

**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**

**October 22, 2019**

Board Members Present:

Oscar Axume

Martin Vasquez

Nickolerene Mensch

Mitzi Villalon

Simon Verdugo

Jasmeet Bains

Ryan Jones

Mark Tolentino

Quanah Mason

Board Members Absent:

Ismael Romero

Mark Tolentino

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Closed Session**

**2. Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:35 p.m. by Oscar Axume. It was determined that a quorum was present.

**3. Approval/Additions to Agenda**

A. Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors Agenda dated October 22, 2019.

**M/S/C – (Mason/Mensch) to approve the agenda for the meeting of**

**October 22, 2019**

**9-0-0.**

**4. Meeting Minute Approval**

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors held September 24, 2019.

**M/S/C – (Mensch/Villalon) to approve minutes of the regular meeting of the**

**Board of Directors of September 24, 2019 with three corrections to be made.**

**9-0-0.**

**5. Public Input**

**No Report**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **REPORTS**

#### **6. Board President Report – Oscar Axume**

- A. Oscar Axume asked Ms. Bains to provide information on Bylaws, Board Policy Committee and a status report. A couple of members met last week to go over some of the policies, changing some of the terminology. A few concerns about transparency to public information and having availability of the calendar for upcoming events. To track attendance and absences at Board meetings and trainings to meet changes to the bylaws. Ryan Jones is Co-Chair of the KRC Board Social Media Committee. He provided information on how to visit the KRC Board Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/kern.rcboard>

#### **7. Board Delegate Report – Nickolerene Mensch**

- A. Nickolerene attended the ARCA Board Delegate meeting last week.
- B. For the ARCA Academy, 21 regional centers took part in the survey that was emailed to everyone and it showed that most of the Board members from regional centers wanted to learn about contract language.
- C. It was a unanimous decision to have a one or two day training session. The one day training would probably be in Sacramento, time and date to be decided.
- D. It was also discussed by the delegate group, how to make the system better for the community and parents.
- E. A future conference call is planned to discuss system procedures and ideas.

#### **8. Client Representative – Roy Rocha**

**No Report.**

#### **9. Financial Report – Tom Wolfgram**

- A. Tom Wolfgram provided the financial report. Please see **Attachment 3**.
- B. This report is as of September of 2019.
- C. On the operations side see the total spent through the end of September for salaries, benefits and operations. See **Attachment 2**.
- D. KRC has eliminated security services at the Bakersfield Office and we will be decreasing spending on other items. If we don't get additional money from DDS, we will have to make drastic changes in our operating expense, we have no choice but to balance.

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

- A. Michi Gates also attended the ARCA meeting.
- B. The Office of the Inspector General visited 5 regional centers to look at special incident reports to check if incidents are being reported, if they are being reported in a timely

manner and reported accurately and also whether we are doing appropriate follow up to ensure the health and safety of individuals.

- C. California just found out that CMS, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, will be providing technical assistance regarding special incident issues. Technical assistance is meant to be a proactive measure. Their plan is to interview direct service providers and self-advocates.
- D. Two things that trigger technical assistance are if a waiver is up for renewal or if concerns are noted.
- E. DDS was supposed to have posted all public comments about the Rate Study but was unable to meet the deadline. Next month, early November they are hoping to have comments and responses posted.
- F. Service Coordinator Ratios are case load ratios that regional centers are supposed to meet per Lanterman regulations. We are short over 700 service coordinators statewide and are not meeting federal requirements for caseload ratios. We really need to be fully funded. ARCA has contracted with a public relations firm to assist with providing information about this issue.
- G. The Medicaid Waiver audit is taking place in November. CPA auditors will be here next week.

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

- A. Shannon Lueck spoke on three topics: one on Feeling Safe, Being Safe which is how to prepare and deal with a disaster or an emergency situation and assisting those around you. She then spoke on Everbridge which is the program that Regional Centers utilize to maintain all consumer and vendor contact information and allows for mass communication notifications in case of an emergency. Many of you may have received alerts from Everbridge; remember, it is important to listen to the entire message and respond accordingly or the automatic message will continue to call you until you do. Lastly, she spoke on Smart911 and how important it is for everyone to sign up.
- B. Sarah Ross with CalFresh conducted an informative presentation explaining eligibility, allowable deductible items, and disbursement amounts.
- C. The Law Enforcement sub-committee is going to reach out to Celia Pinal with regard to moving forward now that the training has been completed.
- D. The Employment sub-committee promises to meet before our next meeting and report back.
- E. The Transportation sub-committee is meeting today at 1:30 and will report back at the next meeting
- F. The Vendor Luncheon is coming soon, on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, and so far we have 283 people and 18 vendor displays signed up.
- G. There were no reported issues discussed by the vendors. New Leaf announced they are holding an Open House at KRC on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 p.m. and everyone is welcome to come. They will be able to help with individual questions/concerns.

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

##### **A. Self Determination**

- a. The Self Determination Committee met on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were a lot of compliments on the work done. We also got snacks. It was a nice evening of compliments and good work, but that doesn't mean we don't have issues to work on. Statewide it is a struggle to transition into Self Determination. Some examples: to input information for payment of the initial person centered plan there were memos from the department about how we can do this but we have additional questions. We are hoping to get answers soon.
- b. Families who do not attend an orientation by November 15<sup>th</sup> will be dropped from the list and a new cycle of parents/individuals will be selected.
- c. The Advisory Committee for Self Determination recommended KRC have someone to assist with resource development. KRC was approved for funding for this so we will develop a job description and get the individual hired and ready to go.

**B. Community Resource Development Plan Update/Community Placement Plan**

- a. Fiscal year 18/19, KRC received funding for a community resource development project. I'm glad to report that we're in 60 day escrow on the purchase of a house, but the work isn't done. Even though you have approved us to engage in the housing project I still need to get approval from the department for housing acquisition. Once the appraisal comes in we can proceed and go forward with the escrow, maybe by the end of November.
- b. For the 19-20 plan I am working closely with our Dental Coordinator to find resources and develop a mobile clinic. I have to have a contract signed by December 23<sup>rd</sup> and will need approval from the Board.
- c. Letters for 028 services were shared with Vendor Advisory Committee, it's also available on KRC's website. October 15<sup>th</sup> we sent a letter to all of our 028 providers. Kern Regional Center (KRC) is taking steps to improve service delivery and adherence to laws and regulations. KRC in the past has approved an additional hourly rate to services that have been established with a daily rate as the unit of service. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is not in agreement with the practice, and KRC and the provider may be subject to an audit finding of "over payment" or "double dipping". In accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 54302 (21) "Days" is defined as calendar days unless otherwise stated, and section 54302 (72), define "a unit of service" as the increment of service provided to a consumer which is used to charge and invoice the regional center for services provided. The increment of service is specified as hours, days, transportation, mileage or any other increment of service agreed to by the Department, regional center and the vendor. Therefore, based on the above reasons, Effective January 1, 2020, KRC will discontinue paying providers with an established daily rate and additional hourly rate for claims of "additional hours", to be consistent with California Code of Regulations Title 17. If providers wish to offer additional hours of service then the daily rate issued to the provider will cover the cost, and no additional rate (hourly or otherwise) will be paid by KRC.

**BOARD TRAINING**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**GOOD AND WELFARE**

- a. Meeting is adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 6:30p.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. Self Determination Orientation on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Malibu Room (both in English and Spanish) All vendors are invited.
- b. Exceptional Family Center is assisting UCLA in an Autism Genetics Research Study on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> from 9-5 p.m.
- c. 28<sup>th</sup> Annual KRC VAC Luncheon on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at Double Tree
- d. KRC Board meeting on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in Malibu Room
- e. New Leaf Open House at KRC on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-2 p.m.
- f. Self Determination meeting on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. in Malibu Room
- g. VAC meeting on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 -12 a.m. in the Malibu Room
- h. KRC Board Meeting on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in Malibu Room