

Alta California Regional Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, June 29, 2022  
Minutes

**Present:** Carmen Aguilar, Jackie Armstrong, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Elaine Linn, Kelly Pennington, Michelle Rewerts, Anwar Safvi, Retha Seabron, Yang Sun, Rita Walker, Patty Wallace

**Absent** (\* excused): Johnny Deng, Michelle Ramirez\*

**Staff:** Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown, John Decker, Camelia Houston, Mechelle Johnson, David Lopez, Johnny Xiong, Lisa West

Additional staff: DeLayna Eskridge-Brown, Odelia Johns, Lindsay Mitsuhashi, Meghan Quallick, Hillary Santiago, BJ Thompson

**Facilitators:** Amy Fulk

**Visitors:** Steven Andrews, Maureen Fitzgerald, Maxine Milam, Peter Mendoza, Karen Mulvany, Adam Ruggles

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** - The Board of Directors met at 4:01 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, by Webex/teleconference. Mr. Lake read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **Community Comments/Announcements**
  - ◆ Ms. Mulvany shared that with the new wave of COVID cases, there are many recommendations for ACRC clients to have plans in place in case they test positive. She strongly recommends that the Board consider developing a policy on how the agency should track these plans.
    - Mr. Mendoza supports Ms. Mulvany’s suggestion and believes it might be helpful for ACRC to provide guidance to clients so they know what to include in their COVID plan.
3. **New Business**
  - ◆ Approve 2022-2025 Strategic Plan

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Lake expressed appreciation to Mary Beth Lepkowsky (consultant), as well as Board members and regional center staff.

**Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan as presented.**

- ◆ Approve Community Crisis Home Housing Developer Startup Funds Contract

**Discussion and Action:** Mr. Decker shared that Brilliant Corners has a history of working with ACRC. With the challenging market, staff believe they will be successful in securing property for this Community Crisis Home.

**Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the Community Crisis Home Housing Developer Startup Funds contract as presented.**

- ◆ Approve Group Home for Children with Special Health Needs (GHCSHN) – Housing Developer Startup Funds Contract

**Discussion and Action:** This is a new model of care, similar to the Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Special Health Care Needs (ARFPSHN). ACRC has chosen Brilliant Corners as the housing developer; they have experience working with ARFPSHNs.

Mr. Decker noted that when clients/families have needed these types of services, ACRC has had to look outside our catchment area, separating families during a crucial time in a child's life.

**Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the GHCSHN Housing Developer Startup Funds contract as presented.**

- ◆ *Approve Revised Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Service Policy*

**Discussion and Action:** Ms. Banales shared that ACRC's previous policy was not approved by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), along with the revision, even after speaking with department staff.

In an effort to move this policy forward and follow-up with staff training, we decided to look at other regional center policies that have been approved by DDS and landed on this version.

Ms. Bloom provided a brief overview of the current draft before the Board. She explained that the corresponding procedure will detail the steps that ACRC staff will follow when they receive a request for social recreation from clients/families, which are tied back to the client's Individual Program Plan (IPP).

ACRC has already held four robust trainings for staff to provide Service Coordinators (SCs) with the tools that they will need to be successful. Staff

have conducted outreach to Recreation and Park Districts throughout our agency's catchment area.

ACRC has also formed an internal committee, so that there is consistency with requests and additional time for staff to have their questions answered. Our Community Services Department is integral in making sure our service providers know how to proactively review requests for those clients that we serve.

ACRC will always look at generic services and know that there should be limitations to this service, as well. There are guidelines set forth in this policy. The training piece is new to most of our staff, since these services have not been funded since 2009. We plan on holding annual refresher trainings for staff.

Ms. Walker noted that one of the most important parts to a policy is the exception piece; it is difficult to write a policy and include everything.

**Without objection, Michelle Rewerts made the motion to approve the Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Service Policy as presented.**

◆ *President's Report*

- Ms. Walker shared that tomorrow marks the end of the fiscal year (FY). She acknowledged Board members, who are volunteers, and acknowledged and thanked them for their work, time and commitment.
- The Board has had a productive year:
  - We just adopted a Strategic Plan; the community collaboration was wonderful.
  - Partnering with the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), our legislative advocacy remains critical to all of those that receive services.
- Ms. Walker acknowledged the Board's appreciation for Ms. Banales for her work and leadership this past year, as well as the Executive Management Team for their presentations to the Board. And lastly, a special thank you to Ms. West for all the support and assistance she provides the Board.

◆ *ARCA Report*

- ARCA's annual accomplishments include:
  - Pursuing rate reform for developmental services.

- Advocating for an equitable and sustainable regional center operations funding methodology and the elimination of parental fees.
- As an organization thought a lot about how we measure the impact of the system on people's lives and how to improve their experiences and outcomes.

◆ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*

- Ms. Rewerts shared that the group met on June 24<sup>th</sup>, where members gave their regional center reports and continued discussing the housing alliance project.
- A recommendation was made to have ARCA-CAC members attend hearings and possibly testify.

4. **Closed Session** – At 4:39 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss personnel issues.

5. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 5:00 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which personnel issues were discussed.

6. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales