

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
MARCH 6, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen
Nilo Choudhry
Cammy DuPont
Elizabeth Espinosa
Zoe Giesberg
Myra Mezquita
Betty Pearson-Grimble
Todd Rubien
Alejandro Soschin
Russell Tanner
Sofia Vergara
David Wyles
Vanda Yung

MEMBERS ABSENT: JoanElaine Anderson, Austin Dove, Elizabeth Espinosa,
Phil Jackson

STAFF PRESENT: Carmine Manicone, Vanessa Arauza, Danny Franco, Tom
Kelly, Soryl Markowitz, Rosalinda Mata, Megan Mendes,
Jose Reyes, Anjanette Robinson, Liz Spencer, Martha
Thompson, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser

GUESTS: Dahlia Abuyounes, Sanaa Abuyounes, Katherine Alsop,
Leticia Antonio, Ernest Bailey, Raymundo Blanco, Zakir
Choudhry, Ruth Cifuentes, Trisha Lurie Cozine, Rayvone
Douthard, Danny Feingold, Josh Franklin, Francis Gomez,
Veronica Greene, Kahiir Hall, Beverly Hutchinson, Dianne
W. Ingram, Marcia James, Julian Johnson, Josh Kamali,
Esther Kelsey, Bassam Khulusi, Pilar Looney, Adriana
Madrigal, Joanna Martinez, Joanna Montez, Barbara
McCants, Jack Nieves, Don Reynolds, Larry P. Ryan,
Sergio Sanchez, Matthew Seymour, Delnaz Shervnloo, Sue
Williams, Ayode Woods

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Alejandro Soschin, at 6:15p.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

Alejandro Soschin, Board President, welcomed everyone to Westside Regional Center. Guests introduced themselves and everyone was thanked for their attendance tonight.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Alejandro Soschin, Board President, reported that last month the Board had an enlightening training session with Mary Beth Lepkowsky from Helen Sanderson Associates on Person Centered Thinking. Also, Danny Franco, Director of Finance, gave a helpful presentation on how the finances are put together. The community is encouraged to attend committee meetings, and the information on these meetings are posted on the website. Alejandro, some board members and Carmine met with Westside staff at a brown bag lunch where there was opportunity for sharing and communicating. He looks forward to having more informal forums to make Westside the best it can be. Carmine was thanked for putting it together. Alejandro asked the Board Members present if they all agree to move the April Board Meeting from April 3rd to April 10th due to Grassroots Day falling on the same date and Carmine and possibly Alejandro would like to attend the event. Carmine mentioned that there are a few slots available and encouraged anyone interested in attending to please contact Carmine or Vanessa Arauza. Elizabeth Espinosa, Board Member, also encouraged Spanish speaking community members to attend this event because their voice is very valuable. All Board Members present gave their consent to move the April Board meeting to April 10th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 9, 2019 BOARD MEETING.

(ACTION*)

Zoe Giesberg, Board Member (Motion) and Todd Rubien, Board Co-Secretary (Second) the approval of the January 9, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 9, 2019 BOARD MEETING.

No public comment. The motion Passed:

12 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carmine Manicone thanked the Board Members who made time to attend the brown bag lunch. His report was filed with the board and copies were available at the meeting. Carmine provided a summary of the report. (Attached.) Mary Lou reported they are

closing escrow on a low income housing project in Mar Vista, a 48-unit apartment building. Twelve of the units will be set aside for individuals with developmental disabilities and the rest will be for individuals with SSI. They were able to do it because DDS gave them a grant for \$2 million and Brilliant Corners assisted in finding developers. They will also offer basic furniture packages for individuals. DDS supported them and together they will have permanent housing for the amount of 30% of SSI which is about \$275- \$280 a month. As a result, Mary Lou was invited to be on two panels at Housing California in April to talk about this model. Alejandro asked that when the project gets to the selection process, the board would like to know how that process is determined. Also as WRC continues to develop these projects the board would like to know how developers are selected in these projects and who at WRC is making these decisions so they have better understanding and oversight for transparency. Carmine reported that Bob Steiner, Board Member, has resigned from the Board after many years of service.

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE REPORT - ACHIEVABLE

Josh Kamali shared a story of why Achievable exists. He reported that Achievable was recently awarded a Most Improved Health Center Award by LA Care Health Plan. They recently started a partnership with the Parent Empowerment Project (PEP). Their Outreach and Enrollment Specialist participated in the February 25th Transition Age Youth Training about healthcare and healthcare enrollment. They will be having their 2nd Annual Wine Testing event on Sunday, April 28th at AR Cucina. Please let Josh know if anyone is interested in attending. They recently received two grants. One is to do a training course at West Los Angeles College with their medical assistants so they get the experience of working with individuals with developmental disabilities. The other grant they received is from LA Care Health Plan to hire a doctor into the Medicaid system in LA County. They are accepting new pediatric patients, but currently not accepting new adult patients. They are looking for 3 more providers in order to be able to provide service to new adult patients. They are still working on their video for Achievable. The pictures highlighting clients have been used for various collateral material and publications. They are working with a new phone vendor to get a new phone system.

BOARD TOPIC – HEALTHY NUTRITION

Todd Rubien reported that Applied General Agency has been doing a health and nutrition class for CAC two Mondays a month and it has been very helpful to them. Pilar Looney, Anthem Blue Cross CareMore, Medicare Advantage Plan, had handouts of the program. She reported that she and her partners have been working with WRC clients. They have other programs they can bring to clients at no cost such as yoga classes. Don Reynolds also presented on the healthy eating program along with an exercise program they have presented to clients. Todd Rubien added that the program has been very helpful to him. Alejandro encouraged Board Members to let him know of any programs or services that they feel everyone should know about so they can share it at future board meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Alejandro Soschin, reported they reviewed the monthly financials. They looked at

funding that is set aside to pay for future medical coverage for employees who are in the CalPERS system at Westside Regional Center. Money was set aside more than five years ago and it was invested about 5 years ago in a basket of stock and bonds. They got more information on how that allocation was made. They will revisit the recommendations from the Finance Committee and see how CalPERS does its allocations for other systems they manage. They also talked about the upcoming audit and the need to meet with the Finance Committee. They have a few dates and once they have a set date they will post it. They are looking at possibly the 18th or 19th of March. A week prior to that meeting they will have all the audit documents for everyone to review, with time to ask questions and learn more about the audit. They also did a brief overview of the financial budget planning process and asked for historical information. That information will now be available and the Board will be able to make a more informed assessment of where the budget is. This will happen early next year. Alejandro acknowledged Danny Franco.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Todd Rubien reported they continue their outreach in the community by traveling to different places like the Annenberg Community Beach House, bowling in Gardena on Sundays, and the African American Museum near USC. They achieve political awareness by visiting local politicians. A far reaching goal is to have full independence for all individuals with developmental disabilities, and hopefully see accomplishments towards this goal in the next five years. CAC is expanding their horizons and began Spanish classes at WRC. They are excited about the Person Centered Thinking. They have two consumers who want to learn more and wish to become PCT trainers. They have given Vanessa some possible locations for their 2019 Holiday Party and they will provide more information at a later date.

POLITICAL ACTION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Zoe Giesberg, report was filed with the board and copies of it made available at the meeting. (Attached) Zoe provided a summary of her report. Betty Pearson-Grimble asked if anyone has been selected to go to Grassroots Day. Zoe responded that Rhiannon Maycumber and Carmine Manicone will make the selection. Alejandro Soschin encouraged Zoe should go because she chairs PAC and is a very powerful representative. Zoe accepted and conversation was tabled for a later time.

CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

David Wyles, Chair, reported the committee had previously handed out the draft. They have been working on revising service standards for early start, purchase of service for early start, speech and language therapy services for early start and social skills training for children and adults. They have also been submitted to DDS pending their approval.

APPROVAL OF THE NEW SERVICE STANDARDS FOR EARLY START AND SOCIAL SKILLS. (ACTION*)

David Wyles, Board Member (Motion) and Vanda Yung, Board Member (Second) the approval of the new service standards for Early Start and Social Skills.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF THE NEW SERVICE STANDARDS FOR EARLY START AND SOCIAL SKILLS.

No public comment. The motion Passed:

11 AYES

0 NO

2 ABSTENTIONS

ARCA

Zoe Giesberg, report was filed with the board and copies of it made available at the meeting. (Attached.) Zoe provided a summary of her report.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Alejandro Soschin reported they had Person Centered Thinking as part of their Board training and more engagement on the financial oversight of the operating budget. They had a discussion on strategic planning and what it is at the training session and will continue to build on it. They continue to work with Envision Consulting who has been providing valuable feedback and input on Human Resources. The case management function, assessment, how they hire, evaluate, develop, train, oversee and support is the heart of everything. They look forward to this dialogue with them and actionable implementation of some of their recommendations they have made. David Wyles asked what is being done in regards to the hiring of the Human Resources Director while the HR audit is going on. Carmine updated that they will be reconvening with Envision to help them do supported search for a new HR Director. They are looking at March 18th to meet with them.

SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

Carmine shared that JoanElaine Anderson, SPAC Chair's report was filed with the Board and copies of it are available. (Attached)

FAMILY RESOURCE AND EMPOWERMENT CENTER

Liz Spencer reported CalFresh will be rolling out the SSI and SSP in California as of June. They will be partnering with the Department of Public Social Services to help with signing people up. For every person who is currently on SSI they are looking at about \$100 to \$130 a month of assistance with food. They have trainings and workshops. Housing is a very important area as families are affected in our catchment area. They are partnering with First5 and Clinical Services at Westside Regional Center to do a series of trainings on promoting social and emotional development of young children. They have three trainings coming up in April and one in June open to families and will be providing childcare onsite. Noted was Bob Steiner's institutional knowledge and generosity throughout his years as a Board Member at Westside. Bob will be tremendously missed.

EQUITY COMMITTEE

Dr. Tom Kelly reported that WRC will be hosting POS Public meetings in March. He encouraged everyone to attend. They received money, and will continue to work with Enhanced Case Management and Parent Empowerment Project (PEP). The next committee meeting is Thursday, March 21st at 6:30 pm in conference room 4A.

SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP

Megan Mendes, WRC staff and Liaison to the Local Advisory Committee, reported that

there were a couple of pieces of guidance that were released from DDS since they last met. One is on the individual budget development and the spending plan. The guidance has been posted on the DDS website. DDS recently released a guidance saying that Regional Centers are able to fund Person Centered Planning services in advance of people getting their individual budgets. They have been participating in the train the trainer's orientations that have been put on by DDS. Some staff attended and some will attend this Friday. These trainings will allow them to conduct orientations for the phase in participants. This will signal that Self-Determination will be able to begin. Once they complete their training they will have 60 days to train their participants. DDS has started formatting how the Regional Center will be providing them with updates on the process. They will be reporting to DDS on a regular basis on where people are at in their process of Self-Determination. Their next meeting is next Tuesday, March 12th in the Danneker Boardroom. Alejandro asked that once they have aggregated information to please send it to the board.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry P. Ryan announced that the city of Culver City's Office of Emergency Management rolled out today the implementation of the "9-1-1 Call If You Can/Text If You Can't". Alejandro Soschin shared Los Angeles has a Shake Alert App. Elizabeth Espinosa commented that with the Person Centered Planning it is important that it becomes about the person. It is important to keep that in mind and not allow vendors to define for your clients when this person should have achieved a certain goal. Vanda Yung shared that a few of her colleagues went to the 2 day Person Centered Planning training. She is also part of the Disparity Project with UCLA providing mentor training to Chinese and Latino families. What they found is cultural relevancy when they do person centered planning. When they introduced it to ethnic families there is a push back. The cultural barrier is there. The piece that needs to be added in is the family perspective to get the buy in and support. Dr. Tom Kelly invited Vanda Yung to attend the next Equity Committee. Ayode Woods shared he can help keep an eye out for housing opportunities in Santa Monica. Alejandro encouraged him and anyone else to bring topics for the Board for discussions.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed session started at 8:10pm.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The meeting was adjourned by Alejandro Soschin at 10:15pm.

X 

Todd Rubien
Board Co-Secretary

X 

Nilo Choudhry
Board Co-Secretary