

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, May 28, 2026
Minutes

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

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

Staff: Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Hazel Aldax, Jennifer Bloom, Thalia Castro-Vega, Charlotte Clarke, John Decker, Jeavan Dhesi, Toby Golden, Ciara Green, Jon Horbaly, Camelia Houston, Kenisha Hurd, Mechelle Johnson, Herman Kothe, Jaspreet Mann, Faye McKenzie, Ryan Patchin, Robert Rivas, Lisa West

Visitors: John Angeonides, Jaclyn Balanay, Taylor Berry, Gregg Brandon, Eric Ciampa, Beth Conn-Ossenfort, Andrea Croom, Patti Dixon, Lindsey Dyba, Maureen Fitzgerald, Melanie Gonzales, Jan Haydn-Myer, Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez, Braydon Holtzinger, Jay Kolvoord, Lucy Imirian, Miles Noschese, Georgie Piegaro, Tammy Smith

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** – The Board of Directors met at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2026. Ms. Armstrong read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **Staff Recognitions**
 - ♦ Ms. Banales is pleased to showcase service awards for ACRC staff, noting that not all individuals accept the invitation to come before the Board. The contributions that are made by our staff are enormous, and we celebrate the extraordinary commitment of these individuals and the value they add to our organization. Ms. Banales introduced Ciara Green, ACRC Human Resources Generalist, who had the honor of introducing the following:
 - Recognizing five years of service: Hazel Aldax, Robert Rivas
 - Recognizing 15 years of service: John Decker, Kenisha Hurd
 - Recognizing 20 years of service: Jeavan Dhesi
 - Recognizing 25 years of service: Herman Kothe
3. **Community Comments/Announcements**
 - ♦ Mr. Ciampa shared that he submitted a letter to the Board on behalf of the Capital Coalition on Tuesday, with an amended version today. Service providers have been told by their insurance carriers that the proposed indemnification language in the revised Resource Development Policy is not equal. The Capital Coalition is requesting that: 1) the indemnification language be revised so that it is equal for both the regional center and

service providers, and 2) that the language clarifies that payments should be based on percentage of fault. These changes will allow for service providers to remain in business.

- ◆ Mr. Kolvoord, Chief Executive Officer at Strategies to Empower People (STEP), believes the proposed language in the Resource Development Policy makes service providers responsible for actions that they are not responsible for. The population that STEP serves carries a higher operational risk. If passed, agencies may resort to supporting lower risk clients.
- ◆ Ms. Dixon, Human Resources Director at STEP, shared that she is responsible for recruiting and disciplining staff. She is deeply concerned about STEP's liability.
- ◆ Ms. Croom, Executive Director of InAlliance, shared that she is a member of the Capital Coalition and supports the letter that was submitted to ACRC.
- ◆ Ms. Herrera-Vilchez expressed appreciation to ACRC staff for their years of service and their commitment to serving clients. Her son is a client under the Self-Determination Program (SDP), and she supports having clients integrated into their community.
- ◆ Mr. Holtzinger supports the Capital Coalition's letter to the Board. It is important for service providers to have the ability to continue to provide meaningful services.
- ◆ Ms. Gonzales believes that the language in the proposed policy may pose an increased risk for service providers.

4. **Consent Agenda – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences of Johnny Deng; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of March 26, 2026; and c) Client Advisory Committee (CAC) [Approve CAC Designated Rep to Board for 2026-27FY], Executive Committee [Approve 2026-27 FY Board Meeting and Board Committee Meeting Schedules], Finance Committee, and Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) minutes.**

5. **New Business**

- ◆ *Approve Slate of Officers and ARCA Representatives for 2026-27 FY*
 - Ms. Pennington shared that the Slate of Officers and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Representatives for the 2026-27 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 (Safvi) To approve the proposed Slate of Officers and ARCA Representatives for the 2026-27 FY as presented.

- ♦ *Approve Revised Resource Development Policy*
 - As noted in prior meetings, Mr. Ahmad stated that Supported Living Services (SLS), transportation and specialty care home providers already have this language in their contracts with ACRC. We are proposing this revision to ensure consistency in practice and make sure that service providers have the proper insurance coverage. There have been several versions of this proposed revision, but the substance remains the same.
 - ACRC has agreed to revise the proposed policy by removing 1) DDS and State of California from the indemnification, and 2) removing the “strict accordance with its terms” language.
 - The service provider community has been notified of ACRC’s justification for this, in order to protect the agency.

M (Cho) To approve the Resource Development Policy with the two revisions, as noted above.

- ♦ *Finance Committee*
Issue: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: The March 31, 2026 financial report is under Tab 10 of the Board packet; minutes are under Tab 6. With 75% of the FY elapsed, ACRC has expended 71.2% of Purchase of Services (POS) and 69.2% of Operations (OPS).

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has funded ACRC’s cash flow through the end of this FY. Mr. Ahmad believes we will have enough cash on hand to carry us through July 15th.

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

- ♦ *Committee Updates*
 - CAC
 - Refer to minutes dated June 9, 2026.
 - PAC
 - Mr. Broadbent shared that the PAC met on May 14th and April 9th.

- In May, the group discussed Purchase of Services (POS) issues. Lindsey Dyba, the PAC's Chair, surveyed PAC members and asked them to share concerns that service providers have encountered. This was an opportunity to engage with regional center staff. More discussion will take place at their June meeting.
 - The Service Provider Portal (SPP) will soon be available to all service providers; ACRC has a pilot program testing this tool now.

The meeting was shorter than normal due to the Governor releasing the May Revision that morning.

- In April:
 - Mr. Broadbent requested that suggested comments/revisions on ACRC's revised Resource Development Policy be sent to him.
 - ACRC staff provided an overview of the different types of complaints.
 - Mr. Ciampa provided an overview of the PAC's obligations and expectations.
 - Teresa Anderson, with the California Policy Center for Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (CPCIDD), shared information about a Workforce Summit that they hosted yesterday (Direct Support Professionals [DSPs] only) and today.
 - This has created excellent conversations so that we focus on the needs of the people we support.
- The Outreach Committee updated their presentation that is shared at ACRC's Vendor Orientation.
- This is Mr. Broadbent's final Board meeting, and he expressed appreciation to the Board and regional center staff. Ms. Dyba will be the next PAC designated representative to the Board for the 2026-27 FY.

◆ *President's Report*

- Mr. Lake expressed the Board's appreciation for Mr. Broadbent, who has contributed his time and energy over the last three years.
- Mr. Lake also thanked Board members for their continued work.

◆ *Executive Director's Report*

- Ms. Banales shared that ACRC is seeking input on our performance measures for the 2026-27 FY. Suggestions that are received by tomorrow, May 29th, will be included in ACRC's planned activities for the next FY. Individuals that are interested in submitting feedback

can access a survey on ACRC's website on the "Events Calendar" page.

- The input will be shared at the June 8th Executive Committee meeting, where we will be seeking Board approval on our 2026-27 FY Performance Measures (formally known as the Performance Contract).
- ACRC is partnering with California Northstate University (CNU). Shannon McConnell, ACRC's Dental Coordinator, has been working with Dr. Paul Glassman regarding the CNU College of Dental Medicine's Dental Desensitization Program, which focuses on building comfort, confidence, and familiarity with dental care. The hope is that patients have a safer, more accessible path to preventive treatment without the need for sedation or general anesthesia. ACRC works with CNU's Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice (RDHAPs), who go to client's homes to offer dental cleanings. They also determine if desensitization can assist.
- Ms. Banales expressed appreciation to Mr. Broadbent and welcomes Ms. Dyba to our Board.
- DDS prepared regional centers for potential cuts, but the May Revision, which was released earlier this month, includes an additional \$2.9 billion statewide. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) continues to advocate for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS); the Senate is rejecting the proposed asset limit. By June 15th, the legislature must provide the Governor with a balanced budget. The Governor then has until June 30th to sign the budget into law.
 - Additional proposed Trailer Bill Language (TBL) includes:
 - A position for each regional center to implement the new federally mandated grievance process for the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Access Rule. To ensure that training is provided to regional center staff and stakeholders, the department has pushed the start date for the new grievance process from July 2026 to February 1, 2027.
 - Positions at DDS and each regional center to develop a clinical needs assessment tool for use by regional centers statewide, with a focus on promoting consistency and improving equity in access to services and assessment of need regardless of where an individual lives.
 - This is related to SB 138 from 2023. DDS is also currently working on a standardized respite tool and standardizing the intake process across regional centers.

- Merging the Community Placement Plan (CPP) and the Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) and establishing future time limits on the length of time individuals may reside at Porterville Developmental Center and Canyon Springs.
 - Ms. Banales noted that typically those individuals that reside in these two locations do so because there are no other safe, secure options in the community. Regional centers will need to partner with DDS to develop additional models of care.
 - DDS is aware that this may take longer than two years for those individuals at Canyon Springs.
- Creating a new Service Code for the Family Teaching Model – this option has a family residing on one side of a duplex, with a client residing on the other. The family provides Independent Living Services (ILS) supports.
- Allowing individuals to receive Supported Employment Services on the same day as Tailored Day Services.

◆ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*

- No report was shared.

◆ *ARCA Delegate Report*

- Ms. Pennington shared that ARCA is scheduled to meet at the end of June.
- She was invited and attended the ARCA-CAC in-person meeting a few weeks ago. It was great to hear the members' voices and reminded her of why we are all here.

6. **Closed Session** – At 6:11 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss legal and personnel issues.

7. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 8:14 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 8:14 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales