

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, January 24, 2019
Minutes

Present: Jackie Armstrong, Eric Ciampa, Romilda Jones, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Paul Platner, Michelle Rewerts, Anwar Safvi (via phone), Steven Sanchez (via phone), Retha Seabron, Yang Sun, Rita Walker

Absent (* excused): Austin Taylor*

Staff: Phil Bonnet, Lori Banales, Alfonso Carmona, Jennifer Crick, Camelia Houston, Peter Tiedemann, Lisa West

Facilitators: Amy Fulk, Cheryl Worthley

Visitors: Kathy Brian, Kim Christensen, Melissa Kelly

1. **Call to Order** - The Board of Directors met at 4:03 p.m. on Thursday, January 24, 2019, at ACRC's main office in Sacramento.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision** - All present introduced themselves. Mr. Platner read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision.
3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences for Austin Taylor; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of November 15, 2018; and c) accept Board Development, CAC, Executive, Finance and PAC reports.**
4. **New Business**
 - ◆ *Community Comments*
 - Ms. Brian shared that the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is happy to collaborate with ACRC staff. She wanted to take this opportunity to share some information:
 - The State Council is focusing on some policy priorities for the 2019-20 fiscal year (FY).
 - They created an easy-read booklet about CalABLE.
 - The Department of Rehabilitation's (DOR's) Student Services will help transition age youth plan for their future.
 - The local offices are now hiring staff to assist with this.
 - They are working with the business council to remove barriers the interview process.
 - College Students and Professionals with Disabilities has a video library on their YouTube Channel.
 - Housing Now received a grant from SCDD to produce a draft Strategic Framework for Housing for People with Intellectual/

Developmental Disabilities. Input and/or comments are due by January 31st.

- SCDD staff continue to attend SELPA meetings and Community Advisory Committee meetings to provide individuals with information about their rights.
- They are holding law enforcement trainings and providing information to clients on how to build their own "Emergency Go Kits".
- SDCC is involved with the Aging and Disability Resource Committees (ADRCs) in six counties.

◆ *Finance Committee*

Issue 1: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: Mr. Safvi shared that the Finance Committee met on January 14th, and reviewed the November 30, 2018 financial report. Mr. Tiedemann shared that the report is under Tab 7 in the Board packet and reflects five months of expenditures for the current FY. With 41.7% of the year elapsed, ACRC has expended 40.2% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 42.8% of Operations (OPS).

ACRC submitted our initial projections to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) in December 2018. Mr. Tiedemann is currently projecting that ACRC will need between \$11.9 and \$12.9 million in additional POS funding for this FY. This largely due to an estimate of the cost of the minimum wage increase that became effective January of 2019 and the fact that ACRC has a number of new programs in the development stage.

DDS will allocate additional funding to regional centers in late January/early February.

Without objection, Yang Sun made the motion to accept the monthly finance report as submitted.

Issue 2: Contracts of \$250,000

- There are no contracts to approve at this time.

Issue 3: Independent Audit Report

Discussion and Action: Mr. Tiedemann shared that ACRC's contract with DDS requires that we have an independent audit conducted each year. During the Finance Committee meeting, our Independent Auditor came and reviewed the recent audit with those present. They have rendered an unmodified

opinion on the agency's financial statements, which is the highest opinion that can be received. There were no material findings.

Our annual audit is posted on ACRC's website. Mr. Tiedemann is available to answer any questions.

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to accept the independent audit report as submitted.

◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
 - Ms. Walker shared that the BDC met on January 14th.
 - The group made some modifications to the standard interview questions for Board applicants.
 - The March Board Sponsored Training will be on facilitation; it will be a brainstorming session to share thoughts and concerns about what is needed for existing and new Board members.
- Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Ms. Rewerts shared that the CAC met on January 8th.
 - Mr. Bonnet discussed ACRC's Mission with those present.
 - The group talked about what services people that were chosen to participate in the initial rollout of the Self-Determination Program (SDP) could possibly buy.
 - Committee members brainstormed ideas for upcoming meetings.
- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
 - Mr. Ciampa shared that the PAC met on January 10th & November 8th.
 - The group is focusing on how the new administration will serve our folks.
 - The rate study that Burns and Associates conducted will be released soon.
 - The PAC has several subcommittee:
 - The Independent Living Services (ILS) subcommittee shared that the recent vendor forum went well.
 - The Training workgroup shared information about upcoming trainings.
 - The Vendor Relations subcommittee is working with ACRC staff to build on collaborations for service development.
 - The group talked about how the minimum wage increase is not allowing providers to keep their workforce.

◆ *President's Report*

- Mr. Lake expressed appreciation for everyone's attendance today.
- The Board wishes to thank Ms. Lampe and Ms. Fulk for shopping for the ACRC family that the Board adopted for the holidays.
 - Mr. Bonnet read aloud a note from the Service Coordinator (SC) who dropped off the gifts.
- Reminder to mark your calendars – the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA's) Grassroots Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3rd.
- The Executive Committee is reviewing a possible conflict of interest issue for Mr. Platner.

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- Governor Newsom released his proposed budget for the 2019-20 FY, which includes approximately \$500 million in additional funding for California's developmental service system. "DDS' Governor's Budget Highlights" were distributed for reviewed; Mr. Tiedemann provided an overview.
- Tomorrow, ACRC will once again be hosting a group of legislative staffers. This is an opportunity to provide them with critical information about what regional centers do. The group will be meeting with Mr. Bonnet and his staff in the morning, and then they will be visiting providers in the afternoon. Many of these folks advise the elected officials.
 - As Mr. Lake mentioned earlier, regional centers will get a chance to meet with their elected officials on Wednesday, April 3rd, at ARCA's Grassroots Day at the State Capitol. ARCA will once again be sharing information over dinner the night before the event.
- The safety net is now an important issue across the state. This term is generally used to talk about the services that may be required for the individuals that have moved out of developmental centers. Just because they've moved out of these institution doesn't mean that their needs have decreased, in fact, they may have increased. Staff are working diligently to keep those individuals from going back into IMDs (Institutes for Mental Disease). Typically, those individuals that reside in IMDs have dual diagnosis. As a state service system, we are struggling to take care of these individuals. ACRC is excited about the resources that we have developed.
 - "Stop the Stigma" is a public awareness campaign to assist individuals with mental illness.
- ACRC's annual outreach at the MLK365 Diversity Expo went well. There were many young people at this event and some expressed

interest in our program. Mr. Bonnet looks forward to working with community members who want to get positively involved with our agency.

◆ *ARCA Report*

- Ms. Walker attended the ARCA delegates meeting on Thursday evening, January 17th.
 - The group discussed how some regional centers do background checks on potential Board applicants.
 - ARCA shared that their Strategic Plan will be finalized in June of this year.
 - The Executive Director of Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) shared that they have embraced social media, and he shared ways to be effective about it.
 - Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC) has also started a digital newsletter.
- She also attended ARCA's Board meeting which was held on Friday, January 18th, here at ACRC's Sacramento office.
 - As Mr. Ciampa mentioned, the rate study will be coming out soon; it must be released to the legislature by March 1st. Meetings will be held in both Southern and Northern California to review the data.
 - The group discussed the Safety Net and how DDS has visited each regional center to talk about risk management.
 - There was discussion about the internship program that ACRC is involved in.
 - ARCA stressed the importance of the upcoming Grassroots Day.

5. **Closed Session** – At 4:55 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session in order to discuss real estate and personnel issues.

6. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 5:44 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which real estate and personnel issues were discussed.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet