

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION  
JUNE 6, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen  
Richard Breen  
Nilo Choudhry  
Ben Davidson  
Elizabeth Espinosa  
Zoe Giesberg  
Todd Rubien  
Larry Ryan  
Alejandro Soschin  
Russell Tanner  
David Wyles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Austin Dove, Cammy Dupont, Phil Jackson, Myra Mezquita, Betty Pearson-Grimble, Bob Steiner

STAFF PRESENT: Carmine Manicone, Vanessa Arauza, Pamela Arturi, Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Denise Fernald, Danny Franco, Cesar Garcia, Tom Kelly, Soryl Markowitz, Erica Reimer Snell, Martha Thompson, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser

GUESTS: Joan E. Anderson, Karina Arana, Laueeza Bhatti, Raymundo Blanco, Roger Bulosan, Sofia Cervantes, Helen Chimilio, Zakir Choudhry, Trisha Lurie Coline, Nick Coplin, Rayvone Douthard, Sylvia Fahimian, Danny Feingold, Josh Franklin, Ligia Garcia, Teresa Garcia, Victor Garcia, Veronica Green, Rohsoon Herbert, Beverly Hutchinson, Alyssa Jackson, Ronnie Jamerson, Marcia James, Keith Jones, Esther Kelsey, Josh Kruskol, Rosie Lasca, Shellena Leftridge, Louis Levine, Adriana Madrigal, Barbara McCants, Carlyn Meshack, Joanna Montes, Jack Nieves, Samantha Persoff, Andre Person, Francisco Pineda, Blanca Ramos, Sandy Rubinfeld, Robert Schwartz, Destinee Smith, Ricky Tani, Felisha Williams, Wesley Witherspoon, Ayode Woods, 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. Larry Ryan, client, read the Westside Regional Center's Mission Statement.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

The goal is 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. We encourage pre-submittal of committee reports, understanding the meetings that take place the same day as the Board meeting will not be able to do so. All reports that were previously submitted are available in the back. 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 also monthly office hours. Guests wishing to speak are expected to use the standing microphones. Please sign in.

The Board held an annual review of the Executive Director. Carmine was congratulated on continuing his role as Executive Director for another year. The annual review of the Executive Director will again take place next spring. Nilo said recognizing there will be opportunities for further collaboration with all involved, we are working together for a greater Regional Center for clients and families. She thanked the WRC Executive Team, Managers and Staff for their work. There will be no Closed Session this evening. The next Board meeting is on Wednesday, July 11th, because of the July 4th holiday.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Carmine thanked the Board for the contract extension. He expressed his gratitude and honor to serve in that capacity. The ED report has been filed with the board and is available in the back. He highlighted some of the items on his report. WRC reinitiated an Employment First Business Advisory Committee. Pamela Arturi and Liddy Amador were thanked for their hard work. WRC will have an after-hours business mixer event, 'Conversations Connecting Employers', at WRC on July 26th. The goal of this outreach is to network and explore hiring opportunities for our clients. October is Disability Awareness Month. A mixer involving Chamber of Commerce and a Career Fair are planned. Debra Ray, Residential Program Manager, is retiring at the end of the month after 37 years of service. There are a few positions still to fill: Federal Revenue Coordinator, two Program Managers and a Mental Health Crisis Specialist.

Our system saw very little of the Governor's May revise budget of \$9 billion in revenue. His rainy day fund will be projected to be over \$13 billion by next summer. Social and recreation will be back on the budget that will be presented to the Governor on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Assembly Member Chris Holden's bridge fund would help support providers with their

minimum wage gaps. WRC received approval from DDS on our 2017 Year End Performance Contract Report. Copies are available in the back. Carmine highlighted some of the upcoming events: Mindfulness for Caregivers on June 9th and a Crisis Management Workshop on June 19th. Flyers are available on these events in the back.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 7, 2018 BOARD MEETING.**

**(ACTION\*)**

**David Wyles, Board Member (Motion) and Russell Tanner, Board Member (Second) Approval of the March 7, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.**

**RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 7, 2018, BOARD MEETING.**

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

**11 AYES**

**0 NO**

**0 ABSTENTIONS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MAY 2, 2018 BOARD MEETING.**

**(ACTION\*)**

**Ben Davidson, Board Member (Motion) and David Wyles, Board Member (Second) Approval of the May 2, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.**

**RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE OF MINUTES FOR THE MAY 2, 2018, BOARD MEETING.**

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

**11 AYES**

**0 NO**

**0 ABSTENTIONS**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ARCA**

Zoe Giesberg reported the next ARCA meeting will be June 21st and 22<sup>nd</sup> in Sacramento. They will have more updates on the budgetary process as it happens. Social and recreation may make it on the final budget for Governor Brown to sign. Keeping up on the gubernatorial election, the final two contenders are Gavin Newsom and John H. Cox. ARCA is not supporting the Uniform Holiday Schedule. It may be opposed in the new budget. Self-Determination might affect the Regional Center budgets in the future.

**POLITICAL ACTION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Zoe Giesberg acknowledged Russell Tanner, client and Board Member. Others reported he stepped up and did a great job at Grassroots Day in Sacramento. PAC discussion included creating our own grassroots group at Westside specifically dedicated towards political advocacy and lobbying. The goal is that the agenda is led, set and ultimately approved by the people the Regional Center serves. Report is on file in back.

**FINANCE**

Alejandro Soschin, Committee Member, reported they received a Draft 990 on May 9th, a week prior to the filing. They had time to bring up any concerns. They also reviewed it

more closely today. Roger walked them through and answered any questions they had. It was helpful to have both Danny Franco and the Marcum auditor, Roger Bulosan, go over the process step-by-step. All of the financial statements and all the footnote disclosures are all in conformity with U.S. (GAAP) generally accepted accounting principles. Roger mentioned that on the actual report they are issuing a 'qualified opinion'. Westside belongs to CalPERS and they are the defined benefit pension plan. He also stated they did not note any fraud. No difficulties were encountered in terms of conducting the audit. He also gave the Board advice on best practices. At the close of last month's Finance Committee they went into Executive Session without WRC Staff present, and were able to ask any questions they had. It added a higher degree of best practice and transparency. Roger Bulosan mentioned that his firm currently audits four regional centers, and he personally has audited 9 of the 21 regional centers, working closely with DDS.

**APPROVAL OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 990 FOR 2016-2017.**  
**(ACTION\*)**

**David Wyles, Board Member (Motion) and Joseph Allen Jr., Board Member (Second) Approval of the Audited Financial Statement 990 for 2016-2017.**

**RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT 990 FOR 2016-2017.**

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

**10 AYES**

**0 NO**

**1 ABSTENTION**

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 CALIFORNIA MENTOR FAMILY BEHAVIOR SERVICES**  
**(FBS) \$781,641.60 CONTRACT (ACTION\*)**

**Larry Ryan, Board Co-Secretary, (Motion) and Todd Rubien, Board Member (Second) Approval of the California Mentor Family Behavior Services (FBS) \$781,641.60 contract.**

**RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF CALIFORNIA MENTOR FAMILY BEHAVIOR SERVICES (FBS) \$781,641.60 CONTRACT**

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

**9AYES**

**0 NO**

**2 ABSTENTIONS**

A recommendation was made by Larry Ryan that in the future this contract should include a line item budget. Mary Lou Weise-Stusser and Soryl Markowitz also provided more detailed information on Mentor and the services they provide.

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

There are several candidates that will be anticipated to be interviewed for three board openings. Two Latino and one Asian community members are needed in order to meet the DDS ethnicity requirements for WRC Board composition. Maria Soto and Sandra Gonzalez both recently resigned. One is a parent and the other is a community member.

Those new candidates recommended to be on the Board after being interviewed by the Nomination Committee will be considered and anticipated to be voted in at the next Board meeting. Ben Davidson has been the Chair of the Nomination Committee. The new Vendor Representative to replace Ben will be voted in at the next Board meeting in July. They anticipate it will be Joan E. Anderson of EmpowerTech, however SPAC will meet on June 19th to make a formal decision.

Ben Davidson, Committee Chair, reported the Board will first vote on the 16 Board members and then the Executive slate. In addition to the one Vendor Representative on the Board, there are 16 current Board Members, none of whom are due to term out.

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

**Elizabeth Espinosa (Motion) and Larry Ryan (Second) Approval of the slate.**

**RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE.**

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>1. Joseph Allen Jr.</b>   | <b>9. Myra Mezquita</b>          |
| <b>2. Richard Breen</b>      | <b>10. Betty Pearson-Grimble</b> |
| <b>3. Nilo Choudhry</b>      | <b>11. Todd Rubien</b>           |
| <b>4. Austin Dove</b>        | <b>12. Larry P. Ryan</b>         |
| <b>5. Cammy DuPont</b>       | <b>13. Alejandro Soschin</b>     |
| <b>6. Elizabeth Espinosa</b> | <b>14. Bob Steiner</b>           |
| <b>7. Zoe Giesberg</b>       | <b>15. Russell Tanner</b>        |
| <b>8. Philip Jackson</b>     | <b>16. David Wyles</b>           |

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

**11 AYES**

**0 NO**

**0 ABSTENTIONS**

Ben Davidson thanked the current fiscal year Board Officers who served the current fiscal year. He cited Nilo who stepped up when he was originally struggling to find a Board President and she took on the role. Ben reported that the Nominating Committee is proposing a new 2018-2019 WRC Board Officers slate and read out loud the proposed slate. Ben opened the floor to any other nominations. Todd Rubien nominated himself for Board Co-Secretary. The board proceeded to vote on the uncontested slate presented for President, Vice President and Treasurer. There will be a separate vote for the contested Co-Secretary slate.

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS SLATE (PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER) (ACTION\*)**

**David Wyles (Motion) and Joseph Allen Jr. (Second) Approval of the proposed 2018-2019 Board of Directors Officers Slate.**

**RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS SLATE AS FOLLOWS:**

**PRESIDENT: RICHARD BREEN**

**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
**TREASURER:**

**ALEJANDRO SOSCHIN**  
**CAMMY DUPONT**

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

**11 AYES**

**0 NO**

**0 ABSTENTIONS**

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

**Zoe Giesberg (Motion) and Elizabeth Espinosa (Second) Approval of the proposed 2018-2019 Board of Directors Co-Secretaries slate.**

**RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CO-SECRETARIES SLATE:**

**CO-SECRETARY: TODD RUBIEN**

**CO-SECRETARY: LARRY RYAN**

**CO-SECRETARY: NILO CHOUDHRY**

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

**11 AYES**

**0 NO**

**0 ABSTENTIONS**

Zoe Giesberg mentioned her first board meeting in 2015 where a client was nominated from the floor for Board Co-Secretary and received disparaging remarks that hurt clients and others present. Zoe is extremely happy to see that in three years we have come to this point where people are supporting and mentoring each other. It feels like clients and self-advocates have a voice up to the Executive Board level. WRC has come a long way and we should not take this moment for granted. Alejandro agreed with Zoe's comments.

**CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Todd Rubien reported the committee had a visit from Carmen Ibarra, Executive Director of Achievable, who explained the federal rules that affect the clinic and answered other questions. Carmine also came to the meeting. They appreciated them both meeting with CAC. CAC will continue to care about how the finances of WRC are spent. CAC is actively involved and interacting with important legislators including Karen Bass, Adam Schiff and Holly Mitchell. They will continue to stay in touch with legislators. CAC members voted yesterday at the June primary elections. They actively encourage other clients and all family members to vote at elections. CAC is about inclusion, independence and empowerment. They are involved in education, outreach events, service events, legislative events and social events. They will continue to advocate for employment, housing, transportation and other issues.

**CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Richard Breen reported that the committee intended to make their next project the Early Start Standards. Erica Reimer Snell and her staff did a lot of work to get some drafts ready. They were able to look at the language in a few different areas including speech/language services, use of behavior intervention services, and started to talk about insurance usage as well. The idea is that as a package they will present the Early Start

Standards in a couple of meetings from now. They want to make sure the Service Standards are in plain language. The main things the committee worked on was providing examples when there were acronyms or words that not everyone would understand. That is moving forward and the committee expects to have a presentation on the Early Start Standards within two meetings.

#### **STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Alejandro Soschin reported the Board has been focused on the evaluation of the Executive Director in the last few months and finalizing the process. He thanked everyone on the Board, Executive Committee and Carmine for their time and effort. The committee will meet in the next few weeks to get it back on track so they have a robust Strategic Plan in place going forward for the new fiscal year as the Board requested.

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

Ben Davidson noted they had Daniel Savino, of ARCA, come and talk to SPAC. That was one of three trainings he did that day. Daniel went over what is a bill and how it goes through the process of becoming a bill, and how to advocate to the state legislators.

Alejandro acknowledged Ben for all the work he has done during very challenging times. His leadership, mentorship, cool headedness is a source of strength and stability and has been exemplary. Zoe thanked Ben for being such a huge constant. It will be sad to have him leave the board because he has been so helpful at the Board and SPAC. Nilo expressed her sincere gratitude to Ben. The Board will also be hopefully welcoming Joan.

#### **FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FREC)**

Liz Spencer did not attend meeting. The pre-submitted report is in the back. The FREC is a great resource for clients and families. They were thanked for all their hard work.

#### **SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP**

Judy Mark was not in attendance. Zoe reported on behalf of Judy. It is on target to get approved on June 11th. They met on May 29th and they are now looking into things they can do for the roll out. They will have an extra \$2.8 million from the federal government for Self-Determination. It is currently proposed that DDS and the stakeholders will control where that specific funding goes. They also talked about Independent Facilitator trainings. Everyone must be trained in Person Centered Planning on all levels. By 2022 all regional center clients are going to be required to have a Person Centered Plan by the HCBS Rule. The Self-Determination information meetings are continuing. Clients from WRC have not been selected yet from the lottery. 67 clients will be selected to be in the 3-year pilot, and will be chosen based on diversity of race, gender, disability, and age.

#### **ACHIEVABLE**

Josh Kruskol reported they are having a five-course wine tasting fundraiser event at the Napa Valley Grill. At \$100 a ticket, they have about five tickets left. Achievable has been actively working on governmental affair outreach efforts with local, state and other legislators. Elizabeth Espinosa asked if they have a date yet when they will be able to lift the Achievable wait list. Josh said they are unable to confirm at this time. Carmen Ibarra, Executive Director of Achievable, did go out to CAC and explain about federal funding,

making efforts of educating and outreach.

**EQUITY COMMITTEE**

Rosie Lasca, Project Director for ASLA, updated that they are now hiring new PEP Squad Members, specifically African American parents, but also some Latino parents. They are working with WRC to help families with services funded by the regional center or other generic resources. She also brought flyers and they are in the back. Rosie also asked Self-Advocates to feel free to contact them if they need any support as they have not received any inquiries from them. David Wyles encouraged people to please reach out to parents who may be interested in applying.

**OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

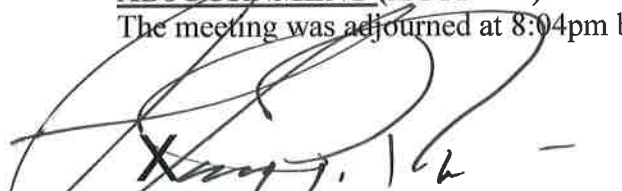
Todd Rubien inquired if the Board will have an offsite party like they normally do in the summer. At this point one is not scheduled, but we might possibly have something later in the year. Elizabeth Espinosa will be a keynote speech at Kayne Eras Center graduation. She felt we cannot back down from being a voice for those who cannot express themselves verbally. Victor Garcia came to speak as a parent with a teenage son with behavioral needs who got through a serious behavior crisis about six years ago and reintegrated back into society with the help of the team of their service coordinator, Diana Rodriguez, Dr. Shabani and Dr. Bath all working together to help his son.

Ben Davidson acknowledged Sandra Gonzalez. Her job situation changed and she has not been able to regularly attend the Board meetings. However, she deserves recognition for taking on the key role of Interim President of the Board during the most difficult time this regional center has ever had. What she did in the last two years on the Board was tremendous. Nilo also thanked Sandra for all she has done and all her hard work did not go unnoticed, and is much appreciated.

Sofia Cervantes, SCDD, introduced herself and she looks forward to working with everyone at Westside. She is bilingual and will be replacing Chris Arroyo. She brought flyers for two conferences coming up that will be in Spanish and English.

**ADJOURNMENT (ACTION\*)**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm by Chairperson, Nilo Choudhry.

  
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Larry P. Ryan  
Board Co-Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Rubien  
Board Co-Secretary



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Nilo Choudhry  
Board Co-Secretary