

Kern Regional Center (KRC) Board of Directors Meeting

April 27, 2021

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

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

MINUTES

KRC BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jasmeet Bains, MD, President
Kevin Gosselin, Treasurer
Ryan Jones, Board Member
Mark Tolentino, Board Member
Martin Vasquez, Secretary
Simon Verdugo, Board Member
Shawn White, VAC

KRC BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Oscar Axume, Board Member
NickoleRenee Mensch, Vice President

STAFF PRESENT:

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

ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cindy Cox, Advocate for Donald Tobias
Tammie Inman
John Noriega, Advocate for Simon Verdugo
Edwin Pineda, DDS
Donald Tobias
Mitzi Villalon
Ruth Watterson

INTERPRETER:

Nidya Madrigal Navia

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Jasmeet Bains, President, called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

President Bains requested a motion to accept the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting dated April 27, 2021

M/S/C (White, Gosselin)

Ayes = 7; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0

Motion Carried

REVIEW OF MINUTES

All Board Members have reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. President Bains requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on February 23, 2021.

M/S/C (Gosselin, White)

Ayes = 7; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0

Motion Carried

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input was submitted in advance and no public input was presented at this meeting.



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NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Jasmeet Bains, President

Nominations and Voting for New Board Members: Donald Tobias and Ruth Watterson

Dr. Bains briefed the members that interviews had been conducted by the Nominating Committee for Donald Tobias and Ruth Watterson who have applied to be members of the Kern Regional Center Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee was pleased after the interviews and agreed to present these nominees to the Board of Directors and ask for a vote. Mr. Tobias was unable to introduce himself due to technical difficulties with the sound on his Zoom connection, so Dr. Bains gave a synopsis of Mr. Tobias' application and interest in being a Board Member. Ms. Watterson introduced herself to the Board and also gave a brief synopsis of her desire to be a Board Member. Dr. Bains then presented these candidates to the Board of Directors and asked for a vote on each.

A motion was made by Mr. Shawn White to accept Mr. Donald Tobias as a new member of the KRC Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Tolentino.

M/S/C (White, Tolentino)

Ayes = 7; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0

Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Gosselin to accept Ms. Ruth Watterson as a new member of the KRC Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Tolentino.

M/S/C (Gosselin, Tolentino)

Ayes = 7; Nays = 0; Abstained = 1

Motion Carried

Mr. Donald Tobias and Ms. Ruth Watterson were unanimously voted in to be a members of the Kern Regional Center Board of Directors effective April 27, 2021. Dr. Bains welcomed the two new Board Members and expressed how appreciative we are of their desire to serve.

KRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT REPORT

Dr. Jasmeet Bains, President

Dr. Bains was very happy to participate in the ARCA Grass Roots event. It was a great experience to talk with our legislative officials about our services to our clients here in Kern County and to express our goals for the future.

President Bains' top priority is to increase COVID-19 vaccination in Kern County. She is working on dispelling the myths that the vaccination is harmful in any way and to encourage everyone she meets to be vaccinated. She asked all Board Members to please encourage clients, families, and anyone they know that has not received the vaccine to get it. She firmly believes that vaccination is the main force in lowering and eliminating COVID-19 infections.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tom Wolfgram, Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Wolfgram presented the KRC Operations Report for month ending February 28, 2021. This document is Attachment 2 and is filed with these minutes. He asked the Board Members to keep in



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mind that salaries for January and February increased due to hiring more staff; March will also show an increase. He anticipates that the ending Operations balance will be \$853,000.

Mr. Wolfgram presented the KRC Purchase of Services Report for month ending February 28, 2021. This document is Attachment 3 and is filed with these minutes. During the presentation, Mr. Wolfgram noticed an error within the worksheet that resulted in an incorrect monthly figure appearing on the document; this will be corrected and the report re-published to the Board. The Purchase of Services total spent is approximately \$124 Million. There are roughly \$2 Million in unbilled services yet to be paid, bringing the total anticipated spending to around \$126 Million. Purchase of Services balance is approximately \$541,000.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Michi Gates

COVID-19

Since March 2020, KRC has had 477 clients and 433 Service Providers with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis and 21 client deaths. Statewide, there are 17,409 positive cases and 621 deaths. Vaccination is KRC's main focus with efforts to eliminate every possible barrier to clients. The DDS flyer promoting the COVID-19 vaccine to age 16 and above is posted on our website and social media accounts, along with transportation options. Service Coordinators are contacting all of their clients about the vaccine. Presently, 29% of our clients have received at least one vaccine shot; 16% of our clients are declining the vaccine. Since the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is now approved to resume, Bakersfield College has reached out to KRC to hold another clinic. Celia Pinal, Director of Client Services, is working with Service Coordinators and Exceptional Family Resources to get a minimum of 100 individuals registered.

DDS Directives

The Department of Developmental Services has issued a new directive to resume regional center in-person monitoring visits to individuals residing in licensed residential facilities, Adult Family Home Agencies, Supported and Independent Living. This directive requires that regional centers begin conducting in-person visits no later than 30 days from the date of the directive (April 21, 2021). KRC has continued in-person visits during the pandemic when needed and we are working on a procedure to expand the process to meet the DDS timeframe.

Day Programs

Cherylle Mallinson, Director of Community Services, met with vendors today. Several proposals have been received from vendors to reopen day programs for in person services. KRC is reviewing these for proper safety protocols and procedures.

Early Start

KRC did not see as drastic of a decline as some regional centers in the State during the pandemic; our numbers for Early Start are now comparable with pre-pandemic 2020 data. KRC is continuing to communicate with community partners to promote Early Start. The DDS Public Service Announcement is on the KRC website and our social media sites.

Self-Determination Program

There are 74 individuals registered in our Self-Determination program. Due to various reasons, some pandemic-related, some clients are taking a pause. We anticipate these individuals will restart at a later date. Work is moving forward to remove barriers to transition. Orientation is being provided by Program Manager Andrea Conetto for individuals and families who are interested in transitioning to SDP



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when it opens to everyone in June. Celia and Andrea have been providing additional SDP training to Program Managers to increase their understanding and confidence with SDP.

Technology

Transitioning to the Cloud continues to progress and we are providing new IT hardware to staff. Work on a new KRC website is moving forward with a goal to be more user-friendly to clients, families and the community.

Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Volunteers Honored

Melissa Searson, Coordinator for the KRC Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program, honored our volunteers on Thursday, April 22 with a drive through ceremony where volunteers were presented with certificates and gift baskets. The event was a great success. These volunteers made a positive difference during the pandemic making masks and providing online classes for individuals. One volunteer has been in the program for 22 years.

Grass Roots

Thank you to everyone who participated in Grass Roots this year. Dr. Bains and Nickole Renee participated along with Celia Pinal and two of our Service Coordinators, Roberto Bravo and Shannon Thompson. Celia Pinal once again did a great job coordinating KRC's participation. Usually, this is held in person in Sacramento; this year it was a virtual event. We participated with 6 different legislators. Daniel Savino, Community Affairs/Community Relations Director at ARCA, executed a seamless virtual experience.

Question from Mr. Jones: Can COVID-19 Vaccines be mandated for KRC employees, clients, and vendor employees?

Answer from Dr. Gates: No, at this time we cannot mandate that anyone receive the vaccine.

Comment from President Bains: The COVID-19 Vaccine is an emergency vaccine and not FDA-approved yet. The need for the vaccine was urgent, therefore it was approved as an emergency vaccine. It takes several years for a vaccine to be approved by the FDA and that amount of time was not feasible. Since the vaccine is not approved by the FDA, it cannot be mandated. FDA-approved vaccines can be mandated, except for special circumstances, e.g., immunizations before starting school. President Bains stated that she would be more than happy to speak with or make a presentation to anyone at KRC and KRC clients about the benefits, pros and cons, and safety of the vaccine in the hope that it would encourage more people to feel safe about getting the vaccine.

VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Shawn White, Board Member

The VAC Committee did not meet for the month of April, so there is no report. The next meeting will be on May 25, 2021.



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STAFF REPORT

Cherylle Mallinson, Director of Community Services

KRC Board Policy C-9 Review

Ms. Mallinson presented KRC Board Policy C-9 for information and review. The KRC Board Policy C-9 is Attachment 4 and is attached to these meeting minutes. The purpose of bringing the policy to this meeting is for the Board of Directors to review language changes made to the policy regarding emergency funds. As it stands, the language in the policy is restrictive because the amount of funds allowed to be used for an emergency vendorization is \$120,000. This amount is outdated and would not be enough to enact an emergency vendorization. The change to the policy proposes that the amount be changed to \$500,000. This would be a reasonable amount for Community Services to proceed in an emergency situation instead of waiting to go through the RFP process. This would not affect the requirement of bringing any contracts of \$250,000 or greater to the Board of Directors for approval.

It was recommended to change the word "monies" in item 1.a. to "funds" and change the wording in item 3 to reflect all of the avenues of communication that KRC uses to make this information available to the public, instead of listing only the KRC website. The Board of Directors will review. Ms. Mallinson will bring the policy back for consideration at the May Board of Directors meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, President Jasmeet Bains, MD, adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Darlene Pankey



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