

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Austin Dove, Phil Jackson, Betty Pearson Grimbale

STAFF PRESENT: Carmine Manicone, Vanessa Arauza, Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Yuret Chang, Danny Franco, Cesar Garcia, Danise Lehrer, Soryl Markowitz, Rosalinda Mata, Megan Mendes, Jose Reyes, Sandy Rivera, Anjie Robinson, Erica Reimer Snell, Liz Spencer, Martha Thompson

GUESTS: Brandon Alvarez, Christofer Arroyo (SCDD), Raymundo Blanco, Mark Brier, Shannon Brier, Guadalupe Camacho, Zakir Choudhry, Trisha Lucrie Cozine, Sylvia Fahimian, Elizabeth Gomez, Fernando Gomez, Francis Gomez, Alejandra Gomez, Brett Gordon, Kahiir Hall, Naomi Harrel, Beverly Hutchinson, Esther Kelsey, Rosie Lasca, Carla Lehmann, Adriana Madrigal, Dela Quashie Bunati Mangaliso, Judy Mark, Robert Martin, Barbara McCants, David Mezquita, Jack Nieves, Claudia Palomo, Francisco Pineda, Jace Romanowicz, Sandy Rubenfeld, Robert Schwartz, Kim Sinclair, Wesley Witherspoon, Felicia Williams, Sue Williams

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Nilo Choudhry, at 6:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:

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

(g) Quorum

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Christofer Arroyo (SCDD) informed everyone that he brought fliers about trainings they are holding in their office in Glendale on Tuesday mornings beginning September 26th. These trainings are free and if you need Spanish translation please call 10 days in advance so they can accommodate and everyone can fully participate.

Judy Mark informed everyone that the new organization they founded, Disability Voices United, is planning important events over the next two months related to the potential cuts to Medicaid. It has also been discussed in previous Board meetings. The repeal of the Affordable Care Act has not yet happened and it does not look like it will happen now. There are other ways Regional Center services can be affected through the Congress passing a budget that will have significant cuts to Medicaid. They may know more by October. They will be having meeting to educate families and self-advocates about the relationship between these possible cuts and the services they receive. They will begin in October in districts of members likely to support these cuts in Santa Clarita, Orange County, Fresno and in San Diego. If you want to join their mailing list, please visit their website at www.disabilityvoicesunited.org.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nilo Choudhry, Board President, introduced Self-Advocate and WRC Board Member, Joseph Allen Jr., who read aloud the Westside Regional Center's Mission Statement. Joseph shared he works for the LA County Court in Downtown Los Angeles. He has been employed there for over 26 years as a File Clerk. He enjoys hanging out with friends, having his own place, going to the movies and bowling.

Nilo mentioned they want to keep the Board meetings productive and respectful of people's time while allowing opportunities for people to be heard. They want to respect people time constraints, especially that of clients who have to leave to get public transportation.

If anyone has individual Purchase of Services (POS) concerns, please properly refer them to Service Coordinators or Program Managers at the end of the meeting.

Nilo reported that the Executive Committee of the Board has reached a final employment agreement with Carmine Manicone to continue in his role as Executive Director of Westside Regional Center. The one year contract is retroactive to April 1, 2017 and ends on March 31, 2018. The beginning on January of 2018 the review process will begin again.

Nilo also mentioned that Board Members are unpaid volunteers that set the policy in the direction for the regional center.

Alejandro Soschin, Board Vice President, reported on the strategic planning and what lies ahead. He thanked all the stakeholders for their participation and support. Westside has navigated a lot of changes over the years and take all that knowledge and experience and use it to create a more systematic and concrete process to help guide them in the coming years. They would like to have a working draft of a strategic plan for Westside that can guide them going forward. The first step would be to create a Strategic Planning Committee that will begin with Board Members. The chairperson of the committee will work with them to see who is interested and who can devote their time, energy and resources to really work with them to begin the planning process. As they build it out, they can then engage all the other stakeholders that they will need to build a strong plan together. The plan is that by the end of this fiscal year they will have a working draft.

APPROVAL FOR THE CREATION OF A STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE. (ACTION*)

Alejandro Soschin, Board motioned and Richard Breen second to approve the creation of a Strategic Planning Committee.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF A STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE.

No public comment. The motion passed:

15 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 7, 2017 BOARD MEETING. (ACTION*)

Ben Davidson, Board Member, motioned and Richard Breen, Co-Secretary, second the approval of the June 7, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 7, 2017, BOARD MEETING.

No public comment. The motion passed:

15 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JULY 12, 2017 BOARD MEETING. (ACTION*)

Alejandro Soschin, Vice President, motioned and Russell Tanner, Board Member,

second the approval of the July 12, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF MINUTES FOR THE JULY 12, 2017, BOARD MEETING.

No public comment. The motion passed:

15 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 1, 2017 BOARD MEETINGS.

(ACTION*)

Todd Rubien, Board Member, motioned and Zoe Giesberg, Board Member, second the approval of the August 1, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes.

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

No public comment. The motion passed:

15 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

Nilo Choudhry reported that the Board packet includes a proposed meeting schedule for 2018. There is also an updated contact list for the Board Members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Cammy DuPont, Committee Chair, reported that the regional centers last fiscal year ended on June 30, 2017. Even though the year is over, they still have funds available to pay for Purchase of Services and Operations. They have spent of 98% of Purchase of Service and 96% of Operations of the budget. All the funds of the budget have been encumbered or allocated toward projects and everything will be spent. The current fiscal year started on July 1, 2017, so we only have one month to report. Only 7% of Operations have been spent and only 8% for Purchase of Services have been spent.

ACHIEVABLE

Ben Davidson reported on behalf of Carmen Ibarra. A new nurse practitioner will be starting soon as a result of a new partnership with Mid-Level University. The Achievable Board recently had a strategic planning retreat. Staff is working on completing the plan document. Prior to the retreat they asked feedback from patients, staff, healthcare policy experts, community organizations including, Westside, and funders. Information gleaned from interviews and surveys were discussed at the retreat. Overall there is a strong commitment to continue with their current vision of serving our clients and their families. Strategic areas of focus are around the services they offer and the quality of those services. Expanding access and making sure more people are aware of Achievable and their unique model.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Todd Rubien reported they continue to work with the mock Individual Program Plan

(IPP) Meeting and how to help in facilitating their own IPP meeting. They are also working on getting a passport. They have attended or participated in the Non-Profit Renaissance Fair and volunteering at other organizations. They taught the community by sharing with them who they are and what they do. They attended the Transportation Training “Keys to a Better Life”. A group participated in the introductory class to Mindfulness to help with stress by doing the different exercises to relax your mind and body. They also attended the Kaiser grand opening in Los Angeles. Some attended the Fiesta La Ballona in Culver City.

POLITICAL ACTION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Zoe Giesberg reported there was a rally for Assembly Bill 279 and since then the bill has been held in the Senate Appropriations Committee with no further action to be foreseen. It is considered dead. In August they talked about the Strategic Plan for the Board, but they want to focus on support for competitive employment, paid employment incentives, college to career, tailored services, individual day services, customized employment, minimum wage increases, employment first fairs and push for employment for families with high school kids. The next bill they will be looking at is AB1607 which is integrated competitive employment which involves tailored services. Bernie Sanders has proposed a Medicaid for all Bill that has gotten a lot of co-sponsors. It is more of a protest Bill.

CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Richard Breen, Co-Chair, reported they met today. There is an agenda item today for a draft proposal for Respite Guidelines. The Committee spent time finalizing the proposal and making any final language changes and going over the assessment tool that is used to determine the amount of respite services.

Erica Reimer Snell, Client Services Director, provided some background information and informed the Board that Respite Cap that came into place in 2009 was recently repealed. Effective January 1, 2018, they will no longer have a respite cap. In 2009, they limited Regional Center’s funding on respite to no more than 90 hours per quarter. That will now be repealed effective January 1st. The previous service standards reflected that respite cap and with it now being repealed they need to amend their service standards and send them to DDS by November 1st. Part of the process was going through the guidelines with the Client Services Committee which they did in three meetings in July, August and the final one tonight. They were able to come up with the draft they are presenting today to the Board and they have copies in English and Spanish in the back of the room for everyone. During their meeting tonight they did make one proposed change on the fifth paragraph that starts with, “Out of Home Respite Services” to have it read “Out of Home Respite Services for Children may be provided for a maximum of 21 consecutive days, based on availability in licensed residential facilities when the family situation requires it.” On the previous copy it read that there needed to be a crisis situation. In discussion with the Client Services Committee, they recommended to take out the crisis situation and look at the needs of the family when it necessitated the out of home respite care.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED RESPITE GUIDELINES. (ACTION*)

David Wyles, Committee Co-Chair, motioned and Zoe Giesberg, second the approval of the amended respite guidelines.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF AMENDED RESPITE GUIDELINES.

No public comment. The motion passed:

14 AYES

0 NO

1 ABSTENTION

Zoe asked if there is a copy of the guidelines to review before voting. Erica indicated that the proposed new guidelines were email previously to all Board Members and there are copies of them also available in the back of the room for all attendees to review.

ARCA

Carmine Manicone, Executive Director, thanked Nilo Choudhry, the Board and the Executive Committee for taking the time to review documents, coming up with revised position description, contract and talking about expectations. They put a lot of time and thoughtfulness and he feels appreciated.

The biggest ARCA news is that Zoe Giesberg will be the new ARCA Delegate representing Westside Regional Center beginning in October. There was a meeting in August at Harbor Regional Center where ARCA reviewed some of their strategic areas that they are hoping to focus on in the coming years. They want to increase community capacity through strategic resource development. Basically they are looking at how to you prevent individuals from entering the criminal justice system. How do you assess risk level and reduce repeat offending. How do they meet the intensive needs for those individuals that were living in Developmental Centers now that they are closing. They want to increase integrated housing options.

This year they want to work on restoration of social recreation and camp to meet the needs of the diverse communities that they represent. They want to increase integrated employment opportunities and they are advancing initiatives to do that. They are sponsoring employment trainings at a number of different sites throughout the state. They will be doing a weeklong training on how to get people into customized and competitive employment at Westside Regional Center in October. They are collaborating with them to sponsor a training here at WRC. They are sponsoring a lot of meetings with the Cultural Diversity Specialist from all of the regional centers. They are pursuing rate reforms for the developmental services. One of the Bills they were sponsoring, AB 279, died in Committee and will not be happening. They are looking at a new funding methodology for the regional centers. They are hampered with the core staffing formula which is old, outdated, doesn't have reasonable rates, salaries for the positions we need to have here. They have a lot of unfunded mandates positions that they are required to have that are not part of the core funding. They are going to work with local self-advisory committees on implementing the Self-Determination Program.

They want to look at updating the Uniform Fiscal System. This is a system that is the nuts and bolts of all the regional centers funding system, but it is outdated and it needs to

be replaced. They want to work on restoring suspended services and strategizing on how they can restore the regional centers ability to fund camp and social recreations programs.

Nilo asked Carmine if the Board can get copies of the strategy plan. Carmine will send the Executive Directors Report to the Board.

SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

Ben Davidson, Committee Chair, reported that the committee does not meet in August, but they will meet next week and in October. They will have two meeting to report on in November.

FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FREC)

Liz Spencer reported they are in the middle of the Disneyland ticket program. Families are being asked to communicate to their service coordinators or the FRC by Disneyland. In the past 2-3 years, families have had to have an email address and they have not had any issues. They do not anticipate anyone having that issue this year either.

Sibling Workshop will begin again in October and they may have a few openings. If you are interested, please contact the FRC.

Ana Da Silva and Liz attended the California Promise Grant annual meeting in Sacramento. They were honored to be a part of it.

Koch-Young Resource Center at Lanterman Regional Center has started an LGBT Support Group and it is open to the entire community. Liz also mentioned that she brought flyers and they are located in the back of the room with the other hand outs.

SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP

Judy Mark reported that they met last night. They had a good turn out with guest speaker from the Regional Center of Orange County Local Advisory Committee Member, Tim Jin. He has cerebral palsy and receives services from his regional center to live an independent live and work in the community. He helped everyone realize how Self Determination would be beneficial to someone like him.

At the meeting they spent time talking about the upcoming trainings sponsored by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) taking place in the next month on the Self-Determination Program. This is the first time DDS has done any public information event since the law passed four years ago on October 9th. You can attend any of the trainings throughout the state, but the closest on to WRC will be on September 28th at South Central Regional Center. It will be a Train the Trainer Training for organizations that want to be certified trainers on Self-Determination in their own community. The individuals you train within your community will then be able to get on the list to be part of the phase in period of the Self-Determination Program. If you want your organization to attend this training, you must register as a community based organization, not an individual, at SDP@DDS.ca.gov. It will ask for your organizations name, your name and the list of people attending from your organization.

The waiver is moving slowly. DDS and the Department of Health Care Services have to submit an application to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services in Washington D.C. to get funding to do the Self-Determination Program. They have been working on submitting this waiver since November 2013. California is yet to submit an actual waiver application that is comprehensive and meets the requirements that the federal government wants. A year ago they got a report that they had 3 outstanding issues they were working on. Last week they got a report from DDS that they 10 outstanding issues they are working on. There are a lot of people in the community advocating for Self-Determination to get implemented. They have created their own training programs and have done everything short of suing the state. They do not know what their next steps will be, but they know they need to move forward.

The committee continues to meet monthly and will continue to do so.

EQUITY TASK FORCE

Fernando Gomez, Chair, reported they met on August 23rd. As most of you have seen on the updates send out to the Equity Task Force's email distribution list sent by Sandy Rivera and her team. Things are some things moving forward and being implemented. They have not received the RFP from DDS for this fiscal year. They had anticipated to have received it by now. Most likely they will have it by the end of the month. Once they receive it they have 45 days to submit their grant request. This fiscal year, Community Based Organizations will also have the opportunity to submit grant requests to DDS.

Sandy Rivera reported they had their first Adult IPP Focus Group. They had 22 participants. They will have their second Focus Group for those who have not participated in one already tomorrow from 4:00pm – 6:00pm in conference room 4B at WRC. Participants get a \$50 visa gift card and snacks are provided. There will be a Publication Focus Group on October 4th from 10:00am – 12pm in the Boardroom in the 3rd floor at WRC. They will also be offering a \$50 gift cards for those participants and childcare and interpreter services will also be available if needed. The Website Focus Group met last week Tuesday and they got great feedback. They will get a second draft for approval in about 3 weeks. Once everything is approved for the English version they will then work on the Spanish version.

Fernando asked if there is a test URL they can navigate through. Sandy said they don't have the second version yet. She asked anyone interested in receiving it, to please note it on the sign in sheet so she can send it to them.

Fernando mentioned that one of the key components from last fiscal year was Cultural Competency and Linguistic Trainings and how almost everyone in the room took the classes with Dr. Avila. It talked to the key elements of what disparities are. Dr. Avila's post report talked about the Equity Task Force. The Executive Board Committee has already reviewed it and he would like to take some time to review it and further discuss the report at the next meeting. Fernando apologized to the CAC Members because he his

focus in the past several months was that of a parent, which was insensitive to other individuals we serve. He would also like to see more diversity in the group. Fernando also stated he will work on disseminating information in a timely basis so everyone has time to digest the information. He will also work on being more sensitive and respectful to the scheduled meeting times.

Office hours for this month will be on September 20th from 4:00pm – 5:30pm, but the next Equity Task Force meeting will be scheduled on September 27th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carmine Manicone thanked Erica Reimer Snell for getting the Proposal for Respite Guidelines for WRC Service Standards.

Carmine updated that their hallway have been busy. They have two separate audit teams from DDS. One is doing an audit on Medicaid Waiver Charts and another team of about five people doing an Early Start audit. WRC has almost 60% of its clients are on the Medicaid Waiver. Federal Medicaid Waiver reimburses 50 cents on the dollar for all of the billable services. It goes back to the state general fund that helps fund our services. Forty eight percent of our services are funded through Medicaid Waiver dollars. They do these audits every two years. This year they pulled 32 charts and do a full review to ensure they have current IPP's, quarterly visits, CDRS are updated, ID notes are current, are the deficits documented in the IPP, are all the services funded, and do they have all the signatures.

Roy Carroll and Rafael Cendejas did a great job gathering the information for the Medicaid audit review. Thanks to their hard work, the auditors said everything looked great and they will not need to return until 2 years from now.

They will be having their exit interview for Early Start tomorrow. Carmine acknowledged Cesar Garcia for doing a great job in Early Start.

Employment is something ARCA and WRC is focusing on. Pamela Arturi is doing a Supported Employment Roundtable for providers next week September 20th. The other thing they are trying to start up again is to establish an Employment First Business Advisory Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17th in the Danneker Boardroom from 1-2pm. They are looking for looking for a mix of Providers, school district personnel and business partners willing to share ideas on how they can do more for all the adults they serve.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities awarded a grant to Easter Seals. They are partnering up with Westside Regional Center and Inland Regional Center to provide Customized Employment Training and Discovery Tool Implementation Training to all of their providers. WRC is hosting ARCA's Customized Employment Training from October 24th – 27th.

Carmine asked everyone to ask people they know who are in a position to hire, if they employ clients in their organizations. We need to help them find jobs.

Alejandro Soschin asked how many clients are employed by Westside Regional Center. Carmine and Mary Lou confirmed WRC has six clients employed within the organization. Bob Steiner confirmed the Lakers employ three clients in their organization.

WRC now has a steering committee on training. They meet monthly to coordinate trainings for staff, vendors and the community. The new Education and Training Coordinator, Rhiannon Maycumber, has now set it up so all trainings are available through Event Brite. For the first time they can register, get confirmation of registration and pay through PayPal. No need to send in a check anymore.

Carmine said they project to have funds to replace vacant positions, retirees and have some money for growth. They currently have 2 open positions for two Assistant Program Managers, one bilingual service coordinator and two service coordinators that will be backfill positions.

Carmine announced that Danise Lehrer, Director of Clinical Services, will be retiring at the end of the year.

Carmine acknowledged Sandy Rivera for executing and pushing forward all areas of focus for the Equity Task Force.

Mary Lou Weise-Stusser announced that the Performance Contract is due on December 1st. They will be holding a public meeting on October 10th from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. They will be discussing they community input into strategies to reach the objectives that are selected. They will be sending a survey towards the end of the week for people to give them input on what they would like to see on the performance contract. She will then bring it to the Board meeting on November 1st for them to vote on the contract. The annual report for this year's performance contract will be received in January or February 2018.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Nilo acknowledged and thanked the interpreters at the meeting. She also acknowledged Danise Lehrer.

Larry Ryan reminded everyone that this morning Monday, September 18th, the Culver City bus schedule will be changing their schedules.

Kim Sinclair, ASLA Executive Director, introduced Rosie Lasca, Project Specialist. She said they sought community input by creating processes and documents through the focus groups. A couple of weeks ago they had the Parent Focus Groups to find out why they believe they have minimum to no services. They want to get know how they can make differences in their processes and actions plans that will impact families. They have

received applications from parents who want to be parent leaders. They have contacted them to ensure they are still interested in the project. They all want to make a difference and they will be extending invitations and start the interview process with those families. They are also working on a training plan so once the parent leaders are in place they are ready to hit the ground running. They realized that they did not engage the CAC community initially, but they will be reaching out to them. They are listening to their voices and are want them engaged in the project. They can be reached on Facebook at PEP ASLA, email at pepinfo@autismla.org.

Kim asked Nilo how to best communicate with the Board. Nilo responded that they can send the information to the Executive Board Committee or to Vanessa Arauza and she will make sure the Board receives it. David Wyles asked what the acronym PEP stands for. Kim clarified that it stands for Parent Empowerment Project. Nilo mentioned that Board Member, Russell Tanner, just celebrated his 75th birthday. Vanessa Arauza celebrated her birthday last Saturday and Carmine's birthday is on Friday.

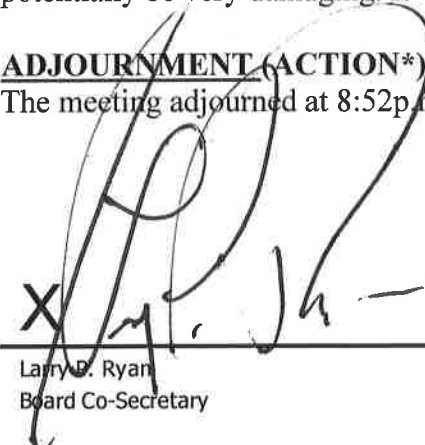
Alejandro Soschin, Board Vice President, commented on the tragedies impacting Texas and Florida. He sends his best wishes to those that may have loved ones affected by the aftermath. Alejandro reminded everyone that we are a community and we need to come together in good times and challenging times and be there for those that are in need.

The founders of Live Your Life Consultants shared they are in the process of being vendorized. They will be focusing supporting disparity issues, supported living, community workshops, socialization, music and promote cultural diversities.

Zoe Giesberg asked that everyone keep a look out on a national level for HR620, also known as the ADA Education and Reform Act put forward by Ted Poe of Texas. It is sponsored by 40 House Republicans and 11 Democrats. This Legislation would amend the ADA to add a 120 days waiting period between when a business is notified of an ADA violations and when a person reporting can take the case to court. This can potentially be very damaging. It is going to the House floor for a vote this month.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The meeting adjourned at 8:52p.m. Zoe Giesberg motioned and Todd Rubien second.



Larry D. Ryan
Board Co-Secretary

X

Richard Breen
Board Co-Secretary