

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
MAY 2, 2018**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandra Gonzalez

STAFF PRESENT: Carmine Manicone, Vanessa Arauza, Pamela Arturi, Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Denise Fernald, Danny Franco, Cesar Garcia, Tom Kelly, Soryl Markowitz, Megan Mendes, Erica Reimer Snell, Anjanette Robinson, Danyelle Schiller, Sonia Soriano, Aga Spatzier, Liz Spencer, Martha Thompson, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser

GUESTS: Christofer Arroyo, Abner Atunez, Angela Barnes, Sofia Cervantes, Zakir Choudhry, Trisha Lurie Coline, Rayvone Douthard, Sharon Etchison, Sylvia Fahimian, Danny Feingold, Felicia Ford, Josh Franklin, Elizabeth Gomez, Brett Gordon, Kahiir Hall, Beverly Hutchinson, Marcia James, Esther Kelsey, Josh Kruskol, Adriana Madrigal, Judy Mark, Barbara McCants, Carlyn Meshack, David Mezquita, Joanna Montes, Sacha Naschinski, Jack Nieves, Natasha Peterson, Francisco Pineda, Guadalupe Rodriguez, Jorge Rodriguez, Sandy Rubenfeld, Rubi Saldana, Kim Sinclair, Felisha Williams, Sue Williams, Wesley Witherspoon, Ari Zeldin

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. Esther Kelsey, CAC Chair, read the Westside Regional Center's Mission Statement.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Mark mentioned that Disability Voices United is working closely with the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), Disability Rights California (DRC) and the State Council (SCDD) on a campaign to restore social and recreational programs. They are going to Sacramento next week and the week after to advocate. They are also actively organizing people to write letters and make phone calls to members of the state budget committee. There is more information on their website www.restoresocialrec.org. Judy encouraged everyone to please timely support this campaign with phone calls at (916) 651-4030 and/or send emails to Senator Holly Mitchell. They are having an organizing meeting tomorrow at Leaps n Boundz at 7pm on Pontius Ave in West L.A.

David Wyles shared that his son who is a client at WRC, Rio "Soulshocka" Wyles, appeared last Saturday at the Dolby Theater for the Light Up The Blues concert.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nilo stated there will be public comments 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 and self-advocates, some of whom need to leave by a certain time. Individuals are encouraged to submit their committee reports prior as able to allow more time for substantive discussions on different issues. 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. There are open office hours also.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 10, 2018 BOARD MEETING. (ACTION*)

Russell Tanner, Board Member, motioned and Bob Steiner, Board Member, seconded the approval of the January 10, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.

**RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 10, 2018,
BOARD MEETING.**

No public comment. The motion Passed:

17 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

The approval of the March 7th Board minutes will be deferred to the June Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carmine Manicone congratulated Sydney Kamlager, new District 54 Assembly Member. Sydney is filling the incomplete term vacated by Sebastian Ridley-Thomas. Sydney won by 70% of the vote. She will be up for election for a full term in the upcoming June Primary. Individuals are encouraged to participate in the voting process.

Carmine Manicone (ED report on file in back) stated he will keep his report abbreviated. Carmine warmly welcomed Dr. Tom Kelly as the new Director of Clinical Services. WRC is trying to work with the Culver City Chamber of Commerce. WRC will be participating in the Culver Expo on June 27th for the first time, to be more visible in the local business community. They are working with the Employment First Business Advisory Committee to assemble success stories, testimonials, written statements and videos in preparation for a Career Fair at WRC in October to coincide with Disability Awareness Month.

On Saturday, May 5th, WRC is hosting their Annual Transition Fair. Flyers are available at the back of the room. On May 15th, Daniel Savino of ARCA will be hosting a Legislative Advocacy Training at Westside. There will be three different sessions presented that day, to include Service Providers (SPAC), WRC Staff and the Community.

Budget is on hold until the May Revise. The Budget Sub-Committee is meeting on May 10th. They are working on these main issues: restoring social recreation and camp, unfunded service provider clause, Assembly Member Holden's request for a stop gap of \$25 Million that will primarily address the minimum wage issues, and housing funds. If you cannot make it to Sacramento on May 10th, you can go on their website at www.restoresocialrec.org and write your own story/testimonial.

Last year WRC had a separate Board meeting to review three large contracts, each over \$250,000. This year the Mentor agency is the only such contract to be presented for approval at the upcoming June board meeting. Information on it will be sent out prior. A different contract will be presented later in the year for board review and approval as currently WRC has been working with two different agencies providing crisis services, but neither has 24/7 availability. WRC has posted an RFP on the website and is seeking a crisis services provider that is available 24 hours, 7 days a week. The deadline to submit proposals for that RFP is May 25th. WRC hopes to make a decision by the end of June

and may present that contract for approval at the July board meeting. Carmine also reported a few highlights on the Client Services Accessibility & Satisfaction Survey.

Carmine then directly addressed the WRC CAC and Self-Advocates. He expressed his respect and admiration for them and how difficult it was for him to hear they feel disrespected, undervalued or not listened to. He thanked them for their honesty, for bringing focus back to reality, and reminding why they are here. He said he believed they brought their concerns several months ago so they could be dealt with swiftly and privately, and that did not happen. He apologized for any inaction or actions on his part that caused them to feel hurt or betrayed. It is his desire for WRC to be a place where all individuals feel welcomed and included. Self-Advocates can and should be a big part in helping him and staff create that kind of regional center. He mentioned he wants to work together and he and the staff of WRC believe in the abilities of the people they work with and want to celebrate those abilities. His hope is that they come to the table, forgive, work with him and together be a part of positive change. He makes mistakes and if don't get it right, he asked that you remind him of that. He prefers not to do it in a public meeting, but the best thing for WRC is for them to work through this, work together and find ways to strengthen WRC and the CAC group.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **WRC WILL NOT USE OPERATION FUNDS TO PURCHASE FOOD AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS OTHER THAN BOARD MEETINGS, SPECIAL TRAININGS AND EVENTS.** (ACTION*)

Alejandro Soschin, Board Vice-President, motioned and Elizabeth Espinosa, Board Member, seconded the approval for WRC to not use operation funds to purchase food at committee meetings other than Board meetings, special trainings and events.

RESOLUTION: WRC WILL NOT USE OPERATION FUNDS TO PURCHASE FOOD AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS OTHER THAN BOARD MEETINGS, SPECIAL TRAININGS AND EVENTS.

There was a Board discussion and public comments.

The motion passed:

14 AYES

3 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

2. ***AMENDED* APPROVAL FOR THE EQUITY TASK FORCE TO BECOME A COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD, CHAIRED BY A MEMBER OF THE BOARD THAT LEADS UNDER THE BOARD BYLAWS.** (ACTION*)

Richard Breen, Board Co-Secretary, motioned and Alejandro Soschin, Board Member, seconded the approval for the Equity Task Force to become a Committee of the Board, chaired by a member of the Board that leads under the Board Bylaws.

RESOLUTION: *AMENDED* APPROVAL FOR THE EQUITY TASK FORCE TO BECOME A COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD, CHAIRED BY A MEMBER OF THE BOARD THAT LEADS UNDER THE BOARD BYLAWS.

There was a Board discussion and public comments.

The motion passed:

17 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Cammy DuPont, Committee Chair, reported that Danny Franco has prepared a budget report (report on file in back). WRC is running a small POS deficit of \$2.9 Million. WRC Management is confident that DDS will cover that increase. The committee met today with the new auditors from Marcum. They have done audits for other regional centers and this is the first year they have worked with WRC. They will be presenting their final audit at the June Board Meeting.

ACHIEVABLE

Josh Kruskol reported that Achievable is hiring a new provider, family physician, nurse practitioner and physician assistant. Their Chief Medical Officer was on National Public Radio (NPR). A few weeks ago they had a Speakers Panel in the WRC Boardroom and 75 people attended. They will be having a wine tasting fundraiser event June 10th. It is \$100 a ticket at the Napa Valley Grill for a four-course meal accompanied with wine. Achievable is temporarily closing itself for any new patients in an effort to ensure the patients they have are getting the care they need. They will not take new patients until they are able to streamline things and bring the wait down for the existing patients.

Alejandro Soschin asked if the Board can get a breakdown of the existing clientele, clients versus members of the public. He knows it is a federally-funded community health center, but its intent is to provide access to health care for WRC clients. His concern is that clients may be turned away. Josh stated that 30% of their patients are clients of WRC and 70% are members of the public. There was questions and discussion. It was suggested a follow-up from administrators at Achievable would be helpful in understanding federal regulations, requirements, what is happening and why, etc.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Todd Ruben reported (report on file in back) for CAC. He talked about how CAC felt with their experiences at the Regional Center, noted the definitions of 'support' and 'abuse', and highlighted their recent interaction with US Representative Karen Bass. She encouraged all with three important words: 'resist, insist and persist'. They will take her words to heart as they continue their involvement and advocacy.

POLITICAL ACTION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Zoe Giesberg (report on file in back) summarized that the committee talked about Grassroots Day. They want to create a Grassroots caucus of rotating members to include parents, staff, consumers, and interested others to be active for the DD cause.

CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Richard Breen, Co-Chair, (report on file in back) noted they met mainly to prioritize what they will work on next. The first thing they want to work on is tackling some issues with Early Start, adult support service issues, Social Skills and updating the adult service standards. They will be reaching out to CAC also for their input.

ARCA

Zoe Giesberg, (report on file in back) stated they talked about Senate hearings, statewide HCBS transition plan, etc. They are keeping track of the gubernatorial election. The budget is a big concern. ARCA is also fully on board with reinstating the funding of social and recreation programs.

SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

Ben Davidson reported they have met twice since the last Board meeting. They look forward to the upcoming legislative advocacy training to be provided by Daniel Savino of ARCA at their next SPAC meeting.

FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FREC)

Liz Spencer (report on file in back).

SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP

Judy Mark reported it has been a long time since she has been able to be at a board meeting. It looks like Self-Determination is going to happen after 5 long years. The waiver was sent in six weeks ago. It needs to be approved or denied, or the clock needs to stop by the federal government within 90 days. They are looking at June 20th as the last day it can be approved. Self-Determination can begin any time after that. There is a lot of work DDS needs to do. If you are interested in Self-Determination and want to be a part of the first 2,500 clients statewide, or 67 clients here at WRC, you need to attend an informational meeting. The next one is May 16th at WRC in the Danneker Boardroom. The next Self-Determination Advisory Committee meeting is on May 29th and everyone is welcomed.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Arroyo emphasized when any submitted reports for file are provided to a regional center board, those reports also need to be made available to the public at board meetings or via e-mail, etc. Wesley Witherspoon acknowledged WRC on their new website. He said it is simple to use and they did a great job on it.

Felicia Ford mentioned that there should be a certain amount of black individuals on the PEP Squad. Everyone has either quit or left to attend other obligations. The Equity project is supposed to serve their community. They should be prepared to replace the

PEP members. She wrote a letter to Kim Sinclair from ASLA and the Board with her concerns. This isn't just a Hispanic/Latino project. Kim Sinclair, PEP Project, said there are nine PEP Squad members, one is African American and two other African Americans, including Felicia, resigned. They are now serving over 30 clients. It is the goal of PEP that in June and July they will begin the recruitment process.

Zoe Giesberg mentioned ASLA has a conference on Transition on May 14th at the California Endowment Center for anyone who has kids aging out of the school system.

Cammy DuPont noted the time, and our clients are gone. Individuals need to curtail their verbal reports, and to get their written reports in prior to Vanessa so she can have them available to the board members and available at the back of the room for the public at these meetings. The exception would be committees meeting just prior to the board meeting. Please be mindful of everyone's time. Maybe we should get a clock and give people a set limited time to speak. Austin Dove said that we can be more efficient and respectful as to the clients' time.

CLOSED SESSION

Nilo Choudhry, Chairperson, announced they are going into closed session at 8:32 pm. It is involving employment and contract negotiation, and any litigation update. The board returned at 9:14 pm from closed session and Nilo updated they discussed employment and contract negotiation and any litigation update.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

X

Larry P. Ryan
Board Co-Secretary

X

Richard Breen
Board Co-Secretary