

Alta California Regional Center
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2015
Minutes

Present:

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

Absent: (* excused)

Modean Gibson*, President

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk
Larry Prosser

Board members:

Nasim Hedayati
Jon Nelson

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Peter Tiedemann, Chief Operating
Officer
Kristy Tinsley, Office Manager
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee met at 3:11 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2015, in the Brenda Smith 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.

1. ***State Budget Update***

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

Discussion and Action: Mr. Bonnet shared that the Governor's May Revise will be released this Friday, May 15th. The legislature normally has some discretionary spending, but much of the money is already spoken for (i.e., teachers, education, etc.); whatever is left over is what everyone fights for. The hope for many is that there will be a 10% across the board increase for provider rates and regional center operations.

Part of the worry is that the Governor will give some small thing to our statewide system and then we would need to fight for any additional items. The 10% would only begin to fix the cuts that our system has dealt with over the past several years.

Mr. Bonnet shared that there have been some difficult things happening at Kern Regional Center over the past few months. Issues have come up around a foundation that the regional center supported. Some serious allegations have been brought against the former Executive Director. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has asked for ACRC's support during this time of crisis; Mr. Tiedemann is assisting Kern's Accounting Department. As a result, the legislature is requesting that all regional centers disclose their relationship with

any foundations that they may be involved with. Kern's Board President has resigned and there is no word about their current Executive Director.

Mr. Bonnet believes that leadership and credibility matter, that is why ACRC cuts no corners on doing things the right way.

The Senate Budget Sub-Committee held a hearing last Thursday to discuss developmental centers (DCs). They will eventually close, because clients are being moved into their own communities.

- **Information only.**
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Without objection, Brendan Peacock made the motion to adopt the Executive Committee meeting minutes of March 9, 2015 as presented.

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

- Mr. Peacock shared that suggestions were gathered at the March Board meeting for the upcoming fiscal year's (FY's) Board Officers. The Nominating Committee met and developed a proposed Officer and Director slate, which is as follows"
 - President – Brendan Peacock
 - Vice President – Dan Lake
 - Secretary – Jacqueline Armstrong
 - Provider Advisory Committee's (PAC's) designated representative to the Board of Directors – Janet Brandon

M/S/C (Brendan Peacock) **To approve the proposed Officer and Director slate as presented.** (4 in favor)

- The committee discussed having the Board do targeted outreach to four different ethnic events annually. Mr. Bonnet will be creating a flyer that will be discussed further at the June meeting.

3. **President's Comments**

- No comments were shared.

4. **Director's Comments**

- Last year, ACRC received 72 Fair Hearing (FH) requests; eight cases went before the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). So far this calendar year, ACRC has received 32 FH requests; ten regarding eligibility and 22 regarding services. None of these cases have been decided by OAH.
 - Suggestion to have a Board Training about the FH process.
- Because of changes in the law, we will need to revise ACRC's Independent Living Services (ILS) Policy. A client can now receive ILS regardless of whether they plan to move out on their own; they just need to achieve greater independence

in their day-to-day life. ILS used to be time limited, so this change will open the service up to other individuals.

M/S/C (Walter Kaweski) **To approve the revised policy as presented.**
(4 in favor)

- A lawsuit was brought against DDS regarding the 14 mandatory holidays that went into place in 2009, and the judge ruled that the department could not enforce them. Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC's PAC approved ten uniform holidays for providers at their April meeting. Since then, DDS found out that they lawyer who filed suit against them, did not have legal standing, so they have petitioned the court to reverse the decision. Mr. Bonnet will continue to keep the Board informed on this issue.

5. **Announcements**

- Mr. Nelson asked if there was anything Board members could do to meet with legislators instead of staffers during the annual ARCA Grassroots Day.
 - Mr. Bonnet believes that sometimes it's more beneficial to meet with staffers so that they can understand our statewide system and keep the Senator or Assembly member abreast of issues that we are facing.
- Ms. Benson attended the 20th Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference last weekend. She will also be attending the 12th Annual Disability Capitol Action Day on May 20th.

The next Executive Committee meetings are scheduled on **Monday, June 8, 2015**, at 3:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet