

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, July 24, 2025
Minutes

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

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

Facilitators: Amy Fulk, Naomi Smith

Staff: Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Sulma Ahumada, Jennifer Bloom, John Decker, DeLayna Eskridge-Brown, Camelia Houston, Mechelle Johnson, Reyva Johnson, Rowena Lopez, Jaspreet Mann, Kyuss Meichtry, Lisa West

Visitors: Jaclyn Balanay, Erica Dresslar, Mark Dresslar, Ezra Estepa, Maureen Fitzgerald

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** – The Board of Directors met at 4:10 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, 2025. Ms. Armstrong read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **Meeting Our Mission**
 - ♦ Ms. Banales noted that this section is where we highlight ACRC services and supports. She introduced Rowena Lopez, one of ACRC’s Residential Client Services Managers.
 - Ms. Lopez expressed appreciation to Forrest Dresslar and his family, Kyuss Meichtry’s, Forrest’s Service Coordinator (SC), and Ezra Estepa, one of the first residential providers to serve a client in the Self-Determination Program (SDP).
 - Erica Dresslar, Forrest’s sister, is happy to share their family’s experience with SDP. Forrest was not able to attend today’s meeting – he is with his personal trainer. Forrest has been an ACRC client for approximately five years now. They initially lived in South Lake Tahoe and the SDP seemed like a good option for him, with the support of his family. Working together, Forrest’s Planning Team developed great opportunities for Forrest to engage in his own community. The SDP has been a positive experience for Forrest, who now lives in Sacramento.
3. **Community Comments/Announcements**
 - ♦ Ms. Eskridge-Brown celebrated her 20th anniversary here at ACRC at the May Board meeting. After that meeting, she had time to reflect. Each Board

member volunteers their time and expertise to the regional center. You all have an unwavering commitment to the agency, despite your busy lives.

- She expressed her appreciation by presenting each Board member with a "heart".

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 June 23, 2025 and May 29, 2025; and c) Board Development Committee (BDC), Client Advisory Committee (CAC), Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) minutes.**

5. **New Business**

- ♦ *Approve Revised 2025-26 FY Board Meeting and Board Committee Meeting Schedules*

- Mr. Lake noted that the Board will be changing the start time for the Board and Committee meetings, accommodating the community and working Board members' needs. The Board training is also being moved to the third Saturday in October and April, months where Board meetings are not held.

M/S/C (Pennington) To approve the revised 2025-26 FY Board Meeting and Board Committee Meeting Schedules, as presented.

- ♦ *Approve Resolution for Dr. Peter Himber, CalPERS Retired Annuitant*
 - Consider Adoption of a Resolution, authorizing the exception of the 180-Day Waiting Period for Retired Annuitant (RA), Peter Himber, will work on a temporary basis as a PHYSCIAN II in accordance with Government Code Sections 7522.56 and 21224.

Presenter: Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Operating Officer

Mr. Ahmad noted that CalPERS requires a change in language and a resolution passed by ACRC's Board of Directors. He clarified that Dr. Peter Himber will be assisting ACRC's Intake Department with eligibility determinations.

Motion/Second: Pennington/Pride-Polk to adopt a resolution (2025-100) authorizing the exception to the 180-day waiting period, and authorizing RA to work on a temporary basis as extra help – PHYSCIAN II in accordance with government code sections 7522.56 and 21224.

Motion carried by the following roll call votes:

AYES: 10

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 3

ABSTENTION: 0

♦ *Finance Committee*

Issue 1: Monthly Financial Update

Discussion and Action: Mr. Ahmad will have an updated allocation in September to share as we move into the new fiscal year (FY).

ACRC's independent auditor will begin his field work at the end of September/first part of October. In January 2026, the FY 2024-25 audit report will be provided to the Board.

ACRC service providers received their new rates with their June payments, retroactive to January 2025.

- **Information only.**

♦ *Committee Updates*

- CAC

- Mr. Hopkins shared that the CAC met on June 10th and July 8th.
 - Ms. Banales provided budget updates at both meetings.
 - At the June meeting, Hubert Enriquez, ACRC's Emergency Response Coordinator, provided a presentation entitled "Emergency Preparedness & Fire Safety for Individuals with Disabilities."
 - At the July meeting, the group discussed ACRC's caseload ratios and provided feedback. They also reviewed ACRC's DRAFT Person-Centered Thinking Policy, which will be voted on in August, through email. The hope is to bring it before the Board's Executive Committee in September and then the full Board for approval.

- PAC

- Mr. Broadbent shared that the PAC met on June 12th.
 - The group discussed Electronic Visit Verification (EVV), a federal requirement that home environments needed to enact in 2022 and 2023.

- The PAC has started to share resources during their meetings. At the June meeting, they shared innovations in technology that can assist in serving ACRC clients.
 - GrandCare and SafeinHome provide resources to clients to improve their level of independence and connect them with services when they need them.
 - Mr. Broadbent would like to thank and commend ACRC for being at the forefront of bringing these technologies to ACRC clients.
 - ACRC has vendored GoGoGrandparent, a transportation broker, who can assist with setting up a rideshare or schedule rides for ACRC clients.
 - IntellectAbility has a Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) that identifies levels of risks, which with consideration, can be used to improve an individual's quality of life.
 - Station MD can be used to get clients resourced to a physician rather than an Emergency Room.
 - ACRC was the first to vendor Station MD, which Mr. Broadbent believes is an incredible resource.
 - The Capitol Coalition has been meeting with DDS to discuss day programs that are being transitioned to standardized service codes. There are concerns that some flexibility and unique services might go away – how do we make sure that the system will maintain the flexibility of services for clients?
 - Service providers have submitted exemption letters to DDS and are awaiting a response.
 - The California Community Living Network (CCLN) is concerned about the Department of Labor's interpretation of sleep time guidance, which could have a significant impact on Supported Living Services (SLS) providers.
- ◆ *President's Report*
- Mr. Lake expressed appreciation to everyone in attendance today and noted, once again, that the July 10th Open House was great!
- ◆ *Executive Director's Report*
- Ms. Banales shared a "sizzle", a short video, from ACRC's Open House, which was filmed by a crew with Futures Explored. It was a wonderful day of fellowship and a time to highlight clients' talents.

- She also shared a Department of Developmental Services (DDS) video of the ribbon cutting ceremony from the Heights on Stockton. This multifamily housing project has set asides for ACRC clients.
- Reyva Johnson, one of three ACRC Client Advocates, has had the privilege to be certified as a Person-Centered Thinking Trainer. She has used this training to educate and promote self-advocacy skills to adult clients of ACRC and has also customized the training for high school age students transitioning into adulthood (transition age = 15 to 22 years of age).
 - Through delivery of People Planning Together (PPT) to self-advocates, ACRC learned that we needed to adapt the curriculum to best meet the needs of those we serve.
 - In the Spring of 2025, ACRC presented PPT to two vendored day programs and delivered training to 18 adults.
 - ACRC has a strong partnership with Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) and their Career Technical Education Program. ACRC presented PPT to 83 students since 2024.
 - ACRC will continue to build community partnerships.
 - Reyva believes that if you teach individuals advocacy skills young, they will know better how to advocate for themselves in the future.
- Mr. Decker provided a transportation update:
 - ACRC has 3,700 individuals supported in closed transportation.
 - Staff conduct analysis on new routes to ensure individuals are not on rides longer than 90 minutes per trip; approximately 5% of trips have longer times.
 - In analyzing our current unmet scheduling requests, many of the activities are not tied to traditional day program attendance, but are requests for transportation to doctor's appointments, at odd hours of the day, etc.
 - ACRC is developing the referral process for our new service provider GoGoGrandparent to address these types of needs. GoGoGrandparent is a transportation broker that can arrange ride share activities for clients. They are a service provider out of Golden Gate Regional Center; Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC) vendored them for the entire state.
 - ACRC has plans to train our 600+ Service Coordinators (SCs) on the different types of transportation – closed transportation, public transportation, and ride share (Uber or Lyft).
 - It is important to note that ACRC has the most closed transportation vendors compared to other regional

centers across the state. We still need additional transportation vendors for clients in wheelchairs.

- One of the complaints that the Board has heard is about how long people are waiting for their ride to show up.
 - ACRC has technology that can help track this, but we have not yet implemented this across all transportation vendors.
- Mr. Decker noted that rides must be tied to an Individual Program Plan (IPP) goal/objective.
- The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is holding two Zoom webinars entitled "Medicaid Cuts Are No Longer Just a Proposal – They Are Now Law" on July 28th, 12 to 1 p.m., and July 31st from 5 to 6 p.m. (English), and July 28th, from 5 to 6 p.m. (Spanish).
 - Ms. Banales had Ms. West share this information with Board members.

♦ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*

- Ms. Lampe shared that the group is scheduled to meet on July 25th, from 11 to 12 noon.

♦ *ARCA Delegate Report*

- Ms. Pennington noted that Board members received a "Save the Date" flyer for the November Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Academy, which will be held at ACRC's Sacramento office.
- She thanked Board members for providing feedback on the "Onboarding and Competencies" Report that ARCA is drafting.
 - Hopefully, the report will be completed soon and will show a path moving forward.
- The ARCA Board will be meeting again in August.

6. **Closed Session** – At 5:20 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss personnel issues.

7. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** - At 6:42 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which personnel issues were discussed.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales