

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, March 23, 2017
Minutes

Present: Jacqueline Armstrong, Cindy Benson, Nasim Hedayati, Romilda Jones, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Rosa Meza-Villaseñor, Brendan Peacock, Steven Sanchez, Retha Seabron, Austin Taylor, Rita Walker (via phone)

Absent (* excused): Janet Brandon*, Tatiana Kuzminchuk*, Anwar Safvi*

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

Facilitators: Amy Fulk, Larry Prosser

Visitors: Kathy Brian, Melissa Kelly, Michelle Ramirez, Cheryl Worthley

1. **Call to Order** - The Board of Directors met at 4:03 p.m. on Thursday, March 23, 2017, at ACRC's main office in Sacramento.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision Statements** - All present introduced themselves. Ms. Lampe read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision statements.
3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved:** a) excused absences for Janet Brandon, Tatiana Kuzminchuk and Anwar Safvi; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of February 23, 2017; c) CAC report; d) ratify new member of CAC; and e) accept Board Development, Executive, Finance and PAC reports.
4. **New Business**
 - ◆ *Community Comments*
 - Ms. Brian, with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), shared that they have volunteered to partner with ACRC in our outreach efforts. SCDD has attended many community meetings and remain committed to advocating for the individuals that we serve.
 - ◆ *Finance Committee*

Issue: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: Mr. Tiedemann shared that the Finance Committee met on March 13th, and reviewed the January 31, 2017 financial report which reflects seven months of expenditures for the current fiscal year (FY). ACRC

has expended 54.3% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 54.7% of Operations (OPS).

Mr. Tiedemann is projecting a range of a surplus of \$966,000 to a need for up to \$738,000 in additional POS funding for this FY. There are many variables, including a minimum wage increase that took effect on January 1, 2017, which may change the projections as the year progresses.

Although some regional centers are reporting a deficit at this time, the statewide service system should have enough funding which will be moved between centers as the year progresses.

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

◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
 - Mr. Lake shared that the BDC met on March 13th.
 - The group discussed having a provider spotlight from Eric Ciampa, with UCP of Greater Sacramento, Inc., for the Board Sponsored Training in June.
 - The Board's May Training will consist of a team building exercise, followed by a discussion about accountability and the purpose/responsibilities of each of the Board's committees.
 - The group continues to discuss the possibility of holding future Board meetings in different counties throughout our catchment area.
- Client Advisory Committee (CAC)
 - Mr. Taylor shared that the CAC met on March 14th.
 - Mr. Bonnet talked with the clients that were affected by the evacuations due to the presumed failure of the Oroville spillway and clients shared what they learned from the experience.
 - The committee discussed the plan for the upcoming CAC meeting at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) on Tuesday, May 9th.
 - As noted in the consent agenda, the CAC voted on a new member – Michelle Rewerts. She will be a wonderful addition to our group.
 - The CAC held its annual elections for the upcoming FY and the results will be included on the slate in June.
 - As always, committee members provided updates on the various advocacy groups that they are a part of.

- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
 - No update was shared.

- ◆ *President's Report*
 - Mr. Peacock expressed appreciation for Mr. Bonnet and his staff for the presentation on ACRC's Whistleblower Policy at the Board Sponsored Training which was held just prior to this meeting.
 - He encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA's) Grassroots Day on Wednesday, April 5th, at the State Capitol.

- ◆ *Executive Director's Report*
 - Yesterday, Mr. Bonnet attended Nancy Bargmann's, Director of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), confirmation hearing at the State Capitol. He believes she brings a lot of positive energy to our service system. Ms. Bargmann is fair and kind. She leads by example.
 - Last week, the Senate convened a hearing to focus upon issues related to the equity of POS expenditures for regional center clients. ACRC held two POS Expenditure Meetings on Tuesday, March 21st; one in Woodland and the other at the agency's Sacramento office. Mr. Bonnet distributed a copy of the letter that was submitted to Brian Winfield, Deputy Director of DDS, today. The letter described the concerns and proposed strategies to help spread the word about regional center services that were gathered at the meetings. ACRC staff have already increased our outreach efforts to underserved communities, and we are planning to increase those efforts even further this year.
 - Just this week, we entered into escrow on the last two homes in the development of our housing needs for the closure of SDC. ACRC is meeting the very aggressive timelines that have been set by the state. The pace of moving our clients out of SDC is increasing; our next successful transition is scheduled to occur next week.
 - As Mr. Taylor mentioned, the CAC will be holding their meeting at SDC on Tuesday, May 9th. For the clients and families to realize that they will be welcomed into their own communities is very moving. To Mr. Bonnet's knowledge, ACRC is the only regional center that has gone out to a DC to do this.
 - According to the leadership at DDS, California's long-awaited Self-Determination Program is very close to obtaining federal approval and the roll-out of the three-year pilot program could take place within a matter of months. ACRC has over 2,000 clients who have requested that they be considered as possible participants.

Ultimately, the decision about who gets to participate will be made by staff at DDS.

- If you have not attended ARCA's Grassroots Day in the past, Mr. Bonnet encourages you to contact Ms. West to have your name placed on the list. It is an easy and fun way to make a difference for the clients and families that we serve.
- Mr. Bonnet has recently heard that an increasing number of families have expressed fear for themselves and their family members. These immigrant families may be hesitant to receive regional center services because of fear of being targeted by federal authorities. This is a fine line – ACRC is not a political entity, but we must continue to assure families that we will not share their personal information with anyone without their permission. Mr. Bonnet has convened a small workgroup to craft a clear and sensitive message that we will deliver to our clients and families to reassure them that ACRC has nothing to do with immigration enforcement.

◆ *ARCA Report*

- Mr. Lake attended the ARCA Board delegate dinner/meeting on Thursday, March 16th, and the ARCA Board meeting on Friday, March 17th.
 - During the delegate dinner/meeting:
 - Tri-Counties Regional Center (TCRC) gave a presentation on Person-Centered Thinking.
 - Harbor Regional Center (HRC) spoke about how their Board is put together and what they do.
 - This was a nice opportunity to sit and discuss things that are happening across the state.
 - During the Board meeting:
 - ARCA discussed their finances and independent audit report. ARCA staff presented the agency's budget, which was approved.
 - Amy Westling is now serving as ARCA's Interim Executive Director.
 - The group reviewed proposed regulations for community crisis homes.
 - At this time of year, ARCA's legislative report includes all of the bills that have been introduced in the State Assembly and Senate. If you are interested in knowing ARCA's position on each bill, please visit their website at www.arcenet.org.
 - Once again, Mr. Bonnet has been asked to Chair the Directors Group for the 2017-18 FY.

- Mr. Lake encourages everyone to attend at least one of these Board meetings to see how all 21 regional centers work together.
- ◆ *ARCA-CAC Report*
 - Ms. Benson shared that the last telephone meeting was held on February 24th.
 - The group discussed the upcoming elections for the new ARCA-CAC Chair. More information will be shared with committee members. The election will be held at the next in-person meeting.
 - The ARCA-CAC Facebook link will be posted on ARCA's website.
 - They discussed Governor Brown's proposed budget for the upcoming FY.
 - Eileen Richey has retired as the Executive Director of ARCA. Amy Westling is now serving as the Interim Director.
 - The next in-person meeting will be held on Friday, April 21st, in Sacramento.

5. ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet