
 - 240 clients testing positive, with five deaths
 - 91 direct support professionals (DSPs) testing positive, with one death
 - 15 ACRC staff testing positive, with two deaths
- On September 28th, the Department of Public Health issued a public health order (PHO) mandating vaccinations for Adult Care Facilities and Direct Care Workers. That same day, DDS released a Directive for all regional center employees, as well as service providers, requiring full vaccination by November 30th. Both the PHO and the Directive allows for health and/or religious exemptions.
 - Employers are required to keep record of their staff's status. The penalty for not conforming to the PHO is \$14,000 per incident, per day.
 - Ms. Banales shared that ACRC takes this very seriously. We required staff to either provide proof of vaccination, fill out a request for an exemption, or submit a plan of action by October 8th. Our Human Resources (HR) Department received 32 exemption requests (two medical and 30 religious).
 - Those requesting an exemption will have an answer by this Friday.
 - Employees with an approved exemption will have to be tested weekly, along with other strict restrictions.
 - It's important to note that we may have staff who choose to leave ACRC.
 - 459 of our staff have provided proof of vaccination. ACRC is in a better position than other centers. Ms. Banales believes that we did the right thing by promoting education on choice.

- In order to start planning for staffing shortages, we are reaching out to service providers to find out who might be able to add more clients beginning December 1st.
- We need to concentrate on the good things that have come from this pandemic. Service delivery has changed for the better. We just need to get through this together.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, November 8, 2021**. The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales