

Alta California Regional Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, January 28, 2021  
Minutes

**Present:** Carmen Aguilar, Johnny Deng, Ron Mainini, Kelly Pennington, Michelle Ramirez, Michelle Rewerts, Steven Sanchez, Jennifer Stratton, Yang Sun, Rita Walker, Patty Wallace

**Absent** (\* excused): Romilda Jones\*, Retha Seabron\*

**Staff:** Phil Bonnet, Iqbal Ahmad, Lori Banales, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown, John Decker, Camelia Houston, Mechelle Johnson, Herman Kothe, David Lopez, Helen Neri, Lisa West

**Facilitators:** Amy Fulk

**Visitors:** Steve Andrews, Jackie Armstrong, Benita Ayala, Sonya Bingaman, Maureen Fitzgerald, Kidada Medina, Maxine Milam, Karen Mulvany, Anwar Safvi, Brandy Tuzon Boyd

1. **Call to Order & Opening Statement** - The Board of Directors met at 3:47 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2021, by Webex/teleconference.
2. **Training – "Cultural & Linguistic Competency and ACRC Diversity Efforts"**
  - Herman Kothe, ACRC's Training Manager, explained how ACRC Purchase of Services (POS) data is compiled and annually reported to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). He also provided information on ACRC's Diversity Grant related activities.
3. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision** - All present introduced themselves. Mr. Mainini read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision.
4. **Community Comments**
  - ◆ Ms. Bingaman shared the following:
    - The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is partnering with Progressive Employment Concepts and holding a free Zoom training entitled "Work More, Earn More!" on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 8 p.m. Participants will learn about the Ticket to Work Program and how clients can work more while protecting their Social Security and health benefits.
      - Flyers will be posted on their website.
    - She expressed appreciation for all of the information that ACRC is sharing regarding vaccines.
    - They are still collaborating with ACRC on distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

- The next Sacramento Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
  - The group appreciates Jennifer Bloom's, ACRC Associate Director's, participation at these meetings.
- ◆ Ms. Mulvany also wanted to thank ACRC for their proactive leadership in vaccination efforts. We have a very vulnerable population that needs their support staff immunized. ACRC's efforts are making a difference. She also noted that single parents are vulnerable; if they get the vaccine and start experiencing symptoms, they will need assistance in caring for their loved ones.

5. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences for Romilda Jones and Retha Seabron; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of November 19, 2020; c) Board Development, CAC, Executive, Finance and PAC minutes.**

6. **New Business**

- ◆ *Board Development Committee (BDC)*  
**Issue:** Approve New Board Members

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Mainini shared that the BDC is recommending Jackie Armstrong and Anwar Safvi for Board membership. Both served seven years and have been off the Board for the mandated one year.

Ms. Armstrong and Mr. Safvi both provided a brief introduction of themselves.

**Without objection, Mr. Mainini made the motion to approve Jackie Armstrong's and Anwar Safvi's membership to the Board effective today.**

- ◆ *Finance Committee*  
**Issue 1:** Monthly Financial Report

**Discussion and Action:** The Finance Committee met on November 9<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the November 30, 2020 financial report which reflects the five months of expenditures for the current fiscal year (FY). With 41.7% of the year elapsed, ACRC has expended 38.6% of POS and 41.6% of Operations (OPS).

Mr. Ahmad is projecting a POS shortfall of approximately \$5 million. ACRC is still waiting on our second amendment (B-2) from DDS. The agency will expend the entire OPS budget. With clients utilizing alternative services, our POS expenditures from month-to-month remains steady.

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, Independent Living Services (ILS), Infant Development programs and Early Start Specialty Services received a 5% to 8.2% rate increase. Standard hourly/daily rates for alternative services have also been converted to monthly rates.

**Without objection, Michelle Rewerts made the motion to accept the monthly finance report as submitted.**

**Issue 2:** Contracts over \$250,000

**Discussion and Action:** ACRC is seeking approval of two contracts for an Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home (EBSH). DDS has identified and pre-approved this home, which will assist with transitioning clients from Porterville Developmental Center (PDC) or serve clients who are waiting for placement to PDC. This 4-bed facility will have a secured perimeter and other regional centers will be able to use this home.

No site has been chosen yet, but the home is expected to be completed in June 2022.

Information regarding the two contracts are as follows:

- Summit Therapeutics Services: \$300,000 – funding for staffing, training and furnishings
- Brilliant Corners: \$1.2 million – funding for acquisition and renovation

**Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the contracts for Summit Therapeutics Services and Brilliant Corners as presented.**

**Issue 3:** Independent Audit Report

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Ahmad shared that the Finance Committee reviewed the Independent Audit Report dated June 30, 2020. AGT CPAs & Advisors expressed an unmodified opinion on the financial statements, as well as the federal awards program, meaning there are no material findings; it is a clean opinion.

**Without objection, Yang Sun made the motion to accept the independent audit report as submitted. (1 abstention)**

◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
  - Mr. Mainini shared that the BDC met on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

- With the addition of two new members today, we now have 15 Board members. The BDC is recommending that we suspend recruitment efforts at this time.
- Executive Committee
  - Ms. Walker shared that the Executive Committee met on January 11<sup>th</sup>.
    - As a follow-up to the recent ARCA Training, the group will continue to discuss Strategic Planning at the February meeting. Ms. Walker encourages everyone to attend.
- Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
  - The group discussed what they did during the holidays and COVID-19.
- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
  - Ms. Ramirez shared that the PAC met on January 14<sup>th</sup>.
    - The group discussed the spike in COVID-19 cases since the holidays.
    - Service providers are encouraging their staff to get vaccinated.
      - STEP partnered with Safeway and ACRC held a two-day vaccine clinic where 500 shots were administered.
      - As a system, we need to track our clients as they get vaccinated.
    - The group discussed the Governor's proposed State budget for the 2021-22 FY. With minimum wage increasing to \$14 on January 1<sup>st</sup>, there are increased pressures on service providers.
    - The PAC released a survey last week, in the hopes to develop/refine their goals.
- ◆ *President's Report*
  - The Executive Committee discussed offering a chance to get to know one another, as Board members.
    - If you are interested in this team building opportunity, please let Ms. West know.
  - Annually, the Board is tasked with evaluating our one employee, the Executive Director.
    - If you are interested in serving on the Ad-Hoc Personnel Committee, please let Ms. Walker know.
- ◆ *Executive Director's Report*
  - Mr. Bonnet welcomed Jackie Armstrong and Anwar Safvi back – we have a great team! He is excited to see the Board grow.

- Across the State of California, there is approximately 3.25 million positive cases of COVID-19, with 40,000 deaths. At our worst, the daily new cases for the state was roughly 65,000; we have 19,000 new reported cases today. At ACRC, we have 602 positive clients, with 26 deaths; 346 positive direct support professionals (DSPs), with two deaths; and 26 positive staff. It is important to remember that every one of these data points is a person.
- A total of four care homes closed in December and January. ACRC also has the following new vendored services:
  - Athena Home Care (adult)
  - Carolyn Mitchell's Loving Care Home (adult)
  - LP Nunez Care Home #3 (adult)
  - Rodnick Care Home (adult)
  - Solsie Care Home #2 (adult)
  - 101 Sacramento Valley Mobility (DME and environmental accessibility)
  - Destiny for Dignity (behavioral services)
  - Gateway Pediatrics (behavioral services)
  - Behavioral and Educational Strategies and Training (Early Intervention – behavioral services)
  - Stepping Evolution Therapy (Early Intervention Speech Therapy)
- ACRC's Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending December 31, 2020 was emailed to Board members prior to this meeting. Mr. Bonnet noted that regional center case counts are trending slightly downward across the state. DDS recognizes that after the pandemic growth will continue.
  - If you have any questions, please let him know.
- In the midst of this pandemic, visits to the dentist have been fewer for a lot of people. For our clients, dental issues do not stop. ACRC has been talking about the dental clinic that will soon be opening off of Evergreen and El Camino Avenue for a while now. Final sign-offs on the construction and medical certifications will take a few more months.
  - Mr. Decker will be offering Board members a virtual tour of the dental office in the near future.
- ACRC is collaborating with Sacramento County's Dental Advisory Committee and Dr. Paul Glassman to develop a process to decrease the number of clients that are being referred for hospital dentistry. The group is also discussing a possible Dental Surgery Center at California Northstate University in Elk Grove.
- Mr. Bonnet and his Executive Management Team have made getting shots in people arms the number one priority for this agency.

- Staff wrote letters to all of our ten county Health Departments, which were used as templates by other regional centers.
- Many of our clients who live in care homes have already had the chance to get vaccinated.
- ACRC is working closely with Safeway Pharmacy, as well as smaller pharmacies. Family members and our adult clients are being prioritized, but quantity remains an issue.
- Staff have made connections with Cal Expo to make sure that people affiliated with ACRC are also given priority.
- Some of ACRC's day program sites have been identified to possibly hold vaccination clinics for our clients. ACRC's Harvard office site may also be a vaccination clinic site.
- Mr. Bonnet is hopeful that the majority of our folks and service providers will get vaccinated.
- Governor Newsom's proposed budget, which was released two weeks ago, is considered a "status quo" budget. It includes an increase of almost \$1 billion to our statewide service system. The proposal accounts for minimum wage increases, as well as rate increases for certain service providers. The budget recognizes that even though growth has slowed, people are still here and more will be coming. It also includes significant funding for ongoing COVID-19 expenditures. Mr. Bonnet reminded everyone that DDS has allowed service providers to offer alternative services for our clients.
  - The Governor's main budget proposal will be released in the May Revise.
- Housing continues to be an issue during the pandemic, even though evictions are being blocked. Mr. Decker's Department has been working to ensure that a significant number of units in the Multi-Family Housing Project at Mirasol Village off of Richards Blvd. will be available to our clients/families, with rent that they can afford. We are also partnering with Yuba/Sutter Counties to open new doors to give our clients long-term places to live. Mr. Bonnet remains hopeful that we will be seeing new opportunities in the future. There has been more collaboration over the recent months than before.
- ◆ *ARCA Report*
  - Ms. Walker shared that the ARCA Web Academy Board Trainings will continue. The topic for March is "Diversity & Inclusive Practices".
    - She will forward the flyer to Board members.
  - ARCA's Grassroots Day will be happening in April, virtually. Ms. Walker encourages everyone to participate. This is an incredibly valuable opportunity to attach real human stories to regional center services.

- ARCA has been producing flyers that help inform people about the partnerships that are being made in order to provide services.
  - North Bay Regional Center (NBRC) shared information regarding "Relationships Decoded", a social-sexual education program for adults with developmental disabilities.
    - Ms. Walker will send the link to Board members.
- ◆ *ARCA-CAC Report*
- Ms. Rewerts shared that members provided regional center updates and they talked about COVID-19.
  - The next Zoom meeting is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.
- ◆ *Correspondence*
- Under Tab 9 in the Board packet, please find a copy of the DDS approval letter regarding ACRC's 2021 Performance Contract.
7. **Closed Session** – At 5:51 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss legal issues.
8. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 6:06 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which legal issues were discussed.
9. **Adjournment**  
The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet