

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION**  
**JUNE 5, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen  
Joan Elaine Anderson  
Nilo Choudhry  
Elizabeth Espinosa  
Zoe Giesberg  
Myra Mezquita  
Betty Pearson-Grimble  
Todd Rubien  
Alejandro Soschin  
Russell Tanner  
Sofia Vergara  
David Wyles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Austin Dove, Cammy DuPont, Phil Jackson, Vanda Yung

STAFF PRESENT: Carmine Manicone, Lidenira Amador, Vanessa Arauza,  
Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Sylvia Calatayud, Feben Fantu,  
Danny Franco, Ereida Galda, Tom Kelly, Yesenia Lopez,  
Soryl Markowitz, Rosalinda Mata, Rhiannon Maycumber,  
Melisa McDonald, Megan Mendes, Veronica Mills,  
Philomena Morais, Angela Quinonez, Jose Reyes,  
Anjanette Robinson, Susan Ruskowski, Kenneth Sears,  
Kaely Shilakes, Aga Spatzier, Liz Spencer, Carol Taylor,  
Martha Thompson, Claudia Williams

GUESTS: Katherine Alsop, Leticia Antonio, Christofer Arroyo,  
Measchelle Baylor, Hope Beale, Laweeza Bhatti,  
Raymundo Blanco, Debra Brown, Roger Bulosan, Linda  
Butler, Zakir Choudhry, Gia Civerolo, Trisha Lurie Cozine,  
Juliet Daniels, Rayvone Douthard, Sharon Etchison, Sylvia  
Fahimian, Danny Feingold, Felicia Ford, Loreena Garcia-  
Etta, Alejandra Gomez, Francis Gomez, Brett Gordon,  
Veronica Green, Kahiir Hall, Rushan Herbert, Beverly  
Hutchinson, Dianne Ingram, Alyssa Jackson, Andy Kopito,  
Rosie Lasca, Valerie Lattanza, Mary Lee, Adriana  
Madrigal, Jamie McAlister, Barbara, McCants, Carlyn  
Meshack, David Mezquita, Joanna Montes, Barbara  
McCants, Francisco Pineda, Blanca Ramos, Robert  
Schwartz, Matthew Seymour, Maria Soto, Felisha  
Williams, Sue Williams, Ayode Woods, Ari Zeldin

## CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Alejandro Soschin, at 6:16p.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. Ayode Woods read the WRC Mission Statement.

## OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Christofer Arroyo of State Council on Developmental Services reported they have a few job openings. One is a 50/50 and information is available on their website. A few Self Determination Facilitator Trainings are coming up: June 24 (Spanish) and June 25 (English) at San Gabriel Pomona RC, and July 15 (Spanish) and July 16 (English) at Miller Children and Womens' Hospital in Long Beach. Fliers are in the back. Anjanette Robinson, ECM, reminded everyone that this Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> is the annual WRC Jam. Anyone that receives SSI is eligible to apply for CalFresh beginning in June. .

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 10, 2019 BOARD MEETING.

**(ACTION\*)**

**Todd Rubien, Board Co-Secretary (Motion) and JoanElaine Anderson, Board Member (Second) the approval of the April 10, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.**

**RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 10, 2019 BOARD MEETING.**

**No public comment. The motion Passed:**

**12 AYES**

**0 NO**

**0 ABSTENTIONS**

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Alejandro Soschin, Board President, welcomed all as fellow colleagues and thanked everyone for their support and commitment. Especially for us all to continue to safeguard the mission of WRC, we have to remember we are all here to serve the incredible 10,000 clients and their families. We really appreciate the hard work and contributions of the volunteers, staff, vendors, families and clients. We are volunteers who care about the mission and want to see WRC reach the highest potential. We know there will be challenges, with different opinions. We come with good intentions. Hopefully, we can work together to address all the issues and the complex big challenges. We cannot solve them unless we all work together. The board has tremendous skills, experience, knowledge

and unique perspectives. We have to draw on all of that to face the challenges of a RC. This is an opportunity to continue to work together as a team. We look forward to coming here and make headway on a lot of issues. Everyone comes to this with many other obligations they have in their lives, and still they give their dedicated time and energy towards the important mission of the RC. Alex congratulated Elizabeth Espinosa who was appointed this week as the Executive Director of Communications for the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department under Sheriff, Alex Villanueva.

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

Carmine Manicone noted there is a lot of passion and effort. His report is in the back. He provided a summary of his report and welcomed the Interim Director of Human Resources, Sonya Lowe. The Business Employment Fair held at WRC in the boardroom was very active and crowded, and they may have to consider an off-site location next time for the upcoming Employment Career Fair in October. Elizabeth Espinosa mentioned that the families are in the trenches and their work never ends.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **FINANCE**

Alejandro Soschin delivered the report in Cammy DuPont's absence. Roger Bulason from Marcum gave a brief presentation of the two reports they oversaw. The committee met extensively with the auditors and had several sessions to go over the audited financial statements and the 990 in depth. They asked a number of questions, clarifications and at this point the committee recommends the Board approve the audited financials and the 990. The audit report was reviewed on March 18<sup>th</sup> with the Executive Committee. The audit report was filed timely. The second report showed there was no disagreement. The Finance Committee had access to the auditor without management being present. Alejandro thanked Danny Franco and Carmine. The 990 is public information and can be reviewed by any and all stakeholders. A lot of money comes into and out of the organization. The Financial Statement 990 will be posted on the WRC website. Alejandro encouraged everyone to look at it because this is your regional center.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND 990 FOR 2017-2018. (ACTION\*)**

**Russell Tanner, Board Member (Motion) and Myra Mezquita, Board Member (Second) Approval of the Audited Financial Statement 990 for 2017-2018.**

**RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND 990 FOR 2017-2018.**

**No public comment. The motion Passed:**

**10 AYES**

**0 NO**

**2 ABSTENTION**

There is a second action item for consideration from the Finance Committee: the Crises Response Program contract. There are two related documents for everyone to reference: the Contract Summary Statement and the data provided by the vendor. Carmine provided

an overview of the contract. In the past WRC had worked with two different vendors, but there was no support for crises that happen after hours. They did a Request for Proposal (RFP). The satisfaction by the service coordinators, program managers, directors of Client Services, mental health services and clinical services was also considered.

**APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY CRISES RESPONSE SERVICES \$849,780.00 CONTRACT (ACTION\*)**

**Alejandro Soschin, Board President, (Motion) and Sofia Vergara, Board Member (Second) Approval of the Community Crises Response Services \$849,780.00 contract.**

**RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY CRISES RESPONSE SERVICES \$849,780.00 CONTRACT**

**There was discussion amongst the Board and staff. The motion Passed:**

**10 AYES**

**0 NO**

**2 ABSTENTIONS**

Nilo Choudhry requested the vendor provide a semi-annual report from July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 at the January 2020 Board Meeting. In addition to the types of data provided today, it is HIPAA compliant to also, for example, include the number of unduplicated clients, actual type of DD diagnoses, how many adults, how many children, were there involuntary holds, injuries, deaths, special incidents, grievance procedure, the phone number to a contact person who is an administrator at that agency. Dr. Kelly gave a summary of process if there is a death and a mortality review. Alejandro Soschin mentioned that the Board would like to have more oversight.

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

Nilo Choudhry, Committee Co-Chair, went over the slate of Board of Directors for 2019-2020.

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE (ACTION\*)**

**Elizabeth Espinosa (Motion) and David Wyles (Second) Approval of the slate of Directors.**

**RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE.**

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>1. Joseph Allen Jr.</b>     | <b>9. Myra Mezquita</b>          |
| <b>2. Joan Elaine Anderson</b> | <b>10. Betty Pearson-Grimble</b> |
| <b>3. Nilo Choudhry</b>        | <b>11. Todd Rubien</b>           |
| <b>4. Austin Dove</b>          | <b>12. Alejandro Soschin</b>     |
| <b>5. Cammy DuPont</b>         | <b>13. Russell Tanner</b>        |
| <b>6. Elizabeth Espinosa</b>   | <b>14. Sofia Vergara</b>         |
| <b>7. Zoe Giesberg</b>         | <b>15. David Wyles</b>           |
| <b>8. Philip Jackson</b>       | <b>16. Vanda Yung</b>            |

**After public comment, the motion passed:**

**12 AYES**

**0 NO**

**0 ABSTENTIONS**

Nilo provided a brief summary of the Board of Directors' backgrounds. Half of the Board are family members, and 1/4<sup>th</sup> are clients, as mandated by the DDS rules.

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS SLATE (PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER AND CO-SECRETARIES) (ACTION\*)**

**David Wyles (Motion) and Elizabeth Espinosa (Second) approval of the proposed 2019-2020 Board of Directors Officers Slate.**

**RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS SLATE AS FOLLOWS:**

**PRESIDENT: ALEJANDRO SOSCHIN  
VICE PRESIDENT: BETTY PEARSON-GRIMBLE  
TREASURER: CAMMY DUPONT  
CO-SECRETARY: TODD RUBIEN  
CO-SECRETARY: NILO CHOUDHRY**

**After public comment, the motion passed:**

**12 AYES**

**0 NO**

**0 ABSTENTIONS**

Alejandro mentioned that every board member has the same voice and vote as anyone else on the board. He welcomed ideas and suggestions on changing the board room layout to make everyone feel more inclusive and breakdown real or perceived barriers. Alejandro mentioned having an email address for the Board or a comment box where people can freely express any ideas or concerns for the board. If anyone is interested in joining the Board, please contact the Nominations Committee.

**CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Todd Rubien reported that CAC has gone through some growth in the past months. Some officers have attended the Person Centered Thinking training. Some will do it in July. Some members have attended a workshop that helps them mainstream into society and adjust to changes in life. They attended two law enforcement active shooter seminars. At an African American meeting they were introduced to a remarkable young woman who overcame obstacles of cerebral palsy, has a degree in psychology and is now practicing as a family therapist in the Achievable Clinic. They participated in two WRC 'Keep the Promise' Days in which they wrote letters and made phone calls to their State Assembly members and State Senator for the proposed 8% increase in funding for the regional center system. They also attended a rally for disabled rights in Van Nuys in March as well as Sunday bowling in Gardena and weekly Spanish classes, WRC is helping them keep their voices strong and make them a vital part of the community. Todd also invited everyone to attend this year's Westside JAM on June 7<sup>th</sup> at Veterans Memorial Park in Culver City. Rhiannon Maycumber was thanked for her hard work and support of the Westside JAM.

**POLITICAL ACTION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Zoe Giesberg submitted and filed her report to the Board and provided a brief update.

WRC, Rhiannon Maycumber, Megan Mendes, Joan Elaine Anderson, clients and family members who showed up and supported them were all thanked. Everyone is encouraged to continue calling and writing. At the end of this week the governor should have his final budget prepared. Provided were contacts for people: State Senator Toni Atkins at [senator.atkins@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.atkins@senate.ca.gov), State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon at [assemblymember.rendon@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.rendon@assembly.ca.gov) and Gov. Gavin Newsom at [governor@governor.ca.gov](mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov). With a new governor, we need to put our community out front as people worth respecting and caring about. Housing has been a reoccurring issue, including the Inglewood area. There are some ABLE accounts on housing. The federal administration has offered redefining what the federal poverty line is and that could possibly negatively impact folks. Alejandro added that he welcomes affordable housing to be a special topic at future board meetings and maybe even consider creating a committee to be more proactive and target the issues that impact all stakeholders.

#### **CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

David Wyles, Chair, reported the committee met today and it was a productive meeting. They are working on guidelines for Personal Assistance for adults. They just got approval of the Early Start standards from DDS. By the next Board meeting they should have standards ready for Personal Assistance completed. It is a core committee and all other efforts are in support of services and supports for clients and families. They were thanked for reviewing and updating the service standards

#### **ARCA**

Zoe Giesberg filed the report with the Board and copies are available in the back. They met before Grassroots Day, so there is no real update since there.

#### **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Alejandro Soschin reported they have a new Interim Director of Human Resources, and will then be going forward towards eventually hiring a Director of Human Resources. They will be having Board training in October to go into strategic planning, incorporating Person Centered Thinking and best practices. They have been talking to other regional centers and there are a lot of great practices across the state.

#### **SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)**

Joan Elaine Anderson, SPAC Chair, commended all of the vendors and regional center staff for the solidarity and open communication across the state- they continue to call legislators and the information is on the Westside Regional Center website. At the last SPAC meeting it was mentioned that staff trainings have been great, vendor hesitancy, meet and greets with new Client Service Directors, and incorporating Person Centered Thinking practices. Megan Mendez put together a round table for vendors open to everyone 10:00 am on the second Wednesday of every month to go over HCBS. Vendors need to be prepared for it as it is coming soon. The staff was thanked for their support.

#### **FAMILY RESOURCE AND EMPOWERMENT CENTER**

Liz Spencer reported she submitted and filed her report with the board and copies are available in the back of the room. She provided a summary of her report.

## **EQUITY COMMITTEE**

Dr. Tom Kelly reported the last meeting was well attended. There were inquiries about what we are doing to address equity and the projects they have. With the ASLA (PEP) Parent Empowerment Program, there were concerns the African American community was not being represented like the Latino community. There have been ASLA PEP retention issues so they are looking into how to sustain them. There will be regular check-ins with PEP. The WRC Enhanced Case Managers continue to reach out to more families to target those with little or no POS and give them assistance and information about the Regional Center and services available. PEP is doing outreach to Latino and African American families in the community for generic services like mental health, healthcare and IHSS. A collaborative effort moving forward is important.

## **SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP**

Megan Mendes, reported that the meetings are well attended. They have completed three sets of orientations. The orientation is required by every participant who was selected as part of the phase-in. It was created by DDS originally as 6 hours, but was modified at WRC to fit the needs of two three-hour sessions for each group. They have scheduled another orientation on June 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> to get as many people as possible. They want to ensure all individuals selected receive the orientation. On May 19<sup>th</sup> they had a SD fair at WRC and had about 12 independent facilitators attend and 4 FMS who are in various stages of the process of becoming vendors under Self Determination. When someone becomes a vendor for FMS with another regional center, they are automatically our vendor as well. Premier Healthcare Services is currently the only active FMS vendor. There are several other vendors in different regional centers that are very close to finishing up their paperwork. DDS has purchase reimbursement for person centered planning services. There is more information on the DDS Self-Determination website.

## **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Felicia Ford expressed her dissatisfaction with the (PEP) Parent Empowerment Program for their lack of outreach to the African American community. Andy Kopito, ASLA, expressed they did have African Americans and they left for various personal reasons. They have a few more interviews this month to continue to add and have a more diverse well balanced team to address every community. They welcome an audit. Francis Gomez, Letizia Antonio and Maria Soto of PEP mentioned how important it is to keep data, they continue to learn, and assist families the best that they can. Gia Civerolo, a Caucasian parent, mentioned she worked for PEP for 16 months, but had to resign and continued to receive calls from PEP clients stating no one from PEP had contacted them, so she continued to support the majority of African American families because no one else had been helping them. Dr. Kelly clarified that there has been a lot of changes in the PEP roles. There were missteps, but they did survey the families and they will follow-up with those families. Liz Spencer mentioned that Dr. Tom Kelly is on top of it and she knows the families will be contacted this week. WRC wants to make this right so these mistakes are not repeated Beverly Hutchinson, Co-Facilitator for the African American Support Group stated her concerns regarding black families to be served by PEP. She would like the Board to take Andy's advice and to do an audit of PEP.

Ayode Woods mentioned that he has been checking on housing prices and opportunities. David Mezquita inquired about the percentage for salary and wages compared to total WRC revenue on the 990, and it stays at 15% of the budget. Ereida Galda asked about livestreaming. Megan Mendes reported that June is Pride Month and WRC has an event on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm in the WRC Boardroom. They are also trying to recruit resources from the community to help individuals who are part of the LGBTQ community and also help service coordinators to better serve LGBTQ individuals they support. More information will be posted on the WRC website. Kenneth Sears, a Service Coordinator with 25 years of experience in this field spoke passionately about how hard they work, the multifaceted nature of the social services job, caseloads, poor pay, housing statistics, socioeconomic, limitations by the state government, appreciation for vendors, the challenge of limited resources, the need for more direct and open communication, and being respectful and mindful of each other.

**ADJOURNMENT (ACTION\*)**

After Closed Session, The regular Board Meeting was adjourned by Alejandro Soschin at 9:20pm.

X		X	
Todd Rubien		Nilo Choudhry	
Board Co-Secretary		Board Co-Secretary	