

Alta California Regional Center  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Monday, May 9, 2022  
Minutes

**Present:**

Rita Walker, President  
Anwar Safvi, Vice President  
Michelle Rewerts, Secretary &  
ARCA-CAC Rep  
Jackie Armstrong, Member-at-Large  
Carmen Aguilar, Member-at-Large

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Yang Sun\*, Finance Comm. Chair

**Board Members:**

Dan Lake  
Amy Lampe  
Kelly Pennington  
Retha Seabron  
Patty Wallace

**Visitors:**

Sheila Abrams  
Maureen Fitzgerald

**Staff:**

Lori Banales, Executive Director  
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Financial Officer  
John Decker, Director of Community  
Services  
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &  
Clinical Services  
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client  
Services  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee met on Monday, May 9, 2022, at 5:03 p.m. by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Approve Support Letters: SB 882 & ARCA Budget Request to Reform the Core Staffing Formula; 2) Approve 2022-23 FY Board meeting Schedule; and 3) Executive Director's Report.

- *No announcements/comments were shared.*

**Without objection, Rita Walker made the motion to adopt the Executive Committee meeting minutes of March 14, 2022 as submitted.**

**1. Approve Support Letters: SB 882 & ARCA Budget Request to Reform the Core Staffing Formula**

- Ms. Walker shared that regional center Boards are being asked to send support letters for two issues that are currently before the state's legislation:
  - SB 882 would create an advisory council focused on improving interactions between people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and law enforcement. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) has already sent a letter of support. Senator Eggman is part of our catchment area, and this piece of legislation is important to clients.

**Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the SB 882 letter as presented on behalf of the Board.**

- ARCA's proposal for the state to modernize the Core Staffing Formula (CSF). The last time the Service Coordinator's (SC's) salary was updated was back in 2001. This would bring positivity to the statewide service system, as well as clients/families.
  - Ms. Banales noted that this formula affects regional centers efforts on reaching the mandated caseload ratios set by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
  - Ms. Walker shared that there is broad support for this, including support from service providers.

**Without objection, Jackie Armstrong made the motion to approve the CSF letter as presented on behalf of the Board.**

## **2. Approve 2022-23 FY Board Meeting Schedule**

- Ms. Walker requested that this schedule be drafted so that Board members will know the dates/times of the upcoming Board meetings.

**Without objection, Michelle Rewerts made the motion to recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2022-23 FY Board meeting schedule as presented.**

## **3. Executive Director's Report**

- Ms. Banales appreciates the Board's special session in April to approve the revised Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Service Policy. She has reached out to DDS seeking their response/approval and they have promised that we will get word soon. Then, ACRC staff will start the community outreach so that clients/families know how to access these services. Additionally, Ms. Johnson and her department are staffing requests to work with Planning Teams to continue to access these services that were available as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- On Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, ACRC will be holding our annual caseload ratio meeting, seeking input from our community. Annually on March 1<sup>st</sup>, regional centers are asked to run these numbers, but this year, DDS asked for the numbers to be run on February 1<sup>st</sup>, so that this meeting could happen alongside the Purchase of Services (POS) Expenditure Meeting.
  - ACRC chose to hold separate meetings. Ms. Banales and Ms. Johnson will be walking people through this process, discussing demographics and hiring trends.
  - Come July 1<sup>st</sup>, ACRC expects to receive funding for up to 75 new SC positions. Our agency has filled the three Participant Choice Specialists (PCS) positions, the Deaf Specialist, the Health and Safety Waiver Specialist, and five of the six 1:40 enhanced caseloads for targeted populations.
- Regional centers have been told, through current policy and budget, to hold National Core Indicators (NCI) community meetings to compare our catchment

area to other centers. We had originally planned to hold this meeting in May, but have decided to hold this meeting in August.

- In addition to the legislative issues that the Board has discussed today, it has been suggested that the way that the Fair Hearing (FH) Process is handled might be modified. DDS will establish a new Division entitled "Community Assistance and Resolutions". They have submitted a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) to support the number of staff needed in this division.
  - Currently, each regional center has their own Legal Department that handles all complaints (e.g., FHs, §4731 complaints, conservatorships, etc.) and follow specific timelines. Our Legal Department works with clients/families and the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH).
  - The proposal would have all FH requests funneled through DDS, who would be responsible for sending the requests to each center within one business day. This is still in the early stages of planning. Disability Rights California (DRC) seems to be in support of DDS' plan, and ARCA has put forward a letter of support, as well.
    - Ms. Banales will continue to keep the Board apprised as this develops.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 13, 2022**. The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Lori Banales