

Minutes
ARCA Board of Directors
June 21, 2024
Westing Sacramento and via Webinar

Board of Directors Members Present:

Lori Banales, Kelly Pennington, ACRC
Ed Araim, Randy Tellalian, CVRC
Melinda Sullivan, Larry DeBoer, FDLRC
Melissa Gruhler, FNRC
Eric Zigman, Edith Arias, GGRC
Patrick Ruppe, Joe Czarske, HRC
Joshua Souder, IRC
Michi Gates, Tracey Mensch, KRC
Gabriel Rogin, NBRC
Lety Garcia, Cristina Preuss, NLACRC
Kim Smalley, Mike Sawyer, RCRC
Larry Landauer, Sandy Martin, RCOC
Lisa Kleinbub, Frank Paré, RCEB
Javier Zaldivar, Lisa Lopez, SARC
Mark Klaus, Terri Colachis, SDRC
Jesse Weller, Julie Chetney, SG/PRC
Dexter Henderson, Jesus Murillo, SCLARC
Omar Noorzad, Mark Wolfe, TCRC
Leinani Walter, Alicia Schott, VMRC
Jane Borochoff, Vanda Yung, WRC

Board of Directors Members Absent:

Gloria Wong, ELARC
Dan Strauss, FNRC
Lavinia Johnson, IRC
Rosemarie Pérez, NBRC

ARCA Advisory Representatives

Andreas Economopoulos, FNRC, Chair, ARCA Client Advisory Committee
Don Meza, IRC, Co-Chair, Directors of Client Services

Aaron Olson, CVRC, Co-Chair, Community Services Directors

Guests Present:

Nancy Bargmann, Brian Winfield, Carla Castañeda, DDS
Matt Bahr, Dana Collins, Aaron Olson, CVRC
Adrian Hugo, FNRC
Cesar Garcia, SCLARC
Ramon Hooper, TCRC
Cristine Couch, VMRC
Cindy Freshour, We Care A Lot Foundation
Anh Nguyen
Scott Rice
Robyn Souder
Ami Sullivan
Manaho Takaichi

ARCA Staff Present:

Amy Westling, Darline Dupree, Lauren Ettensohn, Sidney Jackson, Daniel Savino, Vivian Umenei, Sally Williams, Rick Rollens

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by President Mark Wolfe.

Executive Session

M/S/C To enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

During Executive Session, members discussed personnel issues

M/S/C: To leave Executive Session

Introductions

Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of Agenda

The Board of Directors agenda was presented.

M/S/C: To approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 22, 2024, Board of Directors meeting were presented for approval.

M/S/C: To approve the minutes.

Public Comment

None.

President's Report

Mark Wolfe expressed his deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve as President the past two years, and thanked Amy Westling in particular for her support and leadership.

Advocating for Housing Locally and Statewide

Andreas Economopoulos shared clips from a webinar the ARCA Client Advisory Committee sponsored and hosted, titled "Affordable Housing: We Need More!" The webinar was led entirely by self-advocates, and covered basics of affordable housing, advocacy, and opportunities to support this work.

DDS Report

Nancy Bargmann reported that, as relates to the Master Plan for Developmental Services' workgroups, outreach to a diverse cross-section of the entire developmental disabilities community is ongoing. The five workgroups will focus on different goal-oriented topics. They are, broadly, person-centered systems, cross-system services, quality workforce, system outcomes, and a lifelong service entitlement. Applications are strongly encouraged. Separately, she expressed her deep appreciation of the work of the Partners In Policymaking program, and Tony Anderson's work in supporting it.

Noting the current average age of enrollment for Early Start is 21 months, Director Bargmann reported that the Department will remain focused on the implementation of new policies and statutory authority to improve and streamline access, both through procedural elements and staffing needs.

Work is ongoing to create a standardized IPP template, with a target beta release date of June 30th, with systemwide implementation planned for January 1st, 2025. Supporting materials for families, individuals, and service coordinators are also being developed. Videos, in the vein of the HCBS Final Rule videos produced by Tri-Counties Regional Center, will also be developed as a DDS/TCRC collaboration.

Carla Castañeda advised that a deal on the final issues in the Budget will likely be reached in the next few days. A Budget hearing is set for June 26th.

Brian Winfield provided an update on the remaining transitions for individuals currently in sub-minimum wage. As of April 2024, there are ~1,500 people still in such employment settings. The Coordinated Career Pathways program is now available for use to support their transition.

Social recreation grants have been completed, and the Department is analyzing survey and outcomes data, which will be shared once completed. It is noted that ~100 vendorizations followed the initial grant support for providers.

71% of provider settings have been reviewed for HCBS compliance, with 61% deemed compliant. By the end of August, reviews must be 100% complete, with 100% compliance by the end of September.

The DSP Internship Program has placed 19 individuals, with two interns converting to full-time employment. Expansions of this program are planned for the near future. The DSP Training Stipend has seen over 72,000 participants, with over 61,000 completing two courses.

The Department is finalizing the initial four-center pilot of the bilingual pay program for DSPs and will be expanding it statewide soon.

Treasurer's Report – Omar Noorzad

ARCA's financials remain in good standing, with actual expenditures expected to be very closely aligned with original projections. Some consultant and legal counsel expenses were noted, as was support for Partners In Advocacy, which will be backfilled by a grant.

M/S/C: To accept the financial statements for May 2024

ARCA Executive Director's Report – Amy Westling

Amy Westling thanked the Board for their ongoing willingness to give time to support the work of the Association, and also gave particular thanks to Mark Wolfe for his service.

ARCA Annual Report

The annual report, describing major accomplishments aligned with both ARCA's three-year strategic plan and annual strategic priorities, was reviewed. Staff highlighted individual items in their portfolios, including websites' transparency button (Daniel Savino), regional centers transitions during intake (Sidney Jackson), ongoing housing needs data gathering (Darline Dupree), an overhaul of caseload ratio reporting (Vivian Umenei), staff transitions (Sally Williams), and the Partners In Policymaking program (Tony Anderson).

M/S/C To accept the annual report

2025 ARCA Proposed Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule for the 2025 calendar year was presented. The Executive Committee is recommending it be modified to move the June meetings to the 26th and 27th to avoid a holiday conflict.

M/S/C To approve the meeting schedule as amended

FY 2024-25 ARCA Office Holiday Schedule

The holiday schedule was reviewed; it aligns with the current year's schedule.

M/S/C To approve the holiday schedule

FY 2024-25 Budget Update

A final Budget agreement is still pending. Advocacy efforts this year were notably cohesive, which has historically helped increase the likelihood of success.

Master Plan for Developmental Services Update

Board members are strongly encouraged to consider either participating in the workgroups or providing public testimony sharing their perspectives on the service system.

Strategic Priorities for FY 2024-25

The strategic priorities for the coming fiscal year were reviewed, inclusive of two changes requested by the Board Delegates Group and recommended for approval by the Executive Committee.

M/S/C To approve the FY2024-25 Strategic Priorities

Legislative Report – Eric Zigman

Federal Updates

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has recertified Laguna Honda Hospital for federal funding via Medicare; Medicaid funding had been previously restored. Separately, no major legislative efforts are expected at the federal level. However, a major Supreme Court ruling, on the authority of federal agencies to draft regulations, is pending and could have significant and far-reaching impacts. Lastly, there is growing opposition in the Senate to the recent Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting Final Rule. Specifically, concerns have been raised about the ability of facilities to meet these minimum staffing requirements. No immediate changes are expected.

Legislative Updates

The two-year legislative session is drawing to a close. During the July summer recess, there will be opportunities to connect with legislators at the local level.

Multiple bills have been recommended for support. They are:

- a. [AB 1893](#) (Wicks) – Housing Development
- b. [AB 1906](#) (Gipson, W+++) – Disability Terminology
- c. [AB 2237](#) (Aguiar-Curry, W+++) – Foster Youth Transfer
- d. [AB 2498](#) (Zbur) – CA Housing Security Program
- e. [AB 2689](#) (Bains) - Alzheimer's Research Fund
- f. [AB 2773](#) (Kalra) – Abuse Claims
- g. [SB 980](#) (Wahab) – Medi-Cal Dental Benefit
- h. [SB 1067](#) (Smallwood-Cuevas) – Expedited Licensure
- i. [SB 1106](#) (S. Rubio) – Conservatorship
- j. [SB 1193](#) (Menjivar) – Lead in Aviation Fuel

M/S/C To recommend support of the aforementioned bills

[AB 2002](#) (Sanchez), the Blue Envelope Program, failed to pass the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Work is ongoing to plan for long-term options to implement this program. [SB 1281](#) (Menjivar), on the Self-Determination Program, has been amended to address ARCA's concerns with unintended consequences related to access. With those amendments, the Association has been able to take a support position on the bill and has communicated such to the Legislature and sponsors.

Suspense Outcomes

Committee/Task Force Reports

Nominating & Bylaws Committee – *Melissa Gruhler*

The slate of officers for 2024-25 was presented as follows:

Terri Colachis, SDRC – President
Randy Tellalian, CVRC – Vice President
Julie Chetney, SG/PRC – Secretary
Omar Noorzad, TCRC – Treasurer
Gloria Wong, ELARC – Parliamentarian
M/S/C To approve the officers for 2024-25.

Executive Committee – *Mark Wolfe*

No report; all major items were also discussed at the Board meeting.

Board Delegates Group – *Tracey Mensch*

The Group met yesterday and discussed individual roles and responsibilities, the Partners In Policymaking program, strategic planning and priorities, the Academy, and the Budget. The Group has also voted Kelly Pennington in as Chair of the Group. Tracey Mensch will serve as Vice Chair.

Directors Group – *Gabriel Rogin*

The Group met yesterday. They have approved exploring a partnership with El Arc, discussed supports for people served during disputes about school services, and heard from DDS.

Finance Committee – *Lisa Kleinbub*

The Committee met last Friday, and discussed some of the elements of the Budget, Language Access Cultural Competency funding, and cashflow. The Committee expects the August meeting to be substantive, including IT matters and the final Budget.

Client Advisory Committee – *Andreas Economopoulos*

The Committee will be electing new officers soon, and will be meeting in person next month.

Contract Negotiating Committee – *Larry Landauer*

The Committee has not met.

Standards & Practices Committee – *Mark Klaus*

The Committee will be meeting next Tuesday.

Strategic Planning Committee – Melinda Sullivan & Omar Noorzad

No additional items to report beyond the approved strategic priorities.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Information Sharing

Daniel Savino has been appointed Assistant Director of Legislation at the Department of State Hospitals. He thanked the ARCA staff and Board members for the opportunity to serve the community for the past 13 years.

Andreas Economopolous reports that People First has recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting will be held on August 16, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Irvine.