

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION**  
**MARCH 7, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen  
Richard Breen  
Nilo Choudhry  
Austin Dove  
Cammy DuPont  
Elizabeth Espinosa  
Zoe Giesberg  
Myra Mezquita  
Betty Pearson-Grimble  
Todd Rubien  
Larry Ryan  
Alejandro Soschin  
Russell Tanner  
David Wyles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ben Davidson, Sandra Gonzalez, Phil Jackson, Bob Steiner

STAFF PRESENT: Carmine Manicone, Vanessa Arauza, Pam Arturi, Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Charlona Floyd, Danny Franco, Cesar Garcia, Rhiannon Maycumber, Soryl Markowitz, Rosalinda Mata, Jairon Ramos, Erica Reimer Snell, Jose Reyes, Anjanette Robinson, Danyelle Schiller, Sonia Soriano, Aga Spatzier, Martha Thompson, Susana Vasquez, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser

GUESTS: Joan Anderson, Raymundo Blanco, Elena Bustamante, Zakir Choudhry, Trisha Lurie Coline, Lisette Duarte, Sylvia Fahimian, Felicia Ford, Alejandra Gomez, Fernando Gomez, Francis Gomez, Brett Gordon, Deborah Griffin, Kahir Hall, Eileen Ilarraza, Marcia James, Esther Kelsey, Josh Kruskol, Adriana Madrigal, Robert Martin, Barbara McCants, Cleavia McKie, David Mezquita, Jodie Newberry, Jack Nieves, Francisco Pineda, Guadalupe Rodriguez, Jorge Rodriguez, Sandy Rubenfeld, Kim Sinclair, Felicia Williams, Sue Williams, Wesley Witherspoon, Ari Zeldin

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:**

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

#### *(g) Quorum*

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

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

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

### **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jodie Newberry lives on Garth Avenue, across the street from a new WRC group home. She shared community concerns now that residents have begun to move into the home. She also already just spoke to several people from WRC and looks forward to a timely resolution. Lisette Duarte, Parent Empowerment Program (PEP) Project Director, gave an update on the status of the program. PEP has been meeting regularly with the WRC Service Coordinators. They have a staff of 10 and they are ready to take referrals.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Nilo Choudhry, Board President, introduced clients Wesley Witherspoon and his wife, Sylvia, who have been married for five years. They read the Westside Regional Center's Mission Statement. There will be public comments both before and after the closed session. They want to have meetings that are productive, respectful and give opportunities for people to be heard. We need to respect time constraints for everyone, especially clients, as these are the individuals we are here to serve. She encouraged the sending in of committee reports, as possible, to allow more time for substantive discussions on different issues. Those with individual Purchase of Services (POS) concerns, please properly refer them to Service Coordinators or Program Managers at the end of the meeting. There are open office hours also.

**The approval of the January 10<sup>th</sup> Board minutes is deferred to the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting.**

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Carmine Manicone (see ED report on file in back) read the text of the full ED report. Highlighted topics covered included employment opportunities, varied housing initiatives, Early Start Conference, Transition Conference, filling of internal positions, etc. WRC was notified on January 19<sup>th</sup> that they were awarded \$585,300 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their disparity plan – this was only a partial award for ongoing funding of our Parent-to-Parent Training Model with ASLA, continuation of our Enhanced Case Management project and additional funds for Childcare.

Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal for the next fiscal year is quite conservative and accounts primarily just for growth in the system – they are looking at a funding increase of

approximately 5.3%, an average of 7.6% more for community services. POS is projected to go up by \$329.9M and OPS by \$31.4M for the 2018-19 Fiscal Year which will basically cover the projected growth. Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services met today at 2:30 pm to hear the Department of Developmental Services issues. He also mentioned ARCA's varied legislative and outreach advocacy efforts

Cammy DuPont asked about the extent of the outside search in the current hiring process for the Director of Clinical Services position, as well as asking for a reasonable time for such candidates to respond. She asked for the net to be cast wide for WRC positions.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE**

Cammy DuPont, Committee Chair, (report on file in back) noted that unless someone has a question about the financial report that Danny Franco provides and is available at the back of the room, they will receive and file. She did make a point that there is a slight deficit on the Purchase of Services (POS). Usually DDS makes up for that deficit later in the year. However, they are not allowed to run a deficit under Operations at any time.

### **ACHIEVABLE**

Josh Kruskol reported that Achievable now has 5 practitioners: Three family physicians, a nurse practitioner and a pediatrician. Another nurse practitioner will start full time in April. This will bring the total to six practitioners and should alleviate some of the issues with long wait time. They are actively looking for a second dedicated full-time call center person. They will be hosting a Speakers Panel coming up on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> in the Danneker Boardroom. The topic will be "End of Life Planning" for families that have an individual with a disability. They recently redid their lobby and welcomed everyone to stop by and see it. Thanks to a generous grant from LA Care, all of their beds will be mobile-accessible beds by next month. A member of the public stated it is difficult for them to come in as a walk-in patient and prefers to make an appointment. Elizabeth Espinosa mentioned the clinic is a great resource, but should be focused on the clients who cannot go to a regular clinic, rather than the general public.

### **CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Todd Rubien reported that CAC has more concerns than an actual report. (CAC report on file in back). The Westside Jam will be on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Comments and discussion ensued. Todd clarified that they do not want WRC to purchase food for their CAC meetings, but instead for the other groups to bring their own food. Alejandro Soschin said he would rather have any budget allocated for the Board dinner, be used towards the CAC Self-Advocates. The Board is here to support them. Cammy reminded the Board that when they walk through the door, they are here for the clients. As necessary, the Annual Board dinner budget should be used for CAC Annual Dinner.

Felicia Ford, parent, asked the Board to address the issues of Self-Determination and Equity Task Force and to make decision on those meetings now too. Carmine began to speak about ETF. Fernando Gomez acknowledged CAC, but stated he is interested to hear what was addressed regarding the Equity Task Force. Marcia James clarified what

the CAC report intended to communicate. They want to help the regional center save money and that is why they won't take a meal nor are asking for one. When it came to the party they were told they already have the Jam and that's all they need. The Jam is for information and fun for everyone, but what happened at CAC, is many hours of dedication and 15 other groups the Self Advocates attend and take care of. When they requested for the year-end party, they were told they could not call it annual, because there may not be any more money. At that time, there had to be creative funding of the party and that's what happened. Joan Anderson donated one of the gifts. FREC helped. They were told to try to keep the costs down and they did by selecting the most inexpensive catering. They do not mind individuals eating at Board meetings. However, they are concerned about the other committees/groups. CAC has been asking how much these other groups spend for their meetings. CAC was told that last year WRC spent about \$5,000 in food for those group meetings. Several years ago, the CAC was given sandwiches for a short time and it was taken away punitively by Kevin MacDonald.

Richard Breen said that he is in favor of being fair and equal. He acknowledged Todd and everyone on CAC for doing what we should all be doing: being good minders of the money. He is in favor of WRC not purchasing food for any committee and allocating a budget for things like Westside Jam and/or end of year CAC Celebration. The only events WRC have traditionally sponsored are the Board Annual Dinner and the Staff Holiday Party to which the Board is invited. The Staff Holiday Party is mainly funded through fundraising done by staff. The committee meetings are about \$120 - \$140 for food for an Equity Task Force or Self-Determination meeting. It is WRC, rather than sponsors, who fund the special celebrations. It was suggested that we make this an agenda item for the next Board meeting with a request to have Danny report on the food and drink expenditures by committee. They want to check what is equitable as Todd's main point is if money is being spent on sandwiches then CAC can do an annual party. It was proposed at the next meeting they look at the numbers, debate and then resolve it.

**APPROVAL OF CAC TO HAVE AN ANNUAL END OF YEAR CELEBRATION MOVING FORWARD. (ACTION\*)**

**Alejandro Soschin, Board Vice President, motioned for the WRC Board to approve for CAC to have an Annual End of Year Celebration moving forward now, even without having exact information from where the funding will come from just yet. He also noted that while they can wait for numbers, analysis and data, which will make for more informed decision making, he feels it is important to make a statement now in support of CAC. Zoe Giesberg, Board Member, seconded, and added an addendum for the Board to get amounts on food spent on other events. Alejandro mentioned it is now open for discussion.**

**RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE CAC TO HAVE AN ANNUAL END OF YEAR CELEBRATION MOVING FORWARD.**

**Public comments:**

Linda Butler, CAC Member, stated that CAC works hard all year long and puts in a lot of hours and just wanted to be treated equally. Linda thanked the Board for listening and stated they want to have the same opportunities like others. Esther Kelsey, CAC Chair,

stated that if they talk about equal, then there it is. If they want to talk about equity, then they want to be treated equally.

**The motion passed:**

**14 AYES**

**0 NO**

**0 ABSTENTIONS**

**POLITICAL ACTION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Zoe Giesberg (report on file in back) mentioned letter writing, advocacy visits to legislators, etc., will continue to be important. ARCA and others will continue to monitor bills. They also discussed 'California Voters Choice Act' and concern about federal HR620 bill. A small group consisting of WRC client/family, vendor and staff will attend Grassroots Day on March 19th-20<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. California Assemblyman Chris Holden authored AB279 last year. He is again initiating a proposal to support our developmental disabilities system and provide emergency 'bridge funding' to add \$25 Million to the DDS budget. This would assist service providers in high cost areas to meet the escalating costs for labor, especially relevant in areas such as L.A. where the local minimum wage is significantly higher than the state minimum wage.

**CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Richard Breen, Co-Chair, said they revised service standards for respite care in the fall. The deadline was in the beginning of 2018 that reflected the state legislature's lifting of the cap of 30 hours per month per recipient that had been put on during the financial down turn. They revised that standard and the feedback they got from DDS was that they asked for two things. They asked for clarification that consideration of IHSS was only in circumstances where IHSS was meeting the same needs as the respite services. DDS asked them to state under what circumstances there would be exceptions to the respite assessment tool that is used by the service providers. With that in mind, they made changes to the service standards which were handed out today in this meeting, "Draft Proposal of Respite Guidelines for WRC Service Standards" and "Family Respite Needs Assessment Guideline". As part of their efforts in making these revisions, they held public input meetings. There were some people who were concerned about IHSS being considered. However, they had to make the assessment tool to conform to the Lanterman Act. There is nothing they can do to change about the fact the IHSS does have to be looked at when considering respite hours if they are doing the same thing. In other words, if the family is getting paid twice to cover the same need, then that needs to be looked at. Some people interpreted the lifting of the 30 hour cap being an indication that it is for as many hours as people want. It is important to note that even though the legislature lifted the cap, they did not hand them a blank check. They lifted the cap, but they did not give them unlimited funds to meet the need. Richard mentioned that the revision to the Family Respite Needs Assessment Guideline, which Erica and her team have worked hard on, added many categories and factors that may have not been captured before about family situations. In the revisions they found that most clients will not see any change, a set of clients would see an increase and for a smaller group of individuals this tool would recommend fewer hours. WRC still needs to justify the hours. We are all

responsible for responsible spending and ultimately this tool allows them to have documentation on how the recommendation was made. That is what DDS is expecting for everyone.

The recommendation from the committee is for the Board to adopt the Service Standard as the Draft Proposal and incorporate by reference the Needs Assessment. The amendments that is currently not shown, is if as a result of the use of this tool a recommendation for an individual family is for their hours to be reduced, that needs to be reviewed immediately by Client Services and an Expanded Planning Team because that was not the intent, but they need to justify the hours. This tool allows them to have documentation on how the recommendation was made. Erica and her team tested the service standard and they ran it with dozens of files. The change to consider is that in the draft there was a certain point total. They are recommending that the final version of this contains the proposed revision. When this proposed revision was run it resulted in the greatest increase for the most.

**APPROVAL OF DRAFT PROPOSAL OF RESPITE GUIDELINES FOR WRC SERVICE STANDARDS AND FAMILY RESPITE NEEDS ASSESSMENT GUIDELINE AS WELL AS TWO REVISIONS OF THE EXPANDED PLANNING TEAM AND THE POINT TOTAL PROPOSED REVISION. (ACTION\*)**

**Richard Breen, Client Services Committee Co-Chair, motioned and Cammy DuPont seconded, that the Board adopt the draft proposal of Respite Guidelines Service Standard and the Family Respite Need Assessment Guideline, with the two revisions of the Expanded Planning Team review and the point total proposed revision.**

**RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF DRAFT PROPOSAL OF RESPITE GUIDELINES FOR WRC SERVICE STANDARDS AND FAMILY RESPITE NEEDS ASSESSMENT GUIDELINE AS WELL AS TWO REVISIONS OF THE EXPANDED PLANNING TEAM AND THE POINT TOTAL PROPOSED REVISION.**

**DISCUSSION:**

Myra Mezquita brought up concerns about how IHSS was handled along with respite, and questioned the use of the assessment guideline. In the law, the Welfare and Institution Code (WIC) Provision which was cited it says IHSS is considered. There is nothing they can do at the Regional Center level. Richard said they can go to the legislature, but if the legislature passes the law, the Regional Center has to abide by it. There were a lot of committee meetings at WRC and a lot of helpful input was taken from individuals at those meetings. Keep in mind there are only 90 days to get this all in to DDS. All regional centers have to do this. Documents are complicated and there are concerns. We don't always have to agree. This is just a revision on something that the Board had already approved previously. Staff tried to engage in the best way possible within legal parameters to get the best results for the most people.

**Public Comments:**

Fernando Gomez's concern is on the tool itself and how the assessment was done.

**The motion passed:**

**9 AYES**

**1 NO**

**3 ABSTENTIONS**

**ARCA**

Zoe Giesberg (report on file in back). ARCA highlights: advocate for the restoration of Social Recreation and Camp Services, support for Assembly Member Holden's request for \$25 million to increase rates for providers, affordable housing for people with developmental disabilities, oppose the reinstatement of the Uniform Holiday Schedule, support the Self-Determination program and additional staff resources to implement SD, and OPS increase for additional staffing due to increased caseload for FY 2017-18.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Alejandro Soschin, Chair, reported the Board had a Board retreat in February with Christofer Arroyo. He presented on Board Governance/ Roles and Responsibilities and they had a chance as a Board to start the first step of understanding how strategic planning can be a part of their everyday roles and responsibilities. They could gather as a Board in an ongoing process themselves, and if they run into road blocks they can revisit getting outside help. The Executive Committee met a few weeks ago and it was a positive discussion on what a strategic plan looks like. They noted varied pros and cons, the different examples, and the key steps they want to take. They agreed to bring the Board back together, as this is the first stages of gathering information and agreeing on a process and then involving all stakeholders. They would like to see everyone's involvement, and also want to keep this effort moving forward.

**SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)**

Joan Anderson, Co-Chair, reported they have been focusing on Assembly Member Chris Holden letters. Many have taken the time and effort to come to her center to use her equipment and templates to get those vital letters out. They also talked about the trainings WRC has been doing and how great they have been. Joan welcomed any Board members and clients to come to EmpowerTech and write their advocacy letters if they would like.

**FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FREC)**

Liz Spencer (FREC report on file in back) submitted written report.

**SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP**

Judy Mark is in Sacramento. She will provide an update at the next meeting.

**EQUITY TASK FORCE**

Fernando Gomez, Chair, reported ETF met on February 28<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. They are in the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> fiscal year of grant allocations for disparity programs. Most of the funds are to continue the existing programs from the previous fiscal year. Recently, DDS focused more on community based organizations (CBO's) as an outreach.

They reviewed the Annual POS Data report and encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming public meeting. Give feedback on website to Sandy. DVU will give public input at the Senate Budget Sub-Committee #3 on the 15<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. The objective is to encourage a template of Disparity Task Force within each regional center. The ETF was initially the Equity Committee of the Board. The Bylaws state that the Board controls the committees, including how they are run. One of the things Richard wants to put on the agenda for the next meeting in response to our own community complaints is a discussion about what the ETF is doing and what can be done to make sure all clients feel included and heard. If the Board is getting complaints from those we should be serving and others then we need to address the issue. Fernando mentioned ETF could be co-chaired by a Board member, preferably a client. He wants to open it up and have the discussion with the entire Board's participation. Fernando will support the actions the Board decides to take. Concerns are that it is fractional when the idea is equity for all. There was a letter from a parent, and they have heard from others that as a non-Latin minority they don't feel welcomed at the ETF meetings. Equity issues remain important.

Regarding the length of the Board Meetings, Cammy stated the board reports take too long and we end up losing people, especially clients. She asked that reports be kept short and, as much as possible, submitted in advance and filed with other handouts.

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Soryl Markowitz updated that on April 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a collaborative conference at WRC between the Tri-City SELPA and Regional Center. It is a training that's put together of a result of CAPTAIN. The focus will be on utilizing evidence-based practice. It is free and it will be here at Westside Regional Center. The flier will be ready on Monday and sent out to everyone.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Nilo Choudhry, Chairperson, announced they are going into closed session at 8:34 p.m. It is involving employment and contract negotiation and pending litigation update. The Board returned at 9:18 p.m. from the closed session. Nilo updated they discussed employment and contract negotiation, and litigation update.

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments.

**ADJOURNMENT (ACTION\*)**

The meeting adjourned at 9:20p.m. by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.



X

Larry P. Ryan  
Board Co-Secretary



X

Richard Breen  
Board Co-Secretary