

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2012**

Members Present: Joseph Allen Chandler, Jr.  
Judy Blumenthal  
Nilo Choudhry  
Cecilia Fabulich  
Dru Garcia-Richardson  
Fernando Gomez  
Brett Gordon  
Paula Hilton  
Priscilla Hoe  
Esther Kelsey  
Rene Rivas  
Jack Rose  
Karol Scotta  
Ron Williams

 **ORIGINAL**

Absent: Courtney Colman, Felicia Ford, Lynn Krupp, and Gail Louis

Staff Present: Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Mike Danneker, Erin Fox, John Hunt, Danise Lehrer, Soryl Markowitz, Debra Ray, Liz Spencer, Mary-Lou Stusser, and Daisy Marks

Guests Present: Katherine Alsop, Zakir Choudhry, Rayvone Douthard, Luigi Grimaldi, Mentor; Amy Hilton, Marcia James, Robert Martin, Collette Medora, Christine Monroe, Sarah Sanders, Mentor; Robert Schwartz, and Russell Tanner

Board Chair Fernando Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Guests were welcomed and were invited to introduce themselves.

**PRESENTATION:** Individuals from Long Beach presented information about California Mentor Family Home Agency (FHA) played a brief film about successful matches of client and family as mentor in their unusual residential program. The home situation is new to our catchment area but has successes in several other regional center areas. An individual with a disability lives in a private family home, and the member(s) of the family serve as mentors. One mentor defined her role as "a person who lives by example." It is not a group home but a family.

The mentor must participate in 32 hours of skill enhancement programs prior to the client's moving in. There are quality assurance supports, health and safety considerations, and others. Length of placements may vary; a short term placement might be a step to independent living. Mentor has just begun recruiting families near the WRC area for this worthy project.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Fernando Gomez passed around a board roster for corrections or updates.

**M/S/C TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2012.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FINANCE:** Rene Rivas reported that the committee discussed the Directors and Officers insurance, and decided to continue the present level of insurance.

Also under discussion in committee was the Post Retirement Medical Trust, which is growing, and the need to designate a new trustee. By next month the committee should find an appropriate party, and decide how the funds should be invested.

A new regulation requires the board to approve any vendor contract in excess of \$250k. West Bay Housing Corp. which will remodel a group home has been contracted for \$453.8k. Funds for the remodel will not come from Operations or POS, but are part of a pass through from the federal government. The contract is to house people with significant medical needs who are coming out of the Lanterman Developmental Center.

**M/S/C TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH WEST BAY HOUSING**

Rene Rivas gave the Budget Status Report for the period ending May 31, 2012. It is projected that WRC will be within allocation in Operations, and a \$2m deficit is projected in POS. This is the same deficit reported at the last meeting, and is not of major concern, considering the size of the overall POS budget at of \$128.7m.

**ACHIEVABLE FOUNDATION:** Erin Fox reported that a director of operations has been hired for the medical clinic. Culver City has the construction plans, and work will commence as soon as the plans are approved. Plans are to open by the end of the year.

Another grant amounting to over \$100k was received LA Care.

Two fund raising events are being planned, one in Long Beach, and another in Beverly Hills. The next newsletter is due out soon. Achievable is upgrading its donor management software.

**ARCA:** Fernando Gomez reported on the meeting June 21<sup>st</sup>. In Mike's absence Mary Lou Stusser attended as well. There was a strong undercurrent in the executive committee concerning an issue between the new ARCA Director, Eileen Richey,



formerly with DDS, and the DDS Executive Director, Terri Delgadillo. Tresa Oliveri, the new president of ARCA was considered by Richey as being too close to Delgadillo, as Delgadillo was communicating to Richey through Oliveri. There were five regional centers who requested Tresa Oliveri not be considered for re-election as President of the Board and that her name be removed from the slate. After much discussion, the vote was to leave her name, and she was re-elected by majority vote.

**CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Judy Blumenthal reported that they discussed issues concerning SB 946—specifically, the insurance co-pay for the new legislation requiring insurance providers to pay for behavioral support services was an issue of concern. Rachel Huff was trying to poll regional centers about whether they are paying co-pays for all services. Mike added that he has committed WRC to covering co-pays. Each regional center will do what it wants. The committee speculated that the legislation might not save the state as much as was initially estimated.

The prevention services project has been moved to the Family Resource Committee.

WRC will transition to a new IPP form.

Judy Blumenthal reported having a very positive experience when she attended the graduation at Village Glen, a non-public school which is part of the Help Group for those with disabilities. The students talked about the relationships that they had formed. They had positive relationships and achieved actual inclusion.

**CLIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC):** Esther Kelsey delivered the CAC report. CAC continues with volunteer work in the community, having served 261 hours this year as of July. Some individuals worked at polling stations during the election.

Esther Kelsey also reported that the group is working to monitor health and to identify the few locations offering free health screening, including blood pressure, diabetes and HIV. Some CAC members have learned how to administer CPR.

Esther Kelsey has volunteered to work for the Obama campaign until the November election. She distributed a newspaper clipping illustrating other CAC members at their volunteer duties.

**FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTER/FRC:** Liz Spencer reported having various grants supporting their work and referral services. The prevention cases for children aged 1-3 years have been transferred to them. Although they do not officially qualify for early start services, this department serves as a safety net. They will work closely with the early start and clinical services departments. Debra Ray added that FRC has re-referred a number of children to early start for services.

Daniel Delgadillo and Ereida Galda have been training individuals and providing support for them to gain or continue IHSS services. In-Home Support Services was originally

designed to support seniors and then those with developmental disabilities and those under 18 years. Karol Scotta requested providers be able to attend the training as well.

**POLITICAL ACTION:** Nilo Choudhry reported that Mary Lou Wiese-Stusser serves as WRC staff liaison to the committee. Mary shared briefly DDS's Trailer Bill language affecting the regional centers, which covered early intervention services, residential facilities, developmental centers, court systems, etc.

ARCA provides important legislative advocacy and representation for the 21 regional centers, which includes clients, families and staff. Sample letters were shared, including as an example, ARCA's brief yet effective letter in support of mental health services. The SB946 legislation stipulates that health care plans and health insurers provide coverage for behavioral health treatments for persons with autism.

State budget reductions directly affect both the vendors and the regional center. There may be a possible trigger cut towards the end of the year. This is a very important election year. There are many new legislators anticipated as well as returning incumbents. After the elections, the political action committee will send local teams, as needed, to visit legislators or their representatives at their local offices.

Locally, the newly-created 50th Assembly District has a November runoff between Santa Monica mayor Richard Bloom and the incumbent Betsy Butler. The difference between the two in the June primary was just 102 votes! It is important to get out the vote for the November 6th election.

Nilo found information about federal healthcare reform at "Healthcare for Dummies" to be helpful online reading.

**SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Karol Scotta reported that the vendors were concerned about how the new health care bill will affect them.

During the Day Program Committee meeting, Melvin discussed the sports league for consumers in day programs.

Several vendors discussed the transition under AB 69 for vendors and consumers using insurance companies for their behavior OT and PT services. There are issues surrounding the way insurance companies authorize the services using limited time frames. Usually these time-limited services are only for six months. There are also issues with the reimbursement rates being lower than Medi-Cal Regional Center rates.

Service Provider Spotlight: Lynette LaScala discussed her company, The Napa Center, and Barbara Hasselquist discussed Esperance Day Program.

SPAC discussed "Advantages and Pitfalls to Social Media."



Mary Lou Stusser gave a detailed update on the DDS budget, which had just been submitted to the Governor. Vendors will have been awarded 3% of the 4.25% cuts, and hopefully, the Governor's tax increase will pass in November.

WRC will be audited by DDS starting the week of July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Many vendors may be included in the DDS visit.

Karol Scotta attends a statewide service providers group chaired by Tony Anderson of ARC. She compared WRC policies favorably to many other regional centers.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Mike Danneker reported that WRC's current budget shows a \$2m deficit, which he believes will work out with future budget allocations. We were surprised that the new budget figures indicate an increase of \$618k in Operations, and \$2.3m in POS. A best case scenario would be \$778 in Operations and \$2.3 increase in POS. If there is a midyear correction, our system will get cut \$50m. Four percent of that would mean \$2m to WRC, about the same budget as the past year. Should that happen, the school systems might lose as much as \$5b.

The trailer bill language is comprised of 21 pages of legalese. The state and legislature is driving us close to the brink with this kind of bureaucracy, which requires increasingly more paperwork. We are having a hard time internally, and we are having a hard time keeping that bureaucracy out of WRC/

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> DDS will be at WRC to conduct an audit of the last 2 years. Auditors should take about 3-5 weeks. Mike reminded those present about the results of a DDS three year audit concerning HOME. Because HOME had not assigned client numbers to their various expenditures, DDS was claiming that HOME should reimburse them for the amounts spent to the tune of \$900k. DDS claimed (as a result of the WRC audit) that WRC should also reimburse them for a similar amount since the WRC had paid HOME to maintain residences for its clients. So DDS is claiming reimbursement of expenses twice, both from HOME and WRC.

To facilitate the insurance co-pay and requirements of SP 946, WRC hired an insurance coordinator to iron out the details.

WRC is still investigating whether to buy or lease a building since we have not yet been able to arrange a discussion with the present building management about renewing the lease, which is due to expire shortly. Mike asked the board for volunteers to meet by telephone on July 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the matter further. There is a building nearby which would meet our needs. In Rene's absence, Fernando, Dru, and Cecilia agreed to be on the committee to discuss leasing or buying a building, just two properties away from the 5901 location.

On a final note, Mike discussed the fact that a private insurance group wanted to buy Medi-Cal from the state, and the danger, as he saw it, of privatizing government

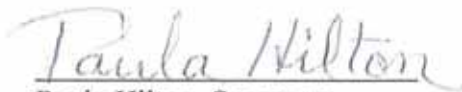
programs. The results might be more money for the investor and less services or care for the needy.

**OPEN AGENDA:** Fernando commented on the final portion of Mike's report. We have to listen when Mike says, "It worries me that corporate America might take over government programs." This could be important. We might have to flex our muscles. We need to look at more ways to keep the community involved and better informed.

**M/S/C: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

The next meeting date will be **Wednesday, September 12, 2012** and will begin at 6:00 p.m. at Westside Regional Center, 5901 Green Valley Circle, Culver City, CA 90230.

  
Paula Hilton, Secretary



**ORIGINAL**

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2012 - AMENDED**

Members Present: Joseph Allen Chandler, Jr.

Judy Blumenthal

Nilo Choudhry

Courtney Colman

Cecilia Fabulich

Felicia Ford

Dru Garcia-Richardson

Fernando Gomez

Brett Gordon

Paula Hilton

Esther Kelsey

Lynn Krupp

Gail Louis

Rene Rivas

Jack Rose

Karol Scotta

Ron Williams

 ORIGINAL

Absent: Priscilla Hoe

Staff Present: Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Mike Danneker, John Hunt, Danise Lehrer, Soryl Markowitz, Sharon Smyth, Liz Spencer, Mary-Lou Stusser, and Daisy Marks

Guests Present: Zakir Choudhry, Michael Codney, Portia Griffith, Amy Hilton, Shelly Hunt, Babak Kamjou, Judy Mark, Todd Rubien, Robert Schwartz, Allan Smith, DDS; Alejandro Soschin, and Nubia Macias, Achievable; and Russell Tanner

Board Chair Fernando Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:21 p.m.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Prior to introducing the guests, the group celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of former board member, Russell Tanner. Guests were then welcomed and were invited to introduce themselves.

**PRESENTATION:** Soryl Markowitz, WRC Autism and Behavior Specialist, was a delegate from the Autism Society of Los Angeles' visit to Israel. She thanked Judy Mark of the Autism Society and the Jewish Federation for providing the opportunity. The purpose of the tour was to visit and observe various sites that housed and served individuals with autism and other disabilities. The group was diverse, and comprised



providers, attorneys, legislators, and people on the autism spectrum and other interested parties.

The primary value that was evident throughout the journey was the creativity and innovation of the programs everywhere. Most programs were able to thrive with the help of micro-enterprises within their community. At Sidorat, for example, one enterprise included a papermaking factory, and the product is used by the Waldorf Schools throughout the US. Another was a weaving studio. Other ventures included pottery making, a bakery, and making jams and jellies. At Sidorat adults without disabilities live amongst typically disabled individuals and also support children in the foster care system. Those with greater disabilities live separately, but are integrated into the community.

Kishorit, another community, began with disabled individuals, and has expanded to house local community residents. There are 14 micro-enterprises there. One is a toy-making group affiliated with Baby Gap. Another raises world-class schnauzers, shows them, has a room filled with trophies, and has a profitable business selling the puppies. People live in individual houses, as contrasted to group homes or cottages, and they may choose the jobs they want. Soryl reported that she was very impressed with the micro-enterprise concept, and is bringing it back to the US.

At another village, Ayolim, in the Negev Desert about 7 km from Gaza, the residents have about 7-10 seconds from hearing a bomb blast to getting into a shelter. So they have created a shelter within the caravan (primary building) for those severely disabled.

The tour included a visit to the Center for Independent Living, the Center for Youth and the Israeli Defense Force or AKIM. All people age 18 are required to serve in the army, which has even developed a program for the developmentally disabled. One such person even works at an intelligence base, and does so well, the staff wants him to make the army his career.

Their supported living community differs from ours. The employment and life skills center receives many community contracts. For one assignment some 20 individuals, for example, simply track the movement of travelers from one area to another as part of a study of the transportation agency. Others work assembling computers. A rehab center, Israel Elwyn, is a group home where people work independently. Generally people with disabilities are encouraged to marry.

Aleh Negev serves the most severely impaired disabled; there people are offered OT, PT, and Speech. Hydrotherapy is employed effectively to relax patients prior to dental or medical visits. The director at this center led the raid on Entebbe. His son is severely disabled, and inspired the founding of this center. Some disabled children are abandoned by migrants or others and may be left at hospitals. These children find a home at Aleh Negev.



One distinct difference between the Israeli system and the regional center system is that parents must comb through many government agencies to piece together the appropriate services for their child.

Danise Lehrer commented that the Campo Community is also a supported living center where individuals with and without disabilities live together.

At the conclusion of the presentation Soryl gave a quick summary of SB 946, the Senate bill regarding insurance being used to cover cost of behavior services for regional center clients. There are elements of choice in the implementation of the legislation, regarding who is and who is not exempt from using his/her personal insurance. Teresa Keller is a part-time insurance coordinator working with families and agencies, to help wade through the mire of confusion. WRC has decided to cover the co-pay for each subject in the home up to \$38.01 based on medical rates for individual and direct services. WRC will not pay deductibles or co-insurance costs.

ARCA is working with the department of managed health care.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Fernando Gomez related a story about an individual with Down Syndrome who held a first class ticket on a flight, but who was, nevertheless, put off the plane, apparently because of his disability. He eventually was put on another carrier and there was segregated to the last row. The issue Fernando raised was that those with disabilities are a part of the community, and how we all have a responsibility to everyone in our community.

Fernando then referred to the Conflict of Interest form in the packet, asking everyone to complete it and turn it in.

The Bylaws are being updated and will be mailed in two weeks to everyone to review before voting acceptance at the next meeting, after which they will be posted on the website in compliance with transparency regulations.

**M/S/C TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2012.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FINANCE:** Rene Rivas reported that at the end of the fiscal year WRC spent \$15m in Operations, and was within budget despite some outstanding bills. However in POS, while currently under budget, after late bills arrive WRC might be \$600-700k over budget. This amount is .06 of 1% of the budget. DDS has approval to provide the shortfall to help us get through. Kudos to POS committee and the measures they took to help us close some of the budget shortfall.

**M/S/C TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MIKE DANNEKER FROM THE POST RETIREMENT MEDICAL TRUST, AND TO NAME IN HIS PLACE JOHN HUNT, DIRECTOR OF**

## **ADMINISTRATION, AND RENE RIVAS, CHAIRMAN, FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

This action was brought about because the DDS auditors were uncomfortable with Mike as the titular head of the trust. Thus far no monies have been taken from that trust, which will be used as necessary to provide health insurance for retirees. Having such a benefit is a requirement of CalPERS.

**ACHIEVABLE FOUNDATION:** Alex Soschin reported that after many discussions with building management, the plans for better access to the clinic are moving forward. He expressed appreciation for feedback and support of the board, Mike Danneker, and Sharon Smyth. Once receiving approval from Culver City later this month, the construction will begin. Because many of WRC's patients do not fit the current health care model, in that they require more time and special care, it is Achievable's intent to develop a state-of-the-art clinic for them, that will eventually become a place for learning and to show people a better way. Nathalia Jimenez will be the new Director of Clinic Operations.

Achievable continues to be the grateful recipient of \$200k in new grants, including a significant award of \$100,000 from the Material World Foundation, George Harrison's Charity. Alex expressed appreciation of the great efforts of their board and executive leadership for making these kinds of grants possible. In addition, Charlene Williams of WRC's Client Services department held a sale and raised over \$1500 in less than an hour. While current resources place them in a good position to undertake the clinic project, they continue to seek new sources of support.

Alex Soschin announced a fall benefit event. The Shayne Dalva Benefit Concert will be Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at St. Augustine-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 1227 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Invitations were distributed. This benefit came about because of the efforts of one of the parents of our clients, an opera singer, who approached us and asked how she could help.

Nubia Macias, the Operations Consultant, Achievable's second full-time employee, was introduced. She has been helpful in managing the Achievable summer camp program and various social media, as well as financial and bookkeeping responsibilities.

**POLITICAL ACTION:** Nilo Choudhry reported that California state lawmakers have wound down the 2012 legislative session. It's the time when budget cuts and belt-tightening changes will be made that will impact many people. Provisions by the state legislative representatives and our vote can have a long lasting effect on all of us. Governor Brown has until September 30<sup>th</sup> to veto bills. The state legislature will reconvene on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Right now the November election and the ballot proposition are front and center, including the Governor's crucial temporary tax initiative, Proposition 30, which is intended to raise \$8b. There are many Senate and Assembly seats up for election, in addition to the presidential race. Term limits will impact some of the legislators.



Encouraging everyone to vote: Karol Scotta gave an example of how, when she talked to some of her people, she advises that they actually give up one of their rights if they do not vote. It is their responsibility to educate themselves on the issues and to vote. There is an event at the local Culver City Library called "The Power to Vote," on September 22 from 2-3 p.m. It is sponsored by the L.A. County Registrar's Office. We are encouraging a lot of people—family, friends, and clients to get out the vote.

**CLIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC):** Esther Kelsey delivered the CAC report. They are continuing with volunteer work in the community. Some of them are taking part in the campaign trail for President Obama. Some help at home and some in the campaign office. They are not biased. If there is a group of individuals who wish to support another political party, they will facilitate.

Esther reported that they are having a great summer so far, and have enjoyed the following activities: Dodgers games, concerts, beach days, and the L.A. County Fair. Currently they are working with doctors at UCLA who have an office off campus in Santa Monica. Soon they will participate in Mindfulness Training to learn meditation skills. That program is in the works.

**SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** While they did not meet in August, Karol Scotta reported that the providers are trying to get out the vote with staff, clients and families.

The providers group, to which she belongs, asked them to request the regional centers to get behind the Proposition 30 vote. In July they received 3% back in their checks. Still 1.25% was withheld, so there is a possibility that with the passage of Prop. 30, that remainder would be refunded, and it could mean a big difference in their budget. On the other hand if it is not passed, providers fear that they could lose that 3% and then some. Those issues would hurt providers, especially now that they have to shoulder the cost of audits. ARCA, too, is showing support for Proposition 30.

Mike Danneker added that we can "support" this legislation as a group, but we will need to check with our legal advisor what we can say legally. Karol added that providers are very unsettled about what might happen if Proposition 30 does not pass.

**CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Judy Blumenthal reported that the committee did not meet since July. Judy reported that behavior intervention standards have been submitted to DDS. No response has been received. She discussed the new issues surrounding SB 946. The committee will meet as necessary before the next board meeting.

**ARCA:** Cecilia Fabulich attended the August meeting for Fernando Gomez. Danise Lehrer also attended for Mike Danneker who was on vacation. Cecilia discussed the delegates board comprised of representatives from all regional centers, which changes throughout the year, and the fact that frequently new delegates may not understand the full workings of DDS and/or ARCA. Terri Delgadillo attended the delegate's luncheon



on Friday of the board meeting. Cecilia was interested in hearing how they prepared the night before to confront Terri on some issues which they did not understand.

The major issue concerned the Sonoma Developmental Center in Napa, and abuse by a member of its staff. A member of staff was found with a weapon in his car and a Taser. There was evidence of scars on clients from Tasers. Delegates wanted to know why with all that evidence the DC employee wasn't charged with more than a misdemeanor. Apparently, Terri Delgadillo quashed their concerns. Cecilia reported that she is representing us well, is on the Sonoma Campus investigating the situation, and feels responsible for what is going on. Napa is a company town—everyone is related to someone who works at the DC. She encourages regional centers to have offices there. Terri is taking a very pro-active part and coming to terms with a bad situation. The Sonoma DC is not taking on any new staff. Terri has closed any possibility of anyone coming in. Cecilia was impressed with the way Terri came to terms with the delegates. There is definitely a problem with delegates as with legislators, new people always coming in who do not know their way around the system. They came away from the meeting satisfied that there is awareness that things are going to happen.

The second issue was whether all RCs could be on the same page vis-a-vis co-pays re SB 946. There was also an issue regarding rent with the RCs, which Mike will discuss in his report.

Karol Scotta spoke to concerns from the vendor community. First, they were concerned that the Sonoma case was not prosecuted due to "not having reliable witnesses," even though there was clear evidence of marks from the Taser. As a result, the perpetrator is free to move anywhere and apply to another provider residence.

Liz Spencer added that it is about time somebody goes to some meeting and demonstrates outrage about this issue. This abuse has occurred over an extended period, spanning a decade. She continued that we need more people in the parent community to be outraged. Discussion ensued. The legislature has yet to make it a law that any violation against a person with special needs is a hate crime.

Fernando clarified the two issues—one of the ARCA delegates board which is in flux, a new director at ARCA, which is concerning because a lot of the protocol and standards are being challenged. Not that it is a bad thing to change, but it's how the change has transpired that creates the disconnect. It is a very challenging time. Second, the situation in Sonoma, which he has been reading about, is unacceptable. Terri Delgadillo was outraged as well. Twenty-eight states have already voted on the issue that any crime against an individual with special needs is a hate crime, which can be prosecuted. California has yet to pass this into law.

ARCA's New Day Conference will take place September 16th-19<sup>th</sup>. In October ARCA will hold a retreat.

By telephone conversation with Mike, Rick Rollens made the point that while Democrats control everything in the legislature, there is a danger there that they may have a free hand to do whatever they want, so conceivably, they could put something into the Trailer Bill without any discussion. The main thing we need to do is maintain the entitlement. Rick also suggested that there is reason to believe that the legislature has considered that the recent cuts to our system—\$1b in the last three years—might keep us off the radar in terms of further cuts. The feds just allocated more money for the Medicaid Waiver—a 4% increase—for IHSS funding and personal attendant services.

**FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTER/FRC:** Liz Spencer announced a workshop Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30 a.m. with Dr. Richard Newman speaking on the topic of bullying, at the Veterans Memorial Center in Culver City. This is an important topic among students with disabilities and adolescents. A change in behavior might be the first sign that a child is being bullied.

Danny and Lizeth have worked on the website, which receives over 1,000 hits per month. [Web address: wfrec.org] The average page visit duration is 2 min. 30 sec., which is up from 48 sec. 3 months ago. They are receiving phone calls from other states, and countries. Their website lists a calendar of countrywide events.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mike Danneker updated the issue of buying a building, about which we received some negative comments. The political climate and the budget are still not settled. Even should Proposition 30 pass there would be a \$9b deficit. We will have to make some decisions, because our lease ends April 2014. The state administration is in a not buying mode. Two years ago DDS announced that they would not pay RCs' moving expenses. At present we are exploring rental options.

Sharon Smyth reported: Our present building owner has not responded to us. She has been working with Dennis Smith and has sent an RFP (Request for Proposal) to building owners in this area. We received two responses. One proposal, especially, is very good, closer to an agreement than expected. One building is at 12655 Jefferson near Intercontinental University. The two bids are very different from one another, with room for negotiation in both. The rent would be lower than we currently pay. One came through at \$2.10 and one at \$2.35 with a 6-month free rent.

DDS just completed an audit on finance related matters 2 years ago. The final report is expected soon.

The Capitol People First Law suit started 12 years ago. PAI sued the RCs and others. Finally, after one more report being submitted to them, the WRC portion is done. Gail Louis's former law firm Morrison & Foerster represented us pro bono. They brought suit against our insurance carrier who was obligated to pick up the legal fees.

Mike will participate in The New Day Conference on housing and employment next week. There may be free registration still available for the New Day Conference.

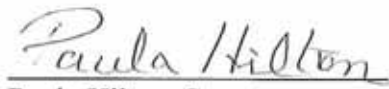
In a DDS audit, HOME was found to owe \$962k. They appealed. DDS came back recently and upheld its decision, stating that the \$962k was still owed. Woody Gruninger, the new chair of HOME, has discussed this matter with HOME's insurance broker, and the company indicated that they might be able to cover this debt.

**OPEN AGENDA:** Mary Lou reported that the Dr. Bruce Hensel portion of the TV news, televised Brett Gordon of our board doing a job for the Peer Mentors Program.

**M/S/C: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

The next meeting date will be **Wednesday, November 7, 2012** and will begin at 6:00 p.m. at Westside Regional Center, 5901 Green Valley Circle, Culver City, CA 90230.

  
Paula Hilton, Secretary

 **ORIGINAL**



**MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2012**

Members Present: Joseph Allen Chandler, Jr.  
Judy Blumenthal  
Nilo Choudhry  
Courtney Colman  
Felicia Ford  
Dru Garcia-Richardson  
Fernando Gomez  
Brett Gordon  
Paula Hilton  
Priscilla Hoe  
Esther Kelsey  
Gail Louis  
Rene Rivas  
Jack Rose  
Karol Scotta  
Ron Williams

 **ORIGINAL**

Absent: Cecilia Fabulich and Lynn Krupp

Staff Present: Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Mike Danneker, Bill Feeman, Denise Fernald, John Hunt, Monique Lazarus, Barbara Marbach, Debra Ray, Susan Sylvester, Liz Spencer, Mary-Lou Stusser, and Daisy Marks

Guests Present: Zakir Choudhry, Nick Coplin, Laurene Feldan, Erin Fox, Portia Griffith, Nathalia Jimenez, Babak Kamjou, Louis Lavine, Barbara McCants, Collette Medora, Carmen Redmond, Todd Rubien, Steven Sakamoto, Robert Schwartz, Alejandro Soschin, Ricky Tani, and Russell Tanner

Board Chair Fernando Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Guests were then welcomed and were invited to introduce themselves.

**PRESENTATION:** The CPP team—Mary Lou Stusser, Susan Sylvester and Monique Lazarus discussed planning as it related to the closing of Lanterman Developmental Center and moving a client from there into the community. WRC may reciprocate with other RCs to place an individual in the community near his/her family. Within two years all WRC clients will have moved out of the DC. Susan and Monique gave reports of

successful placements, improved health, more frequent family visit, greater independence and comfort.

Fairview and Porterview DCs are also involved, but because of its closing, the priority placements are from Lanterman DC. Although DDS has not yet given a closure date, we developed "milestones" toward 100% placement of our clients there. Mary Lou showed photos of beautiful new community placement homes, stating that our clients helped plan their own room decors.

In 2010 there were 400 people in Lanterman DC to be placed; in the 9<sup>th</sup> month of 2012 the number remaining is down to 238. One hundred residences are being developed throughout the state. Mary Lou focused on a new model—teaching homes or shared homes. WRC was one of the first residences giving people their own rooms. We discontinued 6-bed residences in 1995, and now limit them to 4-beds. Those in the teaching facility give a one year commitment and provide family mentors. The family lives on one side of the home, and the client on the other. The La Tijera family teaching home is an open plan with adaptive bedrooms, and boasts a tub for one client who prefers the tub to the shower. Another situation is like a mini clinic. Many properties are owned by an NPO (HOPE) and will be held by them for about 50+ years.

Westlawn home is being built with 8 other RCs. We can build a home around the individual client's required needs. Other homes are designed for the client to age in place. Since 1994 WRC has had 194 people in six DCs, and at present there remain 32 Westside RC clients in three DCs. WRC is still working to move people from Fairview.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Fernando Gomez reported that he was made aware in viewing the election results, the fact, reflective of changing times, that social media has the ability to disseminate information in real time. Our industry and community is changing.

Marty Sweeny, the State Director of the AT Network, is using new films to provide for our community. He would like to use the opportunity of the Canadian filmmakers coming to Los Angeles for the TASH conference to host a free screening of the film, "*The R Word*," for regional center families and other stakeholders in our community to attend.

As of two weeks ago the LA Unified School District discontinued the term MR eligible. The preferred term is intellectually challenged or intellectual disability.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Rene Rivas requested amending the minutes of the September 12 meeting by adding his title and John Hunt's title in the motion as follows:

**M/S/C TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MIKE DANNEKER FROM THE POST RETIREMENT MEDICAL TRUST, AND TO NAME IN HIS PLACE JOHN HUNT, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, AND RENE RIVAS, CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**M/S/C            TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2012 AS AMENDED.**

**APPROVAL OF BYLAWS:** Fernando Gomez alluded to the Bylaws which had been distributed with the board packet, and asked for any comments. Mike Danneker noted that we had not significantly changed the Bylaws for 12 years. We sent them to our attorney who added or deleted items required by legislative changes. Concerning the SPAC Committee, the Bylaws state that it should be "a committee elected by the Board of Directors." At WRC we do not elect members to that committee as such. WRC nominates the SPAC Chair and, in effect, the Board approves the committee.

Karol Scotta commented that in sitting on a statewide committee, she observed that other regional centers are a lot less collaborative. They tell the SPAC Chair [what they would have her do] and they tell the vendors.

**M/S/C            TO APPROVE THE BYLAWS.**

Jack Rose so moved, and Felicia Ford seconded the motion.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ACHIEVABLE FOUNDATION:** Erin Fox reported that the clinic is in the space formerly occupied by HOME. They plan to begin seeing patients in the spring of 2013.

Achievable received a grant from the S. Mark Taper Foundation and from Petit Constantine of LA Goal.

On November 17<sup>th</sup> Achievable will hold a fundraising event—an amazing group of opera performers. We will be able to see world Class opera for \$20.

Nathalia Jimenez, the Director of Clinical and Administrative Operations, met with the Advisory Committee for the clinic, which included people from healthcare field, Rene Rivas and support from those outside RC as well.

**FINANCE:** Rene Rivas reported that one-quarter of the fiscal year is finished. Budget-wise we are on track. The money is coming in, and as far as the money promised, there are some gyrations. Passage of Proposition 30 has a positive outcome for the RC.

The Finance Committee is working on the Post-Retirement Medical Trust Fund's investment policy and objectives. We are directing ourselves as trustees of the fund and the money in the bank has not been invested. We are looking at mutual funds that are indexed, such as S&P 500, NASDAQ 100, Russell, etc. Discussion followed. Priscilla Hoe asked about having a consultant, and explained that she was questioning the process. Rene explained that he had researched the matter and had discussed it in committee. The discussion between Rene and Priscilla concerned the caliber of money managers.



Fernando Gomez suggested distributing information to the Board. Rene offered to have a private conversation with Priscilla about the history of the decision. Felicia Ford raised the question of the wisdom of voting to proceed vs. waiting to January to invest, and was told that the committee could make the decision. The committee did raise the issue of whether the Board needs to be involved since the money was the regional center's. Rene Rivas and John Hunt met with Denise Fernald to discuss the figures. The fund totals \$1.5m. Denise commended the committee for finally addressing the investment of the fund. It was requested that they delay finalizing any investment policies until the next meeting.

**CLIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC):** Esther Kelsey delivered the CAC report, giving a brief year end summary of their activities. They contributed 438 volunteer hours to the community, including political headquarters, the Senior Center, church, HOME, Cancer Awareness and the fight against AIDS.

Recreational activities included sporting events, fairs, plays, concerts, a trip to Universal Studios, Sony Studios, the Aquarium, City Walk, Disneyland, movies, the Getty and Olivera Street.

In concert with Disability Rights, the group helped prepare a book on Emergency Preparedness. Writers among CAC are creating individual stories, fiction, non-fiction and poetry. They also teamed up with other RCs who were so impressed with WRC's self-advocacy efforts that they requested help in setting up their own.

CAC participated in Mindfulness training recently and learned how to relax, clear their minds, and to connect with their inner selves. They look forward to the forthcoming holidays and look forward to more opportunities enabling them broaden their horizons.

**POLITICAL ACTION:** Nilo Choudhry reported that the recent election was momentous. A number of independent and new California voters, about 18,000,000 took advantage of on-line registration. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> 15% of on-line voting took place. There was an unexpected result: incumbent Betsy Butler in District 50 with 69,062 votes lost to Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom with 69,280 votes, a difference of 218 votes. Holly Mitchell won 83% of the votes in District 54. Wesley Chesbro in the 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly District won. Karen Bass with 86% of the votes was sent back to the U.S. House of Representatives, and Julia Brownly won a congressional seat in District 26. Both strongly support our population.

Proposition 30 passed by 54% of the votes. Gov. Brown worked hard to get support for it. ARCA, ARC of California, and the Supported Living Network endorsed it as well. The election had a major impact on people with developmental disabilities in that its passage avoided major cuts to our system. This will mean a tax increase for people earning over \$250,000, and an increase in sales tax of 1 cent for every \$4 spent. With so many propositions voting was very confusing, but The League of Women Voters guide was very helpful.

**SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Karol Scotta reported that the Day Program Committee reviewed the need for someone to help facilitate sports activities that would coordinate the Unified Sports Initiative. They report introducing our clients to bowling, kickball and basketball and having a wonderful time. Ten day programs will be decorating holiday trees to be auctioned off at the WRC Craft Fair December 5<sup>th</sup> for the benefit of the Achievable Foundation. Advantage Day Program is organizing the event. This project earned \$1114 last year.

Briana Harvey gave a brief presentation of the California Mentor AFHA Program. The group participated in the Great Shakeout. Many issues concerning emergency preparedness were discussed.

Ben Davidson, the chair distributed a flier revealing the pros and cons of Proposition 30 vs. Proposition 38. He also participated in the CASACC conference call, which included directors of various regional centers. It concerned changing reporting responsibilities for agencies like APS to the regional centers, and purports to save \$100m. It is an independently written bill, and there is no background on its origin or real effect.

Marine ATC distributed a flier for their Thanksgiving Luncheon and Dance at Hawthorne Memorial Park for participants of Day Programs to be held November 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 1 pm.

**CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Judy Blumenthal reported that the committee met to discuss policy concerning insurance co-pays. As a result of Senate Bill 946 effective July 1, 2012, when an individual is diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, families are required to request Behavior Intervention Services, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), and any other evidence based therapy through their insurance companies. The committee submitted Behavior Intervention policy changes to the Service Standards, for board approval. The policy will then be sent to DDS for approval. They also discussed the kinds of community placement that was being developed for those clients leaving the developmental centers.

**M/S/C                      TO APPROVE NEW BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION POLICY  
CHANGES TO THE SERVICE STANDARDS.**

**ARCA:** Fernando Gomez reported. There are many changes. The Senate Human Services Committee held hearings regarding the Lanterman DC Closure. This involved many communications and interactions. All went well. Written testimony will soon be available.

The recent meeting was held in San Diego on October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Bahia Resort. The agenda focused on looking at ARCA and goal restructuring, identifying the mission statement and making changes. It made for an intense day. Mary Lou Stusser and John Hunt also attended the meeting. There was a very impressive workshop of about 75 people, dealing with long range strategic planning. Beginning with a huge list of items



and ideas, they narrowed it to a core set of three. John reported that it was collaborative. A variety of people were at every discussion table. It was stimulating to be with so many passionate individuals.

Fernando asked if the WRC Board had anything they wanted him to bring up at a future ARCA meeting.

**FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTER/FRC:** Liz Spencer presented some statistics on the prevention program. Statewide 41 Early Start resource centers served almost 9,000 families. 11,000 different types of resources were referred to families. 20,000 entities were given information about prevention. We currently have 93 prevention cases. The FEC referred 30 cases to Early Start for evaluation. They closed 49 families. In July 38 families transferred from the old prevention program and were referred to FEC. The current contract continues to June 2013. The future is unknown.

The holiday toy give-away will take place December 18th and 19<sup>th</sup>, and toys and books will be accepted through December 17<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to give away 750-1500 new toys. Every service coordinator sends the FEC 2-3 families in need, and the parents can select a toy for every child in the family, which the WRC volunteers wrap.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mike Danneker reported that with the passage of Proposition 30, the DDS will not have to cut our budget. It was a big victory. It will give us the opportunity to catch up with our staff ratios of service coordinators to clients. The decision now can be made to hire more service coordinators. A lot of ratios requirements are tied to the Medicaid Waiver requirements. The biggest thing that happened on Election Day is the two-third democratic majority in the legislature. The Governor can not veto anything that has been passed by a two-thirds legislative vote. It gives an incredible amount of power to the democrats, and is a real opportunity and challenge to them.

**OPEN AGENDA:** Denise Fernald announced the WRC Craft Fair on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Every \$5 purchased makes one eligible for a raffle ticket for another gift.

Todd Rubien announced that LA Goal is holding a talent Show on December 16<sup>th</sup> which will feature musicals, such as Westside Story and others at the LA Goal headquarters.

**M/S/C: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next meeting date will be **Wednesday, January 9, 2013** and will begin at 6:00 p.m. at Westside Regional Center, 5901 Green Valley Circle, Culver City, CA 90230.



Paula Hilton  
Paula Hilton, Secretary



ORIGINAL

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2013**

Members Present: Joseph Allen Chandler, Jr.

Judy Blumenthal

Nilo Choudhry

Courtney Colman

Cecilia Fabulich

Felicia Ford

Fernando Gomez

Brett Gordon

Paula Hilton

Priscilla Hoe

Esther Kelsey

Lynn Krupp

Gail Louis

Rene Rivas

Jack Rose

Karol Scotta

Ron Williams



**ORIGINAL**

Absent: Courtney Colman and Dru Garcia-Richardson

Staff Present: Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Mike Danneker, Bill Feeman, Denise Fernald, Ereida Galda, Teri Huber, John Hunt, Debra Ray, Mary-Lou Stusser, and Daisy Marks

Guests Present: Stephanie Alvarez, Zakir Choudhry, Rayvonne Douthard, Sharon Etchison, Sylvia Fahimian, Portia Griffith, Babak Kamjou, Louis Levin, Christina Limcaco, Barbara McCants, Christine Monroe, Diana Montesdeoca, Jack Nieves, Carmen Redmond, Todd Rubien, Alejandro Soschin, and Russell Tanner

Board Chair Fernando Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

**PRESENTATION:** The Performance Contract was distributed, and pending DDS approval, it will be the topic of the March board presentation.

Ereida Galda of the Family Empowerment Center acknowledged Diane Montesdeoca of 24Hr Home Care for its support in the holiday toy drive over the past five years. This

year 180 children were served in 60 families. Families are selected upon recommendation of their service coordinator who considered families with severe hardship. At the drive families "shop" for the toys for the client and his siblings as well.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Fernando Gomez invited members of the Board of Directors and Executive Staff to state their hopes or wishes for the year 2013. Here follows some statements: we hope to be able to provide our clients with everything that we want for them; we hope to meet our future challenges; we would like to have more board discussions; we hope for balance and equanimity; we appreciate the regional center; we appreciate Mike Danneker, our Director, for his positive outlook, his frankness, and hope he remains strong for us; we hope that the budget might improve; and we hope people will be more active in the voting process. Mike concluded by saying that he was honored to work at WRC with the many great people here.

Fernando reflected on the changing times in which we live, that some things coming from ARCA are good, but it all comes with responsibility. Each and every one of the Board has a commitment. Because of this organization, he said, my son has wonderful opportunities.

**M/S/C TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 7, 2012**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FINANCE:** Rene Rivas reported that at 42% of the fiscal year the Operations budget looks good, and expenditures will be within our allocation. In POS we anticipate a slight over-run. At this time WRC has not received its notice of allocation.

The committee reviewed investment strategy recommendations for the Post Retirement Medical Trust Fund. Since November they have done additional research and documented this effort. A Summary report was presented to the finance committee, and it will proceed with the implementation of the plan which will require approvals of the board.

**ACHIEVABLE FOUNDATION:** Alex Soschin reported. The clinic project moves ahead, and they are nearing completion of the major construction.

In the last few weeks over \$200,000 in grants was received from a number of donors organizations, including the S. Mark Taper Foundation, the W.M. Keck Foundation, and the Robert Ellis Simon Foundation. Lou Spitz raised \$14,000. Funds are being spent on the clinic project. Alex thanked the many individuals who have helped. Achievable has over \$500K in grants under consideration by other supporters and hopes to hear more good news in months to come.

The opera benefit was successful, as was the holiday tree fund-raiser. Craig from the Advantage Program was responsible for the event, and the tree decorated by Karol Scotta's group, Options for Life, was the big winner.



**CLIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC):** Esther Kelsey delivered the CAC report. The advocacy groups have been discussing their vision for 2013. "We strive to do better at what we do," she reported. They would like to continue with volunteer work, mindfulness training and meditation, and to continue to be better informed in their political endeavors.

**POLITICAL ACTION:** Nilo Choudhry reported that the Department of Health Care Services in California announced the approval of a Medicaid reduction of 10% in California. The 9th Circuit Court upheld the budget cut for adult Medicaid services. Providers will receive a reduction of 10%. It will affect doctors, pharmacies, clinics, laboratories, dentists, therapists, optometrists, durable medical equipment, medical transportation, some adult sub-acute facilities, and other nursing services. This will create a great hardship for service providers serving adults in intermediate care facilities which depend on Medicaid for their payment. The department is attempting to make the cuts retroactive to last August. For many, items like repairing their facilities and getting newer lift vans will be on the back burner.

**M/S/C            TO APPROVE DRAFTING A LETTER TO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN CALIFORNIA FOR MEDICAID IN OPPOSITION TO THE AMENDMENT IMPLEMENTING THE CUT IN SERVICES.**

Karol Scotta explained that when there is a cut such as described, an essential difference in treatment occurs in the caliber of staff when, because finances dictate, minimum wage staff is hired. The type of employee changes drastically. The vans used in transportation are also affected, but what suffers first is staffing. Intermediate care facilities require highly skilled people, especially those serving clients who have no words.

Richard Bloom, a former mayor of Santa Monica, is now our newest local State Assembly representative.

**SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Karol Scotta reported that no formal meeting was held in December while they celebrated the holiday. One of their discussions concerned how nice it was not to have reductions. Many were about to give staff raises. Karol gave her staff bonuses.

**CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Judy Blumenthal reported that the committee met to discuss new policies concerning the realities and implementation of insurance coverage for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). They discussed how many clients are receiving ABA, and how many insurance companies are paying the required coverage. 70 clients were transferred to insurance, and others are in process. Those that won't go with their insurance companies will be declined services. No cases have yet gone to appeal.

The committee also discussed clients who are exiting school, looking at college attendance, and how WRC can support them—through vocational tracks or educational tracks. They considered what services we will need for them. On March 13 at 4:00 pm there will be a meeting about what support programs are available for this population. They considered whether we need to conduct individual assessments, and if so, at what cost. There are some existing programs though they are very expensive. No program should have a one-size-fits-all cost basis, because we believe each of our clients will have different needs and will require different levels of support.

Rene Rivas asked if there were any new findings concerning the causes of autism. Judy responded that while there are not, many researchers are cementing the view about what things do not cause it. They are seeing a lot of children with the diagnosis and many are doing well. Judy emphasized that the recent tragedy in Connecticut did not occur as a result of autism.

Karol Scotta reported that she heard a TV spot about a parent from a regional center on Medicaid whose child was denied ABA services.

DSM4 is now becoming DSM5—the standard for diagnosis. Aspergers and autism now will be under one umbrella. Determining who is eligible for our system will be more challenging. This may be a big issue statewide and nationally. Doctors are looking at this. Support and independent living services will be more in demand and could be impacted by this rule.

**ARCA:** Fernando Gomez announced that The Governor's Budget will be released tomorrow (January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013).

The next ARCA meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> will discuss updating their Bylaws. Fernando will chair the board meeting for the ARCA Board President, who will be unable to attend. There are strong undercurrents of change—some from the new director. There may be differences of opinion among the regional center directors about the situation. They are still trying to express concern about communication between ARCA's executive director and Terri Delgadillo of DDS. There will be open discussion at the forthcoming meeting.

There is an opening at ARCA for a vice chair that will probably be filled by a parent. Anyone who wants to attend an ARCA meeting with Fernando is invited to do so.

**WESTSIDE FAMILY RESOURCE/EMPOWERMENT CENTER (WFREC):**

Ereida Galda reported. She thanked Liz Spencer and others for their support for the toy drive—Terry Gottlieb, Karol Scotta, Options for Life, Discovery Preschool in Tarzana, and Danise Lehrer for connecting the WFREC with them, WRC staff, and parents. They served about 180 children and 60 families.



Statistics: Prevention Resources: Of 152 Referrals, 33 were re-evaluated and 45 cases were closed out. Website: In December there were 557 unique visits, 715 multiple visits, and 1,464 page views.

Twenty-five students and adults attended an El Camino College presentation on WRC and WFREC, and 30 parents attended a Task Assistive Technology Training. WFREC provided four monthly IHSS trainings in English and Spanish. One session gives general information on IHSS and how to apply, and the second addresses how to appeal the county's decision. About 210 were in attendance. Families previously denied hours or receiving fewer hours have been successful in getting awards for more hours or new hours. They trained in English and Spanish on WRC and WFREC at the Inglewood Head Start. The center sponsors 9 support groups in English or Spanish. One, Siempre Amigas, a group supporting women who provide care to a person with special needs, catered a luncheon for the entire WRC staff as an expression of gratitude!

**Miscellaneous:** Rene and Dora Rivas received a call from Lanterman RC concerning a mortuary which would not release the deceased due to insufficient funds. They sought help through Danise Lehrer from Achievable, and the Rivases generously matched the Achievable funding.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mike Danneker reported that when Governor Brown took office, California showed a \$27B deficit. When the new budget is announced tomorrow, there are no hits anticipated to our system.

Over the past year we have explored the idea of moving, and have decided to stay in our present location. WRC has submitted four draft offers with the building owners. We hope we can stay here. We want to get various things repaired or upgraded—plumbing, elevators, heating system.

The DDS audit on WRC and HOME for the years 2007-2010 indicated that HOME owes \$920K and also that WRC owes \$960K. We appealed these findings, and things went to a hearing, the result of which is that there are no mandates for WRC to make sure that every vendor uses appropriate procedures. So WRC does not have to pay DDS, but we are required to support and assist DDS with collection of funds for HOME. HOME is "on the hook." The new HOME chairperson advised HOME to go to its insurance carrier, which it did, and the initial response was positive. Eventually, the insurers will probably negotiate the debt with DDS.

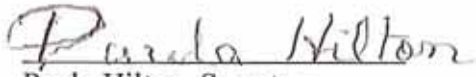
**OPEN AGENDA:** Judy Blumenthal looked over a meeting schedule for 2013 and advised that the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting date conflicted with a Jewish holiday, so it was decided to change the meeting date to September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**M/S/C: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



The next meeting date will be **Wednesday, March 6, 2013** and will begin at 6:00 p.m. at Westside Regional Center, 5901 Green Valley Circle, Culver City, CA 90230.

  
Paula Hilton, Secretary



ORIGINAL

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2013**

Members Present: Joseph Allen Chandler, Jr.  
Judy Blumenthal  
Nilo Choudhry  
Courtney Colman  
Fernando Gomez  
Brett Gordon  
Paula Hilton  
Esther Kelsey  
Lynn Krupp  
Rene Rivas  
Karol Scotta  
Ron Williams

 ORIGINAL

Absent: Cecilia Fabulich, Felicia Ford, Dru Garcia-Richardson, Priscilla Hoe, Gail Louis, and Jack Rose

Staff Present: Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Mike Danneker, Danny Delgadillo, Bill Feeman, John Hunt, Soryl Markowitz, Mary-Lou Stusser, and Daisy Marks

Guests Present: Zakir Choudhry, Portia Griffith, Ted Levine, Marcia McCants, Collette Medora, Christine Monroe, Carmen Redmond, Todd Rubien, Robert Schwartz, Russell Tanner, and Ricky Tani

Board Chair Fernando Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:21 p.m.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

**PRESENTATION:** The topic concerned how WRC ranked in its Performance Contract in comparison to other regional centers, and was presented by Mary Lou Stusser, Director of Community Services. WRC served 7400 consumers last year. The greatest percentage (40%) is in the 6-21 year range. By ethnicity the greatest number of clients are Hispanics (32%), with whites next (29%) and then African Americans (22%). WRC exceeds other RCs in terms of goals: .46% live in developmental centers, down by .06% from last year, more adults live in home settings (81.44%), and less adults live in large facilities (1.31%). WRC rated well beyond goals in Intake, making improved strides over the past years thanks to Dr. Tom Kelly and his team. WRC exceeded the requirements in every area.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Fernando Gomez announced the Annual Meeting June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott Hotel in Marina del Rey.

The Nominating Committee of Cecilia Fabulich, Judy Blumenthal and Jack Rose seek nominations. Four members will need to be replaced: Felicia Ford, Dru Garcia-Richardson, Paula Hilton, and Esther Kelsey. The committee will be looking at the new slate of officers as well.

Fernando received a request from a CNN journalist to join a Spanish-speaking panel in a discussion of special needs children. Although the invitation was last-minute and the agenda was uncertain, Fernando volunteered to join it. It was reflective of the grass roots and community involvement, and was a pleasant experience. He found the journalist open-minded.

DDS has required that we amend our start-up/RFP policy to reflect the amount of start-up dollars that must be approved by the Board. Rene Rivas moved to approve that change.

**M/S/C            TO APPROVE AMENDING THE POLICY TO REFLECT THAT  
CONTRACTS OF \$250,000 OR MORE REQUIRE BOARD  
APPROVAL.**

**M/S/C            TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2013**

Fernando next asked for discussion of the Strategic Plan, draft of which was e-mailed to all members of the board. Nilo referred to the words equal treatment on page 5, and discussion ensued. Perhaps the term equitable is preferred to equal. Mike stated that ARCA asked for different areas they wanted to address and prioritized funding, quality assurance and long term system security and sustainability. Fernando stated that the plan is a bit watered down, but he personally, would like to have seen something that connects us more to the community. He encouraged the board to voice its opinion now.

Rene Rivas was assured that the plan did have specific dates and timelines.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FINANCE:** Rene Rivas reported that at 58% of the fiscal year we expect to be within our allocation in the Operations budget, but might exceed our allocation in POS. Cash flow from the state has been slow, although there is still enough in the bank to carry us.

Rene explained the purpose of the Post Retirement Medical Trust Fund with \$1.5m in assets. The funds have been set aside in order to fund medical insurance for retirees should the state stop paying premiums. These funds have been in a money market with slow growth with the possibility of not being used for the next several years, and the committee recommends investing in diverse mutual funds with a world blend. Rene moved the following:



**M/S/C TO APPROVE GIVING THE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
AUTHORITY TO MAKE THE FINAL DECISION IN  
INVESTING THE FUNDS IN A BROADLY DIVERSE MUTUAL  
FUND**

**ACHIEVABLE FOUNDATION:** Fernando Gomez read the report.

The renovation of the fourth floor space is almost complete! We should be done with major construction by next week. At that point we will begin installing all the medical equipment, supplies and technology to get closer to opening our state of the art Achievable Clinic later in the spring.

We are also working hard to complete our application to be considered a Federally Qualified Health Center—and will submit it next month. This designation will be very vital towards the project being sustainable for many years to come and we are very confident that we will have a very competitive proposal.

We are very happy to have a wonderful new addition to the team, Dr. Mark Benor—who was most recently a Clinical Director at the Saban Clinic. Dr. Benor will be our primary care physician at the clinic upon opening.

**CLIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC):** Esther Kelsey delivered the CAC report. Members continue with volunteer work, and have contributed 132 hours since January. They continue with Mindfulness Meditation Training as well as breathing techniques in Santa Monica which is very helpful in learning to be relaxed and have stress relief. They participate in regular events and group outings such as Disneyland, fitness expo, and the Aquarium. They have become more involved in the Ballona Creek conservation and are learning its historical significance, dating to 1542. The creek starts in Culver City and travels through Mar Vista, Baldwin Hills and the Expo line.

CAC attended a meeting on gun violence and learned what people can do to help with this matter—increase rules making it harder to purchase dangerous weapons and how to keep children from harm. Christine Monroe spoke against guns and random killings.

Esther discussed the Annual Empowerment Congress. Some have joined the Congress to learn about the process for running for mayor—five candidates are in the race. Examples of workshops include: changing empowerment through civic engagement, leadership training, making Los Angeles County law enforcement accountable, and types of emergency survival.

The Westside Jam is April 26<sup>th</sup>, and the theme is Opening Doors for a Better Tomorrow.

**POLITICAL ACTION:** PAC meets at 5:00 PM on the 4th Floor. If anyone is interested, let Nilo know.

The California State Legislature has been back in session for a while. There are a lot of new bills being introduced. These include a 2013 autism package of pending legislation, approximately 15 bills addressing insurance, diversity, cultural competency and equity in services. For example, SB 126, authored by Darrel Steinberg and sponsored by Autism Speaks, attempts to extend the sunset to 2019 for insurance coverage for autism-related treatment. Fran Pavley, representing our Malibu area, sponsored SB577, a pilot program for innovative employment for young adults with developmental disabilities, including those with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Our local legislator, Assemblyperson Holly Mitchell, is Chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee in Health and Human Services.

ARCA continues to be active and involved in watching bills. They have advocated restoring budget cuts that have been made over the years.

Our next Westside Regional Center board meeting at the beginning of May will be just prior to the "May Revise" which is due May 10th.

**SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Karol Scotta thanked the board for its letter sent in opposition to the Medicaid cuts.

Most providers report that they are renewing their Workmen's Compensation insurance, all of which are at higher rates than last year by 1-3%. They are engaging CPA firms for the annual internal audits.

Next month they will conduct training on the Obama Health Care Reform, but she is not sure how it will affect them.

Bernadette gave a talk on special incident reporting. In April Paris Ruiz (from Accounting) will address the group on the Vendor Portal.

The vendors asked Karol to ask WRC if we have heard anything about the federal Sequestration, but no information has come so far. The Indian Affairs Bureau was decimated. They took out all their Child Welfare Act issues and everyone was let go.

Unemployment renewals have increased 1-3%. The Unemployment is bankrupt. Discussion followed about system abuses.

**CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Judy Blumenthal reported that the committee discussion focused on the 18-22 year old clients, and some staff members had visited the Colleges to Career Program at Harbor RC. We ultimately decided that we need to develop a program here. We probably will have this committee act as a task force, and decide what we want to do, how we can utilize existing services, providers to do the things we are not seeing in available programs. An example is programs that are individualized. We are looking at program development for WRC that would reflect our philosophy and vision, and not take an existing program, but actually create something.

We looked at a pretty extensive application and interview process so that we are taking in good clients. Maybe our program would require several agencies being well-coordinated and utilizing West LA College and El Camino College.

We are going to meet again April 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. to continue this planning, even though it is not a board meeting month. Many of the programs that were reported on last month are serving and supporting individuals at a very high cost. Our feeling was that they were not individualized, and we would like to improve on what presently is available.

The Fountain Theatre, is showing a play, "Spectrum," about an individual with Aspergers and an individual with Autism. The play runs March 16-April 28 at the Fountain Theatre, 5060 Fountain Avenue, L.A. 90029. We are considering having a group theatre day to support that. It is a very small theatre.

**ARCA:** Fernando Gomez reported that ARCA is following the many bills being introduced.

From the executive board meeting there is one item that Fernando Gomez wanted to share with this board. Since they hired the new director, there has been a strained relationship with Terri Delgadillo, the DDS Director. They decided to request a meeting with DDS and met again with the ARCA Director on January 31<sup>st</sup>. They tried to be forthright with the issues. Ms. Delgadillo was open and candid, and presented her concerns. There are significant to be addressed in the ability of ARCA and DDS to engage as they did with the former ARCA Director. That is something that is of concern, and there is much focus and energy on this issue, and Fernando cannot say which direction it will go. There is another meeting in the near future and there are many different tangents occurring. He wants the board to know that there is an issue. It has been identified, and they must find a solution.

There is a new slate of officers that has been proposed. Currently Fernando Gomez is the Vice Chair on the Executive Committee, and one of the slates has him in the same position again, but it is not known what the outcome will be.

**WESTSIDE FAMILY RESOURCE/EMPOWERMENT CENTER (WFREC):**

Danny Delgadillo reported that he participated in a Mental Health Services Act task force. It was interesting to meet people from the Department of Mental Health who were checking on which services overlap between WRC's IPP and DMH's CCCP (DMH's version of an IPP), as well as what points are similar so that the work can be shared. Rene Rivas reported that he also has been working with that team, which he perceives as topnotch.

FEC is providing services through a program entitled Family Voices which provides services to Early Start and is a safety net for possibly at-risk infants who might qualify for regional center services. FEC assists school age (3 to 22) special ed children with matters concerning IPs. Family Voices is for children and adults (0-26 years of age) focusing on health care needs. The program was developed by Katey Beckett who



helped create the Medicare law. The Family Voices at our FEC is only one of two in Los Angeles County. At the Family Voices Annual Health Summit, opportunities are presented for families to meet their legislators, and learn about current legislation. The goal is to let families know that their voice counts.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mike Danneker reported that WRC has signed a lease for this building, and has committed through 2026. An incredible thing happened. Dennis Smith, our realtor, made a donation to Mike of \$55,000 from his commission for the regional center.

Regarding the budget, please refer to information in the packet. This year the budget is tight, with a .5% increase in POS and .6% increase in Operations. We are over in POS, but hopefully it will work itself out. The 4.25% cut sunsets, and has been restored to vendors. We received additional funds because of the increase in caseloads and the sunset cuts. In the May Revise WRC should be a better situation than in the last four years.

WRC has signed a contract to go paperless, and has committed to upgrading our computer, by purchasing additional software. Our SANDIS operation allows the service coordinator to directly input notes into the computer, thus becoming easily accessible for future use.

Mike discussed the 1915 Waiver. We have 130,000 clients in CA on the Medicaid Waiver. (There are 257,000 clients.) The anticipation is that if the 1915 Waiver becomes reality, everybody in the RC system will get federal money for every person in the system.

The legislature has good intentions, but don't realize that what they do or create with all the mandated reports. We keep trying for 1:62 ratio, because it brings federal dollars, but it is not feasible without more funding.

We pay a healthy amount of legal fees (\$110k) compared with the first twelve years when we paid nothing at all. That reflects how legalistic we are and that the system is getting bombarded and changed and expensive. Unfortunately, most of this doesn't do anything of benefit to clients or parents. Some of the vogue of transparency has trickled down to effect this.

WRC held a Staff Appreciation Day. Each unit could elect something special to do. People are working very hard. Mary Lou's report reflects that we are doing well.

**OPEN AGENDA:** Colette Medora commented on problems with unemployment rates, businesses closing, losing unemployment centers, and the fallout concerning the current economy. She suggested a meeting to discuss unemployment. Fernando agreed that it is a challenge to navigate the system, unemployment, opportunities and services. He appreciates the amount of experience at WRC with those who have found solutions for these situations.

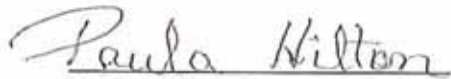
Christine Monroe was assured that her IPP would continue annually.

Russell Tanner submitted his name as a candidate to be on the board once again.

**M/S/C: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

The next meeting date will be **Wednesday, May 1, 2013** and will begin at 6:00 p.m. at Westside Regional Center, 5901 Green Valley Circle, Culver City, CA 90230.

  
Paula Hilton, Secretary

 **ORIGINAL**



**MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2013**

Members Present: Joseph Allen Chandler, Jr.  
Judy Blumenthal  
Nilo Choudhry  
Cecilia Fabulich  
Felicia Ford  
Fernando Gomez  
Brett Gordon  
Paula Hilton  
Priscilla Hoe  
Esther Kelsey  
Rene Rivas  
Jack Rose  
Karol Scotta  
Ron Williams

 **ORIGINAL**

Absent: Courtney Colman, Dru Garcia-Richardson, Lynn Krupp, and Gail Louis

Staff Present: Linda Butler, Mike Danneker, Bill Feeman, Debra Ray, Liz Spencer, and Daisy Marks

Guests Present: Alicia Bazzano, MD, Mark Benor, MD, Zakir Choudhry, Laurene Feldan, Elizabeth Gomez, Portia Griffith, Philip Jackson, Nathalia Jimenez, Achievable Fdn., Louis Lavine, Robert Martin, Barbara McCants, Collette Medora, Christine Monroe, Carmen Redmond, Sandy Rubenfeld, Todd Rubien, Robert Schwartz, Hillary Sklar, Disability Rights of CA., Allan Smith, DDS, Ricky Tani, and Ari Zeldan, MD

Board Chair Fernando Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

**PRESENTATION:** Nathalia Jimenez, Director of Operations of the Achievable Clinic led a presentation about the clinic. A soft opening is scheduled in June, and a grand opening, later in the summer. Physicians of the clinic family--Doctors Mark Benor, Ari Zeldan and Alicia Bazzano—fielded questions. Dr. Benor, Co-Director, is board certified in family medicine, was associated with the Saban Clinic, and did his residency

at Harbor UCLA. Dr. Zeldan, Co-Director, specializes in neurological medicine and Dr. Bazzano, in pediatrics.

The Achievable Clinic will specialize in providing medical care to those with developmental disabilities and their families and care givers. The Achievable Foundation has raised over \$800k to cover start-up expenses and to get the first year rolling until insurance payments are received. Fund-raising efforts will continue until the clinic becomes self-funded.

Responses to questions: Family doctors are capable of treating many types of skin rashes, so often they need not refer patient to a dermatologist. The clinic hopes to build easy access to those who are ill without having to wait long periods for appointments. Because Kaiser is a closed provider, the clinic cannot administer to its insured. It will see the uninsured who will pay on a sliding scale. Those on Medicare can assign the Achievable Clinic as their provider. Most outreach will be to target Regional Center clients through mail, service coordinators, and vendors, but not through general advertising.

Karol Scotta, speaking for the vendors, stated that they are very excited about the clinic. There is not anything just like this in Southern California, and there are only a few such clinics with this specialty in the U.S.

In other Achievable news, the Baker Camp has received 159 applications. Scholarships will be announced by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Fernando Gomez announced that this will be the last formal meeting for Felicia Ford, Paula Hilton, and Esther Kelsey, who he thanked and acknowledged their support. This will also be his last meeting as Board Chair.

Fernando was presented with the ARCA Winter Soldier Award which is given to the board member delegate who has served under harsh conditions. Cecilia emphasized what a singular honor it was, and exemplified the work Fernando has accomplished.

**M/S/C TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2013**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FINANCE:** Rene Rivas reported that at 75% of the fiscal year we expect to be within our allocation in the Operations budget, but will exceed our allocation in POS by a few million dollars. DDS has been informed.

The post-retirement medical trust money that has been set aside will now be invested with Vanguard in a diversified fund.

Our contract requirement states that any contract over \$250k be approved by the WRC Board. Rene moved that we approve a contract from Healthcare and Rehabilitation

Services to be used to help transition clients out of Lanterman DC, and into an adult residential facility for individuals with significant health care needs. These are startup funds for the provider and administrative staff who will meet with the patients, doctors and nurses, and will be used to train and recruit staff in a 24-hour health care facility for those on ventilators, all of whom are non-ambulatory. Three clients are WRC's and two are Lanterman RC based. This will be the last such WRC development.

**M/S/C            TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH HEALTHCARE  
AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR \$250K.**

Rene concluded his report stating that the recent audit by our auditors, Windes and McClaghry was one of the cleanest that we have had. The report was included in the board packet.

**CLIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC):** Esther Kelsey delivered the CAC report. CAC members are continuing their volunteer work, visiting senior centers, churches, Meals on Wheels, consumer awareness, promoting advocacy and functions, and health screenings. They attended book festivals where celebrities signed their books, and went to the Transition Fair at WRC and found it to be of informative. They plan to arrange to give presentations to help promote self-advocacy with the transition teens.

The entertainment, food, and vendors, at the Westside Jam, as well as the caricature artist were all appreciated. Persons were recognized with an award for outstanding work in self-advocacy. Esther gave special thanks to all those who helped with the Jam.

As she is going off the board, Esther stated that it was an honor and privilege to be part of the board, and a good experience. She suggested that maybe in the future a person with a developmental disability could run the board.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Cecilia Fabulich reported that the Nominating Committee met with two excellent applicants earlier today, and added them to the slate for the June meeting: Portia Griffith Lane and Philip Jackson. The committee plans a meeting with another candidate shortly before it submits a final slate for consideration.

**POLITICAL ACTION:** Nilo Choudhry reported. The state legislature is busy working on many bills. There is a proposal by California State Senator Steinberg to look at various ways of restoring Medi-Cal adult dental services that previously had been eliminated approximately 3 years ago. The California May Revise is coming up May 10th. More substantive budget matters will most likely be addressed by the legislature after the Governor releases the May budget revision.

Mike will speak more about the federal Medicaid 1915 (i) Waiver which just passed today. It expands the federal waiver for individuals who didn't qualify previously. It will bring more federal monies into the system.



There are local legislative breakfasts and Town Hall Meetings to discuss the proposed autism legislation and other related items. ARCA has an 'Action Alert' on restoring the Early Start program to pre-2009 levels. Legislative related updates are provided by CDCAN (California Disability Community Action Network), which is a grassroots network promoting awareness of disability-related issues headed by Marty Omoto.

Sometimes the catchment area for two different regional centers is covered by the same legislator, so WRC and NLACRC plan to make just such a local legislative visit together.

Nilo noted the annual Winter Soldier Award (for one who soldiers on despite difficulties and challenges) received by Fernando, and previously by Cecelia, is a significant honor. It is given to just one ARCA delegate in California each year.

**SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Karol Scotta reported that at the meeting April 16<sup>th</sup> Nathalia Jimenez gave a similar presentation to the one delivered at this meeting. Dr. Benor discussed his experience and vision for the clinic.

Joe Montez of Community Services announced a May 20<sup>th</sup> training for stress reduction. He reported the fact that Community Care Licensing (CCL) has not been conducting the standard number of required home visit inspections. Other committees deferred their sub-committee group meetings to attend training on the Affordable Health Care Act (AHCA). Through an attorney, who volunteered his services, Ben Davidson, arranged for an excellent presentation on the AHCA, giving vendors the formulas they will need. Until everyone is comfortable with it, Ben will arrange for an annual update.

Paris Ruiz from Accounting presented the new computer vendor portal and the features it offers such as updating authorizations in real time.

Each month a different vendor presents features of its program, and this month the Help Group discussed the Advance L.A. Initiative.

Karol Scotta discussed vendor reimbursement—WRC pays promptly, but not so with other RCs. In situations where a case is transferred to another regional center, the money for services accompanies the case. Often after the transfer, the new RC holds an IPP and drops the service(s).

**CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE:** Judy Blumenthal reported that the committee discussion focused on the recent disparity reports to see if WRC has any unusual issues causing the disparities. The differences were widely discussed. WRC does outreach whenever possible. WRC does not plan or give services by ethnicity, so there does not seem to be one explanation of the statistical differences between the various groups. There seemed to be parity. The committee discussed age, ethnicity, and different disabilities. They observed that the aging DD population has parallel problems as the non-DD population.

As a follow-up to the college program for transition age and older clients, they want to consider options carefully, and develop criteria which will eventually lead to a college program.

**ARCA:** Fernando Gomez reported that the next ARCA Meeting is in June, at which time they will vote on the new slate of officers. The slate that has been presented to the Directors includes his name to be Vice-Chair, but he has followed the Bylaws procedures and submitted his own nomination for Chair. We will know the outcome next month.

The ARCA Executive Committee will meet at WRC on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 2 pm. Board members are welcome to attend. In future meetings there will be a few board delegate boot camp sessions led by John Popadak or Rick Rollens of ARCA.

#### **WESTSIDE FAMILY RESOURCE/EMPOWERMENT CENTER (WFREC):**

Liz Spencer reported that at the State Family Resource Center in March, Danny Delgadillo was recipient of a statewide award, the Distinguished Service Award. He was the first man ever to have received it, and the first at WRC.

The WFREC hosted the California Prevention and Resources Meeting, at which Mike welcomed the participants. During that meeting Cesar Garcia discussed Early Start and the relationship with the Prevention Program. The WFREC staff was trained in standards of quality for family strengthening and support.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mike Danneker reported that the federal government will give \$600m in funds (retroactive to 2009) to California under 1915 (i). After this year the state will receive \$160m annually. These funds cover those who are ineligible for the current Medicaid Waiver. The May Revise is expected on the 10<sup>th</sup>. We have not heard any indications of fund reductions from our budget.

As reported in the Client Services Committee, we have been concerned about recent data from the disparity report, showing whether all clients are getting their fair share of services. We believe that we do not discriminate, yet during the two recent times that the state has studied this issue, there have been unaccountable discrepancies. In both studies the issue of disparity has been carefully considered, yet nothing has ever been resolved concerning how one defines equity. WRC's utilization rates are better than other RCs and the cost per person data is generally higher here than at other RCs. (Data was distributed in the packet, and is posted on the WRC website.) Nevertheless, not only is there a disparity by ethnicity, but there is a disparity in services approved but not utilized. One group of disturbing figures indicated that the average white consumer with POS received \$19k, the black consumer with POS received \$15k, and the Hispanic, \$9.7k.

Discussion ensued. Our neighboring RCs may spend about half as much as WRC. There are also low numbers across the board at all RCs for Hispanics. That is the issue we need to address. We also see that Hispanics are not using the approved services as much as other ethnicities utilize them. It is challenging. We had great success with the Latino



Family Outreach Program started here a few years ago. We reached thousands of people, and our numbers increased significantly, but the expenditure variables are similar to those ten years ago. The reasons appear to be socio-economic. Which group gets most in services? Those with most money, and who know how to play the system. For example, most appeals come from white families. Disparity is likely to be a hot political item.

Liz noted that everything done in the WFREC reaches the Hispanic population. There are barriers that go beyond language. This RC reaches out to its and other Spanish-speaking community more so than our neighboring RCs. She stated that we need to consider whether we want to focus on the problem itself or on a solution to the problem. While we have Hispanic outreach groups, we do not have parent groups for African-American families. There are individual and systemic reasons why groups are not utilizing services. We have more families in 0-2 age ranges. One stumbling block occurs in behavior intervention, which is a high ticket item and we require families to be a part of that training, and that might rule out working families. Judy Blumenthal added that disparity data was considered carefully in committee. CP clients were the highest cost per person, but there was an overlap in data of people with more than one disability. WRC is doing a good job, but we cannot say why a group does not accept services.


Karol Scotta reported that she has to work very hard with Latino families to provide services, because she does not speak Spanish. Frequently such families leave her program, preferring to stay at home with their child. Liz discussed four successful groups, one which offers to teach Hispanic families to advocate for their child. Liz suggested that Hispanics want to keep their kids at home. They have large families, and they want to protect their child. Liz suggested having other support groups come in. Debra Ray advocated more outreach. WRC is planning a two-day mandatory training for all staff which will include interviewing techniques.

**OPEN AGENDA:** Hillary Sklar, an attorney from Disability Rights California, stated that 90 days from posting (June 30<sup>th</sup>) WRC is required to hold a stakeholder meeting.

**M/S/C: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next public meeting date will be **Wednesday, July 10, 2013** and will begin at 6:00 p.m. at Westside Regional Center, 5901 Green Valley Circle, Culver City, CA 90230.

  
Paula Hilton, Secretary

 ORIGINAL



**MINUTES**  
**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION**  
**JUNE 5, 2013**

---

Members Present: Joseph Allen, Jr.,  
Judy Blumenthal  
Nilo Choudhry  
Courtney Colman  
Cecilia Fabulich  
Felicia Ford  
Dru Garcia-Richardson  
Fernando Gomez  
Brett Gordon  
Paula Hilton  
Esther Kelsey  
Lynn Krupp  
Gail Louis  
Rene Rivas  
Jack Rose  
Karol Scotta  
Ron Williams

 ORIGINAL

Absent: Priscilla Hoe

Staff Present: Mike Danneker, and Daisy Marks

Fernando Gomez, Chair of the Board of Directors, called the Annual Meeting of the Members to order at the Marriott Hotel in Marina del Rey at 6:50 p.m.

**M/S/C TO NOMINATE AND ELECT THE FOLLOWING FIFTEEN  
(15) DIRECTORS FOR A FURTHER YEAR TERM:**

Joseph Allen, Jr., Judy Blumenthal, Nilo Choudhry, Courtney Colman,  
Cecilia Fabulich, Dru Garcia-Richardson, Fernando Gomez, Brett Gordon,  
Priscilla Hoe, Lynn Krupp, Gail Louis, Rene Rivas, Jack Rose, Karol  
Scotta, and Ron Williams

**M/S/C TO NOMINATE AND ELECT THE FOLLOWING FOUR (4)  
DIRECTORS FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM:**

Sandra Gonzalez, Philip Jackson, Portia Griffith Lane and Bob Steiner

**M/S/C TO ADJOURN THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS**

Fernando Gomez, President of the Board of Directors, called the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors to order.

**M/S/C TO ELECT FOUR (4) OFFICERS FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM:**

Rene Rivas – Chair  
Priscilla Hoe – Vice-Chair  
Courtney Colman – Treasurer  
Nilo Choudhry – Secretary

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR:** Fernando Gomez welcomed everyone and encouraged them to enjoy themselves at the dinner following the meeting.

**M/S/C APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 1, 2013**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FINANCE:** Rene Rivas reported that the \$1.5m Retirement Funds had been transferred to Vanguard, and with John Hunt, and a certified financial planner, they will decide on investment strategy.

**CAC:** Esther Kelsey thanked Mike Danneker and the Board for being part of the team, and stated that she would miss everyone.

**POLITICAL ACTION AND OUTREACH:** Nilo Choudhry reported that as a result of the City election, State Senator Curren Price won the City Council election seat that was held by Jan Perry. This means that Assemblymember Holly Mitchell may be interested in the State Senate seat which he vacated. If that occurs, her seat would become available.

**CLIENT SERVICES:** Judy Blumenthal reported that the committee is still developing the college program West L.A. College for transitioning adult clients.

**ARCA:** At the Annual ARCA Board Meeting June 20th, there will be an election of officers. We have been distributing ARCA information more frequently to help keep the board updated on important information.

**ACHIEVABLE:** In Danise's absence, Rene Rivas reported that the Clinic should be receiving patients soon. The Clinic has been struggling with insurance billing and similar matters. Mike Danneker added that to their credit, they have raised close to \$1m. Dr. Mark S. Sklansky, head of cardiology at UCLA, formerly with Children's Hospital, did a tour of the regional center and the Achievable Foundation Clinic today. Mike, Danise Lehrer and others accompanied him. A good relationship will be established there.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Regarding the WRC budget that will end in 20 days, we are OK in Operations, and down about \$12m in POS. DDS should cover that at the end of the year, so we are not overly concerned about it. This year we have been able to improve staff salaries by increasing rates of job categories. We are trying to go paperless. A professional scanning company is copying charts. The process may take two years or so.

Discussion concerned why the process would not be suitable for a client. We have made tremendous gains in the IT operations this year.

Mike then explained the budget process ongoing in Sacramento. The conference committee met today, those from the Senate and those from the Assembly to negotiate. They present a plan to go to the floor of the Assembly and the Senate next week, and then vote, after which they compromise, and then take a final vote. The budget is supposed to be passed by the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month. At present the legislators are on track, and we anticipate that the budget will pass. Unfortunately, Governor Brown is holding firm to not restoring cuts—Early Start, IHSS money—some things we'd really like to see. So we anticipate the outcome with interest. There are sufficient legislators to override the Governor's veto if they want. So it will be an interesting battle in the final analysis.

This morning we distributed information concerning Self-Determination. Judy Mark, of the L.A. Autism Society, contacted us with a request to support SB 468, which has wide state support. She asked our board to approve it. The details will have to be worked out after this thing has passed. The bill has passed the State Senate, and it is now going to the Assembly. The Assembly will work on this, and Judy Mark hopes the matter will be resolved by July. Basically, it reflects what we do at Westside. We want people to have choice. We want people to select the services they want. We want to develop a person centered plan, after which we talk about a budget.

Judy Blumenthal then asked about the down side. Most parents do not want to select services without regional center support, but some parents like it—i.e., a parent is given X number of dollars for their child, minus 10%, and told to spend it for services. The figures indicate that it is cost effective. The process is overseen by a fiscal person and a facilitator. The plan would be phased in over two years, and would initially involve 2500 clients. DDS helped write this piece of legislation, but is also standing firm, stating that if the Feds don't reimburse the program, they can't support it, because they cannot risk losing the \$2b plus received from them.

Rene Rivas stated that in his conversation with Judy Mark, he understood her to report that if SB 468 passes, California would receive \$30m plus from the Feds, because the state has not met some Federal requirements, but if this passes, they will.

Mike Danneker reported that the reason behind SB 468 is that many parents are so fed up with their regional centers, because they need to fight for everything. This bill represents a frustration. Discussion ensued. Mike said he recommend that we support the concept of the bill. We definitely support self-determination. Judy Blumenthal confirmed that, in theory, this is what we support.

Karol Scotta then indicated that there are problems with the bill's funding. Basically, if the individual's budget is \$100, the bill allows the regional center to give \$90 to spend. Now as a vendor, I need to get my money from that person, not the regional center. The other problem is that the family and the client enter into an employer relationship with the employee [of the service]. However, if the family requires the employee to work overtime, the vendor, not the employee, is going to be held culpable for that overtime. The oversight body will not go after the family. They will, instead, look to the entity which cuts the check to the employee. Karol thinks this is a wonderful thing, in theory, but in how it is enacted, there are land mines for vendors. Some regional centers are problem payers now, and with this bill, it will be difficult for vendors to do their billing.



Mike concluded that the Board could state that we support the concept of self-determination, but that we see problems with this bill. Discussion ensued.


Fernando asked for a vote in concept for self-determination, but not the bill. Not only do we support it, but this is what WRC has been doing despite the fact that practices may differ in some other regional centers.

**M/S/C            TO SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION, BUT NOT SB 468.**

**OPEN AGENDA:** Mike invited the Board Members to pose for photographs.

**M/S/C            TO ADJOURN THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS AT  
7:15 P.M.**

**The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be at 6:00 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2013 at Westside Regional Center, 5901 Green Valley Circle, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Board Room, Culver City, CA 90230.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nilo Choudhry  
Secretary



**ORIGINAL**