

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, March 25, 2021
Minutes

Present: Carmen Aguilar, Jackie Armstrong, Johnny Deng, Romilda Jones, Ron Mainini, Kelly Pennington, Michelle Ramirez, Michelle Rewerts, Steven Sanchez, Retha Seabron, Jennifer Stratton, Yang Sun, Rita Walker

Absent (* excused): Anwar Safvi*, Patty Wallace*

Staff: Phil Bonnet, Iqbal Ahmad, Lori Banales, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown, Camelia Houston, David Lopez, Johnny Xiong, Lisa West

Visitors: Steve Andrews, Sonya Bingaman, Brandy Boyd, Tammi Bradley, Breeanne Burris, Caroline Castaneda, Eric Ciampa, Maureen Fitzgerald, Maxine Milam, Karen Mulvany, Robin Rhoades, Daniel Savino, Katherine Wallen

1. **Call to Order & Opening Statement** - The Board of Directors met at 3:46 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2021, by Webex/teleconference.
2. **Training – "State Level Advocacy"**
 - Daniel Savino, with the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), gave a presentation entitled "ARCA and Regional Centers Supporting The Lanterman Act".
 - ARCA is sponsoring AB 445 (Calderon) Developmental services: information collection. The bill would repeal the requirement for the department to ensure that information is collected by regional centers (e.g., social security numbers of the parents of a client).
 - Mr. Savino noted that ACRC collaborative efforts are very important to ARCA's work. ACRC has hosted several Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) meetings. Key legislators and/or their staff have toured programs in a "Day in the Life".
3. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC's Mission & Vision** - All present introduced themselves. Dr. Sun read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision.
4. **Community Comments**
 - ◆ Mr. Ciampa shared that the PAC wishes Mr. Bonnet well as he plans his retirement. The group would also like to offer the Board their support in the recruitment process for a new Executive Director. Their common values include:
 - The Board's ability to appoint an interim Executive Director, for as long as necessary.
 - Supporting the Board's option to engage an external recruitment agency.

- The belief that transparency is key and would allow for the best start for the strongest candidate.
- Supporting the establishment of an Executive Search Committee (ESC).
- An opportunity to engage our community and dream about what the future holds.
- ◆ Ms. Fitzgerald shared that ACRC should be recognized for securing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and hosting vaccination clinics for clients and their families. She expressed disappointment in the Board's decision to exclude public comments during committee meetings.
- ◆ Ms. Bingaman, with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), shared the following:
 - She expressed appreciation to ACRC for their ongoing collaboration with PPE distribution and storing.
 - SCDD, in collaboration with ACRC, will be hosting quarterly workshops entitled "Accessing Oral Healthcare for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities" beginning in June 2021.
 - They are collaborating with Anthem Blue Cross and will be hosting a six-part Health Series from June through November.
 - She thanked United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) and Developmental Disabilities Service Organization (DDSO) for providing dental supplies that are being distributed to clients and their families.
 - SCDD would like to acknowledge ACRC for all they are doing to coordinate vaccine clinics; it is commendable for those we serve.
- ◆ Ms. Bradley expressed her deepest gratitude for the vaccine clinics which allowed her and her staff to get fully vaccinated.
 - Mr. Ciampa noted that ACRC has been a leader amongst regional centers across the state in their vaccine efforts.

5. **Consent Agenda** – **By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences for Anwar Safvi and Patty Wallace; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of January 28, 2021; c) Board Development, CAC, Executive, Finance and PAC minutes.**

6. **New Business**

- ◆ *Finance Committee*
Issue 1: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: The Finance Committee met on March 8th and reviewed the January 31, 2021 financial report which reflects seven months of expenditures for the current fiscal year (FY). With 58.3% of the year elapsed, ACRC has expended 54.7% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 54.5% of Operations (OPS).

ACRC received the second contract amendment (B-2) from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

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

Issue 2: Contracts of \$250,000 and above

Discussion and Action: The Finance Committee reviewed the details of the Brilliant Corners contract for the development of a Community Crisis Home (CCH). Mr. Bonnet noted how critical these homes are for the clients that we serve.

Without objection, Kelly Pennington made the motion to approve the contract for Brilliant Corners.

◆ *Committee Updates*

- Board Development Committee (BDC)
 - The Proposed Slate of Officers and Board Positions for the 2021-22 FY are as follows:
 - President – Rita Walker
 - Vice President – Anwar Safvi
 - Secretary – Michelle Rewerts
 - Treasurer – Yang Sun
 - Nominating Committee – Carmen Aguilar, Jackie Armstrong, Johnny Deng, Ron Mainini, Retha Seabron
 - ARCA delegate – Rita Walker
 - ARCA alternate – Carmen Aguilar
 - ARCA-CAC delegate – Michelle Rewerts
 - ARCA-CAC alternate – Jackie Armstrong
 - Board members will receive a hard copy in the mail in April. Voting will take place at the May 27th Board meeting, with nominations from the floor.
 - Those elected will take their positions on July 1st.
 - Recommendations to Board regarding May Training
 - The Board typically holds a two-hour Board training in May. The BDC would like to suggest using one hour for an update from our attorneys regarding the bylaw revisions that have been approved throughout the review process. The other hour can be utilized by bringing in a consultant to provide an overview of the Strategic Planning process.
 - ACRC will host a hybrid meeting in May. If Board members are fully vaccinated, you may choose to attend

this training in person. We will offer a virtual option, as well.

- The Board Training will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 27th, with the Board meeting starting at 4 p.m.
 - Mr. Mainini encouraged Board members to place this training on their calendars.
- Executive Committee
 - The group discussed committing regional center OPS funding for the May Training.
 - Judy Enright and Noelle Bensussen – bylaw revisions
 - Mary Beth Lepkowsky – Strategic Planning Consultant

Without objection, Michelle Rewerts made the motion to commit the funding for the presenters at the May Board Training.

- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
 - Ms. Ramirez shared that the PAC met on March 11th.
 - The group spent time acknowledging Mr. Bonnet's leadership.
 - They discussed SB 639, a bill that would eliminate special wage certificates on January 1, 2024.
 - Assembly Member Frazier is working on a bill to professionalize the workforce.
 - Mr. Ciampa and Ms. Ramirez developed a survey to assist with identifying potential goals that the PAC would like to focus on this next year.
 - Many service providers are setting up vaccine clinics in our catchment area.
- ◆ *President's Report*
 - Ms. Walker expressed appreciation to all of the collaborative efforts regarding vaccine clinics.
- ◆ *Executive Director's Report*
 - Mr. Bonnet shared that ACRC is holding a second shot vaccine clinic today. Our agency's relationship with Safeway is greatly appreciated. Effective April 15th, every Californian 16 and older will be eligible to receive the vaccine.
 - ACRC is always a superstar when it comes to the Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA's) Grassroots Day. This year it will be virtual, but remains just as important. If you haven't already

done so, please consider participating. Legislators need to hear directly from our clients and families.

- As of today, ACRC has had 775 clients who have tested positive for COVID-19, with 29 deaths. 359 direct support professionals (DSPs) have tested positive, with two deaths. We also have had 26 positive staff. Mr. Bonnet remains hopeful that the numbers will continue to decline.
 - ACRC has had no service provider programs close since the last Board meeting. The following are newly vendored services:
 - California Start (prevention and intervention services)
 - Helping Hearts Foundation (money management)
 - Circle of Friends (Supported Living Services [SLS])
 - WeCareforYolo (SLS deflection services)
 - Supercare (medical equipment)
 - Mr. Bonnet has been in contact with a for-profit housing developer in Yolo County. ACRC continues to focus on housing for those that we serve.
 - The dental clinic around the corner from ACRC's Harvard office should be opening its doors prior to Mr. Bonnet's retirement.
 - ACRC recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with California Northstate University. They are committed to opening up a dental clinic, as well.
- ◆ *ARCA Report*
- Mr. Mainini shared ARCA met on March 18th and the group discussed the statewide vaccination efforts.
 - ARCA's Grassroots Day is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20th.
 - ARCA's Board approved their Slate of Officers for the next FY. Their new President will be Rita Walker.
- ◆ *ARCA-CAC Report*
- Ms. Rewerts shared that members discussed the importance of service coordination.
 - The next Zoom meeting is scheduled for March 26th at 10 a.m.
- ◆ *Correspondence*
- Under Tab 9 and 10 of the Board packet, please find a copy of an email that the Board received highlighting ACRC staff who acted as guest speakers during a class presentation with Placer County Office of Education, as well as DDS' response to ACRC's Caseload Ratio Plan of Correction.

7. **Closed Session** – At 5:09 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss legal and personnel issues.

8. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 6:22 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which legal and personnel issues were discussed.
9. **Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet