

Alta California Regional Center
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, September 8, 2025
Minutes

Present:

Dan Lake, President
Anwar Safvi, Finance Comm. Chair
Amy Lampe, ARCA-CAC Rep
Carmen Aguilar, Member-at-Large

Absent: (* excused)

Kelly Pennington*, Vice President &
ARCA Rep
Steven Sanchez*, Secretary

Board Members:

Garrett Broadbent
Johnny Deng
Tom Hopkins

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk
Naomi Smith

Visitors:

Maureen Fitzgerald
Benita Shaw

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Operating
Officer
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client
Services
Tracy Brown, Associate Client Services
Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Jon Horbaly, IT Support Technician
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Kenisha Hurd, Associate Client Services
Director
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Faye Tait, Associate Client Services
Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee met on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 5:23 p.m. to discuss: 1) Approve Conflict of Interest Mitigation Plan for Jackie Armstrong; 2) Approve Revised Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Policy; 3) Review/Approve Draft Person-Centered Thinking Policy; 4) President's Report; and 5) Executive Director's Report.

Without objection, Dan Lake made the motion to adopt the Executive Committee meeting minutes of July 14, 2025, as submitted.

1. *Approve Conflict of Interest Mitigation Plan for Jackie Armstrong*

- Mr. Lake noted that this committee will be acting on behalf of the full Board so that this mitigation plan can be sent to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). This is the same mitigation plan as last year, with updated dates. He reviewed the Board's responsibility with those present.

M/S/C (Aguilar) To approve the conflict of interest mitigation plan for Jackie Armstrong on behalf of the full Board.

2. ***Approve Revised Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Policy***

- On August 1st, ACRC received correspondence from DDS requiring a revision to the agency's Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Policy. The department reviewed each regional center policy to make sure they were following W&I Section 4688.22, specifically that regional centers "shall not generally prohibit or disfavor the purchase of these services."
 - To meet this requirement, ACRC staff eliminated the "Service Amount and Frequency" portion and added that clients could reside "under vendored care." This practice has been operationalized prior to this revision.
- By September 30th, ACRC must send the revised Board approved policy to the department.
 - Ms. Banales noted that Planning Teams are still assessing needs.
 - She also noted that staff share the revisions proactively with DDS, prior to bringing the revised policy before the Executive Committee for consideration. The DDS supports these edits.

M/S/C (Lampe) To recommend to the full Board the approval of the revised Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Policy.

3. ***Review/Approve Draft Person-Centered Thinking Policy***

- Ms. Banales noted that over the past several months, ACRC's Client Advisory Committee (CAC) has been working diligently with the agency's Client Advocates to draft this policy that affirms and upholds the values of person-centered thinking practices. She expressed appreciation for the CAC's leadership.

M/S/C (Lampe) To recommend to the full Board the approval of the draft Person-Centered Thinking Policy.

4. ***President's Report***

- Mr. Lake expressed appreciation to the CAC for the draft Person-Centered Thinking Policy. He also thanked everyone in attendance today.

5. ***Executive Director's Report***

- Ms. Banales is proud to announce the opening of the Liberi Home, a Group Home for Children with Special Health Needs (GHCSHN). It is licensed and has the capacity to provide 24-hour nursing care for up to five children. ACRC has three clients who have this assessed need and the two other beds are available to other regional centers at this time. This is a statewide resource developed in our community.
- ACRC is developing a strong relationship/partnership with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD). Ms. Banales is happy that Lisa Hooks, Regional Manager, is open to working together to offer feedback sessions

with diverse communities. The first session is scheduled for September 30th at the SCDD Regional Office. Ms. Hooks is drafting the flyer that will be extended to African American individuals and families to join us for refreshments and an opportunity to learn about what's working, areas that need addressing, and an opportunity to develop relationships. The flyer will be shared once it is finalized.

- We are looking at holding quarterly listening sessions.
- Ms. Banales will report back to the Board on what we learn.
- September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. ACRC has a dynamic Emergency Response Coordinator, Hubert Enriquez, who put together this opportunity for clients and families.
 - ACRC's 1st Annual Emergency Resource Fair will be held on Thursday, September 25th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- There has been a focused effort for ACRC to increase the inventory of affordable housing for our community. We are proud to have a lot of activity and outcomes in this area.
 - Last week, Mr. Decker attended a meeting with Disability Housing Alliance (DHA), who has been meeting every other month, for over two years. At the beginning of every meeting, they check in county by county, and discuss what opportunities the regional center might want to get involved in.
 - ACRC has received five submissions for DDS Multifamily Housing (MFH) GAP funding projects, and the chosen projects will be submitted to the department on September 15th.
 - Mr. Decker provided an overview of ACRC's current projects.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, October 6, 2025**. The meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales