

Alta California Regional Center
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, November 3, 2014
Minutes

Present:

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

Absent: (* excused)

Modean Gibson*, President

Facilitators:

Larry Prosser

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee met at 3:31 p.m. on Monday, November 3, 2014, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center to discuss: 1) State Budget Update; 2) Employment First Policy; 3) Adopt-a-Family for the Holidays; 4) Board Development Committee Update; 5) Vice President's Comments; 6) Executive Director's Comments; and 7) Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Brendan Peacock made the motion to adopt the Executive Committee meeting minutes of October 6, 2014 as submitted.

1. ***State Budget Update***

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

Discussion and Action: Mr. Bonnet shared that regional centers continue to project a deficit in excess of \$100 million for this fiscal year (FY) in Purchase of Services (POS) funding across the state. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) was able to locate additional funding to balance the budgets for the previous FYs. There is concern that there is no more additional monies. The department may have to go to the legislature for assistance, or possibly place regional centers on expenditure plans; there are no indications that we will need to do that at this point.

Because regional centers have not handed in their Sufficiency of Allocations Reports (SOARS) to DDS, they are just estimating where we stand statewide. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Finance Committee Chair has expressed concern that regional centers will not have enough money to pay our bills this year.

The Governor's support is critical; a group of legislators (Assembly member Jim Beall and others) seem to understand what our system is facing. The Lanterman Coalition and other advocates believe our service system is doing better and they are currently asking for a 10% increase across the board.

Mr. Bonnet explained that regional center expenditures are determined by their spending authority. If our contract doesn't allow us to spend the money, then we cannot access our line of credit to pay bills. The good news is that there are more federal funds to be found if all regional centers continue to make the waiver a priority.

Mr. Bonnet shared that regional centers will need to show up to speak with the legislature at the ARCA Grassroots Day. He believes that ARCA will be leaning on ACRC once again to make this day a success because we are in Sacramento.

- **Information only.**

2. ***Employment First Policy***

Issue: The committee needs to review the draft Employment First Policy.

Discussion and Action: The draft "Employment First Policy" was distributed for review. Mr. Bonnet read it aloud to those present. He believes a policy such as this and the new Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rule will probably put an end to the sheltered workshops that now exist.

There are tax incentives that do exist for businesses who hire individuals with disabilities. We also have innovative providers who are ready to assist ACRC in this endeavor.

Mr. Bonnet shared that we will honor the choice of our clients. This is a draft and will be shared with each committee this month, prior to being presented to the Board for approval at the November 20th meeting.

M/S/C (Brendan Peacock) **To recommend adoption of this policy as amended.** (3 in favor; 1 abstention)

3. ***Adopt-a-Family for the Holidays***

Issue: The committee needs to discuss adopting a family for the holidays.

Discussion and Action: Ms. West explained the holiday tradition that the Board usually participates in. She shared that last year, ACRC adopted over 80 clients and families and was able to bring some cheer into their homes.

Those present are in favor of participating. Ms. Gibson has volunteered to do the shopping again this year.

- **Ms. West will send an email to Board members prior to the November 20th Board meeting.**

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

- Mr. Peacock shared that the BDC will be interviewing two new candidates on Wednesday. They will be using the newly drafted panel interview questions.
- The committee is currently working on the Community Comments Plan.
- As always, we are still looking for potential Board members, while closely monitoring the composition of the Board.

5. ***Vice President's Comments***

- Mr. Peacock and Ms. Gibson are pleased with the work that this Board is doing. We have many dedicated Board members.
- The Board is looking forward to helping our clients with the impending residential crisis, by being advocates at the state level and attending the ARCA Grassroots Day at the State Capitol later this FY.

6. ***Executive Director's Comments***

- ACRC has received 62 Fair Hearing (FH) requests so far this calendar year; 18 regarding eligibility and 44 regarding services. Only eight cases have ended up before the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH); six decisions supported ACRC's position, one supported the claimant's position, and the other was a split decision (granted in part, denied in part). We currently have eight FHs pending; four regarding eligibility and four regarding services. Mr. Bonnet shared that the majority of hearings for the past several years have been more service related, but the changes to the DSM have caused some confusion regarding regional center eligibility.
- A "Residential Status Report" was distributed for review.
 - There has been a decrease of approximately 110 clients placed in residential facilities since 2012.
 - There has been a slight increase in clients receiving supported living services over the last two years.
 - Currently, ACRC has a total of 396 residential homes that support our clients.
 - 49 vacancies in Level 2 homes
 - 57 vacancies in Level 3 homes
 - 66 vacancies spread across our Level 4 homes
 - 5 vacancies in our Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) homes
 - ACRC does not maintain a "waiting list". Once a need is identified, the Service Coordinator (SC) initiates a residential placement search.
 - Since June 2012, ACRC has witnessed the loss of approximately 31 residential homes of varying levels. This situation is not unique to ACRC; regional centers across the state are facing this issue.
 - ACRC has developed 21 new homes since 2012. There are currently 11 potential residential vendors within the program design review phase of the vendorization process.

Mr. Bonnet remains concerned about this situation. ARCA will be contracting with an outside agency to do a study on the rates for this type of service. He will

be providing this committee with an update on the capacity of these programs across the state and how these providers will fair under the new CMS Rule. This will be a long process. Mr. Bonnet will share this report with the full Board at the November 20th meeting.

7. ***Announcements***

- No announcements were shared.

The next Executive Committee meetings are scheduled on **Monday, January 12, 2015**, at 3:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet