

Alta California Regional Center  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, March 26, 2026  
Minutes

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

**Absent** (\* excused): Johnny Deng\*, Anwar Safvi\*, Ceasar Seabron

**Staff:** Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown, Michelle Duchene, Jordan Eller, Jon Horbaly, Camelia Houston, Mechelle Johnson, Jaspreet Mann, Faye McKenzie, Carly Moorman, Ryan Patchin, Rhonda Phillips, James Pierce, Lisa West

**Facilitators:** Amy Fulk, Naomi Smith

**Visitors:** Steve Andrews, Taylor Berry, Maria Davila, Maureen Fitzgerald, Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez, Lara Jolin, Patricia Kamlley, Nick Lee, Bill Mattingly, Malia McCoin, Michaela McCoin, Sylviana Moore, Teyler Mosley, Sue Samuel, Terri Scheufele, Jerald Waters, Caili Wilk, Kim Zehring

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** – The Board of Directors met at 5:02 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2026. Mr. Sanchez read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **Meeting Our Mission**
  - ◆ Ms. Bloom introduced Michaela McCoin and her daughter, Malia, a 15-year-old client who lives in Sly Park.
    - Ms. McCoin shared that this past summer, they were coming back from Sutter with no air conditioning in their vehicle. They reached out to ACRC for assistance. Their Service Coordinator (SC) had just retired, and their interim SC started the process. They were then assigned Amanda as their SC. She was happy to assist the family in getting their new vehicle before the first snow. The van has been life changing, relieving family members of stress. They travel an average of 12,000 medical miles per year.
      - Ms. McCoin noted that ACRC has supported in many other ways over the years, as well.
3. **Community Comments/Announcements**
  - ◆ Ms. Herrera-Vilchez shared that ACRC’s Purchase of Services (POS) utilization rate for fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 was 57%.

- Mr. Lake noted that the approval of the revised Resource Development Policy is being pulled from the agenda.

4. **Consent Agenda** – **By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences of Johnny Deng and Anwar Safvi; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of January 22, 2026; and c) Board Development Committee (BDC), Client Advisory Committee (CAC), Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) minutes.**

5. **New Business**

◆ *New Board Member Applicant*

- The BDC is recommending Terri Scheufele to ACRC's Board of Directors, who shared a brief introduction of herself.
  - Ms. Scheufele lives in Folsom, the eastern edge of Sacramento County. She is a parent; her son is a client, who has autism and is legally blind. They just transitioned to the Self-Determination Program (SDP). Ms. Scheufele got her Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Georgetown University and is a member of the Disability Housing Alliance. She is honored to be considered for Board membership. The regional center system has been vital in her son's and her family's lives.

**M/S/C (Pennington) To approve the appointment of Terri Scheufele to ACRC's Board of Directors.**

◆ *Approve Slate of Officers and ARCA Representatives for 2026-27 FY*

- Ms. Pennington shared that the proposed Slate of Officers for the 2026-27 fiscal year (FY) is 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 (Pride-Polk) To approve the proposed Slate of Officers for the 2026-27 FY as presented.**

◆ *Approve Proposed Bylaw Revisions*

- Mr. Lake noted that the proposed bylaw revisions include ACRC's Sacramento address change and removing the Strategic Planning Committee from the Standing Committees; it will be an ad-hoc committee.

**M/S/C (Hopkins) To approve the proposed bylaw revisions as presented.**

◆ *Finance Committee*

**Issue 1:** Monthly Financial Report

**Discussion and Action:** The January 31, 2026 financial report is under Tab 10 of the Board packet; minutes are under Tab 5. With 58.3% of the FY elapsed, ACRC has expended 54.7% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 54.1% of Operations (OPS).

Mr. Ahmad shared that ACRC received our third amendment from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), which included rate study implementation funding. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, the "hold harmless" clause expired for service providers. Unless the provider received a unique exemption from the department, their rate was aligned with the rate study (rate decrease). This affected 145 vendors – the majority of these were transportation vendors, who were moved to a new rate model on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

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

Ms. Eller shared that ACRC was awarded Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) funding this FY to develop this project as our agency has young children that have been assessed as needing an Enhanced Behavioral Support Home (EBSH) due to exhibiting sexual maladaptive behaviors.

This home will serve children ages seven to 17 who need a step-down from a restrictive placement, or who are currently in the family home and need a higher level of care. Ms. Eller clarified that the home would serve clients in a five-year age gap and would not have a time limit for length of placement; the client would be able to stay in the EBSH for as long as their Planning Team determined the need. She also noted that ACRC always looks for the least restrictive setting.

Brilliant Corners will locate, acquire and renovate a property that will operate as a four-bed EBSH for children. Funding is only for the development of the home. If this contract is approved, ACRC will be seeking approval for the provider at a later date.

**M/S/C (Armstrong) To approve the \$950,000 contract for Brilliant Corners as presented. (one abstention)**

◆ *Committee Updates*

• CAC

- Mr. Hopkins shared that the CAC met on March 10<sup>th</sup> and February 10<sup>th</sup>.

- The group discussed the need to increase direct support professionals (DSPs) that come into client's homes to assist clients in their daily lives. Ms. Banales provided information about the DSP Collaborative and the DDS DSP University. She also shared that the California Policy Center for Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (CPCIDD) is working to research and elevate the issues to influence state policy.
- Ms. Banales shared the dates of the upcoming Assembly and Senate Hearings. She also provided an overview of the Trailer Bill Language (TBL) that the department released at the beginning of February.
- The group continued to discuss Strategic Thinking and how this will shape their annual projects/activities.

• PAC

- Mr. Broadbent shared that the PAC met on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - The group was pleased to hear about the training that ACRC has been holding for SCs.
  - Mr. Ciampa provided an update on transportation rates. This is an area where DDS has done a lot of ideations on how clients have access to their community. The implementation is under monitoring; this is the best version we have had in ten years.
  - The group received a presentation from Bryan Neider, with AbilityPath, on Artificial Intelligence (AI).
  - The California Community Living Network (CCLN) is paying particular attention to the TBL and the federal 40-hour workweek for Supported Living Services (SLS). They

support keeping the overtime exemptions that are currently in place.

- The California Disabilities Services Association (CDSA) is supporting the following bills:
  - SB 969 (Reyes) – Developmental services: remote services and supports. This bill would make the remote service delivery model a permanent option.
  - AB 2414 (Nguyen) – Developmental services: direct support professionals. This bill would provide a regulatory definition for DSPs. If it passes, providers will be able to advocate for appropriate rates and wages.
- The California Respite Association (CRA) continues to work with DDS on the Standardized Respite Tool.

◆ *President's Report*

- Mr. Lake welcomed Ms. Scheufele to the Board and expressed appreciation to those Board members who volunteered to serve as an Officer for the next FY.

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- Ms. Banales shared the staff appreciation video that was made to honor our staff. The work that they do is meaningful and appreciated at every level.
- The "DDS Bridges – Building connections to developmental services" newsletter came out this week. Ms. Banales was pleased to see that the department highlighted Cindy, who previously served on ACRC's Board of Directors, and shared her experience in participating in ACRC's Technology Pilot Program.
- In 2023, as part of SB 138, DDS was directed to develop a statewide standardized respite assessment tool. The department is relying heavily on Service Coordinators (SCs). All 21 regional centers have a small group of SCs who have been using this new tool, alongside their current process, to determine the validity. The pilot will end at the end of April and then in the fall, they will train SCs across the state on the new tool, as well as the community, prior to its release.
- DDS is hosting a Career Fair for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) that are looking for State employment on April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is required. This event is open to the community, at large. The department has hired a Workforce Diversity Specialist, Kathryn Jue, who will take an active role in sharing employment opportunities within the DDS with regional center clients.

- DDS has revamped the Self-Determination Program (SDP) Orientation. They have contracted with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) for this online orientation, which is broken down into two, two-hour required segments. A "Certificate of Completion" is required prior to entering the program. Interested individuals can access the registration link on DDS' website, as well as the SCDD website. This orientation is available in multiple languages.
  - Ms. Banales reminded Board members that there was a delay in presenting ACRC's Strategic Plan End of Year Reports for 2024 and 2025 due to DDS changing regional center Performance Contracts from calendar year to FY which created data misalignment.
    - ACRC staff highlighted activities from each report.
    - These will be posted on ACRC's website.
- ◆ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*
- Ms. Lampe shared that the group is meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in person. They will be going to the State Capitol to speak with legislators.
- ◆ *ARCA Delegate Report*
- Ms. Pennington shared that the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) met last week and reviewed the TBL. Everyone is committed to supporting clients and families across the state. They all agreed to disagree with the TBL proposed removal of the 25% requirement for client/family membership. At some point, regional center delegates will be bringing before their Boards this topic – keeping the intention of the Lanterman Act in place. When you remove that language, it opens the door for exclusion, and we are all about inclusion.
  - The group will meet again in June.
6. **Closed Session** – At 6:21 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss legal and personnel issues.
7. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 7:20 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 7:20 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales