

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 25, 2025
Minutes

Present: Jackie Armstrong, Garrett Broadbent, EunMi Cho, Johnny Deng, Tom Hopkins, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Kelly Pennington, Akkia Pride-Polk, Anwar Safvi, Steven Sanchez

Absent (* excused): Carmen Aguilar*, Ceasar Seabron

Facilitators: Amy Fulk, Naomi Smith

Staff: Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Michelle Adams, Phil Adams, Tomi Ajibola, Lori Bean, Jennifer Bloom, Elyssa Bretz, Tracy Brown, Ajonae Cain, John Decker, DeLayna Eskridge-Brown, Aida Fuchs, Kim Graham, Ciara Green, Laura Griffith, Deb Hayes, Rachelle Hayes, John Hernandez, Elmarie Hoffmann Burnell, Deirdre Holloway, Camelia Houston, Asya Hunter, Kenisha Hurd, Ashley Jean, Felicia Johnson, Mechelle Johnson, Cindy Le, Vera Lim, Jena Low, Jaspreet Mann, Jessica Markov, Dana Muccular, John Munoz, Helen Neri, Valarie Oldham, Vanesha Orr, Ryan Patchin, Jessicah Patterson, Valerie Popova, Eric Rankin, Kelsey Reyne, Max Robertson, Lisa Saephanh, Anne Shaler, Julie Shulman, Brandy Stewart, Kris Takeda-Miller, Bethaney Temby, Loril Tochtermann, Barbara van Ingen, Heather Whitney, Carol Wilhelm, Lisa West

Visitors: Steve Andrews, Jaclyn Balanay, Mirela Bere, Taylor Berry, Maureen Fitzgerald, Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez, Peter Mendoza, Fred Neves, Tony Neves, Terri Scheufele, Benita Shaw, Lysa Twardosz

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** – The Board of Directors met at 5:02 p.m. on Thursday, September 25, 2025. Ms. Lampe read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **Staff Recognitions**
 - ◆ In January 2025, we created an opportunity on the Board of Director’s meeting agenda to recognize ACRC staff service year milestones in a public way. We celebrate the extraordinary commitment of these individuals and the value they add to our organization. Ms. Banales introduced Ciara Green, one of ACRC’s Human Resources Generalist, who had the honor of introducing the following:
 - Recognizing five years of service: John Hernandez, Felicia Johnson and Vanesha Orr
 - Recognizing ten years of service: Cindy Le, Dana Muccular, John Munoz, Jessicah Patterson, Kelsey Reyne, Brandy Stewart and Barbara Van Ingen

- Recognizing 20 years of service: Phil Adams, Elyssa Bretz and Aida Fuchs
- Recognizing 25 years of service: Helen Neri
- Recognizing 35 years of service: Carol Wilhelm

3. **Community Comments/Announcements**

- ♦ No comments/announcements were shared.

4. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences of Carmen Aguilar; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of July 24, 2025; and c) Client Advisory Committee (CAC), Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) minutes.**

5. **New Business**

- ♦ *Approve Revised Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Policy*
 - The proposed revisions to this policy were shared with Board members prior to the September 8th Executive Committee meeting.
 - Per the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') Directive and according to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4688.22., regional centers shall not generally prohibit or disfavor the purchase of these services.
 - When we brought the draft before the committee, there were concerns expressed about the proposed revisions and the potential misuse of funds going towards activities that may or may not support the legislative intent. Concerns were also shared at the PAC meeting three days later by members of this committee.
 - Ms. Banales heard the concerns and spoke with DDS, and they indicated that there must be a stated goal within the Individual Program Plan (IPP). Once the goal is drafted, the Planning Team considers what service activity would meet the goal.
 - We are seeking Board approval of this revised policy.

M/S/C (Deng) To approve the revised Social Recreation Activities, Camp, and Non-Medical Therapies Policy as presented.

- ♦ *Approve Person-Centered Thinking Policy*
 - Ms. Banales takes pride in having an opportunity to share the work that has been done by the CAC. CAC members worked with ACRC's Client Advocates David Lopez, Reyva Johnson and Jacob Miller to draft this policy, which will guide ACRC staff, as we are here to support clients with their identified goals.

- We are seeking Board approval of this policy.

M/S/C (Hopkins) To approve the Person-Centered Thinking Policy as presented.

♦ *Finance Committee*

Issue 1: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: The August 31, 2025 financial report is under Tab 8 of the Board packet. With two months or 16.7% of the fiscal year (FY) elapsed, ACRC has expended 16.1% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 15.8% of Operations (OPS).

Mr. Ahmad noted at the September 8th Finance Committee meeting that DDS was shoring up the B-2 amendment. The main component of POS funding is the provider rate increases. Staff are in the process of shifting over all of the rates, which much be completed by December 31, 2025.

ACRC's OPS budget is close to \$100 million. As in years past, we have paid one-time expenses at the beginning of this FY. We will expend close to \$900 million on POS expenditures this FY. ACRC's total budget is over \$1 billion.

Mr. Ahmad will endeavor to have POS expenditures broken down by service category for the next Finance Committee Meeting. He noted that ACRC is now serving over 34,000 clients.

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

♦ *Committee Updates*

- CAC
 - Mr. Hopkins shared that the CAC met on September 9th.
 - Ms. Banales shared that the Board's Executive Committee voted to move forward the Person-Centered Thinking Policy and shared details about today's Emergency Resource Fair.
 - Anne Osborne, the Deputy Executive Director of CalABLE, shared a presentation about this tax-advantaged savings and investment program designed to help people with disabilities achieve their financial dreams.
- PAC
 - Mr. Broadbent shared that the PAC met on September 11th.

- The group has created a section on their agenda to share resources. This month they discussed the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). They discussed HIPAA compliance and how AI use can be implemented while maintaining best practices.
- AB 1147, which extends the Public Records Act (PRA) to regional centers, will have a significant impact on regional centers, as well as service providers. Service provider information may now be accessible. Normally, businesses keep proprietary information confidential. Service providers will now need to research ways to protect their information through identifying which materials meet the legal standard as "exempt."
- Dr. Julie Beadle-Brown, a consultant with the California Community Living Network (CCLN), shared a presentation on Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE). Within the last year and a half, there has been progress on their pilot project with ACRC. It is person-centered and well designed.

◆ *President's Report*

- Mr. Lake expressed appreciation for everyone in attendance today.

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- Ms. Banales has asked members of her Executive Team to share information.
- Since 2023, Ms. Johnson has been participating in the State Alliance Team (SAT) as the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) representative. This group is comprised of representatives from DDS, the Department of Aging and community stakeholders, and has a goal to bridge our service system since clients are living longer. Just this week, she presented to a national forum on ACRC's Advanced Care Planning. In July 2025, ACRC and DDS started hosting monthly Aging Roundtable meetings for regional center staff, statewide, in order to collaborate and learn how other regional centers are meeting the need of their aging population. Ms. Johnson shared a presentation entitled "ACRC Efforts to Address the Needs of Aging Clients and Caregivers" which highlighted the following:
 - California is experiencing a demographic shift toward an older population, which is why ACRC is focused on our aging population of clients and their caregivers.
 - DDS data indicates that 9% of the total population of clients served in California are aged 60 and over.

- ACRC data reflects that between March 2020 and June 2025, the number of ACRC clients aged 60 and over increased from 1,119 to 1,449, a 29.5% growth over five years.
 - ACRC's initiatives and efforts to address the needs of aging client population include engagement, Coordinated Future Planning, housing development, the Assistive Technology Pilot, and the DSP Collaborative and vendored supports.
- Ms. Bloom shared that ACRC's Education Support Team hosted a webinar this morning for children turning three years old. This interactive discussion had 53 attendees.
- This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Our SELPA partners asked if we could highlight what special education has done for ACRC clients and their families. We will post stories on our social media platforms and share them with our SELPA partners.
- During ACRC's POS Data Meetings last year, a suggestion was made to have conversations with clients/families served, so that staff can learn more about the needs of different populations.
 - We are currently working with a community partner and have scheduled a Listening Session for Individuals with Cerebral Palsy (CP) for Thursday, October 23rd. Registration is required and interpretation is available.
 - On November 18th, we will host a Listening Session on Aging.
 - Next Tuesday, September 30th, ACRC is partnering with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) to host a Listening Session for Black/African American clients/families. We hope to listen and learn with the intent to build strong alliances and services.
- ACRC outreach efforts include:
 - Staff attended the Festival Del Sol at La Familia's Counseling Center's Maple Center on August 9th.
 - In collaboration with the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, ACRC held two Listening Sessions in August, where participants had an opportunity to learn about developmental disabilities and resources offered through ACRC, and to share their needs, concerns and potential barriers for access.
 - On September 17th & 24th, ACRC is partnering with the Sacramento Youth Center to host Listening and Feedback Sessions, as well.
- Mr. Decker shared that On My Own's roommate matching app, OOMM, will be available statewide, and local housing access services will be using it, as well.
- Today, ACRC hosted our 1st Annual Emergency Resource Fair. The event was well attended.

- The DSP Collaborative will soon be available statewide. The Los Angeles Counties were recently added.
 - The SCDD's survey to gather input as they update their five-year plan will be highlighted in ACRC's next quarterly newsletter.
- ♦ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*
- Ms. Lampe shared that the group met on Friday, September 9th, and talked about vendorizations, new rates, direct support professional's (DSP) overtime and the new IPP. The Affordable Housing presentation, which they viewed in February, will be a breakout session at the October Supported Life Institute's (SLI's) Conference.
- ♦ *ARCA Delegate Report*
- Registration is now open for the 2025 Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Academy scheduled for November 14th & 15th in Sacramento. Board members are encouraged to attend.
 - Ms. Pennington shared that her son, Bradley, attends a day program in Elk Grove, Visions in Motion. He took it upon himself to invite Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen and Ms. Banales to their "2nd Annual Walk-A-Thon" on Saturday, September 20th. Everyone was pleasantly surprised that both Assemblymember Nguyen and Ms. Banales showed up and participated in the walk.

6. ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales