

**Minutes**  
**ARCA Board of Directors**  
**October 20, 2023**  
**Wyndham San Diego and via Webinar**

**Board of Directors Members Present:**

Lori Banales, Kelly Pennington, ACRC  
Ed Araim, Randy Tellalian, CVRC  
Gloria Wong, ELARC  
Melissa Gruhler, Dan Strauss, FNRC  
Eric Zigman, GGRC  
Patrick Ruppe, Joe Czarske, HRC  
Lavinia Johnson, Joshua Souder, IRC  
Michi Gates, Tracey Mensch, KRC  
Melinda Sullivan, Larry DeBoer, LRC  
Gabriel Rogin, Rosemarie Pérez, NBRC  
Ruth Janka, Lety Garcia, NLACRC  
Kim Smalley, Mike Sawyer, RCRC  
Larry Landauer, Liza Krassner, RCOG  
Lisa Kleinbub, Frank Paré, RCEB  
Javier Zaldivar, Glendora Pitre, SARC  
Mark Klaus, Terri Colachis, SDRC  
Jesse Weller, Julie Chetney, SG/PRC  
Dexter Henderson, Jesus Murillo, SCLARC  
Omar Noorzad, Mark Wolfe, TCRC  
Tony Anderson,  
Jane Borochoff, Vanda Yung, WRC

**Board of Directors Members Absent:**

Edith Arias, GGRC  
Suzanne Devitt, VMRC

**ARCA Advisory Representatives**

Andreas Economopoulos, FNRC, Chair, ARCA Client Advisory Committee  
Iqbal Ahmed, ACRC, Co-Chair, Chief Financial Officers  
Isabel Calder, NBRC, Co-Chair, Chief Financial Officers

César Garcia, WRC, Co-Chair, Directors of Client Services  
Pamela Crabaugh, TCRC, Co-Chair, Directors of Client Services  
Aaron Olson, CVRC, Co-Chair, Community Services Directors

**Guests Present:**

Nancy Bargmann, Brian Winfield, DDS  
David Hadacek, Kate Kinnamont, Gabriella Ohmstede, SDRC  
Maureen Fitzgerald  
Anh Nguyen  
Ami Sullivan

**ARCA Staff Present:**

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

**Call to Order**

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

**Executive Session**

***M/S/C To enter into Executive Session.***

During Executive Session, members discussed personnel matters and proposed bylaws changes.

***M/S/C: To leave Executive Session***

**Introductions**

Introductions were made around the room and via Zoom

**Approval of Agenda**

The Board of Directors agenda was presented.

***M/S/C: To approve the agenda.***

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 18, 2023 Board of Directors meeting were presented for approval.

***M/S/C: To approve the minutes.***

**Public Comment**

None was provided.

**President's Report**

The entirety of this report was provided in, and was related to, executive session.

### **DDS Report**

Nancy Bargmann reported that approximately 150 individuals enter the Self-Determination Program each month; there are currently 3,365 participants. Independent Facilitator and Financial Management Service standards are being refined. Separately, the Department is beginning to analyze longitudinal data on the program.

There are currently 6,943 infants/toddlers who are provisionally eligible for regional center services. DDS is exploring the frequency of required assessments for children enrolled in the program.

Residential provider quality incentives related to preventative care will be expanding to include EBSHs and RCFEs.

The Department is developing a service provider portal. A long-term goal for this portal is to ensure it interfaces with other statewide data systems.

Brian Winfield reported Direct Support Professional participation in the training stipend program continues to grow. Regional centers are encouraged to continue their outreach and publicity for this. The Department will be sharing enrollment and completion data with centers in the near future.

An DSP internship/workforce recruitment and retention program is being rolled out to expand the Direct Support Professional workforce. Wages will be covered for three months and two bonuses as interns remain on staff for six months and twelve months.

Phase-out of sub-minimum wage is ongoing; approximately 1,900 individuals remain in such work settings. The Department continues to work with regional centers in the transition.

A trainer has been contracted with for regional centers' implicit bias trainings. An initial roll-out will start with several test centers. Statewide, in-person trainings are anticipated to start early 2024.

### **Treasurer's Report – Omar Noorzad**

Omar Noorzad reviewed the past two months' worth of financial statements. The current operating loss is based on reserve recommendations from the former auditor; as a result, regional center dues have been held constant to enable this spend-down.

***M/S/C: To accept the financial statements for August 2023 and September 2023***

Kristel Maikranz (AGT CPAs & Advisors) overviewed the results of the most recent audit. One key component of ARCA's finances is a build-up in reserves due to decreased expenses during the pandemic. While this is not irregular, it is recommended that this be booked as "revenue" instead of "deferred revenue," as recommended by ARCA's prior audit. There are a range of adjustments that

have been made, all of which are procedural.

***M/S/C: To accept the audit***

### **ARCA Executive Director’s Report – Amy Westling**

In addition to the normal updates on progress in the strategic priorities included in the Board packet, this first of what will be a recurring report from KP Public Affairs is also provided. Notably, it shows increased engagement with social media.

Glendora Pitré (SARC) and Liza Krasser (RCOC) were both recognized for their service as they term off the ARCA Board.

#### **Regional Center Consistency Efforts**

In addition to ongoing work to strengthen various uniform statewide procedures, the Executive Directors have approved a protocol to streamline the vendorization of social recreation programs. Work continues on intake case transfer processes. Daniel Savino overviewed Alta California Regional Center’s “transparency portal,” which will be a model used consistently across all regional centers.

The Legislature has recently assigned the work on respite assessment standardization, which had been among the ongoing consistency projects, to the Department of Developmental Services. ARCA and the regional centers will ensure ongoing partnership with DDS on this project. Day care assessments remain an opportunity for leadership work by the centers. The Executive Committee has formally recommended ARCA develop such an assessment. A consultant will be used.

#### **2023 Capitol Policy Updates**

An overview of the year’s major policy changes that are outside, but adjacent to, the developmental services system was provided and included in the Board packet. Key points of note were increased attention to homelessness, criminal justice reform, and behavioral and mental health service changes.

#### **Looking Ahead to Fiscal Year 2024-25**

Workforce development will remain a priority, especially given recent and ongoing increases of fast food and health care facility workers’ minimum wages.

### **Legislative Report – Eric Zigman**

#### **2024 Budget/Legislative Update**

Eric Zigman encouraged the Board to develop relationships with the many new and potential members of the Legislature. Rick Rollens reported that the Legislature will be out until January 8<sup>th</sup>. A number of legislators will be terming out next year, including several with whom ARCA specifically, and the developmental services system generally, have had long-standing relationships.

#### **Bill Outcomes**

All bills signed, vetoed, or gutted and amended (to be irrelevant) were presented in the usual list. A final revision will be sent out to the full Board.

### 2024 Elections Preview

Senator Laphonza Butler has announced she will not run for a full Senate term. The March primaries will be for U.S. Senate, all odd-numbered Senate districts and every Assembly seat. Local candidate meetings are encouraged, though endorsements are not permitted.

### Federal Updates

The U.S. Congress continues to operate in a minimal capacity, as no replacement for former Speaker Kevin McCarthy has yet been approved.

## **Committee/Task Force Reports**

### **Executive Committee – *Mark Wolfe***

Report waived, as the substance of this report is very much aligned with today's Board meeting.

### **Board Delegates Group – *Tracey Mensch***

The Delegates met yesterday. The Group talked about plans for the ARCA Academy, and trainings for Board Presidents. We will be forming a steering committee to work on this more. Rosemarie Pérez updated the Delegates about recent contract negotiations with the Department.

### **Directors Group – *Gabriel Rogin***

At the Group's most recent meeting, topics of systemic consistency were primary, including intake and mortality review. Equity measurements and membership standards were also discussed.

### **Finance Committee – *Lisa Kleinbub***

The Group met earlier this week. Among the many updates provided by DDS were best practices related to IT security, allocations and cash flow, and rate implementation.

### **Client Advisory Committee – *Andreas Economopoulos***

The ARCA CAC met via video conference on September 22, 2023. During the meeting, members shared information about their local client advisory committees, discussed the Affordable Housing Advocacy Project webinar and reviewed previous ARCA webinars. The next ARCA CAC meeting will be held via video conference on October 29, 2023.

Randy Kitsch, a leader in the self-advocacy movement, recently passed away. The Board held a moment of silence in his honor.

### **Contract Negotiating Committee – *Larry Landauer***

The Committee met recently. A number of new topics have been introduced, including out-of-state placements, provider vendorization termination, data processing and integrity, DDS conservatees, community engagement, specialized personnel, and caseloads. The Committee will meet again prior to its next engagement with the Department.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Information Sharing**

Melissa Gruhler reported on work to transition 130 clients from a long-running employment program that recently closed. In response to a Request for Proposal, four FNRC service providers worked together with the center and the City of Redding to ensure no gap in employment occurred.

**Adjournment/Next Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. The next meeting will be held on January 19, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Embassy Suites Sacramento Riverfront.

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