

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 2020
Minutes

Present: Carmen Aguilar, Johnny Deng, Ron Mainini, Michelle Ramirez, Yang Sun, Rita Walker, Patty Wallace

Absent (* excused): Romilda Jones*, Michelle Rewerts*, Luis Rivera*, Steven Sanchez*, Retha Seabron*

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

Facilitators: Amy Fulk

Visitors: Sonya Bingaman, Alexandra Bravo, Breeanne Burris, Sharon Chand, Eric Ciampa, Maureen Fitzgerald, Kidada Medina, Maxine Milam, Karen Mulvany, Brandy Tuzon-Boyd

1. **Call to Order & Opening Statement** - The Board of Directors met at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2020, by Webex/teleconference.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** - All present introduced themselves. Mr. Mainini read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
3. **Community Comments**
 - ◆ Ms. Chand called into the Executive Committee meeting on June 8th, where Mr. Lake began the meeting reading a statement that public comments would not be taken at the meeting. She would like clarification on this.
 - ◆ Ms. Mulvany shared that her daughter receives Supported Living Services (SLS) from ACRC and she is the Chair of the Sacramento Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD). Ms. Mulvany also serves on one of the DS Task Force workgroups. She appreciates being able to participate in ACRC’s Board meeting today with the use of technology. Recently, several members of the RAC, along with additional community members, decided to create an online discussion group on racial and ethnic issues and they have hosted a series of online Zoom talks over the past few months. Helen Neri, ACRC’s Cultural Diversity Specialist, has joined in on these discussions and has asked the group for input on the agency’s upcoming Annual Purchase of Services Expenditure Meeting.
 - ◆ Ms. Bingaman shared that SCDD’s Sacramento Regional Office appreciates collaborating with ACRC in giving away Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to client/families and service providers. She noted that Lori Banales and John Decker will be joining in on the upcoming SCDD Zoom Chat on Tuesday, July 28th.

4. **Consent Agenda** – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences for Romilda Jones, Michelle Rewerts, Luis Rivera, Steven Sanchez and Retha Seabron; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of May 28, 2020; c) accept PAC minutes and approve new members; and d) accept Board Development, CAC, Executive and Finance minutes.

5. **New Business**

◆ *Finance Committee*

Issue: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: Mr. Ahmad shared that the Finance Committee met on July 13th, and reviewed the May 31, 2020 financial report which reflects eleven months of expenditures for the 2019-20 fiscal year (FY). With 91.7% of the year elapsed, ACRC has expended 85% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 87.2% of Operations (OPS).

ACRC's Accounting Department closed out the 2019-20 FY a few weeks ago – we are officially in the 2020-21 FY.

Agency staff continually discuss with our Department of Developmental Services (DDS) partners our ongoing POS expenditures due to COVID-19. Mr. Ahmad is currently projecting a \$10 million shortfall for the 2019-20 FY. Prior to sending additional funding, the department will evaluate any late billings.

ACRC continues to offset OPS expenditures, while having most of our staff work remotely.

DDS should release the second amendment for the current FY in August.

Without objection, Ron Mainini made the motion to accept the monthly finance report as submitted.

◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
 - Mr. Mainini shared that the BDC met on July 13th.
 - The group agreed that the Board will hold a hybrid training on Whistleblower law and policy on Thursday, September 24th, prior to the Board meeting. We will hold a team building exercise, as well.
 - Recruitment remains a priority and the Nominating Committee will be conducting virtual interviews.

- Agency staff will assist the Board in drafting a statement regarding recruiting that will be posted on ACRC's social media platforms.
- Executive Committee
 - Ms. Walker shared that the Executive Committee met on July 13th.
 - The group discussed recent changes to the master contract between DDS and regional centers, specifically the two items related to Boards – the Executive Director (ED) Recruitment Policy and the Board of Directors Training Plan.
 - The Board approved ACRC's ED Succession and Recruitment Policy at the May 28th Board meeting.
 - By September 1st, regional centers must submit their comprehensive training plan for Board members to DDS.
 - Ms. Walker and Mr. Mainini reviewed past minutes and developed a draft plan, which was shared on the screen.

Without objection, Ron Mainini made the motion to accept the Board Training Plan for the 2020-21 FY as presented.

- Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Ms. Wallace shared that the CAC met on July 14th.
 - The group talked about what everyone is doing during the COVID-19 health crisis, and Mr. Bonnet encouraged everyone to wear masks/face coverings and practice social distancing.
 - Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
 - Ms. Ramirez shared that the PAC met on July 9th.
 - The group voted on two new members – Garrett Broadbent, from Meristem, and Adam Ruggles, with Medstar.
 - Mr. Bonnet engaged the PAC to assist ACRC in recognizing direct support professionals (DSPs) that continue to work with our clients during this health crisis.
 - Service providers discussed different ways in which they can encourage clients to wear masks/face coverings.
- ◆ *President's Report*
- Ms. Walker reviewed the committee assignments for the 2020-21 FY with Board members.

- If anyone wants to be reassigned, please let her know.
- She expressed appreciation to Mr. Bonnet and his staff for their efforts to increase Board member's virtual participation through Webex.

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- Mr. Bonnet knows that it's challenging to meet virtually and he appreciates everyone's participation today.
- As many Board members know, he sends out a weekly message to staff. 423,000 people in the State of California have now tested positive for COVID-19, with over 8,000 deaths. Statewide, 1,211 clients have tested positive, with 73 deaths. Here at ACRC, 51 clients have tested positive, with five deaths (all of the new fatalities are from a facility in Woodland). ACRC has 35 DSPs that have tested positive, but not a single staff person. Mr. Bonnet was notified that COVID-19 has been in the Sacramento office site from another agency that shares the building. As shared previously, most of ACRC's staff continue to work remotely.
- At our last Board meeting in May, the budget was concerning to all of us; we were trying to prepare for massive cuts to our statewide service system. Thanks to much needed advocacy and legislative support, Governor Newsom did not enforce the proposed cuts.
- ACRC will be holding another Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) drive-thru giveaway next Wednesday & Thursday, July 29th & 30th. We want to continue to make sure that our clients/families remain safe. The best way to get the virus under control is to wear a mask and keep your hygiene clean.
- Mr. Bonnet is working on a DSP recognition piece that will be posted on our agency's website.
- ACRC will be holding our next All Staff Meeting via Webex sometime this autumn. Mr. Bonnet is working on securing presenters that will inspire staff. This health crisis will be going on for some time and we need to continue to adapt.
- Our agency will be loaning Chromebooks to several of our Board members so that they will have the opportunity to participate in Board and committee meetings.

◆ *ARCA Report*

- Ms. Walker shared that under Tab 9 in the Board packet is a copy of a letter that the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) and California Disability Services Association (CDSA) wrote to Nancy Bargmann, Director of DDS. The letter speaks about the importance of the retainer payments for non-residential service providers. It

also stresses the importance of creativity and innovation during the re-opening process.

- ARCA has approved their Strategic Plan for the new FY, which supports:
 - The establishment of service models arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Innovative and inclusive employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.
 - Sustainable funding and operational reforms to enhance the stability of the Lanterman Act.
- The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has extended the deadline for the Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule to March 2023.
- At the delegates meeting, there was discussion about next steps for training regional center Boards. The last statewide training was held at ACRC in late February.
 - The delegates will continue to work on this.
- The group discussed using different platforms to help advocate in this new world that we are living in.

◆ *ARCA-CAC Report*

- No report was shared.

6. ***Closed Session*** – At 4:49 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session in order to discuss personnel issues.

7. ***Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion*** - At 5:57 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which personnel issues were discussed.

8. ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet