

Kern Regional Center (KRC)

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

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

September 28, 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
Nickole Renee Mensch, Vice President
Donald Tobias, Board Member
Mark Tolentino, Board Member
Martin Vasquez, Secretary
Simon Verdugo, Board Member
Ruth Watterson, Board Member
Shawn White, VAC

KRC BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

All Present

STAFF PRESENT:

Michi Gates, Executive Director
Kristine Khuu, Assistant Director of Client Services
Cherylle Mallinson, Director of Community Services (Outgoing)
Celia Pinal, Director of Client Services
Enrique Roman, Director of Community Services (Incoming)
Suzanne Toothman, Program Manager
Tom Wolfgram, CFO

ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cindy Cox, Advocate for Donald Tobias
Jacqueline Gaytan, DDS
Jill Green
John Noriega, Advocate for Simon Verdugo
Edwin Pineda, DDS
Mitzi Villalon

INTERPRETER:

Nidya Madrigal Navia

BACK-UP INTERPRETER

Marisol Resendiz

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Jasmeet Bains, President, called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. A quorum was present. The Board of Directors each introduced themselves to the attendees present.

APPROVAL/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

This agenda allows for Cherylle Mallinson, outgoing Director of Community Services at KRC, to present the Staff Report as the first item so that she can be present at another meeting directly after her presentation.

President Bains requested a motion to accept the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting dated September 28, 2021.

M/S/C (Mensch, Axume)

Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0

Motion Carried



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STAFF REPORT

Cherylle Mallinson, Director of Community Services

2022 Performance Contract/CRDP – Attachment 1

The 2022 Performance Contract was made available for review to the Board of Directors. This contract outlines the goals KRC plans to achieve in the coming year. Ms. Mallinson is asking that the Board members review the contract this month and make known any concerns, corrections, and additions they may have. The 2022 Performance Contract will be brought to the Board of Directors meeting on October 26, 2021, for final approval.

Brilliant Corners Contract – Attachment 2

Ms. Mallinson asked the Board members to review and approve the request to extend the contract with Brilliant Corners to search for an Enhanced Behavior Support Home (EBSH) and Rehab during the next year. A home was not found last year due to the housing shortage and, considering the recent escalation of real estate prices, an estimated \$750,000 will be needed to purchase an acceptable property. Therefore, Ms. Mallinson is asking for the Board of Directors' approval of an additional \$173,857.

President Banes asked for a motion to approve to extend the contract with Brilliant Corners to search for an EBSH and Rehab in 2021-22 with the present ACQ4 funds of \$200,000, the RH4 funds of \$332,956 and the additional funds of \$173,857 requested by KRC.

M/S/C (Axume/Gosselin)

Ayes = 9; Nays = 0; Abstained = 2 (Tolentino and White)

Motion Carried

RFP Board Policy C-9 – Attachment 3

Ms. Mallinson reviewed that under this policy, if KRC enters a new contract with a vendor without complying with the RFP process, the billings from the applicant during the first 12 months of service must be less than \$120,000. For KRC to be able to meet reasonable billing services, Ms. Mallinson is requesting that the \$120,000 maximum be changed to \$500,000. Moving this threshold higher will allow for quicker processing of unsolicited vendorization requests and make securing emergency vendorization more efficient. Other minor revisions were incorporated into the policy and can be seen on Attachment 3 included with these minutes.

President Banes asked for a motion to approve the changes to RFP Board Policy C-9 changing the wording to read, *"... if KRC desires to enter into a contract with a new applicant who has submitted an unsolicited proposal for services, KRC may do so without complying with the RFP process, as long as KRC determines that the billings from such applicant during the first 12 months of service are expected to be less than \$500,000"* along with the other noted minor revisions on Attachment 3.

M/S/C (Gosselin/Mensch)

Ayes = 9; Nays = 0; Abstained = 2 (Tolentino and White)

Motion Carried



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REVIEW OF REVISED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 27, 2021 -- Attachment 4

All Board Members have reviewed the revisions made to the minutes of the meeting held on April 27, 2021, specifically, the revisions located on page 4.

President Bains requested a motion to accept the revised April 27, 2021, meeting minutes.

M/S/C: (Axume/White)

Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0

Motion Carried

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MAY 25, 2021 – Attachment 5

All Board Members have reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on May 25, 2021.

President Bains requested a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held on May 25, 2021.

M/S/C: (White/Watterson)

Ayes = 11; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0

Motion Carried

EXTEND BOARD MEMBERS TERMS FOR 3 YEARS

Board memberships for Term 1 has ended for Dr. Jasmeet Bains, Ryan Jones, and Mark Tolentino effective August 28, 2021. There was no meeting held in August, so this is being addressed this month.

President Bains asked for a motion to renew 3-year terms for Jasmeet Bains, Ryan Jones, and Mark Tolentino.

M/S/C: (Axume/Gosselin)

Ayes = 8; Nays = 0; Abstained: 3 (Bains, Jones, Tolentino)

Motion Carried

Term 2 for Dr. Bains, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Tolentino will be three years to August 28, 2024.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input was presented at this meeting.

KRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT REPORT

Dr. Jasmeet Bains, President

- President Bains thanked everyone for their continued hard work.
- The number of COVID-19 cases in Kern County continues to climb. Dr. Bains is hoping that numbers will go down in the coming months through increased vaccination and following protocols.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tom Wolfgram, Chief Financial Officer

Purchase of Services Report as of July 31, 2021 - Attachment 6

- Total spent on services to clients: \$15,532,323. Happy to report that an increase of \$2 Million was spent on services to clients than at this time last year.



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Operations Report as of July 31, 2021 -- Attachment 7

- Proposed Operations Expenditures for the Fiscal Year: \$23,041,786
(Salaries & Benefits = \$18,348,326; Operating Expenses=\$4,693,460)
*Includes Foster Grandparent & Senior Companion Programs
- July Expenditures: \$1,747,148
- The Fiscal Year Ending 2020-21 Report was sent to the Board in the August meeting packet which was not held due to technical problems. KRC ended the year in the black.
- Finance will be in 3 audits in the next 3 months. The independent audit results will be available at the beginning of 2022.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Michi Gates

COVID-19

- The infection rate is going up; we seem to be in our third surge. There have been 553 diagnosed cases at KRC since March 2020. There were 16 new cases reported this week; however, 14 of those cases live with family which seems to indicate that vaccines in care facilities are having a positive impact.

DDS Directive

- The big news that came at 5:00 PM today was the Public Health Order (PHO) requiring COVID-19 full vaccination for all workers who work in adult and senior care facilities, in home direct care services, waiver personal care services, hospice services, and all regional center employees. The exception is family caregivers who lives in the same household. Medical and Religious waivers are considered, but any employee with one of these waivers must be tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis. This directive will be shared with Kern Regional Center's vendors and posted on the KRC website. Vaccines must be completed by November 30. Dr. Gates will send the DDS Directive to Board members.
- Concerns about Kern County's vaccination rate were discussed and how the rate of employees who decline the vaccine will affect client services negatively. ARCA has been in discussion with DDS over the past weeks on how to shore up staff during this time. DDS realizes that vendors are struggling with competing wages and overtime pay. Dr. Gates will report back to vendors and the board any strategies that come up during these discussions. The Board will meet on Thursday to draft a letter to DDS expressing their concerns of how clients may be affected considering Kern County's low vaccination rate and unique culture.

Budget and Legislation Updates

- KRC is starting to realize the benefits of some of the legislation passed this year. An Emergency Services Coordinator, Joe Grounds, has been hired. The positions of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Coordinator and Participant Directed Services Specialist have been posted.
- The initiatives that were implemented this year require stakeholder input, so there are various work groups that have been formed to gather information from stakeholders and provide input and feedback to DDS. Dr. Gates is on some of these work groups and Nickole Renee Mensch is on one as well. These groups will be providing input to DDS so that they have the needed information to implement these initiatives.
- To address disparity, we are hoping to soon post service coordinator positions to work with our Non-English/Non-White population with no POS, or with a POS of less than \$2,000. These



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service coordinator positions will have a ratio of 1 service coordinator to 40 clients. We are also recruiting for service coordinators to work with our Provisional Eligibility populations. Unfortunately, no funds were provided for the increased clinical assessments that are required and, hopefully, this will be corrected in some manner and resolved soon.

- We are in the process of hiring additional service coordinators to fill vacancies and to plan for continued growth along with program managers to achieve a good ratio of program managers to service coordinators

Staff Announcements

- Cherylle Mallinson, has moved to the Southern California Los Angeles Regional Center as Director of Community Services and we all wish her well. We will miss her, but we anticipate interacting with her frequently as she is still part of the regional center system. To fill this vacancy at KRC, we welcome Enrique Roman as our new Director of Community Services. Enrique brings many years of valuable experience and talents to KRC, previously working at Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center under exceptional leadership. We are very glad to have Enrique as part of the KRC team.
- KRC has had 2 internal promotions. Jennifer Rimer, Program Manager in Transition Services has been promoted to Assistant Director in Client Services and Ana Leheny, Federal Programs Program Manager has also been promoted to Assistant Director of Client Services. Ana Leheny will continue to provide oversight for Federal Programs in her new position.
- KRC's new website is a success. Tim Munsey, Technology Communication Officer, and Dr. Gates work on it daily, adding new information and making improvements as needed. Our social media presence is growing, and we are getting favorable responses and helpful feedback from the community.
- As Mr. Wolfgram alluded, we have several audits through the end of the year. The DDS Biennial Audit begins October 4, followed by the Federal Program Review on November 1, and the Family Home Agency Review on December 1.

Board Announcements

- NickoleRenee Mensch will be reaching her 7-year maximum as a Board Member next month. One year must pass before she can be a Board Member again – and we hope she will be back! In the meantime, the Board needs to be thinking about filling the vacated positions of Vice President and ARCA Delegate. NickoleRenee will be presenting our Performance Contract results next month.
- The Board needs to complete Language and Cultural Competency training before the end of the year. Part 1 of this training will take place at 5:30 PM on October 26 and Part 2 will take place at 5:30 PM on November 30, both directly preceding our regular Board Meeting for those dates.

VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Shawn White, Vendor Advisory Committee Representative

The VAC Committee met this morning, September 28.

- Dr. Gates gave the Executive Directors Report reflecting the same information presented at this meeting, including the introduction of Enrique Roman as the new Director of Community Services.
- Celia Pinal presented the Case Management Report, providing a synopsis of staffing issues and planning to address possible staff shortages.
- The Law Enforcement Subcommittee presented information on AB118. This bill is a great first step to improve the relationship between law enforcement and people with developmental disabilities



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among other groups. The bill establishes a pilot program enabling alternative emergency responders to these groups using community-based organizations that have more experience and insight when it comes to these special populations. A letter to Governor Newsom urging him to sign AB118 was presented. Mr. White distributed to all members of the VAC Committee and is happy to forward to the KRC Board of Directors. Also announced was a training called, "Law Enforcement and Autism" on Tuesday, October 12, 10:00 – 1:30. This is a virtual training, and it is free, but registration is required. Shawn can send information to Board members on request.

- The Hire Committee is holding a awards ceremony for employers and employees on October 28, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM.
- Since there will be no vendor luncheon in November, we will send out invitations for a meeting on November 16. Invites will be sent out accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, President Jasmeet Bains, MD, adjourned the meeting at 7:57 PM.

The next public meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Darlene Pankey



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