



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda March 22, 2022

General Business		
1. Call to Order and Introductions		Dr. Jasmeet Bains
2. Approval/Additions to Agenda	Action	Dr. Jasmeet Bains
3. Review and approve minutes of meeting held February 22, 2022 (Attachment 1)	Action	Dr. Jasmeet Bains
4. Consideration of Board Applicant for Appointment to KRC Board of Directors– Milan Dinsmore	Action	Dr. Jasmeet Bains
5. Client Employment Presentation	Info	Jamie Patino
6. Board Meeting Monthly Topic Ideas	Info	Kevin Gosselin
7. Public Input	Info.	Dr. Jasmeet Bains
Reports		
8. Board President Report	Info.	Dr. Jasmeet Bains
9. ARCA Directors Meeting Report	Info.	Tracey Mensch
10. Financial Report a. POS Report for January 2022 (Attachment 2) b. Operations Report for January 2022 (Attachment 3)	Info.	Tom Wolfgram
11. Executive Director’s Report	Info.	Dr. Michi Gates
12. VAC Report	Info.	Shawn White
13. Staff Report a. Employment First Policy (Attachment 4) b. Start-Up Contract for MARS Group for the Johnson Home c. Vendor contract with Endless Possibilities for the Vargas Home	Action Action Info.	Enrique Roman

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82668273721?pwd=dExTRnNPdE1OQXNkNGRtZGxrNlZ4Zz09>

Webinar ID: 826 6827 3721, Passcode: 884500

Dial-In Number: 1-669-219-2599

Next Board Meeting:

April 26, 2022, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

**Kern Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting**

February 22, 2022

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

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

MINUTES

KRC BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Oscar Axume, Board Member
Kevin Gosselin, Vice President
Carlos Isidoro, Board Member
Ryan Jones, Board Member
Tracey Mensch, Board Member
Donald Tobias, Board Member
Mark Tolentino, Board Member
Martin Vasquez, Secretary
Ruth Watterson, Board Member
Shawn White, VAC Representative

KRC BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jasmeet Bains, MD, President
Simon Verdugo, Board Member

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT:

Cindy Cox, Advocate for Donald Tobias
Jill Green
Edwin Pineda, DDS
Mitzi Villalon
Call-In User

INTERPRETER: Nidya Madrigal Navia

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Jasmeet Bains, MD, was unable to attend the meeting so Kevin Gosselin, Vice President, chaired the meeting in her absence. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

All board members had received the agenda ahead of the meeting for review. Vice President Gosselin presented the agenda for approval.

M/S/C (White, Axume)

Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0

Motion Carried



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REVIEW OF MINUTES

All members of the Board of Directors had received the minutes of the January meeting in advance for review. A motion was requested to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on January 25, 2022.

M/S/C (Mensch, Roman)

Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; Abstained = 0

Motion Carried

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input was presented at this meeting.

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

Vice President, Kevin Gosselin

Although President Bains is not at this meeting, Mr. Gosselin desired to speak about the discussions taking place with Dr. Gates about returning to in-person board meetings. A possible target date to resume in-person meetings is August 2022. Zoom will also be used in conjunction with the in-person meetings. August was chosen as there is no meeting in July and it will allow for planning time and, hopefully, the pandemic will have eased. Mr. Gosselin invited any questions or feedback about our return to in-person meetings be sent via e-mail to either Dr. Michi Gates or Vice-President Kevin Gosselin.

Mr. Gosselin and Dr. Gates asked board members for input on required Board Training sessions for this year. The months of March and May were chosen to have the education sessions occur from 5:30 – 6:00 PM. In June we will have an extended Education session. There were no objections from Board Members. Dr. Gates will be in contact with our attorney, Matt Bahr to confirm the dates and schedule.

Grass Roots Day is coming up on April 5. Kevin asked if a Board Member would like to volunteer to participate. There will be a training on April 4 with the event being on April 5. Tracey Mensch volunteered. Kevin asked if anyone else would like to participate, to please let him know.

MONTHLY EDUCATION DISCUSSION

Vice President, Kevin Gosselin

Vice President Gosselin brought up the idea of having a monthly education topic added to the Board Agenda as a permanent item. Mr. Gosselin has sent an e-mail this past month to all the board members asking for thoughts on the matter. The monthly topic would be a brief time of sharing information that would be of interest to the community, e.g., a component of Early Start, how does someone get started at KRC, and client transition to employment would be great topics. Speakers from KRC staff, ARCA, DDS, and any other applicable expert can be utilized to give information and answer questions. It would benefit the Board and the Community. Topics can qualify as part of Board Training.



The Board thought this would be a great way to engage with our community and plans will be made to add this to the agenda, possibly for next month.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tom Wolfgram, CFO

Purchase of Services Report as of December 31, 2021

Total spent on services to clients in December: \$14,726,597

There are approximately \$1.5 Million in unbilled services that have been provided, so taking this into account, we have provided close to \$100 Million in services YTD.

Operations Report as of December 31, 2021

Total expenses in December: \$2,491,857

You will see a prediction of an over-expenditure at the end of the year. If you look at December 31, you will see that the salary and benefits are up \$500,000. This is due to a lump-sum payment to the Defined Benefits Retirement program required by IRS rules. We should be showing under-expenditure again in a few months. On the Operations side, you will see an over-expenditure of \$241,000; \$100,000 over the average for the month. This was due to a maintenance project that we had to complete. We will also have some adjusted allocation from the State of California that we have not included in our expenditures, so our numbers will change, but we will not be overspent by the end of the year.

Mr. Axume asked about the maintenance expenditure and Mr. Wolfgram reported that the maintenance costs were for roof repairs.

The Operations Report and the Purchases of Services Report are filed as an attachment with these minutes as a matter of record.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Michi Gates

COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 numbers are down. There was a rapid increase from December through January, but it is rapidly declining now. Three weeks ago, there were 99 new client cases and 49 new provider cases over a 1-week period; this past week we had 41 new client cases and 9 new provider cases. We are still not down to the low numbers before this previous surge, but it is improving quickly.

Rate Increases

KRC is one of three of the 21 Regional Centers that were able to provide 100% of data to DDS. Dr. Gates expressed thanks to Enrique Roman, Director of Community Services, and his team for working so hard to get this data submitted. ARCA has joined with the Lanterman coalition to advocate for the Legislature and the Governor to speed up the rate increases. They are currently projected to be extended gradually over a 3-year period through 2025, but since the State's budget is healthy, the great need for providers and the difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff, it would be very beneficial to speed up the process for rate increases.



Participant Choice Positions

Filling these positions has been slow across the State regional centers. It has been difficult at KRC as well, but we have successfully filled 2 of the positions. Recently, DDS approved a third position to be designated to assist with back-end processes on the Accounting side to assist with these programs. We are pleased to be given this extra position and will be posting it soon.

Provisional Eligibility

KRC has been slow in assessing children for this program. This is due to the struggle of not having enough clinical resources to do assessments. Many regional centers struggle, due to the pay we can offer, with being able to hire psychologists for this effort. Our long time psychologist retired in October of last year. We have hired two psychologists through a contracting agency, but the process is slower than our usual because of their learning curve. Another psychologist has been offered by the contracting agency plus there is another psychologist that we will bring on board who is waiting for his licensure in California. We hope to continue to be able to increase the number of assessments that we do in the very near future.

Grants

DDS just released the outcome of Service Access and Equity Grant applications. KRCs Service Access and Equity Grant ended, so we applied for a new grant. Fortunately, we were awarded the grant funds to support readiness for future employment for Hispanic, Latino, American Indian, African American, and individuals whose first language is American Sign Language. There were also several grants approved for community-based organizations in our area, so several grants will be benefiting KRC's community. Congratulations to Karina Proffer, Cultural Disparity Specialist, for submitting these grants and obtaining these funds for Kern Regional Center.

Kern, Far Northern, and San Diego Regional Centers are also moving forward to complete a contract with the California Tribal Families Coalition. This will utilize Federal Grants awarded to DDS and the funds will be used to increase outreach and engagement with our Native American population, with a focus on Early Start Services.

Governor's Budget Proposals

The Governor released his budget proposal last month. The Senate Sub 3 and Assembly Sub 1 budget subcommittees on Health and Human Services met this month. More to come. We expect there to be changes to the Governor's January proposals, but we are fairly certain that some things will survive the budget process; e.g., proposed 1:40 caseloads for children ages 0-5.

Staffing

We are hiring SCs monthly to ensure vacancies are filled and that we address growth needs. We would like to get a head start on staffing to meet caseload ratios with new funding that will be provided July 1, 2022. ARCA and SEIU are advocating adjustments to the core staffing formula. The current formula is at the root of the short staffing at regional centers. The underfunding of operations at regional centers keeps our case load ratios high because the salaries for positions have not been updated for decades. Regional Centers get funded for about half the cost of the positions that we have and then we must strategize how to fund the remaining needed positions somewhere within the money that DDS allocates to us. ARCA and SEIU are advocating for adjustments to the core staffing formula so that we don't continue to end up with a shortage of service coordinators and high caseloads that will just come back again, despite the additional funds being provided on July 1.



Compliance Issues

KRC is working on its response to the preliminary audit findings from the DDS Biannual Audit that occurred at the end of last year. We have not received, and don't expect to receive for a while, the draft audit report from DDS; however, we want to be proactive by giving DDS feedback as quickly as possible on the issues that were identified in conversations and meetings with them while the audit was taking place. Preferably, our response will be completed and sent to them before they release their draft audit.

Question from Vice-President Gosselin: Mr. Gosselin asked about the provisional eligibility and the difficulty in hiring psychologists for assessments. He asked if this was part of the Core Ratio formula being looked at and if funds for this position might become available after July 1. Also, what can we do to motivate applicants?

Answer from Dr. Gates: It is very much linked to the shortage of operations funding. Psychologists can easily make more money working for other entities, so when someone comes to us, it is usually because they have a passion for working with individuals with developmental disabilities. We are hoping that more funds will be available for this position on July 1; however, one of the things that happened with this current year budget was that regional centers didn't receive any additional funding to cover the increased clinical need for provisional eligibility. This was, possibly, an oversight. If we could get an increase in funds, even to core level, that would certainly help the situation. In the meantime, we are doing our best to find the funds to hire as many psychologists as we can because we are not where we would like to be in terms of timely assessments.

VENDOR ADVISOR COMMITTEE REPORT

Shawn White, VAC Representative

The VAC Committee did not meet for the month of February. Our next meeting will be held on March 22, 2022, at 10:00 AM and Mr. White will report at the March Board of Directors meeting.

STAFF REPORT

There was nothing to present from KRC Staff at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Gosselin adjourned the meeting at 6:53 PM.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Pankey



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KERN REGIONAL CENTER
PURCHASE OF SERVICE
FY 2021-2022
AS OF JANUARY 31, 2022

ATTACHMENT 2

PURCHASE OF SERVICES	July 2021	August 2021	September 2021	October 2021	November 2021	December 2021	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	2021-2022 Total
OUT-OF-HOME													
Community Care Facility	4,265,273	4,341,394	4,325,433	4,370,621	4,352,013	4,370,563	4,408,030						30,433,327
ICF/ISNF Facility	73,861	76,834	76,317	59,560	66,926	68,166	51,752						472,416
TOTAL OUT OF HOME	4,339,134	4,418,228	4,401,750	4,429,181	4,418,939	4,438,729	4,459,782						30,905,743
DAY PROGRAMS													
Day Care	52,330	53,788	49,991	52,979	51,723	51,936	48,388						361,135
Day Training	2,490,458	2,512,143	2,502,327	2,465,926	2,413,231	2,361,742	2,217,379						16,963,206
Supported Employment	395,336	434,188	355,224	383,766	345,993	351,505	319,791						2,585,803
Work Activity Program	5,990	6,152	6,364	5,375	5,187	4,666	4,866						38,800
SUBTOTAL DAY PROGRAMS	2,944,114	3,006,271	2,913,506	2,908,046	2,816,134	2,770,049	2,590,424						19,946,944
OTHER SERVICES													
Non Medical Services Prof	357,862	395,130	388,695	414,810	424,905	410,931	269,529						2,661,862
Non Medical Services Prog	1,379,194	1,391,464	1,339,858	1,335,390	1,227,145	1,216,684	1,130,641						9,020,376
Home Care Services Prog	23,797	18,447	15,263	14,242	14,577	13,956	11,165						111,447
Transportation	446,147	448,710	455,988	465,061	463,728	462,296	461,206						3,203,136
Transportation Contracts	602,911	597,481	593,699	571,961	553,821	559,359	566,872						4,015,004
Prevention Services	567,265	560,672	577,755	582,139	568,404	561,119	195,478						3,632,832
Other Authorized Services	3,778,346	3,748,304	3,774,316	3,785,344	3,624,522	3,474,190	3,374,735						25,559,757
P & I Expense	9,493	9,304	8,630	9,650	9,855	9,579	11,083						67,594
Hospital Care													-
Medical Equipment	9,085	6,899	44,383	1,587	3,621	10,102	2,092						71,779
Medical Services Prof	173,627	192,644	174,644	192,032	190,124	191,224	134,919						1,249,214
Medical Services Prog	44,662	50,597	45,123	44,546	47,426	47,032	42,963						322,349
Respite Care - In Home	1,817,099	1,803,359	1,796,461	1,821,222	1,781,159	1,796,718	1,057,498						11,873,516
Respite Care - Out of Home	31,379	19,901	16,653	7,238	5,555	7,054	4,409						92,189
TOTAL OTHER SERVICES	9,240,867	9,262,912	9,201,478	9,245,222	8,914,942	8,759,244	7,262,390						61,887,055
TOTAL PURCHASE OF SERVICES	16,524,115	16,687,411	16,517,134	16,582,449	16,150,015	15,868,022	14,312,596						112,741,742
COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PLAN													
Community Care Facility	218,621	218,783	218,971	215,971	215,359	218,460	201,164						1,504,979
ICF/ISNF Facility													-
Day Training													-
Non-Medical Services			425	1,434									1,859
Non-Medical Services-Programs													-
Transportation		86											-
Other Authorized Services	1,425	1,813	1,901	1,489	2,151	1,152	1,351						11,282
Other Services													-
Medical Care - Prof													-
Community Care Facility	9,052	9,052	9,052	9,052	9,052	9,052	8,920						63,232
TOTAL COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PL	229,098	229,572	230,161	227,946	226,562	226,664	211,435						1,561,352
TOTAL PURCHASE OF SERVICE	16,753,213	16,916,983	16,747,295	16,810,395	16,376,577	16,194,686	14,524,031						114,323,094

KERN REGIONAL CENTER
 OPERATIONS
 FY 2021/2022
 AS OF JANUARY 31, 2022

ATTACHMENT 3

	PROPOSED EXPENDITURE	YEAR TO DATE	07/31/21	08/31/21	09/30/21	10/31/21	11/30/21	12/31/21	01/31/22	02/28/22	03/31/22	04/30/22	05/31/22	06/30/22	TOTAL	COVER/UNDER
OPERATIONS																
Salaries & Benefits	18,193,197	10,496,075	1,408,716	1,321,905	1,856,452	1,487,745	1,351,822	1,869,350	908,941						10,224,933	271,142
Operating Expenses	4,410,000	2,572,500	322,819	314,808	360,653	495,622	377,784	575,089	366,813						2,893,789	(261,289)
SUBTOTAL OPS	22,603,197	13,068,575	1,731,537	1,636,713	2,217,305	1,983,367	1,729,607	2,464,436	1,295,755						13,058,722	9,854
COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PLAN																
Salaries & Benefits	1,081,257	623,802							380,755						380,755	243,047
Operating Expenses	42,200	24,617							242,461						242,461	(217,844)
SUBTOTAL CPP	1,123,457	648,419							623,215						623,215	25,203
FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM																
Salaries & Benefits	69,809	40,274	3,371	3,427	4,713	3,407	3,464	3,427	3,334						25,144	15,131
Operating Expenses	127,864	74,587	4,032	7,393	10,371	2,916	140	13,565	3,556						41,975	32,612
SUBTOTAL FGP	197,673	114,862	7,404	10,820	15,085	6,323	3,604	16,992	6,892						67,119	47,743
SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM																
Salaries & Benefits	85,320	49,223	4,120	4,188	5,761	4,164	4,234	4,188	4,075						30,731	16,482
Operating Expenses	155,596	90,764	4,087	4,200	3,738	1,823	248	6,238	3,077						23,411	67,353
SUBTOTAL SCP	240,916	139,987	8,207	8,388	9,498	5,987	4,482	10,426	7,153						54,142	85,846
TOTAL OPERATIONS	24,185,243	13,971,843	1,747,146	1,655,921	2,241,888	1,995,677	1,737,692	2,491,857	1,933,015						13,803,197	168,646

KERN REGIONAL CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Policy

TITLE: EMPLOYMENT FIRST

POLICY NO. _____

DATE SUBMITTED: 02/23/2021

PURPOSE: To be consistent with the Lanterman Act, California Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 4629(c) and Section 4869(a) Employment First Policy.

POLICY: This Employment First Policy addresses that opportunities for integrated, competitive employment will be given the highest priority for working age individuals with developmental disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities.

Competitive employment means work in the competitive labor market that is performed on a full-time and part-time basis in an integrated setting and for which an individual is compensated at or above the minimum wage, but not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals who are disabled.

Kern Regional Center will measure progress, and report outcomes, in implementing the Employment First Policy, which may include, but are not limited to measures addressing the following:

1. Establishment of local partnership agreements between regional centers, local educational agencies, and the Department of Rehabilitation districts [WIC 4629(c)(1)(A)(v)(I)].
2. Provide information to consumers regarding the Employment First Policy, opportunities for employment, and available supports to achieve integrated competitive employment by [WIC 4629(c)(1)(A)(v)(II)]:
 - a. Providing information, in an understandable form, to the community about regional center services and supports, including budget information and baseline data.
 - b. Conducting a public meeting where participants can provide input on employment performance objectives and using focus groups or surveys to collect information from the community.
 - c. Circulating a draft of the employment performance objectives to the community for input prior to presentation at a regional center board meeting.
 - d. Presentation for board input before adoption of the objectives.
3. Integrated competitive employment to be the first option considered by planning teams for working age individuals, but individuals may choose goals other than integrated competitive employment [WIC 4689(a)(3)].
4. Consideration of postsecondary education, technical or vocational training, and internship programs may be considered as a means to achieve integrated competitive employment or career advancement [WIC 4689(a)(4)].

Approval Date: MM/DD/YYYY

Revision Date: