

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, July 28, 2022
Minutes

Present: Jackie Armstrong, Johnny Deng, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Kelly Pennington, Michelle Ramirez, Michelle Rewerts, Anwar Safvi, Rita Walker, Patty Wallace

Absent (* excused): Carmen Aguilar*, Elaine Linn*, Retha Seabron*, Yang Sun*

Staff: Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, John Decker, Camelia Houston, Mechelle Johnson, Lisa West

Facilitators: Amy Fulk

Visitors: Steven Andrews, Maureen Fitzgerald, Peter Mendoza, Maxine Milam, Monique Snyder

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** – The Board of Directors met at 4:01 p.m. on Thursday, July 28, 2022, by Webex/teleconference. Ms. Lampe read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **Community Comments/Announcements**
 - ◆ No comments/announcements were shared.
3. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) regular session Board meeting minutes of June 29, 2022 and May 26, 2022; and b) Board Development Committee, Client Advisory Committee (CAC), Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Provider Advisory Committee (PAC), and Strategic Planning Committee minutes.**
4. **New Business**
 - ◆ Approve ARCA Representatives for 2022-23 FY

Discussion and Action: Mr. Lake shared that Kelly Pennington has agreed to switch places with him as the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Board representative. He will be the alternate.

Without objection, Dan Lake made the motion to approve Kelly Pennington as the ARCA Representative and Dan Lake as the alternate for the 2022-23 FY.

- ◆ Approve 2022-23 FY BDC/Finance/Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

Without objection, Michelle Ramirez made the motion to approve the committee meeting schedule as presented.

- ◆ *Finance Committee*

Issue: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: Mr. Ahmad shared that the Finance Committee met on July 11th, and reviewed the June 30, 2022 financial report which reflects twelve months of expenditures for the 2021-22 fiscal year (FY). With 100% of the year elapsed, ACRC has expended 80.9% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 93.5% of Operations (OPS).

Mr. Ahmad noted that we have a small surplus in POS and are able to meet our obligations in OPS.

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

- ◆ *Committee Updates*

- CAC

- Ms. Wallace shared that the CAC met on July 12th and June 14th.
 - At the July meeting, Ms. Banales shared that ACRC's Board approved the Strategic Plan. She also provided the group with an update on the state's budget. The team discussed their housing video project which ties into the agency's Strategic Plan. Members gave updates on the various advocacy groups that they are members of.
 - At the June meeting, Peter Mendoza, Community Program Specialist II Sacramento Regional Office/Proud Self-Advocate with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) gave a presentation entitled "Self-Advocacy is about Rights".

- PAC

- Ms. Ramirez shared that the PAC met on July 14th and June 9th.
 - The group has devoted time during their meetings to discuss ACRC's Strategic Plan. The subcommittees have been charged with meeting during August to determine how their committees tie into the plan.
 - The hiring collaborative effort between ACRC and Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) is moving forward. Five workgroups have been formed (Provider & Local

Community Buy-in, Website, Metrics, Public Relations, and Job/Career Campaign) and they are meeting separately to focus their efforts. The next meeting will be held at VMRC on August 9th.

◆ *President's Report*

- Mr. Lake shared that today's meeting marks Rita Walker's last meeting as an ACRC Board member. She served as the Vice President for three years and as President for two. Ms. Walker also served as Vice President and President of ARCA. She envisioned a Board that was an inclusive, active Board – we have become that!

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- Ms. Banales acknowledged all of the roles that Ms. Walker has played during her career. She is honored and grateful for her mentorship and strong leadership.
- July 26th marked the 32nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- ACRC's Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending June 30, 2022 are included in the Board packet.
 - In Early Start, eligibility must be determined within 45 days. Staff was determining this in an average of 36 to 37 days last year at this time; for the current quarter, we are averaging 45 days.
 - Ms. Banales noted that if ACRC does not have the vendor capacity to complete assessments, we start to fall behind on meeting this requirement.
 - The average days for determining eligibility for Lanterman Intake are trending upward. The lack of scheduling slots for psychological assessments are the main cause.
 - Assembly Bill 637 was enacted in 1993 to allow regional centers to develop innovative means of providing needed services, by requesting that certain regulatory restrictions be waived. ACRC is requesting DDS to waive the median rate restrictions for psychological assessments as a means to increase provider capacity through enhanced payments to match the market rates. ACRC will be holding a public meeting to gather input/comments from our stakeholders.
 - We are currently recruiting additional staff psychologists to ensure that we have support for staff and eligibility staffings.
 - Ms. Banales noted that although ACRC may contract with vendored psychologists for

reports/assessments, eligibility is an in-house decision.

- ACRC has hired 180 new staff during the last twelve months; 111 individuals have left due to attrition/retirement.
 - ACRC is awaiting the allocation of new Service Coordinator (SC) positions from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Ms. Banales believes we will receive funding for approximately 60 SC positions and six Client Services Manager (CSM) positions.
 - The Early Start SC positions for the 1:40 birth to five-year-old caseloads are separate from the ongoing case management SC positions mentioned above. ACRC is also awaiting this allocation.
 - Any suggestions to assist with our recruitment efforts and increase interest in our service system as a whole are welcomed.
- Ms. Banales shared that the state receives reimbursement from the federal government on the Targeted Case Management (TCM) units.
 - ACRC's numbers are dipping slightly due to caseloads that do not have a SC assigned to them. We are continuing to stress the importance of these notes with staff.
- ACRC's Federal Programs Unit continues to add individuals to the Medicaid Waiver; staff continue to look for ways to certify new clients.
 - It's important to note that ACRC is the fourth largest regional center and we bring in the second highest waiver participants.
- Staff continue to improve with the Special Incident Reporting (SIR) requirement; moved back up to 87.3%, but this percentage may continue to fluctuate due to increasing numbers of COVID SIRs.
- There has been tremendous growth in the Self-Determination program (SDP) over the past year; in July 2021, ACRC had 12 participants, and as of this month, we now have 139.
 - ACRC continues to hold "boot camps" to provide an opportunity for clients/families to learn more about the program.
 - We held two townhall meetings for our Grass Valley community in May.
 - Our statewide system needs more Financial Management Service (FMS) agencies, which play a critical role in transitioning clients into this program.

- We are seeking permission to utilize implementation funding to assist FMS agencies so that they can hire more staff. This proposal will be discussed with the Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC).
- ACRC staff meet with DDS monthly and our agency was recognized as one of the top regional center performers in this program. Our Associate Directors (ADs) and our three Participant Choice Specialists (PCS') have provided extra support to clients/families.
- The required National Core Indicators (NCI) stakeholder meeting will be held during the September Board meeting.
- The Board has requested updates on open and closed programs since the last Board meeting. The following are newly vended services:
 - Tahoe Ability Program (ILS)
 - Music to Grow On
 - Christina Estrem, PT, DPT
 - UCP Camp
 - TRS County of Sac Dept of Regional Parks
 - AlphaOne Ambulance Medical Services Inc.
 - Upendo Care Services (SLS)
 - Destined 4 Dignity (SLS)
 - Silvana Senior Care #5
 - Merakey Allos Justamere (EBSH)
 - Emerald Home
- Closed vendors:
 - S.R. Williams Res #2
 - St. John's Retirement
 - Houston ARF
 - Cerezo Care Home
 - Vinsons Care Home
 - Thomas and Loretta Barnes Home for Adults
 - Anderson Adult Residential

5. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales