

Alta California Regional Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, November 21, 2019  
Minutes

**Present:** Carmen Aguilar, Jackie Armstrong, Eric Ciampa, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Ron Mainini, Paul Platner, Michelle Rewerts, Luis Rivera, Anwar Safvi, Steven Sanchez (via phone), Retha Seabron, Yang Sun (via phone), Rita Walker

**Absent** (\* excused): Romilda Jones\*

**Staff:** Phil Bonnet, Iqbal Ahmad, Lori Banales, Jennifer Bloom, Camelia Houston, Lisa West

**Facilitators:** Amy Fulk

**Visitors:** Hope Beale, Kathy Brian, Johnny Deng, Greg Geeting, Melissa Kelly

1. **Call to Order** - The Board of Directors met at 4:04 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at ACRC's main office in Sacramento.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision** - All present introduced themselves. Ms. Armstrong read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision.
3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences for Romilda Jones; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of September 26, 2019; and c) accept Board Development, CAC, Executive, Finance and PAC reports.**

*\*change in agenda was noted*

4. **New Business**

◆ *Board Training – “Person-Centered Thinking”*

- Those present received an overview of Person-Centered Thinking from Katherine Weston, ACRC's HCBS Specialist, and Cindy Le, ACRC's Client Employment Specialist.

◆ *Community Comments*

- Ms. Brian shared that the State Council takes pride in collaborating with community partners and ACRC staff are a part of that.
- The State Council has a five-year State Plan which ends in 2021. They are currently developing the 2022-26 State Plan. Interested individuals can provide input on what their priorities for the next plan should be. More information can be found on their website: [www.sccd.ca.gov](http://www.sccd.ca.gov).
- The State Council continues to:

- Work with families involved in the Self-Determination Program (SDP). In collaboration with ACRC and service providers, a training was held at the beginning of the month with 100 participants.
- Collaborate with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the Department of Education and the Department of Rehabilitation to assist businesses and help them connect with supported employment providers so that they might hire individuals with disabilities.
- Attend local SELPA meetings and support full inclusion for children with disabilities. They also work with community colleges, as well.

◆ *Board Development Committee*

**Issue:** Approve New Board Member

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Lake shared that the Board Development Committee (BDC) interviewed Feng (Johnny) Deng earlier this month. He shared a brief introduction of himself.

The BDC is recommending Mr. Deng for Board membership.

**Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve Feng (Johnny) Deng for Board membership.**

◆ *Outreach Discussion*

- Mr. Bonnet introduced Thalia Castro-Vega, ACRC's Communications Specialist. She shared that ACRC is now on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
- After nearly twenty years, ACRC staff have been working on a new logo for the agency. Mr. Bonnet introduced the proposed new logo to the Board, who supported the idea and choice.
- Mr. Bonnet shared that Thalia and Patti Diamond, ACRC's Training Manager, are taking the lead on the agency's website redesign.

◆ *Finance Committee*

**Issue 1:** Monthly Financial Report

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Ahmad distributed the October 31, 2019 financial report which reflects four months of expenditures for the current fiscal year (FY). With 33.3% of the year elapsed, ACRC has expended 30.6% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 32.5% of Operations (OPS).

Mr. Ahmad is projecting that ACRC will have between \$47,000 and \$1 million in remaining POS funding at this FY's end. One item that has not been taken into consideration is the legislative approved January 1, 2020 supplemental rate increases for designated service codes. This is due to the fact that DDS is still waiting for final approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). ACRC's third and fourth amendments from the department may have additional funding for this. Mr. Ahmad believes our funding can support the agency's recruitment needs.

At the October 21<sup>st</sup> Finance Committee meeting, the group reviewed DDS' audit of ACRC for FYs 2016-17 and 2017-18. It's important to note that no findings were identified during this audit period. The report is posted on our website.

In January, the Finance Committee will be reviewing ACRC's Independent Audit Report.

Mr. Ahmad shared that all of the permits have been approved for the agency's new Placerville office. Staff should be moving in mid-January to mid-February, depending on weather.

**Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to accept the monthly finance report as submitted.**

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

- There are no contracts to approve at this time.

◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
  - Ms. Walker shared that the BDC met on November 12<sup>th</sup> & October 21<sup>st</sup>.
    - Since our last meeting, Mr. Bonnet has received the legal review of our agency's bylaws. The committee will review/discuss in January.
- Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
  - Ms. Rewerts shared that the CAC met on November 12<sup>th</sup> & October 8<sup>th</sup>.
    - Mr. Bonnet always starts these meetings discussing the agency's vision.
    - The group talked about ways to increase attendance/membership.
    - Members will soon be scheduling visits for the "Friends Helping Friends" project.

- At the November meeting, Nicole Patterson came and spoke to the group about DDS' CAC.
- In October, Mark Starford and Charlene Jones, with The Board Resource Center, shared information on the project entitled "Sexual Violence on Men with Disabilities". More information can be found on The Arc's website.
- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
  - Mr. Ciampa shared that the PAC met on November 14<sup>th</sup> & October 10<sup>th</sup>.
    - The group discussed the recent power outages and how they affected our clients. Some may have medications and treatment that require power. The State, as well as the power companies, did not have a plan in place.
      - A subcommittee has been established to look at Emergency Preparedness.
    - They discussed the 8.2% rate increase that many service providers will be receiving on January 1<sup>st</sup> and how not all service codes are included.
    - Transportation remains a concern for many individuals that we serve and changes are happening with Paratransit and Regional Transit (RT). This is just starting and we are not sure where it is leading, so the PAC has formed an Ad-Hoc Committee to look at issues that our clients might face beginning April 1, 2020.
      - Ms. Walker noted how great it is that the advisory committee takes on these issues. It is also wonderful to see ACRC staff collaborating with service providers.
- ◆ *Executive Director's Report*
  - Mr. Bonnet expressed his appreciation to Jackie Armstrong and Anwar Safvi for their tireless commitment to ACRC.
  - "ACRC's Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending September 30, 2019" were distributed for review. Mr. Bonnet encouraged Board members to contact him if they have any questions. Beginning in the next quarter, we will have a county-by-county breakdown of the people served in each category of qualifying disability under the Lanterman Law.
  - Every year, regional centers and service providers stress to our State legislators how important provider rate increases are to the services that our clients rely on every day. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, most service providers will be receiving an 8.2% rate increase. DDS will soon be releasing their final report on the recent rate study after

taking input from community partners during several statewide meetings.

- The ongoing power outages are a constant stress on our clients, service providers and ACRC outlying offices. The good news is that rain is coming next week.
- ACRC is currently developing a long-term housing plan (five and ten years out). Agency staff are working to secure affordable housing in the new projects that are being developed throughout our catchment area.
- Mr. Bonnet distributed a Fair Hearing summary report of the activity at ACRC through mid-November 2019, as well as the past two calendar years.

◆ *ARCA Report*

- If anyone is interest in receiving copies of the information that is shared at the ARCA meetings, please let Ms. Walker know.
- At the delegates meeting the night before the Board meeting, the group discussed eligibility issues, affordable housing and how it's important to get the word out to everyone about what regional centers do.
- At the Board meeting, San Diego Regional Center (SDRC) shared information about a collaborative housing project that was picked up by their local news; 30% of the units are secure set-asides for clients and their families.
- ARCA sent Governor Newsom a letter asking him to give consideration to three priorities in the 2020-21 FY's budget.
  - Early Intervention Access
  - Rate Study Implementation Follow-Up
  - Regional Center Operations Funding
- DDS is charged with standardizing tools and has developed a resource guide for clients/families. This information will be in several different languages and will be posted on their website.

◆ *ARCA-CAC Report*

- At the last meeting, Ms. Rewerts shared information about our CAC's "Friends Helping Friends" project. She also noted that ACRC's last client moved out of Fairview Developmental Center in October.

◆ *President's Report*

- Mr. Lake learned on social media that ACRC's Annual Santa Day is scheduled for Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- In keeping with tradition, the Board will be adopting two clients for the holidays.

- The Board acknowledged Anwar Safvi and Jackie Armstrong for their seven years of service to our agency.

5. ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet