

Alta California Regional Center
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025
Minutes

Present:

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

Board Members:

Jackie Armstrong
Garrett Broadbent
EunMi Cho
Johnny Deng
Tom Hopkins
Akkia Pride-Polk

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk
Naomi Smith

Visitors:

Steve Andrews
Loretta Duncan-Fowler
Maureen Fitzgerald
Peter Mendoza

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, March 10, 2025, at 4:33 p.m. to discuss:

1) Approval of Revised Conflict of Interest Policy; 2) President's Report; and
3) Executive Director's Report.

- Ms. Fitzgerald noted that she would have appreciated receiving the additional Purchase of Services (POS) expenditure chart prior to Mr. Ahmad's review during the Finance Committee meeting.

Without objection, Kelly Pennington made the motion to adopt the Executive Committee meeting minutes of February 10, 2025, as submitted.

1. Approval of Revised Conflict of Interest Policy

- Ms. Banales noted that ACRC's current Conflict of Interest Policy was approved by the Board in June 2011. Per the recent Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Directive, which was release on January 30, 2025, regional center employees are prohibited from accepting gifts from a service provider, client, or client's family member valued over \$15 and establish a policy. Regional center senior staff, which is operationally defined by DDS, are also prohibited from hiring relatives.

- The changes highlighted have been embedded into this draft that will need formal approval at the March 27th Board meeting, in order to meet the department's timeline requirement.

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the revised Conflict of Interest Policy as presented.

2. *President's Report*

- Mr. Lake expressed appreciation to those in attendance today and welcomed everyone to the new office space.

3. *Executive Director's Report*

- Ms. Banales shared that we are excited to have our first official meeting here in the new space. For those in attendance, we will provide a short tour after we adjourn.
 - Today is the first day welcoming staff to the new site – staff are happy and positive about the new space.
 - The site is modern, clean and nice. We are excited to offer this space to our staff and community.
- March is National Disability Awareness Month, and while ACRC continues to highlight people's stories every day, we will be sharing client stories across our social media platforms.
 - The color associated with this month is orange.
- Last Tuesday was the Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA's) Grassroots Day at the State Capitol.
 - Statewide, over 200 individuals meet with legislators and their staff to keep the issues important to the developmental disability community in the forefront.
 - ACRC attended ten meetings, with 17 participants; five of these meetings were with the actual representatives and the other five were with their staffers.
 - Ms. Banales expressed appreciation to those Board members that assisted in making this day a success. All three of ACRC's Client Advocates participated, as well, and their stories are rich to share since they work at ACRC and also receive services.
- Reminders:
 - ACRC is holding our Annual POS Data Meetings virtually on March 18th, from 5 to 7 p.m., and March 25th, from 1 to 2 p.m.
 - We will review the data at the first meeting and then have further discussions at the second meeting.
 - Input is accepted throughout the year at posequity@altaregional.org.
 - Comments/suggestions will be considered prior to sending ACRC's required report to DDS.
 - Information is posted on our agency's website.

- The National Core Indicators (NCI) is currently conducting an in-person survey for adults aged 18+ who receive services to share information about their quality of life and how they feel about the services they receive. The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) administers and oversees this survey. ACRC continues to promote participation in this survey knowing that client feedback is invaluable; our goal is to have 400 clients participate by June 30th.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 12, 2025**. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales