

Minutes
ARCA Board of Directors
October 18, 2024
Hyatt Regency Mission Bay and via Webinar

Board of Directors Members Present:

Lori Banales, Kelly Pennington, ACRC
Ed Araim, Randy Tellalian, CVRC
Larry DeBoer, FDLRC
Gloria Wong, ELARC
Melissa Gruhler, Dan Strauss, FNRC
Eric Zigman, Edith Arias, GGRC
Patrick Ruppe, HRC
Lavinia Johnson, Joshua Souder, IRC
Enrique Roman, Tracey Mensch, KRC
Gabriel Rogin, Martha Valdez, NBRC
Angela Pao-Johnson, Lety Garcia, 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, SCLARC
Omar Noorzad, Ramon Hooper, TCRC
Leinani Walter, Alicia Schott, VMRC
Jane Borochoff, Vanda Yung, WRC

Board of Directors Members Absent:

Melinda Sullivan, FDLRC
Lori Zaleski, HRC
Cynthia Torres, SCLARC

ARCA Advisory Representatives

Cesar Garcia, SCLARC, Co-Chair, Directors of Client Services
Cristine Couch, VMRC, Co-Chair, Directors of Client Services

Kyla Lee, SCLARC, Co-Chair Chief Financial Officers

Guests Present:

Pete Cervinka, Michi Gates, DDS
Anh Nguyen
Scott Rice
Robyn Souder
Ami Sullivan
Manaho Takaichi
Srbui Ovsepyan, FDLRC
Bernadette Boren, SDRC
Jennifer Sanchez, SDRC
Noemi Silva, SDRC
Sonia Griffin, SDRC
Jamie Johnson, Sunny Days of California
Anna da Silva, SCLARC
Matthew Bahr, CVRC
Miguel Larios, SDRC
Molly Nocon, Noah Homes
Virigina Bayer, SDRC board member
Maureen Fitzgerald
Gabriella Ohmstede, SDRC

ARCA Staff Present:

Amy Westling, Lauren Ettensohn, Sidney Jackson, Vivian Umenei, Darline Dupree, Roxy Ortiz, Tony Anderson, Rick Rollens

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Teri Colachis.

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 August 16, 2024, Board of Directors meeting were presented for approval.

M/S/C: To approve the minutes.

Public Comment

None.

Child Find for Underserved Communities

San Diego Regional Center and its partners are engaging in creative efforts to reach Latino and tribal populations to identify children in need of Early Start services. Some of the creative strategies being employed include working with the Mexican Consulate, completing screenings in shelters, and participation in cultural events such as powwows. Much of this work was made possible through American Rescue Plan Fund grant funds, but it is anticipated to continue despite expiration of the targeted funding.

President's Report (ARCA)

Teri Colachis expressed great appreciation for all attendees of the meeting. She noted the broad representation that each person brings to the group and the importance of working together cohesively for the greater good of ARCA.

DDS Report

Pete Cervinka, Acting Director of DDS, highlighted the partnership between DDS and regional centers in supporting Californians with developmental disabilities as well as the importance of engaging with a broad array of community members, including on topics such as information technology needs.

He shared an update on the Master Plan for Developmental Services, which offers an opportunity for smaller groups to request individual listening sessions to inform the process.

He noted additional future opportunities may include re-examining our current complaints processes as the state considers how best to achieve compliance with the federal Access Rule's grievance requirements as well as exploring needed improvements to the Self-Determination Program.

Michi Gates, Chief Deputy Director of DDS, noted that 9 regional centers no longer have any individuals in subminimum wage settings. She thanked regional centers for their significant work to meet 100% of the Home and Community-Based Services settings requirements.

She provided an overview of the required projects under SB 138, including the uniform IPP template and the intake standardization, both of which have January 1, 2025 deadlines.

There are 5,148 people enrolled in the Self-Determination Program (SDP), with an average monthly growth of 155 cases in the program. Expenditures in SDP are on average 71% higher than those same individuals received prior to enrollment.

The Direct Support Professional (DSP) Training Stipend Program closed August 31, 2024. Over 84,000 DSPs completed training courses and qualified for additional training stipends.

Dr. Gates shared that the Coordinated Family Supports program continues to grow, and as hoped, is being utilized by diverse populations to meet their needs. Videos highlighting the impact of the program and its potential are being developed to help raise awareness of the program.

Treasurer's Report –Omar Noorzad

ARCA Financial Statement, September 2024

ARCA's Net Assets are approximately \$12,000 higher than projected due in large part to lower than anticipated personnel and meeting costs.

M/S/C To accept the September 2024 financial statements.

ARCA Audit 2023-2024

Kristel Maikranz and Adrian Peirce from AGT presented an overview of ARCA's Fiscal Year 2023-24 financial statements. AGT provided a clean audit opinion.

M/S/C To accept the annual audit.

ARCA Executive Director's Report – Amy Westling

Amy Westling expressed appreciation for the dedication of board members to the work of the Association.

Comments on Special Incident Reporting Regulations

ARCA consulted with DDS to limit the workload implications of the proposed changes to the Special Incident Reporting regulations. The proposed changes to the regulations include person-first language, which has been a long-term goal of the Association.

M/S/C To approve the draft letter as presented.

Comments on Transitional Housing Placement Program Regulations

ARCA's draft letter in response to proposed regulations by the Department of Social Services requests additional regional center involvement in planning for multi-agency youth living in Transitional Housing Placement Programs.

M/S/C To approve the draft letter as presented.

Standard on Remote Planning Team and In-Person Meetings

Following a conversation with advocates to understand their concerns and questions about recent changes in law related to both remote planning team and in-person meeting requirements, ARCA's Standards and Practices Committee drafted a standard to support consistency in this area. The Directors Group requested a change from January 1, 2026 to July 1, 2026 to gather a year of data as well as the opportunity for the Directors of Client Services to complete a fatal flaw review prior to finalization.

M/S/C To approve the draft standard as modified pending fatal flaw review.

Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Priorities

The recommendation is for priorities for the coming year to include uniform service coordinator budgeting, data collection in the area of housing needs for those served by regional centers, and

targeting initiatives in collaboration with the Lanterman Coalition related to supporting the DSP workforce. Members discussed a modification to the document as presented to highlight service access for “underserved communities and those with unmet needs.”

M/S/C To approve the budget priorities as amended.

ARCA Academy Wrap-Up

All 21 regional centers sponsored the ARCA Academy event in September 2024 that was held at Inland Regional Center. Staff will share a link to a highlight video with board members following the meeting.

Legislative Committee Report – Eric Zigman

2025 Budget/Legislative Preview

The Legislature is currently in recess. Senator Limón has replaced Senator Alvarado-Gil as Chair of the Senate Human Services Committee. The Legislature will reconvene full-time January 6, 2025.

Bill Outcomes

ARCA staff were involved in over 100 bills this year. A report was prepared by ARCA staff on those that were enacted sorted by issue area.

Proposed Sponsored Legislation

Amy Westling noted that the Legislative and Executive Committees recommended ARCA sponsor legislation related to better collection of housing information for those served by regional centers. The Legislative Committee also asked ARCA staff to do additional research on topics related to supporting the DSP workforce and allowing rescue seizure medications to be administered in licensed settings before proceeding.

M/S/C To approve ARCA’s sponsorship of legislation related to the collection of housing needs data.

Federal Updates

Tony Anderson noted that Congress will adjourn in early January and we anticipate bills will be re-introduced in areas related to workforce and the SSI marriage penalty among others in the next year. ARCA will evaluate potential positions on those bills at that time.

Committee/Task Force Reports

Executive Committee – Teri Colachis

Terri Colachis noted all items discussed during yesterday’s Executive Committee meeting have already been covered during this meeting.

Board Delegates Group – Randy Tellalian for Kelly Pennington

All regional centers were represented in yesterday’s meeting. Joshua Souder from IRC is terming off the board. Sandy Martin gave a presentation on Social Security challenges. The Delegates will be forming an ad hoc committee to examine consistent regional center board onboarding training.

Directors Group – Gabriel Rogin

DDS presented regarding streamlining the intake process for young children in Early Start. The Directors Group discussed service coordination tiers and structures.

Finance Committee –Lisa Kleinbub

Lisa Kleinbub noted the Finance Committee met on October 11, 2024 and discussed payment of Regional Center Performance Measures funding, the closure of the Language Access and Cultural Competency year, rate model implementation, and payment of incentive payments to Early Start providers.

Client Advisory Committee – Tracey Mensch

The ARCA CAC met via video conference on September 27, 2024. During the meeting, the members provided reports on what has been going on at their regional centers. Tracey Mensch, ARCA CAC Chair, led a discussion related to the CAC priorities for the fiscal year. The next ARCA CAC meeting will be held via video conference on November 1, 2024.

Contract Negotiating Committee – Larry Landauer

Larry Landauer noted the Committee has not met since the last meeting.

Standards & Practices Committee –Mark Klaus

Mark Klaus thanked the Board for approving the first standard recommended by the Committee earlier in this meeting. The group is meeting again October 27, 2024.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Amy Westling asked members to complete required conflict-of-interest, whistleblower, and electronic voting authorization forms.

Information Sharing

None

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on January 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Embassy Suites in Sacramento.