

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, May 27, 2021
Minutes

Present: Carmen Aguilar, Jackie Armstrong, Johnny Deng, Ron Mainini, Kelly Pennington, Michelle Ramirez, Michelle Rewerts, Steven Sanchez, Anwar Safvi, Retha Seabron, Yang Sun, Rita Walker, Patty Wallace

Absent (* excused): Romilda Jones*

Staff: Phil Bonnet, Iqbal Ahmad, Lori Banales, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown, John Decker, DeLayna Eskridge-Brown, Camelia Houston, David Lopez, Lisa West

Visitors: Steve Andrews, Sonya Bingaman, Breeanne Burris, Caroline Castaneda, Eric Ciampa, Lisa Cooley, Maureen Fitzgerald, Kidada Medina, Maxine Milam, Karen Mulvany, Benita Shaw

1. **Call to Order** - The Board of Directors met at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, 2021, by Webex/teleconference.
2. **Introductions – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** - All present introduced themselves. Ms. Armstrong read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
3. **Community Comments**
 - ◆ Ms. Fitzgerald noted at the last Board meeting she objected to the lack of public comments at Board committee meetings. Subsequently, a public comment section was added to the Executive Committee Meeting agenda. Ms. Fitzgerald shared that she does not agree with the Board’s decision to not allow for public input during revisions to the agency’s bylaws.
 - ◆ Ms. Bingaman, with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), shared the following:
 - Partnering with ACRC, SCDD will be hosting quarterly workshops entitled “Accessing Oral Healthcare for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”. The first workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16th.
 - They are partnering with Anthem Blue Cross to hold monthly Healthcare Workshops for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities. The next one will focus on coping with stress during the pandemic and is scheduled for June 7th, from 1 to 2 p.m.
 - In another collaboration with ACRC, SCDD will be holding a Zoom training about CalABLE on Wednesday, June 30th, from 6 to 8 p.m.
 - Once again, she expressed appreciation to ACRC staff for assisting with the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
4. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences for Retha Seabron; b) regular session**

Board meeting minutes of March 25, 2021; c) Board Development, CAC, Executive, Finance and PAC minutes (election of PAC Chair/Co-Chair and Designated Representative to Board).

5. New Business

- ◆ *Board Development Committee*

Issue: Approve Board Members' Terms of Office

Discussion and Action: The Board Development Committee (BDC) is recommending approval of Michelle Rewerts' three-year term and Ron Mainini's second two-year term.

Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the term extensions as presented.

- ◆ *Executive Committee*

Issue 1: Approve CAC Designated Representative to Board for 2021-22 FY

Discussion and Action: Board action is needed on the Client Advisory Committee's (CAC's) designation of Patty Wallace as their Board representative for the 2021-22 fiscal year (FY).

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve Patty Wallace as the CAC Designated Representative to the Board for the 2021-22 FY.

Issue 2: Approve Slate for 2021-22 FY

Discussion and Action: The Slate for the 2021-22 FY is as follows:

Rita Walker – President

Anwar Safvi – Vice President

Michelle Rewerts – Secretary

Yang Sun – Treasurer

Carmen Aguilar, Jackie Armstrong, Johnny Deng, Ron Mainini & Retha Seabron – Nominating Committee

Rita Walker – ARCA Rep

Carmen Aguilar – ARCA Rep (alternate)

Michelle Rewerts – ARCA-CAC Rep

Jackie Armstrong – ARCA-CAC Rep (alternate)

Without objection, Ron Mainini made the motion to approve the slate as presented.

Issue 3: Approve 2021-22 FY Board Meeting Schedule and 2021-22 FY BDC/Finance/Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

Discussion and Action: The proposed schedules are in the Board packet under Tab 10. Ms. Walker explained that the October committee meetings fall on an ACRC holiday, so they are being moved to the Tuesday, following the CAC meeting.

Without objection, Ron Mainini made the motion to approve the 2021-22 FY Board meeting schedule and the 2021-22 FY BDC/Finance/Executive Committee meeting schedule as presented.

- ♦ *Finance Committee*

Issue 1: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: The Finance Committee met on May 10th and reviewed the March 31, 2021 financial report which reflects nine months of expenditures for the current FY. With 75% of the year elapsed, ACRC has expended 71.9% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 73.2% of Operations (OPS).

Since the last committee meeting, the May Revise has been released and it must be approved by June 30th. ACRC's Accounting Department is closing out the FY. If necessary, ACRC may utilize the \$25 million line-of-credit that we have with U.S. Bank until funding is received from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

Without objection, Anwar Safvi made the motion to accept the monthly finance report as submitted.

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

Discussion and Action: Mr. Decker shared that DDS has asked ACRC to take over the contract for a Community Crisis Home (CCH), which will assist clients who are moving from an Institute for Mental Diseases (IMD) and

reintegrating back into the community. TeleCare has been selected as the service provider of a recently acquired home owned by Brilliant Corners.

Mr. Bonnet noted that step-down homes are a statewide resource, with only four in the State of California. San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center (SGPRC) oversees two homes in Southern California and ACRC is overseeing two in Northern California.

The second contract funds the acquisition and renovation of a four-bed Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home (EBSH), which will be used to transition clients from Porterville Developmental Center (PDC) or for those clients that are at risk for placement in PDC.

This is a DDS project and they have designated ACRC to carry out the milestones of the contract. Brilliant Corners has been selected as the Housing Development Organizations (HDO).

Mr. Ahmad clarified that DDS sets the start dates for these contracts.

Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the Telecare and Brilliant Corners contracts as presented.

Issue 3: Update on Start-up Contracts/Projects

Discussion and Action: Mr. Ahmad shared that the Board requested an update on the start-up contracts that they have approved over the last several years. The Finance Committee reviewed the list under Tab 12 of the Board packet.

- **Information only.**

Issue 4: Approve Independent Auditor

Discussion and Action: The Finance Committee recommends that the Board engage AGT CPAs & Advisors (AGT) for the next two FYs as ACRC's independent auditor.

Without objection, Yang Sun made the motion to engage AGT as ACRC's independent auditor for the next two FYs.

- ♦ *Committee Updates*
 - Board Development Committee (BDC)

- Jennifer Stratton has resigned from the Board. She recently received a volunteer job at a law firm.
- CAC
 - Ms. Wallace is happy to report that the group may be able to resume in-person meetings in the next few months.
 - Members completed a video about the importance of getting your COVID vaccination. It has been posted on ACRC's website and social media platforms.
- Provider Advisory Committee (PAC)
 - Ms. Ramirez shared that the PAC met on May 13th and April 8th.
 - The group discussed COVID related issues. Many service providers have sponsored vaccine clinics throughout ACRC's catchment area.
 - They compiled a list of questions for the Board on the Executive Director recruitment process, and have developed a list of characteristics that they would like to see in ACRC's next Executive Director.
 - The PAC will be revamping their subcommittee/workgroup structure.
 - The Vendor Relations Subcommittee will meet with Mr. Decker and his team in June to discuss the liaison position.
- ♦ *Executive Director's Report*
 - Mr. Bonnet believes it will be an interesting year. Between the influx of federal funding that has been infused into the budget and what has been happening at the state level, it looks like a lot of good things might be happening for the regional center system.
 - The Performance Incentive Program (PIP) could potentially add 800 service coordinator positions to our statewide service system by 2022.
 - Conditional eligibility may be an option for those children that do not have a clear diagnosis from 3 years to 3 years 11 months.
 - There is new emergency preparedness funding.
 - The Uniform Holiday Schedule for service providers may be cancelled.
 - There are discussions about a new certification process for our service providers and incentivizing how to professionalize the workforce.
 - When vaccines became available, staff focused their attention on creating opportunities for clients, families and care givers to get vaccinated. ACRC is now partnering with the MIND Institute to host

- a vaccine clinic so that some of our younger clients, between the ages of 12 and 16, with behavioral issues can be vaccinated.
- Yesterday, Mr. Bonnet asked ACRC's Leadership Team to send him ideas on how we might regroup and assist those individuals with vaccine hesitancy. We must continue to do everything within our power to be safe for the clients that we serve.
 - At least two regional centers in Southern California are now requiring their staff to get vaccinated in order to remain employed.
 - ACRC has had one Level 3 care home and two Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) close since the last Board meeting. In addition, ACRC staff have been notified of announced closures of the A.I.M. & Associates Independent Living Services (ILS) Program, as well as their Community Based Day program in Placerville. Aacres California is transferring ownership of all homes to California Mentor, in order to provide a seamless transition for the clients that they serve. The following are newly vendored services:
 - Abbey's Petra Fonete – Level 3
 - Toor Group Home – Level 4I (children's)
 - Sierra Care Home – Level 2
 - Agape Supported Homes – Level 4I
 - Aavon Care Home 2 – Level 4I
 - On My Own – In-home Respite
 - Pharmacy Alternatives California – Pharmacy for Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Special Health Care Needs (ARFPSHNs)
 - Apple Ranch – Level 4G
 - Sally Care Home – Level 4I
 - EAST Community Day Program – Community Based Day Program
 - Able Kids – Early Autism Treatment
 - MVP Care Home – Level 4I
 - Aspire Behavioral Consulting – Behavior Management Consultant
 - The "ACRC Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending March 31, 2021" were distributed for review. Mr. Bonnet noted that this is a helpful tool; please send him any questions that you may have.
 - Ms. Banales shared that ACRC has 540 clients that live in family homes with aged parents. ACRC is hosting a "Coordinated Future Planning – Community Information Session" on Wednesday, June 9th, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. ACRC staff will engage with clients/families to promote client housing choice and caregiver succession planning. Ms. Banales noted that we will have a set

number on our taskforce and will continue to engage the community, at Board meetings, and other opportunities.

- ACRC hosting our Annual POS Expenditure Meetings in March and April. The first meeting had technological difficulties, so we scheduled a second one, which had 58 participants. Mr. Bonnet reminded everyone that DDS requires each regional center to hold these meetings and gather input from community partners. A report will be written and submitted to the department by August 2021.
- The Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Roadmap is posted on our agency's website. Additionally, ACRC is creating a focus group (no limit on members), which will create the dialogue and training for our staff to engage with our clients. ACRC is partnering with education and the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) so that clients have every opportunity to engage in CIE.
- Today is Mr. Bonnet's last Board meeting. He became an Executive Director at the age of 29 and has strived every day to make each and every decision for the benefit of the clients and families that we serve. It has been an honor.

♦ *ARCA Report*

- Under Tab 14 of the Board packet, please find a copy of the letter that the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) sent to the Chairs of the Assembly and Senate regarding the 2021-22 FY May Revise.
- On June 2nd, ARCA will be hosting a unique, virtual event, in an attempt to answer people's concerns about vaccine hesitancy. Those that attend will have the opportunity to ask questions.
- The ARCA Collaborative has been sponsoring trainings for regional center Board members since 2019. The most recent one focused on equity/diversity/inclusion.

♦ *ARCA-CAC Report*

- The group talked about COVID-19 and are looking for ways to help educate those individuals that have vaccine hesitancy.
- The next meeting will be held virtually tomorrow, May 28th, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

♦ *Correspondence*

- Under Tab 15, please find a copy of DDS' approval letter for Ms. Ramirez's mitigation plan.

♦ *President's Report*

- Ms. Walker read aloud a tribute to Mr. Bonnet for his 15 years of service as ACRC's Executive Director.

6. **Closed Session** – At 5:17 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss legal and personnel issues.
7. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 6:32 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which legal and personnel issues were discussed.
8. **Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Phil Bonnet