

# Kern Regional Center (KRC)

3200 N. Sillect Avenue ∞ Bakersfield, CA 93308 ∞ 661-327-8531

## Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

October 26, 2021, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

### KRC BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Oscar Axume, Board Member  
Jasmeet Bains, MD, President  
Kevin Gosselin, Treasurer  
Ryan Jones, Board Member  
NickoleRenee Mensch, Vice President  
Donald Tobias, Board Member  
Mark Tolentino, Board Member  
Simon Verdugo, Board Member  
Ruth Watterson, Board Member  
Shawn White, VAC Representative

### KRC BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Martin Vasquez, Secretary

### STAFF PRESENT:

Michi Gates, Executive Director  
Joseph Grounds, Emergency Response Coordinator  
Kristine Khuu, Assistant Director of Client Services  
Kary Morris, Human Resources Manager  
Celia Pinal, Director of Client Services  
Enrique Roman, Director of Community Services  
Tom Wolfgram, CFO

### ATTENDEES PRESENT:

John Noriega, Facilitator for Simon Verdugo  
Edwin Pineda, DDS  
(Please see attached page for additional attendees)

### INTERPRETER:

Nidya Madrigal Navia

### BACK-UP INTERPRETER

Marisol Resendiz

### CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Jasmeet Bains, President, called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. A quorum was present.

### APPROVAL/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

One item was changed on the agenda. Item 10, Staff Report, read *Approval of 2022 Performance Contract/CRDP*. Mr. Roman would not be presenting CRDP, so "CRDP" was removed.

President Bains requested a motion to approve the agenda for today's Board of Directors meeting changing Item 10 to read, *Approval of 2022 Performance Contract*.

M/S/C (Mensch, White)

Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0

Motion Carried

The change will be reflected on the finalized agenda.



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## REVIEW OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

All Board Members have reviewed the revisions made to the minutes of the meeting held on September 28, 2021.

President Bains requested a motion to accept the revised meeting minutes of September 28, 2021.

M/S/C: (Watterson/White)

Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0

Motion Carried

### KRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT REPORT

*Dr. Jasmeet Bains, President*

Nothing to report currently.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

*Tom Wolfgram, Chief Financial Officer*

#### Purchase of Services Report as of August 31, 2021

Total spent on services to clients: \$16,063,469. A copy of the POS Report (Attachment 2) is filed with these minutes as a matter of record.

#### Operations Report as of August 31, 2021

August Expenditures: \$1,655,921. A copy of the OPS Report (Attachment 3) is filed with these minutes as a matter of record.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Dr. Michi Gates*

Dr. Gates provided updates on COVID-19 and the vaccine. COVID-19 infections among KRC individuals seemed to be declining but went back up the past week from 9 cases to 15. The majority of individuals continue to be those living in the family home. As of October 8<sup>th</sup>, 629 KRC individuals have been diagnosed with COVID-19 since data was first collected in March of last year. New cases among provider staff have decreased since this past surge with typically four or less new cases being reported per week.

KRC continues to contact individuals monthly to inquire about overall needs, ask about vaccine status and provide support to access vaccines as needed. Currently, 68% of KRC individuals 12 and older indicate they have received one or both shots or have declined the vaccine. 65% are fully vaccinated and 31% have declined to be vaccinated. Compared to statewide data the percentage of KRC individuals who are vaccinated is the same but our individuals are more likely to decline the vaccine.

As reported at our last meeting, all regional center employees are now required to be vaccinated unless they have a medical or religious exemption. KRC has notified our staff of the requirement. Provider staff are also required to be vaccinated. KRC participated in a provider meeting to discuss these requirements and to offer to partner in any way we can with respect to testing options and informational forums.

Dr. Gates is excited about the new initiatives being implemented and new positions being added.



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DDS Rate Study, regional centers will need to implement the first rate changes in April and in July there will be outcome based rate adjustments. Rate changes will differ for each provider instead of by service code so it will be a huge lift but these rate adjustments are extremely important for our providers and the quality of the supports they provide to the individuals we serve.

KRC's Deaf Services Coordinator position is posted. This is not a case carrying position but will support our individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing with development of and access to needed resources.

KRC has two positions posted for Participant Choice Coordinators. These positions are also not case carrying. They will support individuals and staff with transitions to the Self-Determination program and also with access to participant choice services.

KRC will soon be posting four positions for Service Coordinators for 1:40 ratio caseloads for individuals who are non-white or non-English speaking and have low, less than \$2,000 or no POS. DDS is working on an implementation plan with a training curriculum and key milestones.

Provisional Eligibility for 3- and 4-year-olds will provide a the ability to support children who may not meet Lanterman eligibility criteria but can be more accurately assessed when they are older.

Social Recreation has been prohibited since the great recession but is now being restored. KRC has a very good policy in place, but a few revisions are being made to make services more accessible to individuals.. This revised policy will be brought to the Board in November. DDS has requested an outreach plan and any necessary policy revisions to be submitted by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

KRC does not have an Employment First Policy in place yet, however, a draft policy was brought to the Board in February 2021 for review. The policy will be brought back to the Board again in November for a second review and possible approval.

The Performance Improvement Program is a program designed to establish performance measures that result in a high-quality system for our clients. Dr. Gates is a member of a DDS workgroup tasked with discerning what these performance measures might be and ensuring that all plans developed are person-centered and outcome based.

Implicit Bias training will be required for all Regional Centers as one of the initiatives addressing disparity.

Dr. Gates introduced Joseph Grounds, KRC's new Emergency Response Coordinator. This is one of the new positions funded for regional center in the current budget. Mr. Grounds introduced himself and addressed the board.

KRC Audits are in process. The DDS Fiscal Audit continues. The DDS HCBS Review is in November and the DDS Family Home Agency Review is in December.

The DDS Self-Determination Focus Group, of which she is a member, will be meeting on Friday.

NickoleRenee Mensch is ending her term with the Board. She has completed 7 years with the KRC Board of Directors and has been an active, engaged member who has been incredibly valuable to KRC during her tenure. A wonderful documentary, that can be viewed on the KRC website, tells the story of her self-advocacy work. She has served as Vice-President, a Nominating Committee member, and an ARCA Board Delegate. Dr. Gates wished her the best and plans to continue to have interaction with her and benefit from her knowledge! Thank you, NickoleRenee. We hope you will be back after a year off!



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## **VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Shawn White, Vendor Advisory Committee Representative*

The VAC Committee did not meet today, but a meeting was held on October 19 to discuss some of the concerns of the vendors surrounding the new vaccine mandate and how it might affect vendor staffing and other HR issues. Dr. Gates attended and offered a lot of information that was appreciated.

Because of the short month of November and the Holiday at the end of the month, it was decided to have the VAC meeting on November 16 at 10:00 AM.

## **CONTRACT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES**

The Contract Performance Objectives Performance Report for 2020 was brought to the Board by NickoleRenee Mensch. The entire report is attached to these minutes (Attachment 4) as a matter of record and will also be posted on the Kern Regional Center website.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

(Rigo Lopez) Just wanted to say that Kern Regional Center and the Board all do a great job.

(Daniel Esparza) This is his first time doing this. He got on late and has been participating since the middle of the meeting. He was warmly welcomed by the Board. "NickoleRenee is a good worker and she will be missed." He loves everyone on the Board!

(Grace Huerta) The Performance Contract was difficult to see. She is a parent to an adult client of KRC and works with the Exceptional Family Center. She has a lot of contact with families. With the pandemic, it has been overwhelming for adult clients who have stayed in the home. She is very grateful for PathPoint and they are looking forward to having more adult day programs. Are there plans in the future to open more options for adult clients?

(Dr. Bains) We would love to get those services available if vendors are available to open.

(Dr. Gates) The CRDP (Community Resource Development Plan) was created for developing resources, specifically for those in the community. If we can get input from the community outlining services that they would like to see, as well as unsolicited vendor requests, we can start the processes of getting services in place. Enrique Roman and Karina Proffer, KRC's Cultural Specialist, are also working on what kinds of resources can be developed for areas that don't have many resource options available.

(Enrique Roman) As California goes into the process of complying with HBCS, many site-based programs may "evolve" by changing some of the services that they offer. Types of services may change a bit, offering more and varied programs, and this is exciting.

(Grace Huerta) She noticed that we continue to see an increase in our Hispanic population which is very typical of Kern demographics. Very few of Exceptional Family Hispanic families fully understand the Self-Determination process. Do KRC's numbers reflect Hispanic participation in the Self-Determination Program?

(Dr. Gates) We are tracking the SDP Program on our online Learning Management System in both English and Spanish as well as other places. Anything that KRC can do to partner with Exceptional Families to increase participation will be firmly welcomed and supported. Another positive factor will be the Community Navigator position that should be coming to Exceptional Family Center. This position will be instrumental in communicating services available to our community.

(Kristine Khuu) There was more participation before the pandemic among the Hispanic population, but during the pandemic it decreased. Right now, Kristine estimates a Hispanic participation rate of approximately 15%.



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(Celia Pinal) Katie Ramirez, with Ally, has been working with us and is very dedicated to the Hispanic population. She has stressed that the Hispanic understanding of SDP takes time and she works with them on the measures needed for good communication.

(Grace Huerta) Are IPPs and Quarterly Reviews good opportunities to explain SDP to the client and families?

(Celia Pinal) There is a one-sheet informational document that has been given to Program Managers and this handout will be handed out to the families during an IPP. Celia is collaborating on this effort with Ana Leheny and Jennifer Rimer, Assistant Directors in Client Services, who will be working on SDP. The Participant Choice Specialist will be involved in educating families with any participant choices and services available also and we look forward to that person coming on board.

## **STAFF REPORT**

### *Approval of 2022 Performance Contract – Enrique Roman*

Mr. Roman is asking the Board to approve the 2022 Performance Contract outcomes and activities. He explained that the contract is broken down into 2 sections: 1) Public Policy Performance Measures and 2) Compliance Measures. We develop the contract using measures set by DDS, but the community is asked for input and feedback on the development of activity used to meet these measures. We took this plan to the community in September and provided to the Board for their review. Mr. Roman asked for any questions or comments; there were none.

President Bains requested a motion to accept the 2022 Performance Contract and forward the contract to DDS.

M/S/C: (Mensch/Gosselin)

Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0

Motion Carried

The 2022 Performance Contract is attached to these minutes as a matter of record (Attachment 5) and will also be posted on the KRC website.

Some discussion took place about when the Board Meeting could take place in person. The Board felt that in-person meetings should be postponed through the Winter season and to revisit the question next Spring or when there is more of an indication of safety around COVID-19 spread.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further to discuss, President Jasmeet Bains adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.

**The next public meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Darlene Pankey*



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