

Alta California Regional Center
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, March 14, 2022
Minutes

Present:

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

Absent: (* excused)

Carmen Aguilar*, Member-at-Large

Visitors:

Maureen Fitzgerald
Mary Nisson

Board Members:

Amy Lampe
Kelly Pennington
Retha Seabron
Patty Wallace

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, March 14, 2022, at 4:49 p.m. by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Approve Service Access & Equity Policy; and 2) Executive Director's Report.

- Ms. Fitzgerald believes the Board should seek additional community input on the draft Service Access & Equity Policy prior to taking action.

Without objection, Rita Walker made the motion to adopt the Executive Committee meeting minutes of February 14, 2022 as submitted.

1. Approve Service Access & Equity Policy

- Ms. Banales shared that this policy anchors how ACRC staff move through service requests and is seated in the core values of our agency. It is our hope that we can unveil this policy at our upcoming POS Expenditure Meetings.
 - It's important to note that three specific focus groups met to gather input that was considered in this draft policy.
 - The first group met in January, and consisted of community members (UC Davis, SCDD, ARC, CTC of NorCal, and individuals from our Hmong community).
 - The next group of clients/families met in February.
 - The last group consisted solely of our client community.
 - ACRC staff received some feedback that framed how we structured our policy and distilled that information to make a change moving forward. This policy is well-intended and will be embraced by our

agency. This will be an ongoing effort, as we train staff and develop measurable outcomes.

- Ms. Banales expects this policy to be braided throughout our staff's activities. This policy will be at the forefront of the decision making that we do every day.

Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the Service Access & Equity Policy as presented.

2. Executive Director's Report

- Ms. Banales noted that today marks the final day that regional centers were to submit the surveillance report to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on COVID positive cases for clients, direct support professionals (DSPs) and regional center staff. Ms. West has been diligent in reporting COVID cases during the pandemic. Moving forward, the department will track these cases through Special Incident Reports (SIRs).
 - Since the beginning of the pandemic, ACRC reported the following:
 - 2069 positive clients, with 43 deaths
 - 729 positive DSPs, with three deaths
 - 115 positive ACRC staff, with two deaths
- The impact of COVID has been great. As we move forward into the state's endemic phase, we will be taking baby steps into our new norm. Our Managers have come back into the office four-days per week beginning March 1st. Staff will be coming into the office two-days per week starting March 21st. We are moving into "hoteling", with the use of software and collaborative spaces, which creates a different atmosphere. Understanding that some staff may be hesitant to come back into the office, Ms. Banales knows that the clients that we serve our counting on us every day and desire to have staff in the office.
- The first Friday of March is "National Staff Appreciation Day". Since most of our staff are not in the office yet, Ms. Banales wants to push this into an entire month of appreciation. We will be recognizing our staff's efforts over the last two years.
- ARCA Grassroots Day is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5th. More information will be shared. Ms. Banales is hopeful that we have strong participation from clients, Board members and staff in this important day.
- ACRC's Annual POS Expenditure Meetings will be held:
 - Monday, March 28th, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday, March 30th, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.
- ACRC's Coordinated Future Planning Committee was seated prior to receiving Ms. Nisson's application. Believing about the importance of this issue, she took it upon herself to address the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.
 - Ms. Nisson shared a presentation at the Yolo County Commission on Aging & Adult Services on February 22nd. Mr. Decker shared a video clip from the Board of Supervisors' meeting.

- The Board applauded and thanked Ms. Nisson for her advocacy in taking this issue to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.
 - Ms. Banales noted that there is a lot of interest in what ACRC is doing on this initiative and she expressed appreciation to Ms. Nisson for paving the way for opportunities moving forward.
 - DDS will be meeting with regional center Executive Directors to discuss the performance incentive program that will take effect on July 1st. The hope is to provide solid feedback to the department.
3. **Closed Session** – at 5:25 p.m. the Executive Committee adjourned to executive session in order to discuss personnel issues.
4. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** – at 5:42 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, May 9, 2022**. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales