

Alta California Regional Center
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, May 12, 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

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk
Naomi Smith

Visitors:

Maureen Fitzgerald

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
Carly Moorman, Client Employment
Specialist
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee met on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. to discuss:
1) Approval of 2025-26 FY Board Meeting and Board Committee Meeting Schedules;
2) President's Report; and 3) Executive Director's Report.

Without objection, Dan Lake made the motion to adopt the Executive Committee meeting minutes of March 10, 2025, as submitted.

1. ***Approval of 2025-26 FY Board Meeting and Board Committee Meeting Schedules***

- Mr. Lake shared that the schedules were included in the attachments that were sent out prior to this meeting. He noted that due to holidays, the Board tried to keep the meetings on the same day of the week.

Without objection, Dan Lake made the motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2025-26 FY Board Meeting and Board Committee Meeting Schedules as presented.

2. ***President's Report***

- Mr. Lake expressed appreciation to those in attendance today – the room is beautiful, and the food is great.

3. **Executive Director's Report**

- Ms. Banales noted that ACRC shared the Performance Contract presentation at last Wednesday's Community Meeting, with over 100 people in attendance. The next day, we shared the same presentation with the Provider Advisory Committee (PAC). In addition to today's presentation, we will be sharing this at tomorrow's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. We will be leaving the opportunity for public comment open until May 30th. Ms. Banales will ask the Executive Committee to approve the final draft, on behalf of the full Board, at the June 9th meeting, so that staff can submit the report to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) by the June 15th deadline.
 - Ms. Johnson, Ms. Bloom, Ms. Houston and Mr. Decker provided data on how ACRC compares to the statewide service system on the public policy measures. They also reviewed compliance measures.
 - Ms. Houston noted that in 2022, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5) changed its criteria for the autism diagnosis. Since then, ACRC has seen an upward trend in referrals predominately for autism.
 - Currently, the average is 298 days in Intake.
 - ACRC has vendored seven additional psychologists (total of 42). We have reported on these measures over the past year. About four months ago, Ms. Banales required mandatory overtime for staff psychologists to focus on eligibility determination. We continue to grow our resources. Once an individual is determined to be eligible, it is a lifelong service.
 - California has been an Employment First state since 2013, and ACRC has
 - had a Client Employment Specialist since 2016.
 - We continue to train Service Coordinators (SCs) and service providers on the programs and services for clients in the area of employment, including Coordinated Career Pathways (CCP).
 - CCP is a new service, which DDS announced last year, designed for individuals exiting work activity programs, subminimum wage settings, or within two years of exiting secondary education to achieve or advance in Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE). ACRC has three service providers who offer this service and have three additional providers who are in the process of being vendorized.
 - ACRC strives to improve equity in Purchase of Service (POS). Ms. Bloom reviewed the data points that were shared during the recent POS Expenditure meetings, which were held in March 2025.
 - ACRC continues to hold focus groups to assist with this process.
 - To help shape our agency's planned activities, we need your input. Suggestions/comments can be sent to Ms. West or emailed to performancecontractfeedback@altaregional.org.

- Ms. Banales invites Board members to send any questions that they may have regarding the “Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending March 31, 2025” to her directly. She made note of the following:
 - Per SB 138, DDS is working to standardize specific targets across all regional centers. Within the statute, they are standardizing the Intake process. As previously mentioned, ACRC starts the timeline on the date of referral, where other centers wait until they receive all of the pertinent documentation.
 - The standardization will help compare data points across the state.
 - We reported our agency’s caseload ratios at the March Finance Committee meeting. Although ACRC has not met all of the mandated ratios, recruitment and retention continue to be a priority.
 - Currently, ACRC has 48 vacancies – 12 growth positions, with 36 backfills.
 - ACRC currently has over 800 employees; averaging over 20 new employees at each New Hire Orientation, twice a month. Ms. Banales noted that the depth of the job is significant.
 - Under “Services Purchased for Clients,” Ms. Banales asked Mr. Ahmad to pull “Social Recreation” from the “All Other Services” category in order to show are agency’s efforts in supporting clients/families with these opportunities.
 - Ms. Banales would like to invite Board members to meet with her and key staff to discuss the categories/data points on this report, since it was first drafted by the previous administration. She wants this report to be easy to read and understand, but more importantly, to be of value to the current Board. Ms. Banales will also request that Mr. Ahmad recommend some additional data points to consider.

4. **Closed Session** – at 5:41 p.m. the Executive Committee adjourned to executive session in order to discuss personnel issues.

5. **Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion** – at 6:31 p.m. the Executive Committee reconvened in open session following a closed session in which personnel issues were discussed.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 9, 2025**. The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales