

Alta California Regional Center
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, January 8, 2024
Minutes

Present:

Dan Lake, President
Kelly Pennington, Vice President &
ARCA Rep
Michelle Rewerts, Secretary
Anwar Safvi, Finance Comm. Chair
Amy Lampe, ARCA-CAC Rep
Carmen Aguilar, Member-at-Large

Board Members:

Jackie Armstrong
Garrett Broadbent
Steven Sanchez

Visitors:

Steve Andrews
Maureen Fitzgerald
Peter Mendoza

Facilitator:

Amy Fulk

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Operating
Officer
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client
Services
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake
& Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Faye Tait, Associate Client Services
Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee met on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 4:09 p.m. to discuss: 1) Approval of Revised Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies POS Policy, 2) Approval of ARCA Contract, 3) President's Report; and 4) Executive Director's Report.

- Ms. Lampe will be attending a community meeting regarding Alice Lake on January 13th.
- Ms. Fitzgerald believes that the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) policy that this committee is acting on today asks regional centers to put ARCA's interests before their own.

Without objection, Dan Lake made the motion to adopt the Executive Committee meeting minutes of November 13, 2023, as submitted.

1. *Approval of Revised Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies POS Policy*

- Ms. Banales shared that each regional center is working with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to amend its social recreation policy to include person-centered planning, as well as equity of access. In the recent past, ACRC and the department went back and forth revising a policy before final approval. Based on this, ACRC staff were proactive and shared the draft with the department prior to bringing it

before the Board. DDS made minor revisions, which are included in this policy before the Board.

- Ms. Johnson noted that ACRC will not require a client or family member to:
 - Exhaust services under the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program in order for the agency to consider funding this service.
 - Exchange respite hours or any other service or support authorized by the regional center for service hours of social recreation services.
 - Pay a copayment in order to receive social recreation services.
- Regional centers were asked to prioritize access to these services, not only by referring clients and their families to existing opportunities for social recreation services, but also by funding those services directly along with the supports the client may need to access them.
- ACRC remains committed to:
 - Increasing access to services, especially for clients who are children, individuals who are non-English speaking and communities of color.
 - Expediting social recreation vendor applications and processes. We further commit to expediting reimbursement payments to clients and vendors.
- Ms. Johnson clarified that activities that are solely entertainment (e.g., concerts, movies, sporting events, amusement parks, etc.) are not considered social recreation.
- As with all funded services, Planning Teams will review the client's participation, engagement, benefit and desire to continue with the funded activity at regular intervals.

DDS is in support of this draft. ACRC staff must send the Board approved policy to the department by February 1st.

Without objection, Anwar Safvi made the motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the revised Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies POS Policy as presented.

2. Approval of ARCA Contract

- Mr. Lake noted that Board members are aware of the ARCA contract. He is requesting a motion so that he can sign on ACRC's behalf.

Without objection, Anwar Safvi made the motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the ARCA Contract as presented.

3. **President's Report**

- Mr. Lake was able to come to ACRC's Santa Day and it was amazing. ACRC also hosted another Microenterprise Fair, which was great too.
- The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Grassroots Day will take place at the State Capitol on Tuesday, April 2nd. He encourages Board members to participate.
 - Interested individuals should contact Mr. Lake and Ms. West.

4. **Executive Director's Report**

- Ms. Banales noted that as we ramp up for an in-person Grassroots Day, ARCA is hosting a dinner for Board members the evening of April 1st to share important information.
 - For Board members who wish to attend, please let Ms. West know.
- Governor Newsom will release his proposed budget no later than Wednesday. We know that there is a \$60+ billion deficit and expect it to be a tight year. The Governor has already ordered a halt to the state's spending. ACRC will be invited to share with the legislature what is important to us.
 - Today, ACRC hosted a tour for high level legislative staffers, which was a great opportunity for them to realize some barriers, as well as some celebrations of our statewide service system. Ms. Banales' team offered an open door for any additional questions that they might have in the future.
 - Regional centers have a united system, and we are moving in a positive direction. The ARCA Finance Committee meets on Friday, and they will have a lot to discuss.
- Our January newsletter will be released by this Friday; there has been a delay in the needed translation services.
 - The newsletter highlights our recent Santa Day. In 2022, we started celebrating cultures and traditions across the world and we continued this in 2023. We need to think of ways to manage the large gathering in future years.
 - It will also share pictures from the Microenterprise Fair, which warranted great sales for clients.
- The client/family survey will go out with the Individual Program Plan/Individual Family Service Plan (IPP/IFSP) after the client's annual meeting. Ms. Banales gathered much needed input on how to gather data points from these questions and will be reporting back to the Board regularly.
 - ACRC's survey will be sent out in multiple languages. We will also help with its completion, if requested.
 - DDS is currently drafting a statewide satisfaction survey, which is tied to the Regional Center Performance Measures (RCPMs).
- On February 7th, ACRC will hold our first quarterly community meeting from 11 a.m. to noon, via Zoom. No registration will be required. These quarterly meetings will share information and offer an opportunity for public input.
- At the March Board meeting, Ms. Banales will provide the Board with the Strategic Plan 2023 End of Year Report, and also begin the process of collecting public input on ACRC's 2024 Performance Contract. She clarified that

Performance Contract input should be specific to advancing the outcomes for the measures that DDS has put forward; what we want to do to try to affect positive change in these measures.

- The Purchase of Services (POS) Data Meetings will also be held in March – dates to be announced.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 12, 2024**. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales