*Approved 11/9/26

Alta California Regional Center
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2026
Minutes

***Present**:*
Dan Lake, President
Anwar Safvi, Finance Comm. Chair
Amy Lampe, ARCA-CAC Rep
Terri Scheufele, Member-at-Large

***Absent**:* (* excused)
Kelly Pennington*, Vice President & ARCA Rep
Steven Sanchez*, Secretary

***Board Members**:*
Carmen Aguilar
Johnny Deng
Lindsey Dyba
Amanda Parker
Akkia Pride-Polk

***Visitors**:*
Steve Andrews
Eric Ciampa
Maureen Fitzgerald
Eloise Flores
Arvin Jay
Emili Lua

***Facilitators**:*
Amy Fulk
Naomi Smith

***Staff**:*
Lori Banales, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Operating Officer
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client Services
John Decker, Director of Community Services
Jon Horbaly, IT Support Technician
Kenisha Hurd, Associate Client Services Director
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake & Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client Services
Reyva Johnson, Client Advocate
Jaspreet Mann, Associate Client Services Director
Faye McKenzie, Associate Client Services Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee met on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 5:16 p.m. to discuss: 1) Approve 2026-27 Board Committee Assignments; 2) Approve Conflict of Interest Mitigation Plan for Jackie Armstrong; 3) Approve Revised Resource Development Policy; 4) President's Report; and 5) Executive Director's Report.

- Mr. Ciampa expressed appreciation to Ms. Banales for the opportunity for service providers to work with ACRC staff to find equitable language that both sides could agree upon in the revised Resource Development Policy. The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) is in support of the revised policy which is before the Board today.

  Without objection, Dan Lake made the motion to adopt the Executive Committee meeting minutes of July 13, 2026, as submitted.

1. ***Approve 2026-27 Board Committee Assignments***
   - Mr. Lake noted that, according to ACRC's bylaws, the Board must approve the Board committee assignments.

   M/S/C (Safvi/Scheufele) To recommend to the full Board the approval of the 2026-27 Board Committee Assignments as presented.

2. ***Approve Conflict of Interest Mitigation Plan for Jackie Armstrong***
   - Mr. Lake read aloud Ms. Armstrong's conflict of interest mitigation plan.

   M/S/C (Lampe/Scheufele) To recommend to the full Board the approval of Ms. Armstrong's conflict of interest mitigation plan as presented.

3. ***Approve Revised Resource Development Policy***
   - Ms. Banales expressed appreciation to Mr. Ciampa for providing public comment. Within the last several months, there have been many discussions about ways to mitigate liabilities for the agency. In reviewing the statute, which just passed this fiscal year, we have made the one modification to the revised policy to reflect the requirement of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for all development of resources with an estimated annual expenditure in excess of $350,000. Based on multiple opportunities that we have had to publicly share this process, Ms. Banales is requesting that the Executive Committee approve this policy on behalf of the full Board.

   M/S/C (Scheufele/Safvi) For the Executive Committee to approve the Revised Resource Development Policy as presented on behalf of the full Board with the modification of $350,000 (instead of $250,000).

4. ***President's Report***
   - Mr. Lake expressed appreciation to all that worked on this policy to come to an agreement with our service providers.
   - He also thanked everyone for their attendance today.

5. ***Executive Director's Report***
   - Ms. Bloom introduced Reyva Johnson, one of ACRC's Client Advocates, who has been working with transition-aged youth to be successful after high school.
     - This summer, Reyva had the opportunity to teach 80 students the People Planning Together (PPT) training at Luther Burbank High School. Each year, the number of students grows. During these three-day sessions, students are taught how to advocate for themselves in the workplace, meetings, community, etc., and how to tap into supports.

On the last day, the students complete their one-page description that they can share with potential employers. They hold a graduation ceremony at the end of training. Reyva noted that the students are happy that someone is taking the time to look to their future.
    - Ms. Banales publicly acknowledged the value of Reyva's efforts.
- This week is Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) Recognition Week. ACRC will be reflecting on the great workforce that helps to implement clients' Individual Program Plans (IPPs). We are grateful for the DSPs in our service system. We are working every day on legislation and ways to professionalize the field.
- Under ACRC's initiative, the Language Access and Cultural Competencies (LACC) Program, there is a line item in the budget that supports the Caregiver Community Network (CCN) series:
    - On Wednesday, September 30th, from 5 to 6 p.m., ACRC is collaborating with United and Guided, Inc. and hosting an event to help build community and learn about resources.
    - In January 2027, a collaboration with the Sierra Native Alliance.
    - The Gender Health Clinic will be held in March 2027.
    - Another collaboration with the Asian Resource Center next spring.
- On September 15th, ACRC is hosting our 2nd Annual Emergency Resource Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at our Sacramento office.
- The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) is holding an Open House on Tuesday, October 13th, prior to their 2 p.m. meeting. The intention of this is to share their activities as an advisory committee and provide opportunities for self-advocates to share initiatives that they would like to work on. They want to grow the CAC's membership and build the excitement of self-advocacy.
- Over the last few months, ACRC has received several complaints regarding ACRC's Self-Determination Program (SDP) processes. Ms. Banales sought to review our internal process and met with several staff who are subject matter experts in SDP. The intention was to walk through the process and identify areas that could be streamlined and to identify areas that are required under DDS Directives and then see if we can refine our process with customer service focus. Staff are continuing to meet monthly to review some of the strategies that are being implemented, so that the process can go as smoothly as possible. She understands that there are some things that we do not have control over and we need to find ways to connect with our community to work to mutual understanding. With the program growing and the recertifications annually, the workload has grown substantially. ACRC currently has one manager who is an expert in understanding the process and has a staff of ten Participant Choice Specialists (PCSs). Even though DDS no longer includes funding in regional center's budgets for these specialized positions, ACRC has kept PCSs, who are helping people in all points of the process. We also are hiring another manager to share the load, and Ms. Hurd will be the Associate Director (AD) overseeing SDP. An additional AD will be hired to focus on the Children's Department. Ms. Banales wants the Board and community to understand that we hear their concerns and are taking

steps to better serve those in the program. There needs to be collaborative process and culture of support.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, October 5, 2026**. The meeting adjourned 5:49 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales