

## **KERN REGIONAL CENTER**

3200 N. Sillect Avenue • Bakersfield, CA 93308 • (661) 327-8531

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

**6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**KRC Malibu Conference Room**

**3300 N. Sillect Ave.**

**Bakersfield, CA 93308**

### **MINUTES**

**February 25, 2020**

#### **Board Members Present:**

Oscar Axume

Mitzi Villalon

Jasmeet Bains

Quanah Mason

Martin Vasquez

Simon Verdugo

Nickolerene Mensch

Mark Tolentino

#### **Board Members Absent:**

Ryan Jones

Kevin Gosselin

Ismael Romero

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. by Oscar Axume. It was determined that a quorum was present.

#### **2. Approval/Additions to Agenda**

- A. Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors Agenda dated January 28, 2020.

**M/S/C** – (Mason/Mensch) to approve the agenda for the meeting of January 28, 2020.  
8-0-0.

#### **3. Meeting Minute Approval**

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors held January 28, 2020.

**M/S/C** – (Villalon/Vasquez) to approve minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of January 28, 2020 with one correction to be made (Section 11/D) add last names of the 2 individuals who abstained.  
8-0-0.

#### **4. Public Input**

- A. **Manuel Flores** Program Director/Exceptional Family Center.

On behalf of Exceptional Family Center and Board of Directors I would like to thank the Regional Center for their continued support for the annual conference we have every fall. We had a very good attendance last year. We're in the beginning stages of

planning our 13th annual conference, details to follow as time gets closer. I also want to acknowledge State Council of Developmental Disabilities; they presented on the 11<sup>th</sup> on IHSS. Very well attended and would like to thank Yolanda for making the time to be here. Lastly, I am proud to announce that the Exceptional Family Center will be hosting Kern Adult Program on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for their Person Centered Training.

**B. Yolanda Cruz** State Council of Developmental Disabilities.

We're having an Independent Facilitator training as part of Self Determination on March 10, 2020 at Special Explorers from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. It's open to anyone who is interested in attending, we are sending out flyers.

On May 15, 2020 Christopher Chrisman, Police Officer from Seattle Police Department, will be hosting a training on Autism and Interactions with Fresno Police Department. We have 2 trainings on March 15, 2020. One at the California Highway Patrol Department only for officers from 9am to 12pm and the other training at Clovis Police Department at 1:30pm. This training is open to the public. Officer Chrisman, would like families input on what the families would like officers to know, when they're dealing with people with developmental disabilities

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **REPORTS**

**5. Board President Report – Oscar Axume**

**A. Oscar Axume, Board President**

Would like to thank the five Board Members who attended Saturday's training. It was the first annual ARCA event. It would have been beneficial for all Board Members to have attended. It was a great 4 hour training with professional speakers with 20 plus years of experience. You also had the opportunity to meet other Board Members and Directors. We had the opportunity to talk to other Board Members, I would encourage everyone to go. Who would like to share their experience for the ARCA?

**B. Board Member - NickoleRenee Mensch**

Last Saturday, I attended the ARCA meeting first annual event. From 21 Regional centers there was over 100 Board Members from all Regional centers. They spoke about how the Regional Centers started and what were the Board responsibilities. Only attended one breakout session.

**C. VAC Chair - Mitzi Villalon**

It was definitely very informative, the 2 breakout sessions I attended; Working Together and Board Procedures.

**6. Financial Report – Tom Wolfgram**

**A.** Tom Wolfgram provided the financial reported. Please see Attachment 2.

**B.** This report is as of January 31, 2020.

**C.** Tom went over the Purchase of Service allocations and Operation's Budget.

- D. On the POS you will see that each of the categories are pretty consistent over the 7 months we have reported. We are about 15% above what would be projected for the 7 months if we divided our allocation by the 12 and multiplied 7.
- E. Under authorized services you will see an increase of \$500,000 which was an allocation that was given to Brilliant Corners, for their start up payments for the new house that they're opening.
- F. In Operations it shows a remaining balance of approximately \$1.5 million, we have been understaffed and have hired a total of 24 staff members within January and February. Calculating additional wages for the remainder of the year for the 24 employees hired will decrease the balance about \$750,000.
- G. In salaries and benefits for January, you will see an increase for about \$500,000 that is a quarterly payment for the defined benefit plan. We have a couple more payments this fiscal year.
- H. The consultant budget is higher than anticipated. We hired another consultant to do an evaluation of our IT system. We have hired Jason, he is our new in-house IT person that works with our daily problems. We have a consultant that is doing the major part of our network, the more Jason learns, the less the consultant will do and their fees will reduce.

#### **7. Executive Director's Report – Michi Gates**

- A. Last month, I spoke about the Governors Proposed Budget for 2020-21 there's nothing new to report at this time.
- B. ARCA has developed a letter and provided it to legislators and various other people regarding their position on various items proposed for DDS. I will forward the letter from ARCA. My primary concern is where they are going to go with the proposed 1:45 for 3-5 year olds. As that is going to be difficult to implement without adequate funding. As well as segmenting those ages from Early Start and the rest of the ages.
- C. As Tom mentioned, we have new Service Coordinators. It's always very exciting to bring in those new Service Coordinators because that is the main thing a Regional Center provides, those service coordination supports and services. We are really excited to have them onboard. I wanted to thank all of the staff who take part in making it possible. Our HR Manager Karey Morris, works very hard. Several of our staff this last time helped, we had so many applications to review. Celia, Kristine, and I reviewed several hundred resumes for positions to find the ones who meet qualifications, then interview and train once they come on board. Training is Shannon Lueck's primary job, but also it's a full team collaboration. We expect to announce the new Program Managers who will be hired soon, and expected to start in March.
- D. Yesterday, Celia, Kristine and I met with a couple of parents. Parents were invited by invitations that we sent out. We are trying to do monthly meetings that we call "Good Hour" which is an opportunity for individuals and families to come and talk to the Directors, here at Kern Regional Center to ask questions, give us input and give us suggestions. We are hoping to get more participation, we will look at time and other places we can have it for those who can't make it to the Bakersfield office. But just the input of the 2 parents was extremely valuable. It's really important for us to hear their point of view about how services are working out for them, about their interactions

with their Service Coordinator and their quality of life, what is needed and what can we do to improve.

- E. We had our Local Advisory Committee last night, it was a potluck and we had a really good turnout. Rick Wood, was able to participate in person. He travels a lot advocating for the system. It was so great to have him, we have such wonderful individuals who are so dedicated and committed to this program.

## **8. Vendor Advisory Committee – Mitzi Villalon**

A. VAC did not meet this month.

- B. In your packet you will find a list of *Proposed* Vendor Advisory Committee Members for 2020. Just as a refresher, the VAC is a group of vendors that provide advice, guidance, recommendations and technical assistance to KRC in order to assist the regional center in carrying out the functions as mandated by law. I am asking for a motion to approve the attached VAC member list for 2020.

**ACTION** – Requesting a motion to approve the VAC member list for 2020.

**M/S/C** – (Bains/Vasquez) Motion approved the VAC member list for 2020.  
7-0-1. (Villalon)

## **9. Staff Report – Cherylle Mallinson**

### **A. Self Determination (SD)**

SD Meeting was held on 02/24/2020

- As Michi mentioned our SD Meeting was well attended by stakeholders and community members. There were 4 Financial Management Services (FMS), 4 Individual facilitators, 1 Supported Living Service (SLS) provider and numerous parents.
- Wide range of discussion on some of the challenges in regards to issues with transition, the state is working with each Regional Center.
- Orientation continues to be scheduled and will be posted on our website.
- The next meeting is on **April 20, 2020** here at 5pm.

### **B. Community Placement Plan (CPP/CRDP)**

#### **CPP/CRDP Update**

##### **a. FY 1617**

1. 1617-10 Meacham – It's our last remaining project we have in process that has continued on year after year. Pictures were shown. We do have some concerns; this home is scheduled to be finished by July. We are working very closely with provider, but we are concerned about their inability to meet timelines. We are still reviewing program design and facility cost and approval with the department for over twelve months. If we don't come to

an agreement, KRC may have to request the Board of Directors approval at the March Board Meeting to obtain a different provider that can meet timelines. The provider is aware of the issues. KRC will continue to work with the provider as closely as we can. Our deadline was 12/31/2019.

- b. FY 1819 CRDP Children's Enhanced Behavior Support Home (EBSH) – We are currently looking for a provider. We have interviewed 2 providers that could possibly be a candidate for this home.
- c. FY 1920 CRDP – Request For Proposal (RFP) Released no viable (Provider) candidate
  - 1. EBSH Children with the Integrated Project (IP) – Last month, I shared with you the house found on Vargas – the RFP committee is in the process of selecting a provider. We hope to have a decision by next month. Housing Acquisition Request (HAR) was approved by DDS on 11/25/2019 and we closed escrow on 12/13/2019.
  - 2. EBSH 3 Adult with Secured Perimeter (SP) – The RFP committee is in the process of selecting a provider. We hope to have a decision by next month.
  - 3. Community Crisis step down – I don't have a provider to partner with to provide services.
  - 4. Mobile Dental Clinic – looking to interview one potential candidate, we are looking whether or not they have the qualifications to provide services in Kern County. We are trying to determine how the corporation is set up before we can engage with them.

### **C. HCBS Vendor Self-Survey Update**

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued requirements referred to as the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule, which affect services provided to individuals with developmental Disabilities through California's regional center system. The HCBS Final Rule focuses on the quality of individuals experiences and not just the settings where the services are delivered. The Final Rule was developed to ensure that individuals have full access to the benefits of community living and the opportunity to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate.

The California Statewide Transition Plan (STP) outlines the steps the State will take to be in alignment with the HCBS Final Rule. The first step is to review and evaluate current services, including both non-residential and residential programs. Providers of some regional center services will be required to complete a self-assessment to measure their current level of compliance with the HCBS Final Rule, offering a frame work for assisting providers with the necessary steps to align their services with the federal requirements. If a provider is not in

compliance with all the requirements, there is time to develop a transition plan so the provider can achieve compliance by March 2022, the date by which states have to implement the federal requirements.

On January 27, 2020, the self-assessment becomes available through an online platform developed by a contracted company, OIG Compliance Now. Both providers and regional centers have access to the online platform. A unique login has been provided to Regional Center administrators and vendored providers via email from OIG Compliance Now. Although training will be offered on how to complete the self-assessment, providers can begin the assessment upon receiving their login information. If a provider does not receive an email with their login information, they should contact their vendoring Regional Center. However, there has been some challenges in accessing the online platform including the incorrect email which DDS and OIG is working to resolve.

Providers will have until March 31, 2020, to complete the self-assessment for each of their vendored services.

Providers can contact, Armando Cordova, HCBS Program Evaluator at 661-852-3289 or at [acordova@kernrc.org](mailto:acordova@kernrc.org)

### **BOARD TRAINING**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **GOOD AND WELFARE**

- a. Meeting is adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Malibu Conference Room at the Kern Regional Center.

Note: Requests for a disability related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Administrative Assistant during regular business hours at 661-852-3360.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Upcoming Dates / Events / Announcements:

- a. CalAble presentation on program eligibility, requirements and features on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. at KRC
- b. KRC Vendor Fair on March 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 3:30 in the Malibu Room
- c. VAC meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 – 12:00 p.m. in the Malibu Room
- d. KRC Board meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in Malibu Room
- e. KRC Board meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in Malibu Room
- f. Self Determination Orientation on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 – 12:00 p.m. at KRC in both English and Spanish
- g. *Tentative* Law Enforcement and Autism presentation by Officer Christopher Christman on May 15<sup>th</sup>; time and location TBD
- h. VAC meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 – 12:00 p.m. in the Malibu Room
- i. KRC Board meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in Malibu Room