

## Kern Regional Center (KRC)

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

### Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

November 30, 2021, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

#### KRC BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jasmeet Bains, MD, President  
Kevin Gosselin, Treasurer  
Donald Tobias, Board Member  
Mark Tolentino, Board Member  
Martin Vasquez, Secretary  
Ruth Watterson, Board Member  
Shawn White, VAC Representative

#### KRC BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Oscar Axume, Board Member  
Ryan Jones, Board Member  
Simon Verdugo, Board Member

#### STAFF PRESENT:

Michi Gates, Executive Director  
Kristine Khuu, Assistant Director of Client Services  
Celia Pinal, Director of Client Services  
Enrique Roman, Director of Community Services  
Tom Wolfgram, CFO

#### ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Carlos Isidoro, Nominated Board Member  
Tracey Mensch, Nominated Board Member

#### INTERPRETER:

Nidya Madrigal Navia

#### BACK-UP INTERPRETER

Marisol Resendiz

#### CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Jasmeet Bains, President, called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM. A quorum was present. Introductions were made by each of the members of the Board of Directors and the Kern Regional Center staff.

#### APPROVAL/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Item 11b, *Employment First Policy*, was accidentally added to this agenda; this item will be brought to a future meeting. President Bains requested a motion to approve the agenda for today's Board of Directors meeting with the deletion of Item 11b.

M/S/C (Vasquez, Gosselin)

Ayes = 7; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0

Motion Carried

#### REVIEW OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD OCTOBER 26, 2021

All Board Members have reviewed the revisions made to the minutes of the meeting held on October 26, 2021. No changes or edits were recommended.

President Bains requested a motion to accept the minutes of October 26, 2021.

M/S/C: (Watterson/Gosselin)

Ayes = 7; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0

Motion Carried



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## **PUBLIC INPUT**

Carol Nakamura-Robinson from the State Council on Developmental Disability introduced herself to the Board of Directors and attendees. She has been recently corresponding with Enrique Roman and Celia Pinal and she was happy to meet everyone virtually. She would like to remind Regional Centers, clients, and families about the upcoming NCI Survey. This survey cycle will include Adult Families, Child Families, and Family Guardians. The survey will be made available through the mail and can be completed and returned. The survey will also be available to be completed online. Bilingual surveys are available; they can be requested through Carol at the San Bernardino office. SCDD wants to make sure families as well as self-advocates are heard through this survey at both the State and Federal level.

Kevin Gosselin announced a public webinar for families regarding Employment of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities to be held on December 9, 3:00 – 4:00 PM. He will make the information available to the secretary. Dr. Gates relayed that the information is also listed on KRC's Social Media pages and on the website.

## **KRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT REPORT**

*Dr. Jasmeet Bains, President*

Dr. Bains announced to the Board of Directors that she will be running for State Assembly during the next election. The election will take place November 2022. She will remain on the KRC Board of Directors at least for the next year. She assured the Board of Directors that her political activities will remain separate from her Board activities.

COVID-19 Policies and Procedures are working, but the new Omicron variant is raising more questions and the flu season is upon us, so her recommendation is to continue to wear masks and practice social distancing.

## **NEW BOARD MEMBER APPLICANTS and ROLE CHANGES**

Dr. Bains announced two nominees for KRC Board of Directors Membership. Tracey Mensch and Carlos Isidoro were both interviewed by Dr. Bains and the Nominating Committee; they fully recommend official election of Tracey and Carlos as KRC Board Members.

Tracey Mensch introduced herself to the Board of Directors. A motion was made to elect Tracey Mensch as a member of the Kern Regional Center Board of Directors.

M/S/C: (Bains/White)  
Ayes = 7; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0  
Motion Carried

Carlos Isidoro introduced himself to the Board of Directors. A motion was made to elect Carlos Isidoro as a member of the Kern Regional Center Board of Directors.

M/S/C: (Bains/Tobias)  
Ayes = 7; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0  
Motion Carried

With NicoleRenee Mensch's Board of Director term ending in October 2021, the role of Vice President is left vacant. Board Member, Kevin Gosselin, has been nominated to fill the position. With no other nominees, a motion was made to elect Kevin Gosselin to the position of Vice President.

M/S/C: (Bains/Watterson)  
Ayes = 7; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0  
Motion Carried

Dr. Gates reminded everyone that Kevin Gosselin leaves the office of Treasurer vacant as he moves into the Vice-President position. Dr. Bains opened the floor to nominations. No nominations were presented at this time. This leaves the office of Treasurer officially open to any Board Member who is interested in filling the position. Dr. Gates



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will e-mail the responsibilities of the Treasurer position to the Board Members and this vacancy will be addressed at the next meeting.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

*Tom Wolfgram, Chief Financial Officer*

### Purchase of Services Report as of September 30, 2021

Total spent on services to clients in September: \$15,129,000. A copy of the POS Report (Attachment 2) is filed with these minutes as a matter of record.

### Operations Report as of September 30, 2021

September Expenditures: \$2,241,888. 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*

### COVID-19 Updates

- Infection rates fluctuate each week, but they are higher than she would like to see. Most infections are with individuals living with family.
- There are 671 individuals diagnosed with COVID-19; unfortunately, we are starting to see an increase of cases in our provider staff. Statewide KRC represents 2.9% of our state's population and currently we represent 3.2% of the total number of infections reported.
- KRC continues to contact individuals monthly to inquire about overall needs, ask about vaccine status and provide support to access vaccines as needed. Compared to statewide data, the percentage of KRC individuals who are vaccinated is similar to the statewide percentage but continue to be high when it comes to those who decline the vaccine – KRC is 14% compared to the statewide figure of 8%.

### New Initiatives

- Tom Wolfgram and Enrique Roman are working toward the rate increases to be implemented in April and July. We are waiting to get more direction from DDS and working with them to look at the current rates. This rate increase is different as the increases will be given according to provider and not service code. A huge job.
- Dr. Gates is thrilled to report that we have filled our Deaf Services Coordinator position. We are very pleased that we are now be able to provide additional support to our deaf and hard-of-hearing clients by providing services, finding resources, and linking them with community programs.
- Work continues to fill our two Participant Choice Coordinator positions and we feel confident that they will soon be filled. These positions will work hand-in-hand with the Self-Determination Program and also with those clients who wish to remain in traditional services but desire more flexibility through participant choice programs to meet their needs.
- We are interviewing applicants to work with our 1:40 Caseloads (for our clients that have \$2,000 or less in POS funds and are non-white/non-English speaking individuals). These positions specifically address our disparity initiative. Concentration will be centered on person-centered plans and what type of programs can meet the needs of these individuals.
- We are implementing provisional eligibility for 3–4-year-olds who will be reassessed at age 5 to see if a better assessment can be made at that time for Lanterman eligibility.
- Social Recreation Policy revisions will be presented to the Board tonight. We are excited and anxious to get started on the restoration of these services.
- We are looking forward to working with DDS on the Tribal Outreach and Engagement. There are 8 tribes represented in our Regional Center and the Federal American Rescue Act Plan is providing additional funds to continue our current outreach and expansion of services to our tribal communities.



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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 November 16 in place of the normal VAC Luncheon.

- Dr. Gates attended and gave her Director's Report.
- Introduction was made of Joseph Grounds, Emergency Services Coordinator.
- Enrique Roman gave an update on the rate adjustment and our status to be prepared for the April deadline.
- Celia Pinal gave an update of the Caseload Ratio and where the Regional Center was in addressing that issue.
- The Employment Subcommittee spoke about the Hire Luncheon that took place in October. The Hire Committee is a committee of organizations in the Kern County community that come together to share resources so that we can help people with disabilities to find employment.
- The next meeting will be held on January 25, 2022; the VAC Committee will be open to new membership at that time.

## STAFF REPORT

*Review / Approval of Updated 2022 Performance Contract – Enrique Roman*

This is a follow-up from last month's meeting concerning the Performance Contract. The Board approved the 2022 Performance Contract last month, but while preparing to send to DDS, it was noticed that a minor update needed to be made to item 8. During the July trailer bill, we did get approval by the legislature to increase the incentive payments from \$1,000 to \$2,000; \$2,250 to \$2,500, and \$1,500 to \$3,000 respectively. These changes were incorporated into the contract, and Mr. Roman presented the revised 2022 Performance Contract to the Board for approval.

Mr. Roman requested a motion to accept the 2022 Performance Contract with edits to Item 8 noting the increase in the incentive pay for providers and forward the contract to DDS.

M/S/C: (Gosselin/Mensch)

Ayes = 6; Nays = 0; Abstained = 1

Motion Carried

*Restoration of Camping, Social Recreation and Other Services Policy – Celia Pinal*

Ms. Pinal presented the letter from DDS that was distributed to Regional Centers about the Restoration of Camping, Social Recreation and Other Services per W&I Code Section 4648.5. She explained the history behind the discontinuance of these services and now, the restoration of these services. She presented the revised POS Guidelines and Policy showing and explaining the minor changes and revisions made in our existing policy. The goal is to implement our policy with any changes by January 1, 2022.

Ms. Pinal asked for a motion to approve the revision of the POS Guidelines to submit to DDS for approval.

M/S/C: (Gosselin/Mensch)

Ayes – 6; Nays = 0; Abstained = 1

Motion Carried

## 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, January 25, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Darlene Pankey*



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