

Alta California Regional Center
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, October 6, 2014
Minutes

Present:

Modean Gibson, President
Brendan Peacock, Vice President
Cindy Benson, Secretary & ARCA-
CAC Rep.
Anwar Safvi, Finance Comm. Chair

Facilitators:

Larry Prosser

Absent: (* excused)

Walter Kaweski*, ARCA Rep

Board Members:

Steven Sanchez (via phone)

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating
Officer
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee met at 3:31 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2014, in the Executive Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) State Budget Update; 2) Board Development Committee Update; 3) President's Comments; 4) Executive Director's Comments; and 5) Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Modean Gibson made the motion to adopt the Executive Committee meeting minutes of September 8, 2014 as submitted.

1. ***State Budget Update***

Issue: The committee needs to review the Governor's State Budget.

Discussion and Action: Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC has received the A-1 contract amendment from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). This reflects almost all of the regional center's budget for the current fiscal year (FY). Many centers are still showing a deficit in funding for the last FY and the department is working to make them whole. The biggest challenge is to keep staff on. None of the 21 regional centers will be meeting the mandated caseload ratios again this year.

The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), along with the Lanterman Coalition, is working to demand a 10% increase for regional center's Operations (OPS) and Purchase of Services (POS) budgets, and then an additional 5% every year after that until we have an equitable system.

Mr. Bonnet believes that after Governor Brown is re-elected, he may be a little more generous with our service system. Legislators are currently working on the budget for the 2015-16 FY.

Implementing the Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rule, where services will be provided in a non-segregated environment, will have an increased cost to our system. The timeline to get this in place is five years. DDS has produced their draft plan and will continue to revise it. Mr. Bonnet shared that this is all connected to the Self-Determination Program waiver, which has to be submitted to the federal government by December 31st.

- **Information only.**

2. ***Board Development Committee (BDC) Update***

- Mr. Peacock shared that the BDC has successfully developed a draft of the new panel interview questions. With these, Board members will have a better idea of the candidate's qualifications when they are presented to the Board for consideration.
- Committee members will be interviewing two candidates prior to their November meeting.
- The BDC is starting to implement mentorships for new Board members – Mr. Peacock will be Mr. Sanchez's.

3. ***President's Comments***

- Ms. Gibson wanted to share a very special thank you to the staff at the Board Retreat:
 - Patti Diamond and her assistance in explaining the Board manuals;
 - The presentation from the Residential Services & Community Services Departments;
 - And for Ms. West for everything that she did to make the day a success.
- She and Mr. Bonnet will be inviting some of the new legislators to our regional center to visit and help educate them about our statewide service system.
- Ms. Gibson shared that her family is experiencing some challenges and she has asked Mr. Peacock to Chair the Executive Committee and Board meeting in November. She will attend by phone, if possible.

4. ***Executive Director's Comments***

- ACRC has received 60 Fair Hearing (FH) requests so far this calendar year; 17 regarding eligibility and 43 regarding services. Seven cases have gone before the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH); five decisions supported ACRC's position, one supported the claimant's position, and the other was a split decision (granted in part, denied in part). We currently have 12 FHs pending; five regarding eligibility and seven regarding services. Mr. Bonnet shared that most cases are resolved at the informal level.
- Mr. Bonnet would like to start a conversation with the Board regarding employment. He believes ACRC may want to develop an Employment First Policy; the push for this has gone national. The idea is that the first option for clients who are leaving the school system is to offer them employment first. He distributed the Employment First Policies of Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC) and Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC). If we were to develop a policy,

the discussions with our clients would begin years prior to them leaving the school system. Right now California's employment rate for regional center clients is approximately 13%. Mr. Bonnet believes this policy could potentially be driven by our Client Advisory Committee (CAC); they will be discussing this topic next week at their monthly meeting. He hopes that we would be able to have a policy by the end of the year, but the challenge remains in finding the jobs for our clients.

- Mr. Bonnet reviewed the 2015 Performance Contract that ACRC has with DDS. He understands that the State may be looking at the National Core Indicators (NCI) moving forward.

5. ***Announcements***

- Mr. Safvi would like the Board to remain informed about any complaints clients or providers may have with services.

The next Executive Committee meetings are scheduled on **Monday, November 3, 2014**, at 3:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet