

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, January 28, 2016
Minutes

Present: Jacqueline Armstrong, Cindy Benson, Romilda Jones, Walter Kaweski, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe (via phone), Rosa Meza-Villaseñor, Brendan Peacock, Anwar Safvi, Austin Taylor, Kristin Wright (via phone)

Absent (* excused): Janet Brandon*, Nasim Hedayati*, Steven Sanchez*

Staff: Phil Bonnet, Lori Banales, Alfonso Carmona, David Rydquist, Peter Tiedemann, Lisa West

Facilitators: Larry Prosser

Visitors: Kathy Brian, Eric Ciampa, Martha Cobos, Debra Hale, Ed Plon, Anna Shands, Rita Walker, Cheryl Worthley

1. **Call to Order** - The Board of Directors met at 4:02 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2016, at ACRC's main office in Sacramento.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision Statements** - All present introduced themselves. Mr. Peacock read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision statements.

*** The Board of Directors took a moment to remember Jon Nelson, who passed away in December 2015 – he will be greatly missed ***

3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absence for Janet Brandon, Nasim Hedayati and Steven Sanchez; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of November 19, 2015; c) PAC report; d) ratify new PAC members; and e) accept Board Development, CAC, Executive and Finance reports.**

** change in agenda was noted*

4. **New Business**

♦ *Community Comments*

- Ms. Brian shared that the State Council on Developmental Disabilities is sending out National Core Indicators (NCI) surveys to families of clients living at home between the ages of three and 18, who receive one or more services from the regional center.

♦ *Ratify New Board Member*

Issue: Ratify New Board Member

Discussion and Action: Mr. Lake shared that the Board Development Committee interviewed Rita Walker and is nominating her for Board membership. She provided a brief introduction of herself. She has over 30 years of experience working either at a regional center or at the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

M/S/C (Walter Kaweski) **To accept the nomination of Rita Walker to ACRC's Board of Directors, representing Sacramento County.** (11 in favor)

♦ *Executive Committee*

Issue: Conflict of Interest

Discussion and Action: Mr. Lake shared that Mr. Peacock began his employment at Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) in August 2015 and completed a revised Conflict of Interest form, which was submitted to DDS. Upon review, the department believed he had a conflict of interest and asked that ACRC develop and submit a resolution plan.

During this time, Mr. Lake did some research on found Title 17, Section 54520(b) which states:

(b) A regional center board member or family member of such person who is an employee or contractor of a state or local governmental entity that provides services to regional center consumers and who works in a position having no relation to providing those services to regional center consumers does not have a conflict of interest as a result of his or her position. This exception does not apply to an employee of the Department of Developmental Services, who is still precluded from being a board member under Welfare & Institutions Code section 4626, subdivision (b)(1).

Mr. Bonnet has shared this information with DDS and we are waiting to hear back from the department. ACRC will not be submitting a resolution plan at this time.

- **DDS' response will be shared with the entire Board.**

♦ *Finance Committee*

Issue: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: Mr. Safvi missed the January 11th Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Tiedemann shared that the November 30, 2015 financial report reflects five months of expenditures for the current fiscal year (FY). ACRC has expended 37.3% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 42.5% of Operations (OPS).

Mr. Tiedemann is projecting that ACRC will need between \$520,000 and \$4.9 million in additional POS funding this FY. It is notable that most of the needed funding is due to statute changes. He is still awaiting to get all of the information from the providers so that we can revise the numbers.

There are no cash flow issues at this time.

- **The monthly finance report was accepted as submitted.**

♦ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
 - Mr. Lake shared that the BDC met on January 11th to discuss the following:
 - Demographics and meeting attendance has not changed.
 - The Personnel Ad-Hoc Committee will be meeting soon to discuss possible changes to the Executive Director evaluation process.
 - Mr. Lake and Ms. Wright are developing short surveys for the Board.
 - The group is gathering outreach and recruitment ideas. They are looking at upcoming events and are hoping to partner with regional center staff.
- Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Mr. Taylor shared that the CAC met on January 12th.
 - Those present shared memories of Jon Nelson.
 - Mr. Bonnet spoke about Governor Brown's proposed 2016-17 State budget.
 - A client spotlight was shared.
 - Committee members shared updates from various committees that they sit on.
- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
 - Mr. Ciampa shared that the PAC met on January 14th.
 - The group discussed the Governor's proposed budget and legislation that affect providers across the state.
 - They nominated two new members to the PAC; they were both approved in the consent agenda at the beginning of this meeting.

♦ *President's Report*

- Mr. Peacock believes that the conflict of interest issue has raised some questions, but it also has highlighted that we need to know each other professionally and personally. He would like to take every opportunity to get to know each other better, which will help produce good outcomes for the clients that we serve.

♦ *Executive Director's Report*

- Mr. Bonnet shared that there were some increases for our statewide system in Governor Brown's 2016-17 proposed budget, including funding to hire Service Coordinators (SCs) so that caseload ratios can be decreased slightly. This particular funding will be tracked by DDS. There is also funding in the budget for an Alternative Residential Model (ARM) rate for community care facilities who serve four or less clients. It appears that these facilities will be preferred across the state. A small amount of funding is also included for the transition to life under the new Medicaid rules requiring more integrated settings for all waiver-eligible services. The Lanterman Coalition is still pursuing the "10 for 10", but sources in the administration have made it quite clear that they do not support any across the board increases. The Governor's team is working to ensure that the Managed Care Organization (MCO) reform (no longer called a tax) is accomplished in the very near future. Of course, there is always additional money coming into the system for the ever increasing number of clients being served in our statewide system.
- As required by law, ACRC will be hosting public meetings to review expenditure data related to regional center clients. The meetings are scheduled as follows:
 - March 15th in Yuba City (TBD)
 - March 22nd at ACRC's Sacramento Office

This information is currently posted on our agency's website at www.altaregional.org, under the tab "POS Reports".

- Mr. Bonnet believes we will have all of our clients safely moved out of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) prior to the official closure in December 2019. ACRC staff are diligently working to develop resources for these clients. Within the next few days, ACRC will be publicly posting a Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide dental services to our former DC residents and to many other clients who require special accommodations to meet their dental health needs.
- Things continue to move slowly regarding California's Self-Determination Program (SDP). The proposed waiver was returned to DDS with over 180 specific concerns noted by the federal government. The application is considered "off the clock" while the

department tries to address these concerns. The local advisory committee continues to meet regularly. We hope to receive training materials in the near future (by the end of March) so that we can start conducting community meetings. ACRC currently has over 400 names on our "interest" list.

- "ACRC's Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending December 31, 2015" were distributed for review.
 - Early Intervention Intake timelines have improved from the previous year.
 - Caseloads ratios are still high; we are looking forward to some dedicated money to hire new SCs.
 - New information on the final page reflects "Client Residence by Age". This graph shows how critical it is to support those clients who live in their family home.

If anyone has any questions, please direct them to Mr. Bonnet or Mr. Tiedemann.

♦ *ARCA Report/ARCA Equity Committee*

- Mr. Kaweski attended the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) bi-monthly Board of Directors meeting, which was held at ACRC on Thursday and Friday, January 21st & 22nd.
 - There was a celebration Thursday evening for outgoing DDS Director, Santi Rogers, and retiring Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC) Executive Director, Jim Shorter.
 - John Doyle presented the DDS report via conference call. The legislative focus is centered on managed care and tax plans in support of the budget proposal.
 - Eileen Richey discussed preparations for the new Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rules and the SDP.
 - It's expected that the Managed Care Reform will bring \$1.1 billion into the statewide system.
 - Mr. Kaweski encouraged everyone to access ARCA's report entitled "Beyond the Brink of Collapse: The Consequences of Continuing to Underfund California's Developmental Service System" on their website.
 - A Senate Resolution authored by Jim Beall and President Pro Tem Kevin de León with 25 co-sponsors celebrates the 50th anniversary of the regional center system and names the next year as "The Year Of Developmental Services."

♦ *ARCA-CAC Report*

- Ms. Benson shared that the last meeting was held on Friday, January 8th.

- All regional center representatives introduced themselves, including visitors from the Inland Regional Center (IRC). Keith Nelson, a member of the IRC's Board of Trustees, and his son, a regional center client, reported on the incident that took place at IRC on December 2nd. Mr. Nelson was on the property at the time of the attack, and helped the FBI and media afterwards.
 - Members provided updates on the activities at their regional centers.
 - The group discussed the ARCA Strategic Plan and was given a budget update.
 - At the end of the meeting, they worked on a video to tell how the budget affects each of them. This video will be posted on ARCA's website and their Facebook page.
 - The next telephone meeting will be held on Friday, February 19th.
The next in-person meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 8th.
5. ***Closed Session*** – At 5:20 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session in order to discuss legal issues.
6. ***Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion*** - At 5:49 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which legal issues were discussed.
7. ***Adjournment***
The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet