

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
JULY 6, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nilo Choudhry
Sandra Gonzalez
Larry Ryan
Alejandro Soschin
Russell Tanner
Adriana Madrigal
Maria Soto
Phil Jackson
Bob Steiner
Betty Pearson-Grimble
Ben Davidson
Zoe Giesberg
Richard Breen
Myra Mezquita
David Wyles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cammy Starks DuPont, Austin Dove, Elizabeth Espinosa

GUESTS: Carmine Manicone, Bill Feeman, Denise Fernald, Danny Franco, Danise Lehrer, Erica Reimer Snell, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser, Ben Adams, Joseph Allen, Christofer Arroyo (SCDD), Cindy Chiu (SCDD), Zakir Choudhry, Nick Coplin, Marcela DiMauro, Judy Enright, Sylvia Fahimian, Elizabeth Gomez, Fernando Gomez, Brett Gordon, Naomi Harrel, Josh Kruskol, Marcia James, Esther Kelsey, Hector Madrigal, Jennifer Mantell, Judy Mark, Robert Martin, Barbara McCants, David Mezquita, Francisco Pineda, Sandy Rubinfeld, Todd Rubien, Robert Schwartz, Felicia Williams, Sarah Williams-Katuli, Wesley Witherspoon, Gabrielle Zadra, Ari Zeldin, Vanessa Arauza, Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Soryl Markowitz

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry at 6:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:

It was established that the members present represented a quorum necessary pursuant to Section 3.03 (g) of the bylaws of Westside Regional Center which states:

(g) *Quorum*

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) members

of the corporation. Provided, however, that a quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the Directors then in office at any time when the number of Directors then in office is less than ten (10)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Fernando Gomez welcomed and congratulated all the new Board Members.

Brett Gordon invited everyone to a Social Media Awareness Training July 28th from 4:30pm – 6:30pm in the Danneker Boardroom.

Zoe Giesberg wrote on her blog about Finding Dory and disability representation in the media. It made it to the Jewish Journal's website under Jews with Special Needs blog. She highly recommended the movie and then to read her blog.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nilo Choudhry, Chairperson, reported for the first time in her new role. She thanked Sandra Gonzalez, former Interim Chair, for maintaining the Westside Way standards and taking on a leadership role at Westside during some difficult times.

Nilo stated that there will be a closed session towards the end of the meeting for a pending litigation update. At that time there will be an opportunity for public comments before and after that closed session.

Nilo asked that the meetings start at the scheduled time and that everyone respect each other's time to keep the meeting within the 2 hours it is scheduled for. She also mentioned that having the dinner buffet table in the back of the room really helped get the meeting started on time this evening.

The entire board thanked the WRC Executive Team and Staff for their dedication and hard work. They got to see more of what they do after taking the WRC 101 training on June 28th. June 1st there was also a Governance Training by Chris Arroyo. Moving forward they will try to have a mini training on topics that will be helpful for the Board.

Nilo introduced Carmine Manicone, Executive Director, and asked him to speak a bit more about the Annual Board Dinner we had on June 22, 2016. Carmine reported that a few key Board Members were unable to attend the Annual Board dinner and took some time to acknowledge those who missed it. He presented Ben Davidson with a gift card and Sandra Gonzalez with an engraved gavel and gift card for their time and involvement as committee chairs/ Interim Chair during the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

TWO ACTION ITEMS (ACTION*)

1. APPROVAL OF ON AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS TO INCREASE THE

NUMBER OF DIRECTORS UP TO 21 (ACTION*)

Ben Davidson, Board Member and Nominating Committee Chair, motioned to approve the amendment of the Bylaws to increase the number of Directors up to 21.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF THE BYLAWS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DIRECTORS UP TO 21.

After public comment, the motion passed:

11 AYES

1 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

2. APPROVAL TO RATIFY THE MARCH 16, 2016 ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS, RICHARD BREEN, ELIZABETH ESPINOSA, MYRA MEZQUITA AND DAVID WYLES (ACTION*)

Ben Davidson, Board Member and Nominating Committee Chair, motioned to approve and ratify the March 16, 2016 election of new Board Members, Richard Breen, Elizabeth Espinosa, Myra Mezquita and David Wyles.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO RATIFY THE MARCH 16, 2016 ELECTION OF THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS, RICHARD BREEN, ELIZABETH ESPINOSA, MYRA MEZQUITA AND DAVID WYLES.

After public comment, the motion passed:

12 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 1, 2016 BOARD MEETINGS (ACTION*)

Larry Ryan and Alejandro Soschin, Board Co-Secretaries, motioned to approve the June 1, 2016 Board Minutes.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 1, 2016 BOARD MEETINGS.

After public comment, the motion passed:

15 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE (ACTION*)

Danny Franco, Director of Finance, reported that the financials look good and we are within our allocation. It was a good year for DDS too. The Committee discussed the 990 information return for 2014 tax year and the preliminary budget for the current year is looking good as DDS is being generous with their preliminary budget. Also, the line of credit was renewed for the agency of about \$18 million dollars in case there are any cash flow issues with the state during the current fiscal year.

ACHIEVABLE

Josh Kruskol, Director of Development and Communication reported that there was an

event last week with Karen Bass and it was a great opportunity to bring together different stakeholders. It was a great event and invited the Board to attend the next one.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Russell Tanner reported that this is his first time reporting for CAC. They continue to volunteer to various community events and spread awareness.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ben Davidson, thanked the WRC Staff who participated and stayed late for the WRC 101 Training last week. The committee will be scheduling more interviews for two possible consumer Board Members slots.

Denise Fernald mentioned that three Conflict of Interest forms are still missing. Everyone else completed theirs at the WRC 101 Training.

POLITICAL ACTION/ CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEES

Zoe Giesberg reported that both committees met as one this evening. The main Political Action item is that the budgets were passed as expected. There was discussion and proposal to move this committee to the second Tuesday of every month before the Self-Determination meeting to ensure it does not conflict with the Client Services Committee Meeting.

Zoe reported that the Client Services Committee met after several months. The main purpose of the committee is to go over modifications and adjustments to service standards, college development programs, protocols for transportation and behavior regulations. The Board and DDS have to approve all modifications and adjustments standards. There is a potential sub-committee to be created on the Service Standards given the HCBS Final Rule and Self-Determination. If anyone else is interested in joining this committee, please let Zoe know.

There is talk about huge changes in residential homes. There will be an open house for our project next Tuesday and we will be getting information soon. WRC is apparently ahead of the game in terms of developing residential services.

They have discussed creating a task force concerning the HCBS Final Rule to reach out to families and providers to know about the changes so they are well informed.

ARCA

Alejandro Soschin reported that he and Sandra Gonzalez will be the delegates for ARCA representing WRC. They meet several times a year mostly in Sacramento. Luckily, the upcoming meeting will be in Torrance on August 18 & 19. There are a few opportunities for the public to attend some portions of the meetings. If you are interested please feel free to contact Alejandro or Vanessa Arauza for more information. We have a new ARCA Board President, Terri Coluchis. If you have any feedback on how they can better represent WRC at the state level, please let Alejandro and Sandra know.

SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

Zoe Giesberg reported the committee discussed bed bug issues, residential housing, HCBS Final Rule considering individual housing and ILS insurance. Tennessee has been approved under the HCBS Final Rule as of June 21, 2016. They also discussed the importance of voting and the budget for what consists of financial review and fiscal audit. They also discussed overtime will be an issue for all service providers. There will be a Social Media Safety Training on July 28th from 4:30pm – 6:30pm.

FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FRC)

There was no report.

MEET THE BOARD: A quick introduction by of Board Member, Ben Davidson, so everyone can get to know more about each other.

SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP

Judy Mark reported they continue to meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month. Their focus will be on pre-enrollment informational meetings for people who want to be part of the Self Determination program are required to go to. DDS wants people to understand what they are getting into. The meetings will be about an hour and a half long and the topics will come from DDS for consistency across the 21 regional centers in different languages and locations. Judy provided an update of where the program stands statewide.

August's meeting will be moved to August 16th due to scheduling conflicts, but will return to the 2nd Tuesday of the month in September.

Fernando Gomez acknowledged Judy Mark's hard work.

EQUITY TASK FORCE

Fernando Gomez reported that the task force met today between 4:00pm and 5:00pm and realized it wasn't enough time. The focus and goal is to discuss disparity on the services. It has grown and in addition to purchase of services disparities, they are looking at the community as a whole on how to facilitate and implement services for the regional center system. A UCLA student out together a report called Regional Center Disparity and Data which is a nine page report which is very informative. Judy will send to Vanessa who will make it available to everyone. It is the first of three reports. In addition, the next meeting will be on a date that is not the same as the Board Meeting to ensure it does not overlap with other committee meetings.

Alejandro Soschin suggested maybe having that speaker come to one of our Board Meetings to present her report as part of our Board Trainings.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carmine Manicone reported that this was the first Board Meeting the new Assistant Director of Client Services, Erica Reimer Snell, is attending and welcomed her. He mentioned WRC is on target with the budget for POS and OPS. It was a good year for DDS and they passed the money down to us. Danny Franco made a comparison from

this year to past years. With ABX2 1 and what the governor gave for the caseload growth, our OPS budget is 16% higher than it was a year ago. Overall we are looking at an 11% increase from 2015-2016 fiscal year and this is just the preliminary allocations.

We have offers out to two new service coordinators in Early Start and they will be starting in a couple of weeks. We have two finalists who will be interviewed next week for the Early Start Intake Coordinator position. They are needed as we are seeing over 30 intakes a week for children under 3 years of age just in early start alone.

We added a new Federal Revenue Coordinator to oversee and manage the Medicaid waivers. Previously, we had only one person who did this by himself with part time help. We are continue to be the #1 Center in the state on the Medicaid waiver with about 53% of our consumers are on the waiver.

We have offers out to two additional floater positions as we often have staff out on maternity or medical leave with caseloads so we have them come in and manage those cases.

We will be expanding to a new unit and had a number of internal candidates and have narrowed it down to a handful of finalists and the Executive Committee will be interviewing them next week to bring on a new program manager and create a new unit. It's the first time we have expanded into a new unit in about 10-12 years. We are planning to add 10-12 new Service Coordinators.

In Community Services, Mary Lou has hired a new BCBA, Sarah, and she is the back of the room, please welcome her. On Friday we received notification that our CPP had been approved by DDS. We were approved for 14 projects. DDS added 2 projects for 2 crisis homes we did not apply for. This attests to Mary Lou and her team because of the track record we have of developing really high quality homes with CPP money that has been given to us. We also have the first multi-unit low-income housing to serve our consumers. This will be the first for us. We are also able to fund 13 staff positions through those CPP funds. Special thanks to Mary Lou and her team for putting that together.

We need more space and an architect came out and provided new floor plans to create more space upstairs. We will be adding a folding wall system in two of our larger conference rooms on the 4th floor to create more meeting room space. We also have space behind the boardroom that will be converted into office space for 5-6 people. We are still working into getting more space from other tenants.

On June 14th WRC held our Caseload Ratios meeting and submitted the correction action plan to DDS requesting more money. Core staffing ratio is outdated and ARCA is pushing DDS to take a look at it.

On July 13th, WRC will be hosting APSE Workshop and about 25-30 staff will be at that training. Pam Arturi worked on that and she will be presenting at the September Board

Meeting.

We got increases, but surveys were sent out by DDS to our providers and there was a lag in getting those surveys back. That has changed and they received a lot more back. These increases are intended for the staff that works at least 75% of the time providing direct care to the individuals we serve. They will have reporting requirements.

DDS has been asked by Legislators to do disparity public meetings at various regional centers. Two will be held in Southern California at Inland Regional Center and the other at South Central Regional Center. Dates are yet to be determined.

We have a lot to do to accommodate the new changes coming into the system. We will be receiving more money but there will a lot expected for it in the next year.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Gabrielle Zadra is a parent of children who are clients in the Early Start program and talked about the systemic problem in that state law mandates that after the initial 6 months of funding through the regional center you need to access your private insurance and they don't have the majority of providers in there system. These providers rather deal with regional centers than private insurance.

Judy Mark updated on some grants Autism Society of Los Angeles has received from UCLA. Some include the creation of a speakers bureau of self-advocates, translation of all ASLA's material into Spanish, independent facilitator training for people who want to be facilitators in Spanish and hearings.

CLOSED SESSION – PENDING LITIGATION (California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4663, subdivision (a)(5))

Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry, reported that the Board went into closed session to update the Board on a pending litigation.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The meeting adjourned at 8:05p.m. by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

Larry Ryan and Alejandro Soschin
Co-Secretaries of the Board

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
SEPTEMBER 14, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nilo Choudhry
Sandra Gonzalez
Cammy Starks DuPont
Larry Ryan
Alejandro Soschin
Russell Tanner
Adriana Madrigal
Maria Soto
Phil Jackson
Bob Steiner
Ben Davidson
Zoe Giesberg
Richard Breen
David Wyles
Austin Dove
Elizabeth Espinosa

MEMBERS ABSENT: Betty Pearson-Grimble, Myra Mezquita,

GUESTS: Carmine Manicone, Bill Feeman, Denise Fernald, Danny Franco, Erica Reimer Snell, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser, Joseph Allen, Todd Rubien, Christofer Arroyo (SCDD), Alicia Bazzano, Zakir Choudhry, Nick Coplin, Sylvia Fahimian, Brett Gordon, Josh Kruskol, Esther Kelsey, Jennifer Mantell, Judy Mark, Robert Martin, Barbara McCants, Sandy Rubinfeld, Todd Rubien, Felicia Williams, Ari Zeldin, Vanessa Arauza, Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Soryl Markowitz, Martha Thompson, Aga Spatzier, Denise Thornquest, Pamela Arturi, Shelly Hunt, Jasmine Banayan, Maynor Tecun, Josh Franklin, Carlyn Meshack, Ana DaSilva, Ayode Woods

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry at 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:

It was established that the members present represented a quorum necessary pursuant to Section 3.03 (g) of the bylaws of Westside Regional Center which states:

(g) Quorum

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) members

of the corporation. Provided, however, that a quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the Directors then in office at any time when the number of Directors then in office is less than ten (10)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nilo Choudhry, Chairperson, reported that a new Board meeting date of October 5, 2016 was added to the meeting calendar. The reason it was added is to allow for training on system acronyms and information sharing. Nilo also encouraged everyone to join a Committee. A lot of things have happened in the last 60 years. Medicare was created 51 years ago. This is the 48th Year of Special Olympics and this year is the 50th Anniversary of the Regional Centers. In 1966, there were two in existence in San Francisco and Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. We have had 50 years of community based for people with developmental disabilities and it was started by concerned parents who wanted services and supports for their children. We have had years of budget cuts and services reductions and we want to ensure a sustainable system that protects the rights of the individual with developmental disabilities. You are all coming in at a great time where this is great change and opportunities for growth for not just for the Regional Centers, but for the entire system. We are all in a learning mode and we have a lot to learn together.

Carmine Manicone updated that Daniel Savino from ARCA sent a Senate Resolution last week to honor and recognized the 50th Anniversary of California's Regional Center System and it was signed by Senator's Beall, Leon and Thurman along with a photo.

Nilo Choudhry updated that the Nominating Committee will be recommending two CAC Members for the Board this evening. She also announced that Courtney Colman resigned from the WRC Board of Directors about a month ago.

ACTION ITEM (ACTION*)

1. VOTE ON NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (ACTION*)

Ben Davidson, Board Member and Nominating Committee Chair, mentioned there are two slots that need to be filled to replace the vacancies left by Portia Griffith and Courtney Colman. The Nominating Committee recommended to the Board of Directors Joseph Allen Jr. and Todd Rubien to be voted onto the Board.

Ben requested a motion to approve Board Members.

RESOLUTION: TO VOTE JOSEPH ALLEN JR. AND TODD RUBIEN ON TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO REPLACE THE TWO VACANCIES LEFT BY PORTIA GRIFFITH AND

COURTNEY COLMAN.

After public comment, the motion passed:

16 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 6, 2016 BOARD MEETING (ACTION*)

Nilo Choudhry, Chairperson, motioned to approve the September 14, 2016 Board Minutes.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 BOARD MEETING.

After public comment, the motion passed:

16 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

PRESENTATION: EMPLOYMENT SERVICES BY PAMELA ARTURI

Pamela Arturi, WRC Quality Assurance and Employment Specialist, gave an overview of WRC's response to all the initiatives to promote employment for the individuals we support. Pamela provided all attendees a copy of her slideshow and reviewed all the resources available.

The Board and Carmine Manicone recognized all the effort and dedication Pamela Arturi has put on this project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Cammy Starks DuPont reported the Committee met at 5:00pm this afternoon. Danny Franco, Carmine Manicone, Larry Ryan, Russell Tanner and Cammy met to review the WRC budget. The fiscal year ended on June 30th, 2016 and although we are close to 100%, we will reach the 100% both the Operation and Purchase of Services due to late vendor payments that will be due and WRC auditor fees. The new fiscal year started July 1st, 2016, so we are only one month in. Operation & POS has been increased by DDS this year and it does look like we are on track to use all the funds allocated for the month.

DDS did an audit report and we expect to get a response on that in 6-8 months.

ACHIEVABLE

Josh Kruskol, Director of Development and Communication reported that in October 19, 2016 at 9:00am. They will be doing a Healthcare Workforce Development event sponsored by Assembly Member, Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, and West LA and the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County. They will be looking at a comprehensive approach on healthcare development focusing on healthcare for individual with intellectual developmental disabilities. Comprehensive because they will have workforce investment boards, workforce development agencies, hospitals, medical schools and elected officials so everyone is involved in training, hiring and funding the

workforce development.

Achievable recently hired a new pediatrician and open availability slots for the other doctors.

They have applied for a five year grant for Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to integrate behavior and general healthcare. We also have a partnership with the Chicago School of Psychology and we have PhD Students who do individual and group therapy three days a week. The purpose of the grant is to continue integrate the behavior health with primary care physicians. They already have a grant from HRSA to expand their information technology, mainly their healthcare records. Population Analysis is the name of the program.

Achievable was invited to complete a full application after submitting an intent letter for a general operating grant from the Weingart Foundation.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Russell Tanner reported CAC Members continue to be involved in community events. Some of these events include watching a Dodgers game in a suite and the Dodgers won! They also attended different concerts, cultural awareness and other community involvement outings. They also celebrated Russell's 74th birthday!

POLITICAL ACTION/ CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEES

Zoe Giesberg reported they continue to build relations with local community members and establish grassroots efforts to push for continued developmental disability services in every level. Voter registration day is on September 27th and you have got to be registered by then. September 30th is the last day for Governor Brown to sign, veto or pass laws that can go into effect by November 2nd. November 8th is Election Day so please go and vote.

Bill Feeman, Erica Reimer and Mary Lou gave a general overview of the HCBS Final Rule. They also said we need a chairman of the Committee. The last time the Service Standards were fully written was in 2011. A major reason to rewrite them is due to the recent disparity investigation as mandated by the state, self-determination and HCBS Rules. Bill, Erica and Mary Lou also gave an overview on what the Service Standards are and the importance that the Board have input and improve the standards. The adult service standards will change the most. Most of the meeting was spent on talking about the Final Rule which is community immersion and individual choice.

ARCA

Alejandro Soschin reported he attended part of the last ARCA meeting in August. He explained that ARCA is the state agency that brings all the regional centers together to advocate and support our programs and services especially in Sacramento where most of the decisions that affect us are made. Alejandro recently received the orientation guide from ARCA that includes five pages of acronyms that they call the Alphabet Soup.

There is another meeting taking place in October in Pomona. ARCA also applied for

funding for the disparities grant and they have a plan they have created a draft for that involves working with Children's Hospital Los Angeles. There will also be some transitions taking place in management and leadership at ARCA.

Carmine Manicone clarified that in the ARCA August meeting Eileen Richey made an announcement that she will not be renewing her current contract that goes on until the end of this year. She is the Executive Director of ARCA which is a full-time paid job and her contract is for five years. She has decided to step down at the end of the year. ARCA is working with her to see if she will stay on as they search for her replacement and to help with the transition. That was one of the biggest news that came from that meeting. All 21 Regional Centers did a satisfaction survey and she got pretty high grades from most of the regional centers. Some people are concerned because ARCA joined the Lanterman Coalition and they have done a lot of advocacy on behalf of all regional centers and helping get the increases we got this past year. The proposal for ARCA on the disparity was supported by all 21 Regional Centers to do a statewide and in depth study on the real causes of disparity in POS.

SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

Ben Davidson reported that SPAC does not meet in August, but will be meeting next Tuesday and Bernadette Daroca will be doing a presentation on Special Incident Reporting.

FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FRC)

There was no report.

SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP

Judy Mark reported they had a great meeting last night and have had two meetings since the last Board meeting. In July, the meeting was focused on explaining the Self Determination Program in simple language. Chris Arroyo did a presentation that the State Council gives in simple language. Then they went into smaller groups and asked what they learned. Judy developed her own presentation in English and Elizabeth Gomez translated it into Spanish. Sometimes the disparity can be that translators did not give the proper information. Right now, there is no future for the Self Determination as they do not have a date. Harbor Regional Center decided to suspend their Self Determination meetings because they have not been told by DDS to continue to meet. The next meeting will not be the 2nd Tuesday of the month due to Yom Kippur and will update with the new date as soon as possible. Autism Society of Los Angeles received a grant to train people in Spanish to become independent facilitator. People need to make a commitment that they want to become facilitators.

EQUITY TASK FORCE

Carmine Manicone reported there were 16 people in attendance this evening. They spent most of the meeting talking about the Disparity Proposal and the process leading up to submitting it. As a reminder, there are \$11 million in the budget through ABX2-1 to the Regional Centers to be divided up to the 21 Regional Centers and to submit proposals on how we plan to address the disparity in POS dollars and promote more equity. We were

notified July 25th and we had 45 days to hold public meetings and put together proposals by September 8th. They sent a Survey Monkey to all the staff and received 70 responses where we asked to identify the barriers to receiving services, barriers to actually utilizing services that you are authorize for and what people thought would really help improve those services and help people access those services. There was an Equity Task Force meeting on August 10th where they had over 40 people in attendance. WRC had their own public meeting here on August 16th where they had 75 people in attendance and received a lot of feedback. Some of the feedback was uncomfortable to hear as an Executive Director because some people felt their needs were not being met by the Regional Center, but we need to hear in order to put together the proposal. Fernando talked about the local DDS Meeting held at the South Central Regional Center on the 26th that had over 225 people. DDS had a timeline of 9:00am to 12:00pm, but they stayed until almost 2:00pm to hear everyone's input. What is Westside proposing? Most of the areas fell into these three categories: lack of trust in the system, communication, access to services. Our proposal has four strategies. One is to address the trust, two to address communication, three to access to services and four to monitor our own performance. We want to redesign our website to make it more accessible with more information. Do video training modules to train clients, families and community about their rights to services and add several caseload specialists. Developing tools to track our progress and client satisfaction survey's to make sure we are being effective.

Judy Mark shared her experience at the DDS local public meeting.

Carmine thanked the parents who came to the meetings and gave their input. He also acknowledged the WRC Executive Team and Dr. Alicia Bazzano and Aga Spatzier who helped draft the proposal.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carmine Manicone reported that there are some tenants on the 4th floor who will be moving out on October 31st and we will take over beginning on November 1st. This will help us to create more space for the staff we are adding and we need more meeting rooms. We are also getting bids on adding room dividers. Since the last meeting two Early Start Coordinators, one Intake Coordinator, one Floater Coordinator, new Program Manager who started this past week, have all been added to our staff. We will be scheduling interviews within the next 2 weeks for the Mental & Behavioral Health Specialist position. We still need to add a Cultural Diversity Specialist, Compliance Specialist (To assist vendors with coming into compliance) and 6 new Coordinators. Larry Ryan shared that there will be a Disability Pride Festival on October 20th. We had the WRC Annual Staff Picnic and "El Jefe" won an amazing comeback.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Zoe Giesberg shared she will be speaking at a Ted Talk style conference and leading a panel of young adults.

Christofer Arroyo shared SCDD has flyers for a Wednesday training series they are doing

at the SCDD office on different topics. They will be translating the flyers in Spanish and will accommodate to serve the community. They are free and everyone is welcomed. On a side note it has been said that the Los Angeles DDS Public meeting had the largest number of attendance than any other meeting which speaks volumes of our community's involvement.

Judy Mark shared that Statewide Advisory on Self Determination has meetings every so often and it has a public comments period on September 26th from 10-3pm. If you would like to call in, please contact Judy Mark or Ben Davidson who can provide the dial in information. Also, HCBS Rule Statewide Committee that Mary Lou sits on. The next meeting is on October 5th and we Judy can also provide you with the dial in number.

Ayode Woods mentioned how proud he is to be a part of Westside and he is thankful to Carmine and to everyone on the Board.

Maria Soto invited everyone who speaks Spanish to the Tigers Parent Support group workshop next Friday. The guest speaker will be Emily Iland and her son Tom Iland who will be talking about what to do when your child grows up. Tom has overcome a lot of barriers and is very inspirational.

Wesley Witherspoon acknowledged all the upcoming holidays. He is on the peer training for people with disabilities and they are looking for participants so if you are interested, please see him after the meeting.

Elizabeth Espinosa mentioned she will share on social media the upcoming events.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m. by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
OCTOBER 5, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nilo Choudhry
Sandra Gonzalez
Larry Ryan
Alejandro Soschin
Russell Tanner
Adriana Madrigal
Maria Soto
Bob Steiner
Ben Davidson
Zoe Giesberg
Richard Breen
David Wyles
Joseph Allen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Austin Dove, Cammy DuPont, Elizabeth Espinosa, Philip Jackson, Myra Mezquita, Betty Pearson-Grimble, Todd Rubien

GUESTS: Carmine Manicone, Bill Feeman, Denise Fernald, Danny Franco, Erica Reimer Snell, Liz Spencer, Christofer Arroyo (SCDD), Carmen Ibarra, Alicia Bazzano, Zakir Choudhry, Sylvia Fahimian, Marcia James, Esther Kelsey, Judy Mark, Fernando Gomez, Robert Martin, Jack Nieves, Sandy Rubenfeld, Felicia Williams, Ari Zeldin, Vanessa Arauza, Lisa Basiri, Ana Da Silva, Ereida Galda, Soryl Markowitz, Ana DaSilva, Naomi Harrall, Wesley Witherspoon, Elena Bustamante, Shelly Toldan

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry at 6:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:

It was established that the members present represented a quorum necessary pursuant to Section 3.03 (g) of the bylaws of Westside Regional Center which states:

(g) Quorum

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) members of the corporation. Provided, however, that a quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the Directors then in office at any time when the number of Directors then in office is less than ten (10)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nilo Choudhry, Chairperson, reminded everyone of WRC's Vision and Guiding Principles include Listen, Inform and Support. These guide the Board and staff alike. This month is National Disability Employment Month. We had Pamela come in last month to train us on this as well. Nilo read a statement from President Obama. Culver City Housing just opened up their wait list for section 8. They are not taking a paper application. You need to apply online for a 2 day period in November. If you know of any housing in the community, please inform Community Services. Erica Reimer Snell also mentioned that Culver City is making some computers available at the library for our clients to use it to apply for housing.

Nilo congratulated Carmine on his six month anniversary at WRC. Sandra Gonzalez, Vice President, and Nilo will meet with Carmine Manicone to formally give him his six month review. The annual review will be on April 4, 2017 and it will have input from all stakeholders. At the end of the year we will get out to all the Board Members evaluation forms and timelines. We are also inviting all the Board Members to join our committees. In the coming year, the Board will also do self-evaluations to see how we are doing, how we can improve things and what needs WRC has so we can do our job well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 BOARD MEETING

Nilo Choudhry, Chairperson, deferred the approval of the September 14, 2016 and October 5, 2016 meeting to the November 2, 2016. (NO ACTION TAKEN)

PRESENTATION: DDS – SYSTEMS AND ACRONYMS BY CHRISTOFER ARROYO

Christofer Arroyo, State Council of Developmental Disabilities shared a little about himself before the training. He provided everyone with an acronym list and a little booklet and a memo from DDS on what needs to be on the Performance Contract. He gave an explanation on the Alphabet Soup and reviewed agencies (ARCA, DDS, SCDD, DCD, HHS) and processes that are part of the DDS world. Christofer also went over the role of the governing Board and the Executive Director. He also expressed his gratitude towards the collaboration between WRC and SCDD and for the invitation to present to the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Danny Franco reported they met earlier today and review the August 31st financial. We have gone through 16% of the year. We have expensed 15% of our allocated budget and

we are on track as far as the budget is concerned.

ACHIEVABLE

Carmen Ibarra, Director of Achievable, reported that the end of September marked their third year anniversary of being a clinic health center. They also had a tribute dinner for Lou Spitz for his involvement and philanthropic efforts. They have had several visitors visit the clinic to see their model to see if they can expand similar models. It is a small clinic, but looking to making a bigger impact. They will be convening a legislative breakfast on October 19th at West Los Angeles College and partnering with the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County to put together a workforce discussion.

Alejandro Soschin asked what is WRC's role in support of the expansion of the Achievable clinic and makes it more accessible to our clients and to go out to other parts of the system. Carmen said they have had a strong partnership with WRC and when they have visitors they communicate it to them. Carmine Manicone also attends the Achievable Board meetings and makes an effort to stay informed.

Ben Davidson also mentioned that Mike Danneker recently joined the Achievable Board for added support.

Bob Steiner acknowledged Alejandro Soschin for his involvement at Achievable.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Adriana Madrigal reported CAC Members they continue to do volunteer work in the community. They attended informative meeting and the 14th Annual Remembrance Day ceremony for individuals placed in unmarked graves. Last week they attended a fair at WRC to support older individuals hosted by Stephen Browning.

POLITICAL ACTION/ CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEES

Zoe Giesberg reported that Client Services Committee meeting was cancelled. The Political Action Committee met and they wanted to remind everyone that there is an upcoming election this month. You can start voting on October 10th and the last day to register is October 24th. Governor Brown has signed 900 bills this legislative year and about 15% that were submitted were rejected. They are currently tracking 39 bills in the upcoming legislative year. This election is very important and your vote matters, so please vote.

ARCA

Alejandro Soschin reported he and Sandra Gonzalez are the delegates for ARCA. They have received a lot of information. The next ARCA meeting will take place in San Bernardino the 20th and 21st of October. Upon his return he will provide copies of any handouts to update the community. ARCA offers Regional Center trainings on Social Media Outreach and Government Advocacy and would like to set something up.

Denise Fernald shared that NLARC already hired a Social Media staff member and they

have an updated Facebook page.

SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

Ben Davidson reported they met a few weeks ago and they had an increase in attendance to about 70 people. At that meeting they had a similar presentation by Pamela Arturi and a special incident reporting training with Bernadette Daroca. Ben also shared a little more about himself.

FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FRC)

Liz Spencer explained the difference between the Family Resource Center (FRC) and the Family Resource Empowerment Center (FREC). They started as an FRC and there are now 14 FREC's in the state. About 10 years ago the Department of Education in the state put out a grant, they applied and they got it. This means they can service individuals from birth to 21 who may or may not qualify for services through the Regional Center, but have an IEP, special education services, ADD or speech and language issues. They have been attending conferences to expanding their knowledge on the ABLE Act and the WIOA and the challenges our families are facing with private insurance. The last day for Disneyland tickets is tomorrow and all you need to do is call (310)258-4063 to put your name on the list and then Disneyland will contact you.

SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP

Judy Mark reported that their next meeting will be on October 15th. The November meeting will be moved from November 7 so it does not conflict with Election Day. The Statewide Advisory Committee has met last week and she provided an update. DDS's has said that they will respond to the Federal government by October 31st deadline. They have come up with the idea to do a virtual candle light vigil. They have asked all Self Determination Advisory Groups in all 21 Regional Centers to take a picture of them with a lit candle and email it to Governor Brown, DDS and Secretary Dooley. Judy will bring her camera, candles and her laptop to the October 15th meeting to take pictures of everyone. Judy requested that DDS sends a directive to the Regional Centers with a date in 2017 that at every IPP service coordinator who is trained on the new rules with families and consumers.

EQUITY TASK FORCE

Fernando Gomez apologized to those who were planning on attend today's meeting. There hasn't been any significant change since last month and instead of having you come in today at 4:00pm let's wait until next month. Thursday the department is supposed to respond to Carmine with their findings, so we will have more information next month.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carmine Manicone reported we just had our last Board meeting just three weeks ago, but he also took some time off to go back home for a few days. There are not a lot of people today, but it is not because they don't care, but because we funded for 14 individuals attending the Supported Life conference with about 5 staff members. One individual who receives support at WRC will be speaking at the conference.

They secured more space on the 4th floor where JUMP! Creative use to be and realized we need a project manager. They just contracted with Norma Velez to fill in for someone who is out on leave to support those who are out. Norma is a space planner, art director and graphic designer who will be taking on the project and the build outs we will need to service the needs of our intake department. This morning they just did a second round of interviews for the Behavior and Mental Health Specialist position as discussed at the last meeting. They will meet next week to finalize their decision. This person would help Soryl with behavior health needs and make connections with mental health providers and make contact with local hospitals. The Compliance Specialist position has been posted. This person will be helping with the HCBS Rules. The Cultural Diversity Specialist position will also be posted soon. Carmine said they are clearing more spaces to be able to house some service coordinators in them until we have more space. In the next month or so they will begin to posting and recruiting for six new service coordinators. There have been some changes in the Executive Team and we realized we need to revisit and update the Emergency Planning procedures. The Great California Shakeout will be happening on October 20th at 10:20am and we will be participating in that.

Alejandro Soschin asked if we are incorporating safety and security for the building. Denise Fernald updated that we are planning active shooter training and she offered to email everyone an active shooter video.

MEET THE BOARD:

Board Member, David Wyles, shared he's a parent of a client at Westside Regional Center for 21 years. Lisa Basiri attended with them their first IEP. They have been treated with incredible care ever since. He has learned to advocate for his son and has served on the board of other great organizations. He decided to join after that October 12th Board Meeting when the clients decided to take control of their own lives.

Board Member, Richard Breen, is a parent of a client of Westside for 16 years. Richard is an attorney and has learned a lot of Special Education law in order to advocate for his own son. He worked at the Office of Administration Hearing and has also conducted fair hearings, mediated, presiding judge and have a lot of experience in law. He now works for the Social Security Administration and is an administrative judge there.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Zoe Giesberg shared her work will be at a two day Ted Talks style conference next Friday and Saturday at the Electric Lodge off of Abbot Kinney in Venice.

Wesley Witherspoon shared he went to Norwalk voting and advised that the ballot is very long, so please review it carefully at home.

Judy Mark shared her husband is an attorney who works on ballot measures. He researches and creates a voter guide and if you would like to receive it please let her know so she can add you to his mailing list. Judy also shared the outcome of court hearing where she was personally being sued and the case was thrown out.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The meeting adjourned at 8:08p.m. by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

Larry Ryan and Alejandro Soschin
Co-Secretaries of the Board

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
NOVEMBER 2, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen, Jr.
Richard Breen
Nilo Choudhry
Ben Davidson
Austin Dove
Cammy DuPont
Elizabeth Espinosa
Zoe Giesberg
Adriana Madrigal
Myra Mezquita
Todd Rubien
Larry Ryan
Maria Soto
Bob Steiner
Russell Tanner
David Wyles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandra Gonzalez, Philip Jackson, Betty Pearson-Grimble,
Alejandro Soschin

STAFF PRESENT: Vanessa Arauza, Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Ana Da Silva,
Bill Feeman, Danny Franco, Cesar Garcia, Danise Lehrer,
Carmine Manicone, Barbara Marbach, Soryl Markowitz,
Erica Reimer Snell, Aga Spatzier, Liz Spencer, Martha
Thompson, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser

GUESTS: Christofer Arroyo (SCDD), Raymundo Blanco, Linda
Butler, Elena Bustamante, Leonor Chavez, Zakir
Choudhry, Nick Coplin, Kaycien Etchison, Sharon
Etchison, Sylvia Fahimian, Fernando Gomez, Francis
Gomez, Brett Gordon, David Green, Portia Lanae Griffith,
Naomi Harrel, Marcia James, Esther Kelsey, Eduardo
Kogan, Shelly Kuch, Hector Madrigal, Jennifer Mantell,
Barbara McCants, David Mezquita, Jack Nieves, Claudia
Palomo, Francisco Pineda, Blanca Ramos, Guadalupe
Rodriguez, Jorge Rodriguez, Sandy Rubenfeld, Robert
Schwartz, Denise Thornquest (DDS), Guillermina Virgen,
Felicia Williams, Wesley Witherspoon, Sarah Won, Ayode
Woods, Ari Zeldin

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:

It was established that the members present represented a quorum necessary pursuant to Section 3.03 (g) of the bylaws of Westside Regional Center which states:

(g) Quorum

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) members of the corporation. Provided, however, that a quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the Directors then in office at any time when the number of Directors then in office is less than ten (10)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Christofer Arroyo, State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), will be doing a low cost one day conference on March 2, 2017 on changes and transformation on all the new rules, WIOA and changes coming to the Department of Rehabilitation. SCDD has a new publication at the request of the Westside CAC to create a guide on anti-bullying for adults. They created this guide and provided a copy to CAC prior to today's meeting. Anyone can request a copy from Christofer Arroyo. SCDD has also updated flyers on common Regional Services people receive and have translated them into Spanish. They can make copies available to everyone at their request. This Wednesday they will have the last in-office training in Glendale on State Compliance Complaint for Special Education and how to get the best response from CDE.

A parent requested assistance in finding a coach to help her son who is having difficulties concentrating on the jobs his day service takes him too. She stated she has been waiting for over a year to get one and would like assistance as soon as possible. Carmine asked her to please speak to Bill Feeman, Director of Client Services and Erica Reimer-Snell, Assistant Director of Client Services, in the back of the room. Nilo Choudhry, Board Chairperson, also re-iterated that Westside is listening and responding to the community.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nilo Choudhry, Chairperson, updated that there will be no Board meeting in December and the next Board meeting will be January 11, 2017, the 2nd Wednesday of the month. There will be a Board Training in February on sensitivity.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 BOARD MEETING

(ACTION*)

Austin Dove and Larry Ryan, motioned to approve the September 14, 2016 Board Minutes.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 14,

2016 BOARD MEETING.

After public comment, the motion passed:

16 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 5, 2017 BOARD MEETING

(ACTION*)

Austin Dove and Ben Davidson, motioned to approve the October 5, 2016 Board Minutes.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 5, 2016 BOARD MEETING.

No public comment. The motion passed:

16 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT FIRST POLICY (ACTION*)

Carmine Manicone informed that the policy was drafted about a year ago, but amidst of all the turmoil that happened last year at Westside Regional Center, it failed to be presented to the Board for final approval. Carmine read the policy aloud and copies were available for everyone at the meeting.

Todd Rubien and Larry Ryan motioned for approval.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT FIRST POLICY AS AMENDED AT THE MEETING.

After public Board discussion and some amendments to the policy, the motion passed:

16 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

APPROVAL OF THE 2017 PERFORMANCE CONTRACT (ACTION*)

Bob Steiner and Russell Tanner motioned to approve the 2017 Performance Contract presented at the Public Meeting prior to Board Meeting.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE 2017 PERFORMANCE CONTRACT.

After public Board discussion and some amendments to the policy, the motion passed:

14 AYES

0 NO

2 ABSTENTIONS (Mayra Mezquita and Elizabeth Espinosa)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Cammy DuPont reported the committee met earlier today. Danny Franco provided the Committee with a budget summary. WRC is on track as they are 25% into the current fiscal year and they have spent about 25%. They will report in January an audit report

done by an outside independent accountant.

ACHIEVABLE

Ben Davidson reported they had their Board meeting in October. Yesterday, Senator McGuire and some members of Sonoma County came to discuss the possibility of the health center being duplicated.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Todd Rubien reported that CAC continues to do volunteer work in the community. They attended the Culver City Art Walk, Taste of Soul, Universal City Walk, Walking Tour at Sony Studios and much more. They supported LA Goal's 26th Annual Art Show. Westside Center for Independent Living hosted a presentation and they learned a lot about propositions and measures on the November 8th election ballot. The advocates had a Halloween Party. They also did the Culver City Stairs.

POLITICAL ACTION/ CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEES

Zoe Giesberg reported they met on the 18th of last month. Any new vendors who registered after the 30th of June will not be eligible for the ABX2-1. The last day to register for the general election was November 24th. There is a very important Senate race and we have notable supporters on the ballot. There is a need to cultivate relationships with legislators and their staff after November 8th. For the upcoming year, ARCA is looking at about 39 bills, including one that is a transition from CCS to Medical; a managed care system. Regional Centers would have to provide audits and a bill that would remove sheltered employees from exception of workers comp in lieu to get rid of sheltered workshops. There was also a discussion on HCBS Rule. There will be an SSI increase of about 3%. Go out and vote.

Zoe Giesberg updated that they have a new Client Service Committee Chair. At their meeting they discussed what they can do effectively at their meetings including presentations to the Board and the importance of having action items. A lot of the action items for Client Services revolve around the re-doing of the service standards such as HCBS Rule. They also discussed the college and career collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation to get jobs. They talked about coming up with materials they can make into public resources.

Bill Feeman said they talked about the new HCBS Rules, WIOA and things that are going to affect our service standards and delivery of services. He also updated that David Wyles and Richard Breen will co-chair the committee.

ARCA

Carmine Manicone reported that at the August ARCA Meeting it was announced that Eileen Richey, Executive Director of ARCA, would not be renewing her contract and would be stepping down. She has since agreed to stay on for another year or two without a specific contract term in order to work with the ARCA Board for a smooth transition when she actually moves on. She will remain as the Executive Director of ARCA.

Another big discussion at the ARCA meetings was the Disparity study. All 21 Regional

Centers had supported money going to ARCA to do a statewide study on the root causes of the disparity issues. That money was not approved by the state and the legislators. There was an alternative as DDS went to ARCA and said they could come up with \$500,000 for this study. The discussion took hours between the Directors. Part of the discussion was about the money to fund Children's Hospital; they would be implementing and conducting the study. Most Directors are in favor of finding the root cause. ARCA would need to dedicate a lot of staff time to working with Children's Hospital to do the study and that Regional Centers may be asked to fund more for this study. Eileen agreed to go back to DDS and negotiate to see what funding can be available and we will hear more at the next ARCA meeting. As for now, that statewide study will not be moving forward because it did not get funding.

There are emails going back and forth right now between CFO's and Executive Directors to approve a motion to give vendors 180 days to bill for services and have it added to the Welfare Institution Code. Right now it is open and there is no language in the Welfare Institution Code on this topic. This would add a code that vendors only have 6 months to bill for services. An exception for payment can be made with the discretion of the Executive Directors. They anticipate that language will be approved and adopted and they can share with their vendors so they know they cannot hold on to billing for years or months as can tend to happen. It is difficult for individual Regional Centers and DDS to budget when we have to go back a year to pay for Purchase of Service dollars.

There is a lot of discussion about the ABX2-1 increases that went out to the Vendors and how they will need to track and report their expenditures. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of guidelines for vendors yet except they have been told that if they do not report properly they will have to return the money. However, the actual mechanism on how to report is not developed yet. There are a series of frequently asked questions now posted on the DDS website.

Self-Determination reported that DDS has answered all but 32 of 180 questions that they were given by the Center for Medicaid Waiver Services. They hope to resubmit the application by the end of the calendar year. They will also be rolling out training modules to the Regional Centers on the Self-Determination Program within the next month or two.

One thing we should start preparing for is a DDS Dashboard that will be on the DDS website. It will be a tracking mechanism on all of the individual Regional Centers. You will be able to go on there and check on the progress and see how each individual regional center is doing on a number of items. Some of the things being proposed to be tracked on this dashboard are complaints, success on competitive integrated employment, fair hearings, NCI Data which includes; satisfaction surveys, information gathered from surveys done by the State Council, performance measures, disparity data, individual and family satisfaction. That will all be available on the DDS Dashboard for each individual regional center. They will be measured and they will need to be prepared and step up on accountability. WRC will need to track these areas and perform their own satisfaction surveys so they know how they are doing. It is in progress now, but they do not have a

roll out date yet.

SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

Ben Davidson reported that they have had an increased attendance in their meeting last month. The word is getting out on the Final Rule and the ABX2-1 and how to integrate those rates and pass them through. They had a really good discussion with Carmine & Mary Lou Weise-Stusser from WRC on how some of the Day Programs need to change their program design. They will be meeting in December and January.

FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FRC)

Liz Spencer reported that the Family Resources Center Education Support and Community Services are working on a transition conference for Friday, February 3, 2016 and Saturday, February 4, 2016 to include educators, families, students and Regional Center folks. Barbara Marbach will be leading this event. Liz encouraged parents to never stop advocating for their loved ones.

FRC is part of the California Promise Program grant. It is a 5 year double blind study and the lead agency is Department of Rehabilitation, Department of Development Services, Healthcare Services, Department of Social Services, San Diego State University are some of the agencies that are participating. They took a little over 3,000 California residents between the ages of 14 and 16 that had to be receiving SSI and randomly chose them. For the five years they impact them with services, information and supports to see ultimately if they are less dependent of state and federal resources. The outcome for this particular grant are increased educational achievement for SSI youth and their families, increased access by SSI youth and their families to community services, improve employment, increased exploration, understanding and utilization of Social Security and incentives. By incentives they mean that what we try to do as an agency is that when folks transition to adult services and they want to work or go to college, make money, live on their own, or in supported living, they do not lose their benefits. There are a lot of incentive programs through Social Security to allow and support individuals when they transition to adult years to have those choices. The last outcome is the post program reduction and SSI payments to SSI youths and their families. On the surface it sounds like this may succeed when we no longer have to pay SSI, but it's because the folks are making more through employment and they still maintain their healthcare services. All of this is really surrounding choice and opportunity for our transition age folks.

December is almost here and it's time for our Toy Drive. The FREC and many, many partners pushed through to get as many toys and gift cards donated so we can serve as many families as possible. If you are interested in donating please contact the FREC. We provide the parents the opportunity to come in and choose toys for the client and their siblings and we wrap them for them.

SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP

Brett Gordon reported for Judy Marks who is in Las Vegas. They are working on simple language and everyone should come to their next meeting here on November 16th at 6:30pm.

EQUITY TASK FORCE

Fernando Gomez reported they had a great meeting today. On September 8th an internal Committee lead by Carmine, submitted a grant request to the Department which had submitted the RFP that went out to all 21 Regional Centers. This is all part of the \$11 million dollars that were allocated through ABX2-1 to fund the Disparity/Equity efforts. DDS complimented the WRC Team saying it was a very good report and they were able to get funded. Not only will WRC receive what we asked for, but a little more than that. Now we have funding and leverage to address Disparity and Equity. They have also funded a position called a Disparity Specialist. Each regional center will have one who will be responsible to execute the plan of that strategy. The position is now posted on the website. In addition, the SCDD has been keeping a close eye on this and how we are going to move in the market. There is a lot of dialogue and collaboration. If you would like to receive this information, please let Vanessa Arauza know so we can add you to the distribution list.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carmine reported WRC submitted a multi-year, multi-faceted proposal to address disparity and promote equity. They requested over three years a little over \$1.6 million. The first year of funding they requested just over \$353,000 because it is an abbreviated year. Fernando mentioned WRC got more than they asked for, but that's because they requested \$40,000 in years 2 and 3 to develop RFP for both children and adults programs in those underserved areas and asked for \$10,000 for translation services for years 2 and 3. They gave the \$40,000 RFP's and the \$10,000 translation services for the first year because they want WRC to encumber that money and enter into contracts in the first year. They do not need to spend it on the first year, but do need to encumber it. They did not get the Family and Client Support Equity Support Specialist staff position they requested. This individual would help WRC do their own surveys and collect data and make sense of the numbers. WRC felt this was an important position because they wanted to track their own success and make sure they are meeting their goals. They did not get that person, but Fernando and Carmine discussed collaborating with other Regional Centers. Carmine and Erica had a conversation with some folks at DDS last Friday and there are ways to contract some of this stuff out with the money that was approved. They got money for Cultural Competency training, improving the website and media message, parent to parent training, increase translation services, enhanced case management by hiring 3 enhanced case managers to do specific targeted case management for small caseloads, RFP, and developing self-assessment tools for clients. Now WRC needs to implement it and its going to take work. Carmine is very proud of the folks who worked on this. We will need the Cultural Diversity Specialist to oversee this program. The position is posted on our website. If you are interested or you want to get that information out and posted elsewhere, please let Carmine or Vanessa Arauza know so we can forward you that information. This person will need to have a lot of skills. They will need to have fiscal management skills to manage the budget, a good project manager because it is a multi-faceted approach and they will be overseeing a lot of things. They will need to have good oral and written communication skills and most importantly they will need to be relatable to our folks.

The space on the 4th floor has been vacated and it will require built outs because it's not set-up for our purposes.

Staffing wise, they have hired a Mental Behavior Health Specialist, they promoted one of their Service Coordinator, Melissa Marra-Maghran, she is an awesome service coordinator and they are expecting wonderful things from her in assisting Soryl Markowitz. She will also help develop relationships with our mental health colleagues at DHM and at the hospitals. Pamela Arturi, Employment Specialist, was promoted and will be moving into the HCBS Compliant Specialist position. We have already posted the Employment Specialist position. Pamela will be overseeing whoever they bring into that position to have continuity to all she has done in that area. In October, they had their first Employment Business Advisory Committee Meeting in this room. They will continue to meet monthly and invites the Board and everyone interested who may have employment opportunities for the folks that we work with. They have added WRC Clients to the filing team. They are asking the community to come to the table and asked the business community to join them. They will be posting four additional new Service Coordinator positions and hopefully getting those interviews done and lined up and ready by the new calendar year.

Carmine reported that WRC conducted their first emergency evacuation drill last week in several years and the good news is that the entire building was evacuated within 7 minutes. They learned some lessons from this experience. The main one is that they only have one main accessible stairwell out of this building in the front. They will have to work with the building management to address the other emergency exits to make them more accessible. They also realized they need more than the one evacuation chair they have for those who are non-ambulatory and in a wheel chair. We will be working on a plan for that.

WRC had a Halloween Costume Parade last week and people really embraced it. Cesar Garcia is gone, but he went all out and took the best overall costume for his Mad Hatter costume.

All Board Members have a 50th Anniversary of the Lanterman Act booklet in their packets that was spearheaded by Melinda Sullivan from the Lanterman Regional Center. It is really amazing because it has the entire history of the Regional Centers in this little pamphlet.

Carmine recognized CAC and told them how awesome they are. They make a difference, spoke up and now we have a booklet now on how to prevent bullying in adults.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Soryl Markowitz mentioned that at the Self-Determination Meeting last month they looked at a PowerPoint presentation in both English and Spanish and the entire group of about 30 people speaking both languages and have the work together to collaborate on how to best present it was a great experience to see them work through it the way they

did it. As a result, they now have a simplified PowerPoint.

Elizabeth Espinosa mentioned that she is excited about this Board and some parents have approached her and they have asked that we work on simplifying the acronyms and language so they can better understand what is discussed at these meetings. For translation, there are some buzz words we should work on with the translators. This evening there was some confusion on the term Day Program as it was translated as a work program.

Ayode Woods agreed with Carmine in regards to the How to Prevent Bullying in Adults Booklet and was glad to be recognized as it really does help.

Christofer Arroyo made a point this anti-bullying book for adults came as a result from the CAC from WRC. They have tested on a few folks for clarity, but if anyone has recommendations or suggestions, they welcome it. Their contact information is on the front of the booklet so please feel free to contact them. Christofer thanked the Board and the Regional Center for coming up for a comprehensive Employment First Policy. He added that we need to be mindful in talking about employment with people with disabilities that people learn on the job. He thinks it would be helpful to bring vendors or folks from the State Council to talk about Employment First. Virtually anyone can get a job, we just need to find the right match and carve out for them.

Nilo Choudhry acknowledged the WRC Executive Team and WRC Management Team for their presence at these meetings. She also acknowledged our translators this evening. In the upcoming year we will learn more about the Facilitators and the powerful and important work they do. We will also be learning about Facilitation, Sensitivity Training in the coming year.

Carmine mentioned this will be the last meeting until after the holidays. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and mentioned how grateful he is to be there.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The meeting adjourned at 8:46p.m. by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

Larry Ryan and Alejandro Soschin
Co-Secretaries of the Board

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
JANUARY 11, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen, Jr.
Nilo Choudhry
Ben Davidson
Zoe Giesberg
Phil Jackson
Adriana Madrigal
Todd Rubien
Larry Ryan
Alejandro Soschin
Maria Soto
Bob Steiner
Russell Tanner
David Wyles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Breen, Austin Dove, Cammy DuPont, Elizabeth Espinosa, Sandra Gonzalez, Myra Mezquita, Betty Pearson-Grimble

STAFF PRESENT: Carmine Manicone, Vanessa Arauza, Linda Butler, Sylvia Calatayud, Ana Da Silva, Bill Feeman, Denise Fernald, Danny Franco, Danise Lehrer, Barbara Marbach, Soryl Markowitz, Megan Mendes, Erica Reimer Snell, Aga Spatzier, Liz Spencer, Martha Thompson, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser

GUESTS: Christofer Arroyo (SCDD), Christopher Barret (Achievable), Alicia Bazzano, Raymundo Blanco, Zakir Choudhry, Florinna Dwid Colar, Sylvia Fahimian, Fernando Gomez, Brett Gordon, Maribel Ahumada, Tom Iland, Marcia James, Esther Kelsey, Judy Mark, Barbara McCants, Jack Nieves, Sandy Rubenfeld, Denise Thornquest (DDS), Cynthia Torres, Wesley Witherspoon, Sarah Won, Ari Zeldin

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry at 6:18 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:

It was established that the members present represented a quorum necessary pursuant to

Section 3.03 (g) of the bylaws of Westside Regional Center which states:

(g) *Quorum*

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) members of the corporation. Provided, however, that a quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the Directors then in office at any time when the number of Directors then in office is less than ten (10)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Christopher Arroyo, SCDD, mentioned he left handouts in the front of the room for a conference they are co-sponsoring on March 2, 2017. It is about different changes that are coming. They are keeping the cost as low as possible, just enough to cover translations. Disparity data has been posted on the DDS website. SCDD will be making comparison charts for all the regional centers.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nilo Choudhry, Chairperson, thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication last year and 2017 will have a better year. Nilo asked if anyone knows the WRC Mission Statement is. Carmine Manicone, Executive Director, recited it aloud and said he is looking into putting up the mission statement in the Boardroom this year.

Nilo reported that the Board Vice President, Sandra Gonzalez, and her husband welcomed their first baby, Miles Anthony. Nilo passed around two greeting cards for everyone to sign.

Nilo promoted committee involvement and input. She encouraged Board Members to sign up for any of the three standing Board committees: Client Services Committee, Finance Committee and Political Action Outreach Committee. Nilo passed around a sign-up sheet.

Nilo announced that on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 6:00 PM, there will be a Board Sensitivity Training presented by Dr. Mayra Mendez and the WRC CAC.

April 4th will mark Carmine Manicone's one year anniversary as Executive Director at WRC. Nilo mentioned that it is part of the Board's job to evaluate the Executive Director and the organization to ensure it is achieving its mission. In January and February the Executive Committee will be contacting clients, families, staff, vendors and board members to get their feedback on his performance. In the next Board meeting, there will be a closed session.

The governors proposed budget for 2017/2018 just came out. Carmine will discuss later in this meeting.

Nilo went over the rules of behavior at all Board Committee/ Task Force meetings, even when there are differences in opinions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 2, 2016 BOARD MEETING

(ACTION*)

Larry Ryan and Alejandro Soschin, motioned to approve the November 2, 2016 Board Minutes.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 2, 2016 BOARD MEETING.

No public comment. The motion passed:

13 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Danny Franco, CFO, reported that the committee met earlier today. They discussed the financials for November 30, 2016. We have gone through 42% of the year. In operations we have spent 38% of the allocations. In POS we spent about 41.5%. It is projected to have a slight deficit for POS, but we anticipate DDS will allocate any money that is needed to cover that deficit. The governor's budget was also discussed, but Carmine will go more into detail about it on his report.

ACHIEVABLE

Christopher Barret reported on two updates. They hired a nurse practitioner who will start at the end of February. They also secured new local administrative space in about .4 miles from WRC. They will be transitioning some of the administrative staff into the new location so the current administration space within the clinic can be used as exam rooms and consult rooms. With this move they will have a total of six exam rooms and two consult rooms.

Alejandro Soschin asked if the Achievable Board, Executive Committee and Management have considered mobile options for the future to help with space issues. Christopher said that they are always open to different options.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Todd Rubien welcomed everyone back from the holidays. He reported that CAC always gets together at the beginning of the New Year to discuss the direction of CAC, new ideas, 2016 goals and make new goals for 2017. There are many things to consider and how they might affect them such the new HCBS Rules, new President, raising house costs, jobs, how to work effectively with the Board and local officials. They continue to do volunteer work in their community and participate in local events.

Nilo Choudhry acknowledged CAC for their involvement in the community and advocacy and thanked them.

POLITICAL ACTION/ CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEES

Zoe Giesberg reported on the presidential impact. The Affordable Care Act is still intact and people can still register for Covered California and Medicare. The Governor's budget was released yesterday. There is money going towards community housing projects for statewide plan with possible federal dollars and they want to get in on that discussion. There is a general increase on the general fund for about \$28 million towards the impact on providers for increasing state minimum wage. There is talk about dissolving SELPA's. Overall it is a neutral budget, but Carmine will go in to more details on his report. DDS has highlights of the general budget up on their website already. They are working with Christopher Arroyo on a legislative advocate training for the Board in the near future.

Client Services Committee

David Wyles reported on the first meeting of the year. They set a reset button as they have to decide where they are and where they are headed and will have more questions and answers in the near future. They will be having another committee meeting before the next Board meeting. During this meeting they learned that due to the new budget there will be a possibility of hiring new case managers including behavior and mental health specialist. They will have 5 new service coordinators and the possibility of lowering their caseloads from 90 to a little closer to the mandated national level of 62.

ARCA

Alejandro Soschin reported that he was unable to attend the last ARCA Board Meeting due to illness, but Carmine provided detailed updates to him. The next meeting will be in Sacramento and interestingly enough the Board Delegates meeting will be on inauguration day. This may be a topic of discussion as people across the regional center system have questions and concerns about what that may bring in the next four years. Also, how ARCA can prepare for whatever may occur and make sure we can represent the interest of our communities in the most effective way. The budget came out this week and ARCA is already looking through it carefully. They want to come up with policy recommendations and give the representatives and the regional center system some guidance on how to respond to changes that may be coming. Any information he learns and can share, he will share with the Board.

Carmine Manicone reported that ARCA promoted Amy Wesley to an Associated Director. She is very bright, knowledgeable and insightful.

Alejandro reported that ARCA offers legislative advocacy training too. They are free and he will also look into that.

SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

Ben Davidson reported SPAC had a potluck meeting in December. They will have a regular meeting next week Tuesday and will have more to report at the next Board Meeting.

FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FRC)

Liz Spencer reported on the two large events they have annually, Disneyland discount tickets and the Toy Drive. For the Disneyland event, 550 families were able to purchase tickets at a discounted price. There was a 4% margin of error were the incorrect email address was given or entered. We are always looking for opportunities to improve in this area. We will begin to take names for this event in August. The Toy Drive was very successful thanks to the many supporters. Many of whom are sitting on this board, Maxim, 24 Hr. HomeCare and Premier Healthcare who also helped gift wrap and assisted families. They were able to provide 165 families with 600 – 700 toys.

In collaboration with Community Services and Education Department, they will be hosting a Transition to Adult Services Day, Saturday, February 4, 2017, from 10:00am – 4:00pm. They will have vendors, speakers and Department of Rehabilitation. Dr. Richard Rosenberg will be talking about the new changes to adult services and transitioning services. They are asking for a \$20 check registration fee, which will be returned to you on that day, it is only to ensure you show up.

They are planning an open house in a month or two after everything is done.

SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP

Judy Mark reported that the group met last night and had a great turn out. They meet the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm. The next one is on Valentine's Day and everyone is welcomed to attend and bring candy.

They are still waiting on federal approval, but with change of president and administration, they are putting pressure to the state and federal government to get Self-Determination funding approved as soon as possible. The state government feels DDS and the Department of Health Care Services have the right answers to all the questions the federal government asked. They have a very important call on January 23rd to go over their answers to the federal government questions. It might take a few weeks for DDS to finalize the application and they are required to post it on their website as well as the Department of Health Care Services for public comments. The WRC Self Determination Committee will review it and post their comments on the website's public comments area.

Judy Mark reported that the Self Determination Committee has been working for the past three to four months on a PowerPoint presentation. It uses plain language that was written by the committee in English and Spanish. It is written in a way that anyone can grasp. There are 12 members in the committee but everyone that showed up contributed. They would like to train the Board on it in March.

Judy and Carmine explained what a block grant is and explained how they work at a guest's request.

EQUITY TASK FORCE

Fernando Gomez reported they met on Monday for four hours and about 35 people

attended. DDS had requested a grant proposal from each regional center. Carmine put a team together to submit it and some of the elements were approved. They received an overview of all the 21 regional centers reports that were sent in. WRC's was probably the most organized, thought out and balanced from what they saw. There are four main pillars; improved trust, improved communication, improved access to services and improved satisfaction overall. Fernando stated that Carmine and the staff are doing a good job in putting it into play and the execution of it. They will be interviewing some people. Everyone will receive this information electronically. Fernando encouraged everyone to navigate the DDS website and in the search bar type in "Dashboard" so you can see the informative data.

The date of the next meeting will be communicated as soon as possible.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carmine welcomed everyone and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He reported that 2017 will be a busy year for WRC. Four people retired in one month and they will need to hire more people. They currently have four vacant Service Coordinator positions and five new positions they are scheduling interviews for now. In addition, they are looking at hiring a Diversity Specialist, Employment Specialist and to fill an accounting position, maybe two.

The Board Sensitivity Training will focus on being sensitive to the people we support and what we need to know to really better serve them. The training will be presented by Dr. Mayra Mendez and CAC.

Carmine updated on the Governor's budget and how it will affect the DDS budget. The budget came out in the morning and DDS had a summary of it by that afternoon. More than 317,000 consumers are projected to be served this year statewide. That is an increase of just under 14,000 individuals in one year. Total funding being proposed is \$6.4 billion for services and supports for regional centers. It would represent an OPS increase for all 21 regional centers of about \$26.7 million statewide.

WRC had a wonderful holiday party. Thanks to the Board Members who were able to attend. Carmine also thanked those Board Members that made donations for the raffles.

Carmine reported that work was done to update the Boardroom, reception and FREC during the holiday closure. They still have some finishing touches to work on, but they are getting there. The second phase will be done in the 4th floor and in Health and Medical.

Carmine updated that yesterday there was a walk through with Sargent Hernandez of the Culver City Police Department. He met with the Executive Team and will be coming back to conduct an active shooter trainings.

Denise provided a summary of Sargent Hernandez's visit, recommendations and plan of action. She also shared the Run, Hide and Fight concept with the Board.

Carmine thanked everyone for their support. He acknowledged a friend of his, Jace, who is now gainfully employed. Carmine asked the Board to please help with ideas, contacts anything that will help consumers get jobs. Another area they will be focusing on is housing for the clients they serve. Lastly, they need help in strategic planning. Looking forward to a great year!

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Nilo Choudhry donated some books for the FREC.

Fernando Gomez thanked Ana Da Silva and Ereida Galda from FREC for translating at the Equity Task Force Meeting. He also mentioned that the ICC will be meeting on January 19th & 20th at WRC. There is a lot of resources on the ARCA website and recommends everyone take a look at it.

Judy Mark shared about the Self Advocate Speaker Grant Autism Society of Los Angeles has gotten from UCLA. Anyone with any disability over the age of 18 years and wants to learn public speaking skills can participate. They help them write their life story and then they will help them find companies where they can talk about their life stories. They do not have to verbally communicate. Please contact Judy so she can add you to their mailing list if you are interested.

Alicia Bazzano asked clarifying questions about the evaluation of the Executive Director. She also suggested that for the sensitivity training it would be a great idea to have CAC to participate in the training. Over the course of the past year, they have done outreach project to include more people with epilepsy and have tripled in the number of people WRC serves with epilepsy. Almost every one of them is now getting services from WRC.

Tom Islan, son of Emily Islan the former president of ASLA, is on the speaker's bureau Judy was talking about. He would like to be on the upcoming trainings for the Board and would like to be a vendor of WRC. He is putting on an event two weeks from today, January 25th at 6:00pm in the North LA Regional Center.

Alejandro Soschin had someone ask him how to prepare in case something happens when they are no longer here to care for them. How to plan for the future and make resources available to their loved one even after they are no longer around? Mary Lou went over the Able Act and informed them that February 16th there will be an Able training at WRC.

Zoe Giesberg mentioned she was not at the last Board Meeting and wanted to ensure everyone that we have a community that looks out for one another here at WRC. With the new presidency, we need to make it the years we can succeed.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m. by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

Larry Ryan and Alejandro Soschin
Co-Secretaries of the Board

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
MARCH 1, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen, Jr.
Nilo Choudhry
Ben Davidson
Cammy DuPont
Zoe Giesberg
Phil Jackson
Adriana Madrigal
Myra Mezquita
Todd Rubien
Larry Ryan
Alejandro Soschin
Bob Steiner
Russell Tanner
David Wyles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Breen, Austin Dove, Elizabeth Espinosa, Sandra Gonzalez, Betty Pearson-Grimble, Maria Soto

STAFF PRESENT: Carmine Manicone, Vanessa Arauza, Linda Butler, Ana Da Silva, Bill Feeman, Denise Fernald, Danny Franco, Danise Lehrer, Barbara Marbach, Soryl Markowitz, Megan Mendes, Erica Reimer Snell, Aga Spatzier, Martha Thompson, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser

GUESTS: Christofer Arroyo (SCDD), Raymundo Blanco, Yuret Chang, Zakir Choudhry, Judy Enright, Sylvia Fahimian, Fernando Gomez, Brett Gordon, Marcia James, Esther Kelsey, Josh Kruskol (Achievable), Carla Lehmann-Buder, Christine Marie, Judy Mark, Robert Martin, Barbara McCants, David Mezquita, Christine Nabri, Jack Nieves, Francisco Pineda, Sandy Rubenfeld, Sharon Smythe, Wesley Witherspoon, Ayode Woods, Ari Zeldin

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry at 6:13 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:

It was established that the members present represented a quorum necessary pursuant to Section 3.03 (g) of the bylaws of Westside Regional Center which states:

(g) *Quorum*

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) members of the corporation. Provided, however, that a quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the Directors then in office at any time when the number of Directors then in office is less than ten (10)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nilo Choudhry, Chairperson, thanked the clients and their families because it is thanks to them that everyone is here. She thanked those who work at Westside Regional Center, vendors and volunteers that help clients and their families. Nilo announced that there will be a closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss the Executive Director's employment and contract. There will be public comments session prior and post closed session. Nilo reported that they are looking into a lot of improvements for board assessments. There have been a lot of improvements at Westside, but they will continue to work on more improvements. Nilo updated that Maria Soto, Board Member, notified Carmine Manicone via email today that her eldest son passed away. There will be two sympathy cards passed around for all Board of Directors to sign for Maria.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Jack Nieves updated his birthday is coming up on March 9th.

Fernando Gomez would like to ensure the ARCA delegate, Alejandro Soschin, regularly attends the ARCA meetings in order to report to the Board. He mentioned that Sandra Gonzalez is the back-up delegate, but if she cannot participate, the Board should consider another delegate. Fernando suggested that Nilo attend one of the ARCA meetings for the network opportunity and to obtain information and disseminate the information in particular with Board delegates. Especially, with issues such as Equity, Disparity and Self-Determination the delegates can come back and discuss more information on a statewide level.

Larry Ryan shared he has a new employment and a new home.

Christofer Arroyo, SCDD, shared he left some flyers on the table in the front of the room. One of them is a handbook on how to advocate with your public officials step-by-step. Christofer mentioned that due to the increased concerns people have on what may or may not happen in a federal basis, he included an article from the New York Times on "How To Make Your Voice Be Heard in Washington" written by George Miller. Christofer also invited everyone to attend the conference tomorrow. Nilo asked for all those attending to SCDD conference to please raise their hands. Someone asked what is the purpose of the conference? Christofer explained that purpose is to inform people of the new changes in the system such as Self-Determination, People Center Planning, HCBS Rules, the new way services will be delivered and the Department of Rehab to talk about

the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 11, 2017 BOARD MEETING

(ACTION*)

Bob Steiner and Ben Davidson, motioned to approve the January 11, 2017 Board Minutes.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 11, 2017 BOARD MEETING.

No public comment. The motion passed:

14 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Cammy DuPont, reported that the Committee had a lot of people attend the meeting this evening. Danny Franco prepared a status report sheet on what has been spent on two key areas. So far they have spent 54% of the money the state gives them for Operations. These are expenses to run the Regional Center. The other budget area is Purchase of Service (POS) and the money used to pay for the services you need. In this area, they have spent 57.4% of the budget which is a little over \$175 million.

Every year the Regional Center is required to have an independent audit done. The auditors are working on that and should have it completed by the end of March. Also, the Regional Center is required every five years to hire a new auditing firm. The five-year mark is fast approaching and a new firm is being sought. Danny is looking to hire someone that has audited other Regional Centers to begin this September or October.

The Finance Committee will be meeting in April and they would like the Board, consumers and the community to attend. They will be discussing the contracts that are over \$250,000, as these are the contracts required to go to the Board for approval to ensure everyone understands them before they are submitted for approval. They do not have a set date yet, but Vanessa Arauza will send out an email so everyone can attend.

ACHIEVABLE

Josh Kruskol reported they are physically expanding. Their administrative staff will be moving off site in two weeks. This will allow them to open two more exam rooms.

They will be having an event on Thursday, April 6, 2017. They will have the same wonderful catering firm as the one from last year. This event will be on healthy people, jobs and access to health care. Dr. Pam Wiley will be speaking about an innovative job training program she is running with the individuals with autism. They will be bringing Rick Rollens who works with the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) to talk about how changes to Medicaid in a federal level and Medical in a state level will affect our population. The event will take place at the Danneker Boardroom at WRC.

They are aggressively looking for a medical provider: nurse practitioner or physician. If you know anyone who may be interested in joining a cutting-edge team who is innovating new forms of delivering health care, please refer them to Josh or Carmen Ibarra or to www.achievable.org.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Todd Rubien reported that CAC continues to do volunteer work in the community. Some attended the Valentine's Day dance at Mychal's Learning Place and the Sensitivity Training at WRC. They were so impressed with the training that they will be developing a shorter version to train others in the CAC. They also attended a Transition Seminar at WRC and they are setting a new goal to reach out to more teams to help out with the transitions. CAC will be a part of a panel being held at the California Endowment Center tomorrow. They were invited by Chris Arroyo from SCDD to participate in the panel titled Changes and Choices: Leading the Change.

POLITICAL ACTION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Zoe Giesberg reported they talked about federal changes and they tried contacting several Congressional legislators like Karen Bass, Maxine Waters, Ted Lieu, Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris. They also talked about Disability Grassroots Day on April 4th and 5th to push and lobby for legislative issues. There's still time to show interest in attending Grassroots Day by contacting Vanessa Arauza if you are interested.

The state budget is very restrictive. Scholarships for middle class families are ending. One of the biggest changes is a new bill AB279 where provider rates will be increased to meet minimum wage changes. There's a possibility that California may be able to get the ABLE Act off and running. There are federal accounts, where people with disabilities receiving SSI or SSDI could save up to about \$100,000 without it affecting their income. They can put in \$14,000 annually at the cap budget.

Affordable Care Act presentation repeal process video is going around and Zoe has it available on her work website.

Nilo Choudhry reported that the letters for the Assembly Bill 279 for the minimum wage have been sent out by staff.

CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

David Wyles reported they talked about the coming changes to community services and Self-Determination and its future which is still up in the air. Lisa Basiri will be working with the staff of client services on updating the service standards for Westside Regional Center and, once approved, it will be updated on the website.

ARCA

Alejandro Soschin reported that ARCA represents a great opportunity for the regional center to connect with the broader state coalition which are the people in Sacramento that impact what we do here and how we impact our community. We need to make an effort to connect with these stakeholders. Alejandro mentioned he has had the opportunity in

the last year to get to know other regional center delegates and chair people. This has helped in a lot of the things we have been doing and are continuing to do here to make our board and governance process more effective. Alejandro stated he has been remiss in those connections in Sacramento. He missed the last meeting in Sacramento, but plans to attend the next ARCA meeting scheduled on March 16th and 17th. He clarified that he has dialed in to the meetings he has not physically attended in the past.

There is a lot happening on the statewide front and we need to think of a way to disseminate that information locally. ARCA sends out email from time to time that we might be able to post on the WRC website.

ARCA is engaged in what is happening in the budget process for the state. Today the sub-committee was talking about services that impact our community. ARCA put together a list of requests and things to keep in mind through the Lanterman Coalition. The objective is to relay to the governor and his people about our programs and the necessity to prevent loss of federal funds. The process of closing down developmental centers is another area and the impact that will have on the community programs. Hopefully, it will open up resources that can be integrated into the community. One of the things that have come up in prior years is that critical services were removed from our system. There is a push to see if some of those services can be reinstated to have more integration of community programs. ARCA also talked about the Final Rule. There is a lot of discussion at ARCA about state, local, county and city minimum wage and living wage increases and how that will be reflected in the budget. There is a push to look at vendor rates. They have not been reviewed and revised in many years. This puts a lot of pressure on organizations trying to deliver the best quality service to their clients. They will begin a rate review and analysis.

ARCA is looking into changing the accounting system and contract with a consulting team that will look at the entire statewide regional center accounting system.

Eileen Ritchey is moving on for personal reasons. Amy Westling will be the Interim Executive Director for ARCA.

Judy Mark would like to see an increase in the number of people who are on the Medicaid Waiver at the state regional center level. She said this would help us get the maximum amount possible for block granting. Judy mentioned that many Regional Centers are refusing to do outreach or holding their local Advisory meeting for Self-Determination because they are waiting on very specific directions from DDS. It is important that at the ARCA level WRC Self-Determination Advisory is used as an example on the progress it has made and the support the staff has given them as it is a state law. On vendor rates, they are too low. She's opposed to across the board vendor increases as they should be tied to outcomes. Biggest problem is that we do not look to see if they are improving. Ask the basic questions.

Carmine commented on the Medicaid waiver. WRC is one of the smallest centers with the largest percent on the waiver. In order to be in the waiver you need to have two

deficits to qualify.

Bill shared in more detailed the qualifications for a client to qualify for Medicaid waivers.

SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

Ben Davidson reported they met last week and Christofer Arroyo attended and opened the meeting. He discussed the conference taking place tomorrow and the disparity hearings that are going on. Mary Lou and Carmine gave some reports. Another important is AB279 bill which makes sense and encourage vendors and everyone to get behind it.

Regarding the Sensitivity Training from last week, one thing that was brought up that they can improve on is to get out on time.

FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FREC)

Bill Feeman reported for Liz Spencer. In partnership with Community Services and the Education Support Team they sponsored the Celebrating Transition Conference here at WRC. There were over 120 participants and 12 presenters and great information and there is already a great demand for the next one.

They will be partnering with Early Start and Education Support Team to provide a conference on April 29th to the Early Start Families on transitioning from Early Start at age 3.

They met with DDS on January 17th and it was a great opportunity to discuss some of the challenges and successes that our Early Start families are experiencing. Ereida & Liz attended training on the effects of early childhood trauma on the developing brain. It was difficult, but the information was important.

Ana Da Silva testified in Sacramento before the California School Board on the importance of expanding the number of empowerment centers throughout California.

Tomorrow Jill and Norma will be hosting a table in the Changes and Choices Conference in Los Angeles.

SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP

Judy Mark reported the next meeting is March 14th. The February meeting was on Valentine's Day and they had a great outcome. Last week DDS had a meeting with the federal government to discuss their application for funding for the self-determination Program called the Waiver. Judy reported that the waivers have not been approved, but things are moving in the right direction. They came into agreement in most issues. The biggest issue that kept them divided was having the financial services costs be a part of the individual budget. Federal Government accepted California argument. DDS has claimed that in two weeks they will rewrite the waiver and send it back to the federal government for an informal review. Ben Davidson, Connie Lapin, Fernando Gomez and

Judy Mark all sit in the group and they have urged DDS to not resubmit the full waiver for review until they have gotten clear signal from the federal government that everything in it looks good. This can go for a couple months and hopefully come to an agreement. If this all goes the way they think it will go they expect the waiver to be approved by the summer.

EQUITY TASK FORCE

Fernando Gomez reported that the Equity Task Force met on the 21st for a few hours. The State Council weighed in on some statistics they have been working on and Carmine did the same. Carmine and Fernando will be meeting this Friday to talk about specifics. WRC is the only Regional Center in the state that has an Equity Task Force. This is not going away at the state level. WRC is a more forward-thinking and progressive regional center and will yield more opportunities to create case studies and set best practices standards. Fernando mentioned that Carmine has validated that he is willing to be open minded, work and talk about the specifics. It is all about both sides of the ledger taking accountability in saying "let's work together and have that one voice and walk together." They interviewed candidates last week for the Cultural Diversity Specialist starting May 14th. March 30th is the date slated for the next Equity Task Force. Carmine received a call from DDS today saying there is additional funds \$1 million available and for WRC to submit a request for additional funds.

Alejandro Soschin asked if the additional funding is for WRC or for all 21 Regional Centers. Fernando clarified that the additional funding will be given to the project as a whole. All 21 Regional Centers will be able to ask for some funding from the \$1 million additional money.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carmine Manicone reported that most of the items he wanted to report on have already been covered. He clarified that he just received a call from Rapone Anderson from DDS this afternoon about the addition funding available and he hadn't even informed the staff. They need to respond by verbal request by the end of the day tomorrow. It's \$1 million for the entire state. Look at the parts of your proposal that didn't get funded, but the legislators are also extremely interested in Early Start services.

Program Managers and Executive Team have been busy interviewing for 5 back-fill service coordinator positions and 5 new service coordinators. Sandy Rivera has accepted the Equity and Diversity Specialist position and will start on March 14th. Rosalinda Mata accepted the Enhanced Case Management Project specifically for that plan and oversees the cases that have no Purchase of Service (POS) in place. An offer is out for a Payroll Specialist position.

The renovations on the 3rd floor are now completed. This week they got the automated door opener in the reception area. It will now be easier for our clients who use wheelchairs to enter and exit the reception area. They are still working on getting bids for the 4th floor area as the contractor they working with is not being as responsive as they would like.

Governor's budget is a continuance budget with a 5.9% increase that is proposed statewide that will only cover growth. \$317.4 million increase in regional center Operations (Ops) and POS, but when you spread that among 21 regional centers it's not that much money.

Carmine mentioned that ARCA is most concerned about the potential block grants of Medicaid. There is approximately \$100 billion we get from the state for Medical services and 40% of the DDS budget is coming through those Medicaid Waiver dollars. One of the things that could potentially begin to impact our system is block grants. We don't think it will impact us initially, but it could eventually affect the RC system because Medicaid dollars could become fixed even as we continue to add more individuals to our system.

Yesterday afternoon at about 4pm, we received the Performance Report via email for Westside Regional Center based on the contract from October 2016. There are some things that they need to finalize it. Once it is finalized, Vanessa Arauza will email it to all the Board of Directors and have it posted on the website.

We have four public meetings on our POS Expenditures scheduled in March and we have provided copies for the Board in their Board Packets and there are copies available in the front of the room. The meetings are scheduled on March 15th at WRC, March 18th at LA Speech and Language Therapy Center, March 20th at WRC and March 22nd at Mychal's Learning Place.

As Cammy mentioned, the Finance Committee will be reviewing the contracts in April. We will communicate the date of that meeting as soon as possible. We will do some simple summaries of the contracts that we will get out ahead of time.

Carmine thanked Dr. Mayra Mendez, Marcia James and the Consumer Advocacy Committee for putting together the training this past week. He welcomed all Board Members to reach out to him if they need a better understanding or want to meet to go over any documents in more detail, to please contact Carmine who will be glad to meet with them in order to ensure clear understanding.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Ayode Woods asked for more information on the automatic doors in reception and how they work. Carmine explained how they work.

Chris Arroyo reminded everyone that #2 ranked UCLA is having their last home game this evening.

Raymundo Blanco asked about emergency access to the 2nd floor for people in wheelchairs.

Judy Marks updated that the Autism Society of Los Angeles has a Self-Advocate

Speakers Bureau. They have had a lot of support and they are training self-advocates of all disabilities to speak about different subjects. Then they will be booking them for paid speaking gigs in and around Los Angeles, Orange County and Ventura.

Judy Enright, from Enright and Ocheltree, introduced herself and mentioned she has been representing regional centers since 1981. Tonight she will be explaining why the Board can go into closed session and how to proceed based on the Welfare and Institution Code Section 4663.

APPROVAL TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION (ACTION*)

Zoe Giesberg and Alejandro Soschin motioned to go into closed session.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION.

No public comment. The motion passed:

14 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m. by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
MAY 3, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen, Jr.
Richard Breen
Nilo Choudhry
Ben Davidson
Cammy DuPont
Elizabeth Espinosa
Zoe Giesberg
Sandra Gonzalez
Phil Jackson
Adriana Madrigal
Myra Mezquita
Betty Pearson-Grimble
Todd Rubien
Larry Ryan
Alejandro Soschin
Maria Soto
Bob Steiner
Russell Tanner
David Wyles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Austin Dove

STAFF PRESENT: Carmine Manicone, Lidenira "Liddy" Amador, Vanessa Arauza, Pam Arturi, Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Yuret Chang, Ana Da Silva, Catherine Eldridge, Bill Feeman, Denise Fernald, Charlona Floyd, Danny Franco, Ereida Galda, Debbie Gamboa, Julien Hernandez, Jill Hewes, Danise Lehrer, Melissa Marra-Maghran, Soryl Markowitz, Jeff Moreno Estrada, Teri Mulugeta, Ricardo Pacheco, Sandy Rivera, Anjanette Robinson, Erica Reimer Snell, Sonia Soriano, Liz Spencer, Aga Spatzier, Martha Thompson, Megan Tommet-Ramirez, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser, Charlene Williams

GUESTS: Alexandera, Christofer Arroyo (SCDD), Zakir Choudhry, Marcela DiMauro, Pepper Edmiston, Cecilia Fabulich, Sylvia Fahimian, Fran Goldfarb, Elizabeth Gomez, Fernando Gomez, Brett Gordon, Naomi Harrell, Beverly Hutchinson, Malcolm Jackson, Marcia James, Esther Kelsey, Valerie Lattanza, Carla Lehmann, Maria Lopez,

Judy Mark, Carlyn Meshack, Barbara McCants, David Mezquita, Catalina Navarro, Jack Nieves, Julie Ocheltree, Francisco Pineda, Guadalupe Rodriguez, Sandy Rubinfeld, Myra Sasueta, Robert Schwartz, Cecilia Tellez, Denise Thornquest (DDS), Felicia Williams, Wesley Witherspoon, Ayode Woods, Mark Woodsmall

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Nilo Choudhry, at 6:28 p.m. She informed attendees that the goal is to keep the meeting on time while allowing free discussion and for people to be heard. They want the meeting to be productive, respectful and efficient. The closed session will be moved up in the agenda and will take place after public comments.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:

It was established that the members present represented a quorum necessary pursuant to Section 3.03 (g) of the bylaws of Westside Regional Center which states:

(g) *Quorum*

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) members of the corporation. Provided, however, that a quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the Directors then in office at any time when the number of Directors then in office is less than ten (10)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves by Board President, Nilo Choudhry.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Christofer Arroyo (SCDD) reported he has handouts on a \$260,000 grant. He has information on job opportunities to interview people. Tomorrow will be the vote on the revisions of the Affordable Care Act through Obama Care and they are asking people to make calls to Steve Knight's office at (202)225-1956. This information is also on the flyer handouts. Christofer said he's heard comments of people who are having difficulty getting services from their Service Coordinators or were given inaccurate information. He suggested that agenda's for every meeting have a note stating that if this happens to them, they should contact the SC's supervisor, or managers until they get the assistance they are looking for. Zoe Giesberg encouraged everyone to call Steve Knight's office during closed session.

David Mezquita addressed the Board and read a letter of grievance against Carmine Manicone and provided the Board Secretary with a copy of the letter.

Alexandra, California Promise Research Study Project, expressed her appreciation towards the FREC for the support they render to the clients and families she works with. The support areas the FREC provides to these families are IEP's, workshops and guidance just to name a few areas.

Pepper Edmiston shared her son, David Abrams, story and how she and her family started a camp called Happy Trails for children with disabilities. She was then introduced to Liz Spencer who helped populate the camp for 15 years with children with disabilities. In 2009, they had the best camp ever. A week later David passed away from a seizure. Her daughter is a lawyer who represents children in foster care and she runs Happy Trails for those children. She met with Liz Spencer last week and they will start Happy Trails for children with disabilities in foster care and she has pamphlets to share with everyone or you can visit their website at www.happytrailsforkids.org.

Soryl Markowitz mentioned she attended the Miracle Project play last Monday and it was an honor to be there. She said she witnessed the result of incredible courage, amazing support from parents, vendors and WRC staff. This happened as a result of collaboration from everyone. Soryl highly recommends the play and encourages everyone to try to go and see the play.

Elizabeth Espinosa shared she put together a video of the group of Board Members that attended Grass Roots Day in Sacramento and will share it with everyone next Board Meeting. She also acknowledged the group leader, Danise Lehrer, and thanked her for the support.

Brett Gordon said he attended an Equity Task Force Meeting about two weeks ago and parents were making decisions for their kids, but feels clients should be able to choose and not their parents.

A parent stated she was very thankful to the Family Resource Center for all their support. She acknowledged Ana Da Silva for her support and her supervisor for allowing her to continue to support her at her children's IEP's.

CLOSED SESSION

Nilo Choudhry, Chairperson, announced at 6:58 PM that the Board of Directors will now be going into closed session for the next 20 to 30 minutes into the FRC. The reason closed session was moved to the beginning of the meeting is to respect CAC Members who are also Board Members and have been in meetings since 3:00 pm today. The distributed agenda listed the reason for closed session as employment and contract negotiation. (California Welfare and Institution Code Section 4663 (a)(2)(3))

The Board of Directors returned to the meeting at 7:48 and Nilo Choudhry announced they were back in session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 1, 2017 BOARD MEETING(ACTION*)

Bob Steiner and Alejandro Soschin, motioned to approve the March 1, 2017 Board Minutes.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 1, 2017 BOARD MEETING.

No public comment. The motion passed:

19 AYES
0 NO
0 ABSTENTIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Cammy DuPont, reported that the Committee met yesterday. In Operations (OPS) WRC has spent 70% of the budget and for Purchase of Service (POS) they spent 25% of the budget and they still have 25% left in the fiscal year. At yesterday's meeting they also met with the auditors and went over the regional center's audit. They got a clean opinion from the auditor's. Danny is working on RFP's to get a new accounting firm as they are required to get a new firm every 5 years. At the prior Finance Committee, they had the Executive Board Committee come to discuss all the \$250K plus contracts. Mary Lou came to the Finance Committee meeting and answered all the questions and provided insight on the contracts.

APPROVAL OF WRC COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES \$326,910 CONTRACT. (ACTION*)

Richard Breen and Phil Jackson motioned to approve the contract.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE WRC COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE IN CRISIS IN THEIR HOME, RESIDENTIAL FACILITY OR SUPPORTED LIVING FOR \$326,910 CONTRACT.

No public comment. The motion passed:

17 AYES
0 NO
2 ABSTENTIONS

APPROVAL OF CALIFORNIA MENTOR FAMILY BEHAVIOR SERVICES (FBS) \$781,641.60 CONTRACT (ACTION*)

Richard Breen and Bob Steiner motioned to approve the contract.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE CALIFORNIA MENTOR FAMILY BEHAVIOR SERVICES (FBS) CONTRACT FOR \$781,641.60. THEY PROVIDE A VARIETY OF TRAININGS AND INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR FAMILIES,

No public comment. The motion passed:

17 AYES
0 NO
2 ABSTENTIONS

APPROVAL OF WRC COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PLAN (CPP) HOUSING AGREEMENT CONTRACT (ACTION*)

Richard Breen and Larry Ryan motioned to approve the contract.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE WRC COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PLAN (CPP) HOUSING AGREEMENT.

No public comment. The motion passed:

17 AYES

0 NO

2 ABSTENTIONS

CHAIRPERSON REPORT UPDATE

Nilo Choudhry reminded all Committee and Group Chairs that if they meet with their groups prior to the Board meetings, they can send their reports to Vanessa Arauza so she can send them out to the Board to save time at the body of the Board meeting so there is more training and discussion time.

ACHIEVABLE

Ben Davidson reported the Achievable Foundation is hosting an event on June 15th where they will be screening the movie "Airplane" and they will about five actors from the meeting. Please visit their website at www.achievable.org for more information.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Todd Rubien reported that Friday, May 12th is the annual celebration of the WRC Self-Advocacy called the Westside Jam. This celebration has been going on for the past 21 years. It is a time where they all come together and celebrate each other and their achievements. They also have several vendors attend and share their knowledge and services with them. They will have food, music, performances and a DJ. In 2012, their Facilitator created the Hero in Me Award and it was supported by Mary Lou Weise-Stusser. Every year an email is sent to WRC staff, WRC vendors and it is spread word of mouth to nominate recipients for this award. However, they did not receive any responses this year regarding the award. The three nominations received came from the Self-Advocacy group. Todd asked that if anyone has any ideas or suggestions on how to increase nominations, to please let any CAC Member know. CAC is also waiting on this year's strategy to get the word out to legislatures regarding the budget. They want to support the WRC's effort to keep funding coming.

POLITICAL ACTION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Zoe Giesberg reported they met on April 4th and most members where in Sacramento for Grass Roots Day. They talked about a conference coming up called School for Transformation which features Congress Member, Karen Bass, Senator, Holly Mitchell, L.A. County Supervisor, Mark Ridley-Thomas, Assembly Member, Sebastian Ridley-Thomas. Please call your representatives and ask them to vote no on the American Health Care Act tomorrow on behalf of the clients and families that we serve.

Nilo Choudhry also reported that there will be a Grass Roots Day presentation shown at the next Board of Directors meeting.

CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Richard Breen, Co-Chair, reported they met and discussed what Client Services can accomplish and reviewed all the service standards. They identified that it is too big of a task to take it on at once. Bill and Lisa will help identify the service areas that are most urgent with the need of being looked at.

ARCA

Alejandro Soschin reported that the next meeting will be in Sacramento on the third week of June. They have tried to limit the damage that may befall the DDS system if some of the currently contemplated federal changes to health care pass. The system would be greatly at risk in many of the key categories and ARCA has been putting together a very strong analysis of what those are. They are trying to encourage all our stakeholders to speak to legislators and let them know that they have to protect our clients and families. This new legislation coming from Washington DC can run counter to the mission of the Lanterman Act. Culture Field in Sacramento, there was recently some sub-committee hearings on the budget where ARCA was involved. Legislators wanted to know if the funds that could be made available from the closure of the developmental center facilities could be redirected to the regional centers. DDS mentioned that when these funds become available they can go to the regional centers, but typically they go to the general fund.

SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

Ben Davidson reported on highlights from their meeting last week. Adult Day Program Sub-Committee will be developing standards in regards to transportation with the preferred method of curb-to-curb. SLS Sub-Committee discussed person centered planning and also Meetup.com which is a new social website for our folks. Mary Lou & Carmine came to the meeting also.

FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FREC)

Liz Spencer reported that FRC has partnered with Community Service and Early Start and have been able to do more outreach and get information to families who do not know about the regional centers. Special thanks to Anjanette Robinson, Early Start Service Coordinator, who has volunteered when short-staffed or needed extra support for their events. Liz also acknowledged Pamela Arturi, Community Services, Sandy Rivera & Rosalinda Mata who have also offered their support when needed. Last weekend they had a Transition to Preschool Conference Workshop to inform the families of children between the ages of 20 month olds to 3 year olds and it was fully translated into Spanish. They had 31 parents who attended and they requested follow-up trainings. Tomorrow night Ana Da Silva will be conducting the Spanish IEP Support Group in Boardroom A and Barbara Marbach, WRC Educational Advocate, will be conducting the English IEP Support Group in Boardroom B. FRC is partnering up with the library system. Ereida attended a Mommy and Me Program in Wiseburn and they look forward to doing that with other libraries in the area. They will be hosting the State Family Empowerment Directors on May 11th at the WRC FREC. Liz also reported that the Sibling Support Group will be working on drawings for the murals in the FRC starting this Saturday.

SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP

Fernando Gomez reported for Judy Mark who was attending an event with her daughter. The Self-Determination Advisory Group continues to meet monthly and have finalized their plain language presentation on the program with input from clients, family members and professionals. The presentation has been sent to other regional centers and to DDS.

They encourage them to use it as many of the presentations that exist are not done plain language. They would love to give the presentation at one of the future Board meeting at WRC. Their next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 9th at 6:00PM and everyone is welcome. They will be discussing how to staff in the community while getting prepared as we get closer to the implementation of the Self-Determination process.

EQUITY TASK FORCE

Fernando Gomez reported they met today at 4:00PM. An hour is not enough as it went for an hour and a half. They went over the scope of work and Carmine went over the seven key areas within the Disparity Plan that's been funded by DDS. Of the Seven Core areas they actually have two that have been awarded. One is the Cultural Competency piece to Dr. Avila and she will implement her program as of July/August. The second is the Parent to Parent Training which will be contracted out to ASLA for immediate implementation. There is a lot of open discussions on key elements, especially identifying barriers that need to be addressed in order to move forward. In addition to the Equity Task Force, Fernando is a member of the Advisory Group on Disparities to the executive director of DDS, Nancy Bargmann. They met last week and discussed key elements on disparities on a statewide level. Vanessa can send a couple of handouts that were given out at that meeting. One of them breaks down all 21 regional centers disparity plans and the budgets that were awarded to them with the great synopsis of what those plans are. The next Equity Task Force meeting date has not been determined.

Nilo Choudhry thanked and acknowledged Fernando Gomez & Judy Mark's advocacy on state-level issues.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carmine Manicone reported on a few things taking place at WRC that has a lot to do with staffing due to staff retiring, back filling positions and hiring new positions. In the last couple of months they have back filled five service coordinator positions and hired five brand new service coordinators that started this week. Carmine also introduced some of the newest staff members, Sandy Rivera, Equity and Diversity Specialist, Rosalinda Mata, Project Coordinator of Enhanced Caseloads, Pamela Arturi, HCBS Compliance Specialist, Liddy Amador, Employment Specialist, Ricardo Pacheco, who has been working on the Disparity Plan and putting together the Request for Proposals and Melissa Mara-Maghran, Mental Health Specialist. The newest position that is currently posted is Community Education and Training Specialist. This individual will be working with all the departments to coordinate the disparity trainings, outreach, cultural competency training and develop standards for the Service Coordinators so there is a more standardized service coordination protocol.

The reception area is completed and only missing artwork that represents some of the individuals that they support. Jill and Pam will help coordinate a rotating gallery so every couple of months they can bring in new artwork from programs that they work with. Health & Medical is adding a new office and the demo on the 4th floor is almost complete. The contractors are saying they will be done by June 8th. The plan is for Intake to move up to the new office space and have room for the service coordinators on

the 3rd floor by July 1st.

Next week there is a housing meeting with the Southern California Directors group. This group meets quarterly and they decided to meet at San Gabriel-Pomona Regional Center. They have invited housing MBO and coordinators to this mini-housing summit to come up with some solutions to the housing crisis and how it impacts everyone in this metropolitan area.

One of the goals this year was to update the WRC emergency procedures and they have taken several steps to accomplish it. In April, they completed their third Active Shooter Training, Emergency Response Training and now we will be installing of several panic buttons in key areas with different codes. We will need to have trainings on how to use the panic buttons and what each codes means so staff knows how to respond to them in case of an emergency.

Carmin clarified some of the ARCA updates. One of the proposals by Assembly Member, Devon Mathis, that ARCA is supporting, would be to allow the saving of the closures and sales of the developmental centers will go back for developmental services. ARCA is also pushing for restoration of suspended services. They say that 78% of Californians with developmental disabilities live with families compared to 57% nationally. At WRC, over 90% are still living with family members. That is a big impact in the suspected services; social rec. programs, camps, have really impacted those families who have folks living in the family home. There has been studies on how restoring those services can potentially improve the gap in the disparity because those are services identified that have really been used by that community. ARCA is projecting a surplus in POS funds statewide. That did not happen at WRC, we have spent all our POS dollars as we always do and we are projecting we might be over budget in POS spending. We might need some of that surplus funds. WRC doesn't mind because that means that they are spending money on services on clients who need the services. ARCA is proposing a trailer bill language that would allow regional centers to use those surplus funds to use on start-up funds and to improve median rates.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Nilo Choudhry updated that the next Annual Board Meeting will be on June 7th and the Annual Board Dinner will be on June 14th. All Board Members received a save the date in their Board package. Next Meeting the Board will be voting on the slate of the Executive Committee.

Carmin Manicone announced that the Director of Client Services, Bill Feeman, is retiring and his last day will be June 21st. Assist Director of Client Services, Erica Reimer Snell, will be moving into Bill's role once he retires. Interviews have been held for the Assistant Director position. They want the position filled with ample time to train the new Assistant Director with Bill and Erica before Bill leaves.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m. by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.



X
Larry P. Ryan
Co-Secretary



X
Alejandro Soschin
Co-Secretary

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
JUNE 7, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen, Jr.
Richard Breen
Nilo Choudhry
Ben Davidson
Austin Dove
Cammy DuPont
Elizabeth Espinosa
Zoe Giesberg
Phil Jackson
Adriana Madrigal
Myra Mezquita
Todd Rubien
Larry Ryan
Alejandro Soschin
Maria Soto
Bob Steiner
Russell Tanner
David Wyles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandra Gonzalez, Betty Pearson Grimble

STAFF PRESENT: Carmine Manicone, Vanessa Arauza, Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Yuret Chang, Ana Da Silva, Bill Feeman, Denise Fernald, Danny Franco, Ereida Galda, Danise Lehrer, Barbara Marbach, Soryl Markowitz, Rosalinda Mata, Sandy Rivera, Anjanette Robinson, Erica Reimer Snell, Liz Spencer, Aga Spatzier, Martha Thompson, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser,

GUESTS: Brandon Alvarez, Claudia Alvarez, Christofer Arroyo (SCDD), Zakir Choudhry, Sylvia Fahimian, Mayra Garcia, Fernando Gomez, Brett Gordon, Deborah Griffith, Naomi Harrell, Marcia James, Esther Kelsey, Lee Shawn, Maria Lopez, Guadalupe Magdaleno, Barbara McCants, David Mezquita, Cecilia Ortiz, Francisco Pineda, Guillermina Pulido, Blanca Ramos, Sandy Rubenfeld, Rubi Saldana, Kim Sinclair, David Soto, Maria Teresa, Felicia Williams, Ari Zeldin

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Nilo Choudhry, at 6:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:

It was established that the members present represented a quorum necessary pursuant to Section 3.03 (g) of the bylaws of Westside Regional Center which states:

(g) Quorum

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) members of the corporation. Provided, however, that a quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the Directors then in office at any time when the number of Directors then in office is less than ten (10)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves by Board President, Nilo Choudhry.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Christofer Arroyo (SCDD) informed he brought some handouts. One is about job opportunities for quality assessment interview positions. SCDD has its usual Monday trainings and if you would like to have one on this side of town, all you need to do is gather 12 people together. They will be doing a viewing of "Bottom Dollars" at the Endowment in downtown. It is about the exploitation of people with disabilities concerning employment. There will be a panel after the movie to talk about some of the new things regarding employment. Debbie Ball will be at the event and will be talking about this as well. The cost will be \$35 with lunch at the Endowment. Christofer also acknowledged that WRC has been hosting monthly presentations on employment.

Presentation: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Grant

Aga Spatzier from Clinical Services presented a short presentation on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). She gave some background on MHSA. Aga gave updates on two projects they have been working on. Project Unite supports transition to youth between the age of 14 and 25 years who have or are at risk of dual diagnosis, mental health, depression and developmental disabilities. The other project is Evidence Based Practices (EBP). These are therapies that show evidence of effectiveness. As such, the Los Angeles County of Mental Health approved the use of these therapies.

Aga was asked to please email her presentation to the Board of Directors.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nilo Choudhry reported that there will be a closed session at the end of the meeting. The Annual Board Dinner will take place next week at an off-site location. Nilo also reminded everyone that the meetings will be kept to the timelines due to tight schedule, while allowing for free discussion so people can be heard. They want to keep things productive, respectful and efficiently flowing. If there are any individual POS concerns, please properly refer them to Service Coordinators or Program Managers at the end of the meeting. Nilo read aloud the WRC Mission Statement and stated there are 9,000 clients

and families to consider, who are all obviously not present.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED MINUTES FOR MAY 3, 2017 BOARD MEETING
(ACTION*)

Larry Ryan, Co-Secretary, mentioned that Carlyn Meshack was mentioned twice in the attendance list. Ben Davidson and Bob Steiner, motioned to approve the amended May 3, 2017 Board Minutes with the removal of the duplicate mention of Carlyn Meshack name on the guest list.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF AMENDED MINUTES FOR THE May 3, 2017 BOARD MEETING.

No public comment. The motion passed:

18 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Cammy DuPont, Chair, reviewed the financial report and mentioned it is broken into two sections; Operations and Purchase of Services (POS). In Operations we are about 76% of the budget. In Purchase of Services we are at 83% of the budget. It is projected we will have a small deficit there and we will ask DDS to make up the difference. We have about 2 more months before we start a new fiscal year. There are two other things that they need to consider. The prior accountant has prepared the Regional Centers tax return, Form 990, it is already posted on the website. Secondly, WRC is required by DDS every five years to get a new accounting firm to audit the regional center and prepare taxes. The Finance Committee is recommending an action from the Board to hire Marcum Accountants and Advisors to perform the Westside Regional Center's annual audit and assurance, tax preparation services and perform management and consulting services for a period not to exceed five years.

APPROVAL OF ENGAGEMENT CONTRACT WITH MARCUM
ACCOUNTANT AND ADVISORS (ACTION*)

Ben Davidson and Alejandro Soschin, motioned to approve the contract with Marcum Accountant and Advisors.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE ENGAGEMENT CONTRACT WITH MARCUM TO CONDUCT ANNUAL AUDIT AND ASSURANCE, TAX PREPARATION SERVICES AND PERFORM ANNUAL MANAGEMENT AND CONSULTING SERVICES FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED FIVE (5) YEARS.

No public comment. The motion passed:

18 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ben Davidson reported they met in person and over the phone in May and thanked everyone for their participation. Ben read the proposed 2017-2018 WRC Board of Directors Members: Joseph Allen Jr., Richard Breen, Nilo Choudhry, Ben Davidson, Austin Dove, Cammy DuPont, Elizabeth Espinosa, Zoe Giesberg, Sandra Gonzalez, Philip Jackson, Myra Mezquita, Betty Pearson-Grimble, Todd Rubien, Larry P. Ryan, Alejandro Soschin, Maria Soto, Bob Steiner, Russell Tanner, and David Wyles.

Ben Davidson and Nilo Choudhry thanked Adriana Madrigal for her years of service as she has decided to resign from the Board of Directors for personal reasons.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE **(ACTION*)**

Bob Steiner motioned and Larry Ryan seconded the approval of the slate.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE.

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Joseph Allen Jr. | 11. Myra Mezquita |
| 2. Richard Breen | 12. Betty Pearson-Grimble |
| 3. Nilo Choudhry | 13. Todd Rubien |
| 4. Ben Davidson | 14. Larry P. Ryan |
| 5. Austin Dove | 15. Alejandro Soschin |
| 6. Cammy DuPont | 16. Maria Soto |
| 7. Elizabeth Espinosa | 17. Bob Steiner |
| 8. Zoe Giesberg | 18. Russell Tanner |
| 9. Sandra Gonzalez | 19. David Wyles |
| 10. Philip Jackson | |

After public comment, the motion passed:

18 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

Ben Davidson thanked the current fiscal year Board Officers who serviced the current fiscal year. In particular, for Sandra Gonzalez who successfully served as Vice President during the 2016-2017.

Ben reported that the Nominating Committee is proposing a new 2017-2018 WRC Board Officers slate for the next fiscal year and opened the floor to any other nominations. There were no other nominations and the board proceeded to vote on the slate presented.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS SLATE (ACTION*)

Larry P. Ryan motioned and Russell Tanner seconded the approval of the proposed slate of 2017-2018 Board of Directors Officers Slate.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS SLATE AS FOLLOWS:

PRESIDENT: NILO CHOUDHRY

VICE PRESIDENT:
TREASURER:
CO-SECRETARY:
CO-SECRETARY:

ALEJANDRO SOSCHIN
CAMMY DUPONT
LARRY RYAN
RICHARD BREEN

After public comment, the motion passed:

18 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

ACHIEVABLE

Ben Davidson reported Achievable is busy with an audit. June 15th will be Dr. Benor's last day. He is leaving to teach at USC, and hopefully recruit doctors in the future to serve our community. They have signed someone new to replace him. Next week Thursday is their big fundraiser and Movie Screening of "Airplane!" with several stars from the movie. Ben had flyers for those interested. LA Care nominated the Achievable Health Center for an award with the Association of Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP). They will be receiving the award in DC for national recognition of exemplary work and treating of individuals with DD and IDD. Danise Lehrer and Teddy Tannenbaum will be flying to D.C. to receive the recognition on behalf of Achievable.

A member of the public stated that they have had to wait 2-4 hours to be seen with an appointment. Ben assured the new doctor will be full-time and the wait time should be reduced significantly.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Todd Rubien reported that on May 12th they celebrated their 22nd Annual Westside Jam. Over 400 people attended and they had over 120 volunteers who made it a great success. Their featured entertainer was Soulshock who did a great job. The DJ had everyone on the dance floor. Several raffle prizes were given away and there was vendors giving information. This year they had six recipients of the Hero in Me Award. They have received positive feedback on how important this award is, through the eyes of those who have received it. They will be going to a resort and casino. For more information, please see Joe Allen. Special Olympics are taking place this upcoming weekend.

POLITICAL ACTION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Zoe Giesberg reported that the Assembly Bill 279 has been a hot topic. It was just passed in the Committee and is up for a full vote for the Assembly. The Senate and the Assembly Budget Sub-Committee have voted to remove the cap on respite services for individuals with developmental disabilities this coming budget. Zoe reminded everyone to push the Assembly Members and State Senators to keep these services and keep the momentum going. It is important to do so by tomorrow because that is the last day for them to vote.

CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Richard Breen, Co-Chair, reported they discussed the historic role of the Committee. It was to revise and review the service standards. They feel that perhaps there is more they

can do. They would like Erica to attend the next meeting and give them an overview of Client Services as part of the transition of Bill's retirement.

ARCA

Alejandro Soschin reported the ARCA pushed for everyone to call and advocate. ARCA provided a list of detailed names and contact information. Alejandro will send it to Vanessa to send to everyone or post on the website. They are looking for a new ARCA delegate for WRC.

Carmine Manicone reported that it has been a quiet time right now with the May Revise. There will be ARCA meetings next Thursday and Friday in Sacramento so there might be more updates then. ARCA has been pushing on restoring suspended services and to remove the cap on respite. AB279 is a bill that addresses the overtime laws that allows for Regional Centers to adjust rates. Regional Center providers will struggle and have a tough time as minimum wage begin to increase. In Los Angeles County there are so many different incorporated cities with different minimum wages that make it complicated. Many providers are working with median rates or outdated rates structures that can barely help them meet the bottom line and it will be a struggle for them. Therefore, ARCA is supporting AB279.

There will be a celebration for the ARCA Director, who is leaving next week, in Sacramento.

SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

Ben Davidson reported he missed the SPAC meeting, but is aware that one issue that was discussed at the meeting was the AB 279 advocacy.

FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FREC)

Liz Spencer reported that the Family Resource and Empowerment Center has been working with the Sibling Support Group do some artwork. Then the artwork was painted on the walls. They have about 15 siblings that meet monthly and their artwork is in honor of their brothers and sisters. Liz shared with the Board the ruling on the Endrew F Case that went to the Supreme Court.

WRC will attempt to have Spanish interpreters at future Board meetings.

SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP

Judy Mark was not able to attend the meeting.

EQUITY TASK FORCE

Fernando Gomez requested that, in addition to Spanish interpreters at Board Meetings, childcare should also be provided so more parents can attend. Fernando reported that they met on May 31st and they changed things up a bit. Carmine suggested that in order to embrace the diversity among the group lets encourage everyone to have a potluck and bring native dishes from their culture. It was an informative and great meeting. Within the plan there were six key categories, some of which are already in place. Sandy Rivera

and Rosalinda Mata have been working on other sub-groups. WRC is one of the unique centers that have an Equity Task Force and there is an interest in creating a case study that can be handed out to other regional centers. Please let Fernando or Vanessa Arauza know if you are interested in joining this sub-group. They have also agreed that the Equity Task Force Meeting will have a set meeting day for the fourth Wednesday of every month.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carmine Manicone thanks Aga Spatzier for the great MHSA Grant presentation as well as Danise Lehrer and the team in Clinical Service. They have a brain storming session tomorrow because they just got word from DDS on the next round to apply for grants. They want to discuss how to bring the people who have gone through the trainings at WRC on providing services to the people with Dual Diagnosis. How can they capitalize on those relationships and really start making inroads to clinics because clients really struggle in getting services when they have mental health conditions.

The May revision budget will be flat. Last year WRC was able to give increases to staff and vendors, but this year's budget will allow us to only have a little bit of growth. There is another \$11 million for the next round of disparities in the May revision. They have not heard what the process will be to submit for that funding. There are some adjustments regarding behavioral health treatment on the budget because the anticipated savings did not materialize. Now, in addition to people with a diagnosis of autism, any child with any diagnosis will need to be referred to their medical managed healthcare plan for behavioral health services. If this goes through, that will be a big change for the regional centers because they have been funding those services. By June 12th the differences between the Senate and Assembly need to be resolved in the budget. By June 15th the budget need to be approved by the Senate and Assembly and by June 30th they should have a signed budget.

Carmine gave a thorough update on what has happened this year. Cultural Competency Training will be implemented with the entire staff. The date selected by the majority of Board Members for their Cultural Competency training is Wednesday, August 16th from 5:00pm to 8:30pm. An invitation has already been sent out to the Board. Dr. Avila will be sending an assessment survey to everyone. On Wednesday, July 26th from 9:00am to 12pm a select group of about 20 people will review the results of the assessment. The group will consist of staff, Board Members, self-advocates and community members. The same group will meet the next day, Thursday, July 27th, and help develop a cultural competency strategic plan for Westside Regional Center. This is a result from community feedback they received and of the disparity plan.

WRC completed the renovation of the reception area, updated the boardroom with new carpet and new comfortable chairs, IT offices have been reconfigured, adding an office in the HR area, and updated the Family Resource Center. Carmine encouraged everyone to stop by the Family Resource Center. Intake will begin their move into the fourth floor space. Carmine plans to dedicate part of the space in honor of Lee Weinstein. They took a big step in their emergency planning by conducting an active shooter training and

adding a panic button system. They had several trainings for the Board. They have also added new positions. Training, evaluation and development are areas Westside is looking at. Staff wants the training because they come to Westside, wanting to help. It may not always happen, but they show up because they want to be of service and they want to be prepared to do that. They have staff come from other regional centers seeking employment. When management asks them why want to come to Westside, they respond to them that they didn't get the opportunity to serve people. They didn't get into this business to say no to people and they want to help. Staff has come to some of the Board meetings in support of the families they serve. Westside is the envy of other regional centers. The parent support groups are the envy of other regional centers. They have parents from other regional centers come join WRC support groups because most of the time they get things right at WRC. Their vision statement is Listen, Inform and Support and that is something we all need to do as a community. He asks the staff to do just that. Carmine asked the families to do the same and inform them of stuff going on in their lives and support staff. Carmine asked that they not tear each other down, that is not Westside. Carmine asked that everyone listen, inform and support each other. There are things that cannot be addressed in public meetings due to privacy concerns, but they can address them privately.

There are 223 staff members and close to 9,000 consumers at Westside.

Nilo thanked the Facilitators for the Board for doing a great job.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Espinosa updated the staff on the Grassroots Event she attended in Sacramento. She will present a video of the event at the next Board Meeting. Elizabeth encouraged everyone to reach out to Assembly Members and State Senators and have them vote on AB 279. She also mentioned that the Public Counsel just put out a new report that show there is still dramatic disparity when it comes to funding by regional centers statewide in services to minorities, including Latino and African American clients.

Christofer Arroyo, thanked Westside for letting SCDD host a "How to Testify and Influence Public Policy" presentation. They had a number of people come, but less than they were expecting due to many people attending graduations. They are doing the training again this Monday at their office in Glendale if anyone is interested. There have been some changes in special education. The Federal Department of Education wrote a letter to OCF stating that if the school district does evaluations, but fails to do an evaluation, you can disagree and ask for an Independent Educational Evaluation.

Alejandro Soschin thanked everyone who made the Westside Jam a fine experience. There was a sense of community. This event reminds everyone what is possible when they all come together.

Elizabeth Espinosa encouraged everyone to voice an opposition to an idea so they get to the best possible result. It is ok to disagree, but always have respect.

Sandy Rubinfeld thanked Carmine for bringing in a delicious tiramisu to the Equity Task Force Meeting potluck.

CLOSED SESSION

Nilo Choudhry, Chairperson, announced they are going into closed session. It is involving employment and contract negotiation and pending litigation. They will have another public comment and then adjourn the meeting.


The Board returned at 8:50pm from closed session and Nilo updated they discussed employment and contract negotiation and pending litigation.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The meeting adjourned at 8:51p.m. by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.


X
Larry Ryan
Board Co-Secretary


X
Richard Breen
Board Co-Secretary

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
JULY 12, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen, Jr.
Richard Breen
Nilo Choudhry
Cammy DuPont
Elizabeth Espinosa
Zoe Giesberg
Myra Mezquita
Betty Pearson Grimble
Todd Rubien
Larry Ryan
Alejandro Soschin
Maria Soto
Russell Tanner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ben Davidson, Austin Dove, Sandra Gonzalez, Phil Jackson, Bob Steiner, David Wyles

STAFF PRESENT: Carmine Manicone, Vanessa Arauza, Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Yuret Chang, Denise Fernald, Danny Franco, Julien Hernandez, Danise Lehrer, Soryl Markowitz, Sandy Rivera, Rolando Sanchez, Erica Reimer Snell, Anjanette Robinson, Aga Spatzier

GUESTS: Christofer Arroyo (SCDD), Elena Bustamante, Maria Cabrera, Zakir Choudhry, Sylvia Fahimian, Fernando Gomez, Brett Gordon, Naomi Harrell, LeShon Jackson, Marcia James, Babak Kamjou, Katherine, Esther Kelsey, Josh Kruskol, Adriana Madrigal, Judy Mark, Barbara McCants, David Mezquita, Mary Munoz, Jack Nieves, Francisco Pineda, Sandy Rubinfeld, Robert Schwartz, Kim Sinclair, Denise Thornquest(DDS), Felicia Williams, Wesley Witherspoon, Ari Zeldin

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Nilo Choudhry, at 6:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:

It was established that the members present represented a quorum necessary pursuant to Section 3.03 (g) of the bylaws of Westside Regional Center which states:
(g) *Quorum*

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of nine (9) members of the corporation. Provided, however, that a quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the Directors then in office at any time when the number of Directors then in office is less than ten (10)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves by Board President, Nilo Choudhry.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Christofer Arroyo (SCDD) informed everyone he brought informational fliers and left them in the front of the room. They will be hosting a Social Security presentation on July 20th. They are also promoting an assisted technology presentation on July 17th. Chris thanked Pam Arturi and Westside Regional Center for promoting the "Bottom Dollars" pre-screening at the California Endowment on July 31st. They are still looking for people's stories on how Medicaid helps them. Also, having half of the budget of the regional centers is funded by Medicaid. SCDD is still looking for visitors to interview adults with developmental disabilities to talk about their satisfaction with the regional center and they are paying \$70 an interview. If you are a regional center employee, they will assign you to another regional center so there is no conflict.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nilo Choudhry introduced client Board Member, Todd Rubien, who read aloud the Westside Regional Centers Mission Statement and what it means to him.

Nilo thanked the Board for their contribution in the last fiscal year. She also asked Board Members to please sign up to join one of the standing Board Committees and passed around sign-up sheets. An updated roster was passed around among the board to update their contact information.

There will be a closed session at the end of the meeting and there will be public comments before and after it. Nilo reminded everyone that they want to continue to have meetings that are productive, respectful and give opportunities for input while keeping to timelines. They want to allow for free discussions so people can be heard.

Nilo reported that another fiscal year has passed and they appreciate the dedication and hard work of the WRC Executive Team, Carmine, staff and said they all deserve applause. She mentioned that a lot of what they do goes unseen, but they see the results. Nilo congratulated Erica Reimer Snell on her new role as Client Services Director. Erica spent a year as an Assistant Director with Bill Feeman before taking on her new role. 75% of the WRC Employees are assigned to this important area. A year ago Chris Arroyo gave the Board WRC 101 Board and Governance training. They look forward to receiving more training this year. Nilo reported that recently they had their Annual Board Dinner and some Members were not able to attend. Nilo introduced Carmine Manicone. Carmine awarded Zoe Giesberg with a gift card for being the Chair of the

Political Action Committee as she was unable to attend the Annual Board Dinner and thanked her for her active participation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 7, 2017 BOARD MEETING WERE
DIFFERED TO THE NEXT BOARD MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2017.**
No action taken.

Conflict of Interest Reporting Statements

Denise Fernald, Director of Human Resources, reviewed with the Board of Directors how to complete the Conflict of Interest Reporting statements and answered any questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Cammy DuPont, Committee Chair, went over the report that went through the end of May of this fiscal year. The fiscal year is now closed and Danny has informed them that in Operations they have spent 83.3% of the budget and there will not be a surplus of money left. In Purchase of Services they have spent about 93% of the funds allocated for services. Danny does expect that there will be a deficit - a little less than \$3 million, but in the normal course of business DDS usually picks it up. They also made an offer to new auditors and they have the engagement letter. It has not been signed yet, but it will be executed soon.

ACHIEVABLE

Josh Kruskol reported that they have hired a new provider who is a family practitioner and is fluent in Farsi. They have made an offer to a nurse practitioner and they are waiting on her. They received an award from the Association of Community Affiliated Providers. They were nominated by LA Care. Danise and her husband traveled to DC to accept the prestigious award. Their Inaugural Achiever's Gala will be on Thursday, September 7th. They will be honoring John Baackas from LA Care and Pam Wiley from LA Speech and Language at the event.

Elizabeth Espinosa asked what the game plan will be for clients to transition to a new general practitioner and nurse practitioner. How can they reach out to specialist to help? Dr. Ari Zeldin suggested that they try to partner up with UCLA and Cedars to bring in new practitioners.

Nilo thanked Danise for going to Washington to receive the prestigious award and thanked Josh for his report.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Todd Rubien reported CAC honored Bill Feeman with the Hero in Me Award. He has always been and one of their greatest advocates. They are happy for him and his retirement and will miss him. They will continue to train in the IPP process, Person Centered Planning, personal rights, appropriate relationship, legal documents, employment, navigating local legislatures, medical Medicare, transportation, safety and how not to be bullied and how not to bully others. CAC supports other regional centers

and their CAC groups. This month they supported SCLARC by attending their transportation training titled "Encouraging Social Success."

POLITICAL ACTION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Zoe Giesberg reported they discussed a variety of bills going through the state budget such as AB 107, AB 279, AB 1092 and Healthy California Act. They also reviewed their goals for 2017-2018. They will remain current on legislation affecting regional centers both statewide and federal; will stay in contact with their legislators to establish their presence; let legislators know of meaningful issues; educate clients and others on advocacy; and continue to help family and consumers to become actual voters.

Elizabeth Espinosa presented her video on their trip to Sacramento for Grass Roots Day.

CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Richard Breen, Co-Chair, reported they met with the new Director of Client Services, Erica Reimer Snell. She has a strong feeling this is a committee they need and it needs to do more. They need to do a better job of communicating on what the service standards are, ensure they are accurate according to the Lanterman Act and other laws. They set a goal of working on the respite standards due to new legislative changes. It is the intention of the committee to have a proposal for the new standard notice for the next Board meeting. They will meet in August and have something for the board to consider on September 13th.

Erica reminded everyone that the sign up sheet is going around and encouraged anyone interested to sign up and attend the August meeting. It will most likely be on a Tuesday or Thursday evening meeting.

ARCA

Carmine reported ARCA had a June meeting in Sacramento with Directors and ARCA Delegates. One of the biggest news that came out of the meeting was that Amy Westling, who had been serving as interim Director, was officially named as the new Executive Director of ARCA. It was a unanimous choice by the Search Committee. Everyone feels good about the choice because she is very smart and knowledgeable. Another piece of news to come out of the meeting was an agreement on ARCA's strategic plan. Some of the highlights they will be focusing on in the next few years are employment and working with the employment specialist for trainings. As well as, research and implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and help the Regional Centers in collecting and analyzing data. They are working as a liaison on the Equity and Disparity projects, liaison with Children's Hospital LA and DDS. They were commissioned to conduct a 2- year study to understand the obstacles that are impeding people in accessing and utilizing services. Regional Centers have been dealing with an outdated core staffing ratio formula. ARCA is advocating for new equitable and sustainable regional center operations funding methodology. There were a few recommendations that came out of the meeting that ARCA is working on with DDS. The fiscal management system the entire state uses is antiquated and outdated. They are working on recommendations on how to keep that going and ARCA will assist in the review and selection of potential

accounting systems. One of their mandates is to go and visit all 21 of the regional centers to see what their operations are like. WRC was one of the first regional centers they visited. They were successful removing the cap on respite. This year they have decided to take on and work with the Lanterman Coalition on the restoration of other suspended services. They also want to work with the regional centers and stakeholders to remove some of the financial barriers. Judy Mark asked if Self-Determination came up at all. Carmine confirmed it was discussed.

Alejandro Soschin encouraged Board Members who are interested in being an ARCA delegate, to please contact Carmine Manicone or the Board. Carmine added that the next ARCA meeting is local at Harbor Regional Center on August 18th & 19th. Carmine offered to meet with anyone interested and go over what the commitment is like and what is expected of the delegate. ARCA will also reach out to the new delegate to ensure they have the support they need. Fernando Gomez mentioned that other regional centers have delegates that are not regional center board members. If it is not a pre-requisite to be a Board Member, maybe it can be opened up to others. It is a very engaged role. Alejandro mentioned that many delegates have been around for a long time and not very welcoming to newbies, but getting support would be helpful.

Nilo agreed and asked any interested individuals to contact her, Carmine or Vanessa.

SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

No updates.

FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FREC)

Carmine Manicone reported that Liz was sick and could not be at tonight's meetings. The FRC is busy prepping reports for grants and this year's training. However, Liz asked Carmine to acknowledge Gabrielle Zadra, parent, who was integral for advocating for the Early Start legislation.

SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP

Judy Mark reported they had another well-attended meeting last night. DDS said this week they would have completed the waiver. They would then send it to the Department of Healthcare Services who is responsible to send it to the federal government. They believe they will send it in an informal way to the Center for Medicaid and Medical Services next week. When they say informally they mean that they still have time to make any changes in the language. The federal government has a timely turn-around of 1-2 months for a response. DDS, allegedly, will begin trainings by mid-August. They will be having 2 day trainings throughout California in five cities, but not likely to be in West Los Angeles. The first day is for regional center staff. Judy said she requested for the local advisory committees to be included in those same trainings. That way family members and consumers who sit in those advisory committees hear the same information that staff hears so they don't have to compete for who has the knowledge. On the second day, is Train the Trainers and they will be looking at community based organizations, support groups, consumer support groups to be able to become certified to provide Self-Determination trainings. This is important because in the first three years there will only

be 2,500 participants. At WRC, that means only about 67 people. The way you will be picked is based on a lottery system based on diversity factors such race, ethnicity, disability, geography, gender and age. A way to get into that lottery is by attending an official pre-enrollment information meeting you can attend at your regional center or a community based organization. Judy will talk to Erica and Carmine to find the best way to do an outreach to our community organizations as it will be a first come, first serve basis.

Someone asked what happens if you are not selected in that lottery? Judy said they would have to wait another 3 years for it to be open again.

Judy reminded everyone that Self-Determination Advisory Committee usually meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month, but for August they will be meeting on August 15th.

EQUITY TASK FORCE

Fernando Gomez mentioned the Equity Task Force meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month. At the last meeting, Fernando was in Sacramento for another meeting so Alejandro Soschin and Carmine started the meeting until his arrival. The Equity Task Force meetings are open to everyone, especially the board. There is already a strong board representation and he encouraged everyone to attend. Fernando described what a Community Based Organization (CBO) is. There are seven key areas that they have been working on implementing the grants that were awarded to WRC in talking to disparities. Of those, they have ASLA with the PEP Squad, the website, Cultural & Linguistic Competency, media messaging and the dashboard. Sub-committees continue to meet. Fernando would like to be informed and included in those meetings. Alejandro assured him there has not been any meeting Fernando has missed. Fernando will email Sandy to get dates of upcoming sub-committee meetings. There are some concerns that in the first phase it will not be available in Spanish. They will need to address this as it should have been rolled out in Spanish at the same time as English.

Kim Sinclair, ASLA, updated on the PEP progress. They have two core values. They are individual and family focus, and the other is getting community input into the creation of the project and they have already started it.

Carmine and staff came up with "Office Hours" the same day as the Equity Task Force. They will be a few hours prior to the meeting to discuss individual concerns WRC families and individuals have rather than discuss them in a public setting during the meeting. Carmine asked that if anyone would like to address any issues during "Office Hours", to please contact FRC two days prior to the Equity Task Force meeting to reserve their meeting time.

Fernando reported that he is part of Advisory Committee on Disparities, to the Director of DDS. He attended a meeting in Sacramento earlier the same day as the ETF meeting. They are now in their 2nd fiscal year of disbursing the funds of ABX 21 funding. The last fiscal year that just ended \$11 million dollars were funded and each regional center was required to send in a grant request. In the current fiscal year there was an additional \$11

million awarded to continue with the disparity plans. \$3.7 million of them will go back into the system of which WRC will be a part of. For the other \$7.3 million they will have to be new requests for grants from the regional centers. CBO's will have the ability to put a plan together and submit it directly to DDS for consideration. The law states that you will need to send a copy to the regional center in your catchment area. The decision will be made at DDS and if CBO's are awarded a grant, they will still collaborate with the regional center, but the final say so will go through DDS. They are still waiting on the definition of a CBO.

Someone asked when they will be accepting grants? Fernando said that the minute DDS pulls the trigger there will be 45 day window in which DDS will be asking for these grants. There will be a big effort to communicate to the community. Alejandro Soschin also mentioned that it would be added to the WRC website.

The Equity Task Force Implementation group is a new sub-group. Fernando invited everyone interested to sign up for it as there are only 4 people signed up for it. There's only one other regional center with such a group, in Northern California.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carmine Manicone reported that most of the topics have already been covered in other reports this evening. Regarding this year's budget, Carmine reported the budget is a continuation budget and just covers growth. Last year we were able to bring on new staff, this year we will just be able to keep things as they are and backfill positions.

The governor signed the trailer bill AB 126 on Monday. It clarified that the respite cap has been lifted and will be effective January 1, 2018, which is why the Client Services Committee has been working on updating the respite standards. The trailer bill also confirmed the flexibility in using CPP funds that have been historically dedicated for individuals coming out of the developmental centers. CBO's will be allowed to apply for funds. DDS will need to convene a work group to look at other options to adjust vendor rates other than health and safety waivers in the unanticipated rate adjustment process. The health and safety waivers are what's needed to get the higher rate. As minimum wages go up in unincorporated cities it will be hard for vendors. Currently they need to do individual health and safety waivers for every participant in those programs. We really need to support AB 279.

Carmine said they talked about the budget. They are able with operations money to spend some of it on their IT needs, media room, cameras and sound in the Intake Department and purchasing some necessary upgrades for IT and much needed storage. Carmine acknowledged Danny Franco and the Accounting Department helping out and doing a stellar job in the rollover process.

Carmine announced that the Intake department will be moving up to the new area on the 4th floor. Carmine shared pictures of the area on the projector. Starting Monday, Intake will be operating from the new office space. They will be having an Achievable fundraiser/dedication ceremony in honor of Lee Weinstein who was the head of the

Intake Department for 25 years and was the Director of Client Services Department for his last year at WRC before retiring. Lee passed away a month after retiring. It will also be dedicated to Dr. Janet Wolf who was a consulting psychologist. They are planning on scheduling it in January to do the dedication and Achievable fundraiser. Josh from Achievable would like to ask for volunteers from WRC to create a committee to help plan this event.

The Board of Directors Cultural & Linguistic Competency Training with Dr. Avila is scheduled on Wednesday, August 16th. Carmine passed around a sheet for the Board as only 7-8 Board Members have responded so far. We would like to see if we can increase participation. Fernando Gomez asked if there was an opportunity for others to attend the Board's Cultural & Linguistic Competency training next week. Carmine confirmed that training is designed for Board Members only, but there will be other training opportunities for vendors and other interested members of the community in the near future.

One of the many focus this year is improving trainings. WRC had Dr. Rick Williamson who was there today and again tomorrow doing trainings on resilience and staff burnout. They have a new Community Education and Training Specialist, Rhiannon Maycumber, who is putting together many more trainings. Employment is another area of focus. They visited the Project Search at UCLA Hospital and Kaiser Sunset where internship training programs are in conjunction with the hospitals and educators at LAUSD and another vendor. They have a success rate of 80-90% of those folks being offered employment and moving on to full-time employment. Carmine asked Board Members who work in businesses or know business leaders who hire individuals with developmental disabilities to please contact him or Pamela Arturi. He also invited the Board to join the Business Advisory Committee at their September Meeting. At today's LA Speech & Language Open House, one of the keynote speakers was a client who was extremely shy. It was difficult to have him speak even when Carmine was his service coordinator. This same young man now was charming, articulate, poised and a peer mentor named Roger Hill who did an outstanding job.

Carmine acknowledged Vanessa Arauza for organizing and coordinating events like the Annual Board Dinner, Board meetings and trainings. He recognized her hard work by presenting her with a Director's Star Award.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Fernando Gomez asked the Board to consider childcare for future Board meetings. He said many people are interested in attending Board meetings, but are unable to because of lack of childcare. Carmine mentioned they have discussed adding additional respite hours. Fernando mentioned that the feedback he has gotten is that additional respite isn't working for them. It is easier for these families to have onsite childcare. The Board's response was that they will discuss it among themselves and with management.

CLOSED SESSION

Nilo Choudhry, Chairperson, announced they are going into closed session at 8:15pm. It is to discuss employment, contract negotiation and pending litigation. They will have public comment when they return and then adjourn the meeting.

The Board returned at 8:51pm from closed session and Nilo updated they discussed employment and contract negotiation and pending litigation.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The meeting adjourned at 8:52p.m. by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

X

Larry Ryan
Board Co-Secretary

X

Richard Breen
Board Co-Secretary