

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, May 29, 2025
Minutes

Present: Carmen Aguilar, Jackie Armstrong, Garrett Broadbent, Tom Hopkins, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Kelly Pennington, Akkia Pride-Polk, Anwar Safvi, Steven Sanchez

Absent (* excused): EunMi Cho*, Johnny Deng*, Ceasar Seabron

Facilitators: Amy Fulk, Naomi Smith

Staff: Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Lori Bean, Jennifer Bloom, Markley Brown, Tracy Brown, Candice Calero, Perrine Champion, Charlotte Clarke, Adia Cunningham, Maria DeAnda, John Decker, DeLayna Eskridge-Brown, Callie Friesen, Deborah Hayes, Jeremy Hemmer, Camelia Houston, Mechelle Johnson, Herman Kothe, Kenny Lau, Jaspreet Mann, Jessica Markov, Amy McCreary, Maxie Pringle, Maria Reynoso, Samantha Roberts, Barbara van Ingen, Carol Wilhelm, Lisa West

Visitors: Diego Aguilar, Saul Aguilar, Steve Andrews, Taylor Berry, Brian Brown, Loretta Duncan-Fowler, Maureen Fitzgerald, Angel Garcia, Chris Hanaway, Shaniece Hill, Patricia Kamlley, Eric Loeffler, Gabby Ramirez, Michelle Ramirez

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** – The Board of Directors met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29, 2025. Ms. Lampe read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **Meeting Our Mission**
 - ♦ Ms. Banales is pleased to spotlight the LIFE Program at Sierra College.
 - ♦ Mr. Decker introduced Angel Garcia, the LIFE Program Manager.
 - Ms. Garcia is a mother of an ACRC client, which has helped to shape her career path.
 - The LIFE Program officially launched in July 2024. The LIFE Program values: integration, self-determination, exploration, person-centered, equity, growth, community and self-advocacy.
 - In August 2025, they will expand to serve 26 students. In five years, their goal is to grow to 60 students.
 - They are also actively exploring housing partnerships to eventually create a residential LIFE experience.
 - Diego Aguilar and Chris Hanaway shared how the LIFE Program has positively affected their lives.

3. **Staff Recognitions**

- ♦ Ms. Banales believes it is important to spotlight the staff's tenure here at ACRC.
 - Recognizing five years of service: Maxie Pringle, Maria DeAnda, Maria Reynoso, Callie Friesen, Candice Calero and Samantha Roberts
 - Recognizing ten years of service: Amy McCreary, Kenny Lau and Jeremy Hemmer
 - Recognizing 15 years of service: Jessica Markov
 - Recognizing 20 years of service: DeLayna Eskridge-Brown
 - Recognizing 25 years of service: Lisa West

4. **Community Comments/Announcements**

- ♦ Shaniece Hill, the SEIU labor representative for ACRC staff, took a moment to introduce herself to the Board. She is honored to be a part of this team and appreciates the work that this regional center does to support clients and families. Ms. Hill is here to bridge the gap and support the community. She shared that she has family and friends that receive services.

5. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences of EunMi Cho and Johnny Deng; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of March 27, 2025; and c) Client Advisory Committee (CAC) [approve CAC Chair and Designated Rep to Board for 2025-26 FY] , Executive Committee [approve 2025-26 FY Board Meeting and Board Committee Meeting Schedules], Finance Committee, and Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) minutes.**

6. **New Business**

- ♦ *Approve Slate of Officers and ARCA Representatives for 2025-26 FY*
 - Mr. Lake shared that the Slate of Officers and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Representatives for the 2025-26 fiscal year (FY) are as follows:
 - President – Dan Lake
 - Vice President – Kelly Pennington
 - Secretary – Steven Sanchez
 - Treasurer – Anwar Safvi
 - ARCA Delegate – Kelly Pennington
 - Alternate ARCA Delegate – Dan Lake
 - ARCA-CAC Delegate – Amy Lampe
 - Alternate ARCA-CAC Delegate – Steven Sanchez

M/S/C (Armstrong) To approve the proposed Slate of Officers and ARCA Representatives for the 2025-26 FY as presented.

♦ *Finance Committee*

Issue 1: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: The minutes from the May 12th Finance Committee meetings are under Tab 6 of the Board packet, and the March 30th financial report is under Tab 9.

Mr. Ahmad noted that during the meeting, committee members reviewed the financial report in-depth. All attention is now focused on the May Revision. Recently, ACRC implemented the Board approved case management system in our Intake and Early Intervention units.

M/S/C (Hopkins) To accept the monthly financial report as submitted.

Issue 2: Approve Independent Audit Firm

Discussion and Action: During the meeting, committee members discussed the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) contract requirement for conducting an independent audit. Firms may conduct audits for five consecutive years, and this next year would be year three for Devant Certified Public Accountants (CPAs). Devant is one of the most competitive audit firms in the state.

M/S/C (Hopkins) To engage Devant, CPAs for ACRC's independent audit.

Issue 3: Approve POS Contracts of \$250,000 and above

Discussion and Action: Mr. Decker noted that these two housing developers attended the November Board meeting to share information on these upcoming housing developments.

This multifamily housing project in West Sacramento has eight two-bedroom set aside units for ACRC clients.

M/S/C (Armstrong) To approve the \$800,000 contract for Brinshore Development & Operative Office as presented.

We closed the loan last night for this Senior housing project in Davis, which has ten set aside units for ACRC clients.

M/S/C (Hopkins) To approve the \$1 million contract for Mercy Housing California as presented.

♦ *Committee Updates*

• CAC

- Mr. Hopkins shared that the CAC met on May 13th.
 - Ms. Banales provided an update on the state's budget and encouraged everyone to attend the "Keep the Promise" rally at the State Capitol on May 22nd.
 - The group reviewed ACRC's 2025 Performance Contract and provided suggestions.
 - The CAC voted for their Chair and designated representative to the Board of Directors for the 2025-26 FY.
 - Representatives from Caltrans provided two presentations – one about how to submit an ADA grievance and the other was about the Caltrans Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program.

• PAC

- Mr. Broadbent shared that the PAC met on April 10th and May 8th.
 - Beginning in April, the group started to hold discussions about particular issues and share resources.
 - They discussed an insurance gap, which could possibly increase costs for service providers and affect services. If their staff provide transportation to clients during the day, there are certain circumstances where insurance does not pick up the coverage if there is an accident. There is no insurance coverage that will cover damage to an employee's vehicle, if they are at fault.
 - The group also discussed which day programs are required to be licensed. If their staff provide care and supervision, then their program must be licensed. For community-based programs, if the client brings their own staff to assist with activities of daily living (ADLs), then the program does not have to be licensed.
 - In May:
 - The PAC elected their Chair and Co-Chair/Designated Representative to ACRC's Board of Directors, which remains the same for another year. Mr. Broadbent will be serving his third and final year as the PAC rep.

- They shared updates from the advocacy groups – the Capitol Coalition has come out in support of a number of bills.
- Regarding rate reform, some miscellaneous service codes are being phased out and synced to new ones. They are looking into this issue so that some programs can remain across the state. Another meeting is scheduled with DDS in June.

◆ *President's Report*

- Mr. Lake expressed appreciation for Ms. Banales, Ms. West and ACRC staff who made this day a success.

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- Ms. Banales is pleased to recognize staff across different positions and counties during these meetings.
- ACRC currently has 26 vacancies (seven growth and 19 backfill positions), compared to 140 last year at this time. We have made tremendous efforts with our Strategic Hiring Plan. In April, we brought on 20 new employees, 24 in May, and we expect to bring on ~25 in June. As of May 20th, ACRC has 808 staff members and continues to grow.
- Staff have had a lot of changes this year, not only with our Sacramento office move, but also the change with implementing our new case management system, Atlas. Ms. Banales is proud of ACRC's Management Team, who listen to staff to learn how to support them as we become better at navigating this new system. We are also prioritizing access to clients, families, and the community as we advance the system forward.
- Last week, California's Senate and Assembly held their hearings, where there were a lot of inquiries about the proposed cap on overtime for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS). The May Revision proposes no cuts to authorized IHSS hours, but a cap on overtime at 50 hours per week per IHSS worker.
- There are proposed changes to California's Medi-Cal system.
 - "Unsatisfactory Immigration Status" (UIS) is referring to undocumented individuals. As of January 2026, UIS individuals will no longer be able to enroll in Medicaid. There is also a proposed monthly premium of \$100 per month to access these services for those UIS individuals who are already enrolled in the system. Since regional centers are the "payor of last resort," this may shift costs from one department to another.
- Proposed pause on the "DSP University."

- The May Revision proposes accelerating the expiration of service provider's "hold harmless" clauses to March 1, 2026.
- As a way to offset fiscal impact to the developmental services system, DDS reverted \$800+ million to the State's General Fund from previous FY budgets.
- We continue to recognize that we will not know the impact of the federal budget until October 2026.
- ACRC has been promoting a webinar entitled "What's Really at Stake?" presented by Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD). Ms. Banales believes Mr. Carruthers has done a wonderful job to condense the information down so that people are informed appropriately. Two additional webinars are scheduled for tomorrow, May 30th, and June 3rd.
- As mentioned previously, ACRC and Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) will be expanding the DSP Collaborative to the seven Los Angeles regional centers.
 - They are seeking additional funding through Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) grants.
- The public input for ACRC's 2025 Performance Contract closes tomorrow, May 30th. Ms. Banales will be seeking the Board's approval at the upcoming Executive Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, June 9th.

♦ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*

- Ms. Lampe shared that the group is meeting tomorrow.

♦ *ARCA Delegate Report*

- ARCA meets again in June.
- Last Thursday's "Keep the Promise" Rally at the State Capitol was well attended. Everyone is encouraged to write to their legislators.
- Ms. Pennington attended the "What's Really at Stake?" webinar on Tuesday. She agrees that it was very informative and encouraged sharing the flyer with interested individuals.

7. ***Closed Session*** – At 4:18 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss legal and personnel issues.

8. ***Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion*** - At 5:01 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 5:01 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales