

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen
JoanElaine Anderson
Richard Breen
Nilo Choudhry
Cammy DuPont
Elizabeth Espinosa
Zoe Giesberg
Todd Rubien
Larry Ryan
Alejandro Soschin
Bob Steiner
Russell Tanner
David Wyles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Austin Dove, Phil Jackson, Myra Mezquita, Betty Pearson-Grimble

STAFF PRESENT: Carmine Manicone, Vanessa Arauza, Pamela Arturi, Lisa Basiri, Linda Butler, Ana DaSilva, Denise Fernald, Danny Franco, Ereida Galda, Cesar Garcia, Julien Hernandez, Tom Kelly, Soryl Markowitz, Rhiannon Maycumber, Jairon Ramos, Sandy Rivera, Aga Spatzier, Liz Spencer, Martha Thompson, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser

GUESTS: Brandon Alvarez, Claudia Alvarez Palomo, Christofer Arroyo, Raymundo Blanco, Zakir Choudhry, Gia Civarold, Trisha Lurie Coline, Sylvia Fahimian, Danny Feingold, Francis Gomez, Brett Gordon, Kahiir Hall, Beverly Hutchinson, Marcia James, Keith Jones, Esther Kelsey, Karen Lewis, Adriana Madrigal, Judy Mark, Barbara McCants, Joanna Montes, Sacha Naschinski, Jack Nieves, Francisco Pineda, Sonia Ramos, Lizeth Rivera, Sandy Rubenfeld, Tomasa Scaccicinese, Mark Seidenberg, Kim Sinclair, Robert Schwartz, Eila Suxton, Maynor Tecun, Jeremy VanBuren, Sofia Vergara, Wesley Witherspoon, Ayode Woods, Vanda Yung

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Richard Breen, at 6:10 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

Richard Breen, Board President, welcomed everyone to the Westside Regional Center Board meeting and read the Mission Statement. They will be voting in new Board Members today. He also thanked Betty Pearson-Grimble, Nilo Choudhry and the Nominating Committee for their hard work and vetting of new Board candidates. We want to maintain a respectful environment. Guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Christofer Arroyo, SCDD, highlighted they had their Rights Law Conference last Friday with 230 attendees and had a wait list of 100 people. They will have this popular event again next year. He will be doing a presentation in Spanish on Monday, October 24th in Inglewood on Person Centered Planning. There are flyers going around, but he encouraged anyone with questions to please talk to him after the meeting.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Richard Breen, Board President, mentioned that they will be voting in new Board Members this evening and there are plans to coordinate Board Training later. All were welcome to attend the October 10th Westside Regional Center Performance Contract public meeting. The Board will need to review and approve the Performance Contract at the November 7th Board Meeting. It is essentially a self-report card to DDS and a great opportunity to increase your understanding of what the Regional Center does.

Action Items:

APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE CRP 24 HOUR CRISIS TEAM FOR CONTRACT OVER \$250,000. (ACTION*)

David Wyles, Board Member (Motioned) and Alejandro Soschin, Board Member (Second) Approval of the contract for CRP 24 hour Crisis Team for over \$250,000.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT FOR CRP 24 HOUR CRISIS TEAM FOR OVER \$250,000.

No public comment. The motion Passed:

11 AYES

0 NO

2 ABSTENTIONS

There was no discussion among the Board.

Larry Ryan noted Board photos will be taken at the November 7th Board Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JULY 11, 2018 BOARD MEETING.

(ACTION*)

Joseph Allen, Board Member (Motion) and Todd Rubien, Board Co-Secretary (Second) the approval of the July 11, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JULY 11, 2018 BOARD MEETING.

No public comment. The motion Passed:

12 AYES

0 NO

1 ABSTENTION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carmine Manicone reported he has submitted and filed his report to the Board and it is also available in the Board packets and in the back of the room. He provided a summary of his attached report. He informed the Board on the efforts Westside has made on employment. They held an event at the end of July in an effort to start developing business relationships. They had 60 attendees including the CEO of the Culver City Chamber of Commerce and Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Assemblywoman, who gave the opening remarks. The evening was catered by Mykie's Café, which is a business supported and run by individuals with developmental disabilities. There was good rapport that evening and they are working on building on that. Westside Regional Center is preparing for their first ever Career Fair and it is scheduled on October 17th from 9:00am – 12:00pm in the Danneker Boardroom. They are seeking business and potential employers to host tables that day. If you know anyone, please contact Pamela Arturi.

Right now there are ten employers and they are looking for ten more. Joan Elaine Anderson, Board Member, added that EmpowerTech will be there as a resource, and also be on-site to assist. Interviews will depend on the individual businesses, whether they do on-site interviews or follow-up with potential candidates. Westside will be featured in a new local magazine "Culver City Neighbors" in their November issue. The notice for the Performance Contract Public Meeting has been posted on the website and on the notice there are links for a survey to gather information prior to the October 10th meeting. .

Westside Regional Center has entered a contract with Mary Beth Lepkowsky to do Person Centered Thinking at Westside Regional Center. It will start with a retreat with the Executive Team on November 12th and 13th and then the Management Team and in 2019 roll out to all employees and a number of service providers. All were encouraged to attend the training being given by the Social Security Administration on Wednesday, September 26th. It was suggested that Westside video record these trainings for those individuals who are unable to attend. Someone asked if we could do Spanish translation and closed captioning. Carmine said we could definitely look into recording the trainings, but the close captioning could take a little longer. The current Person Centered Thinking contract does not have the board or parents included. They did request more

funding to do more Person Centered Planning and Person Centered Thinking so they will look at ways to expand that training.

Judy Mark asked if there is data on how many people they serve work at Westside and not in the capacity of peer support, but in other positions such as front office, service coordinator, secretary, etc. She has been at other regional centers where the first person who greets you is someone they serve. Has Westside thought of that or if that's part of the strategy. Carmine mentioned WRC currently employees 6 individuals with developmental disabilities in various roles. Judy said that new positions do not need to be created for individuals, but instead employ them for current positions. Alejandro Soschin asked if the Board can take up or see if there is a policy or create one to make that a priority. Richard asked if he wanted to move to put that on the agenda for the November Board meeting. Alejandro said he would like to move to have the discussion and do the research in the meantime to see if indeed other regional centers have such policies. Lanterman Regional Center has front desk people who are clients and it is worth having a discussion about this.

APPROVAL OF BOARD DISCUSSION ON EMPLOYMENT OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY WESTSIDE TO WORK AT WESTSIDE BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER 7TH BOARD MEETING. (ACTION*)

Alejandro Soschin, Board Vice-President (Motion) and Zoe Giesberg and Russell Tanner, Board Members (Second) the approval of the Board discussion on employment of individuals served by Westside to work at Westside be added to the agenda for the November 7th Board meeting.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF BOARD DISCUSSION ON EMPLOYMENT OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY WESTSIDE TO WORK AT WESTSIDE BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER 7TH BOARD MEETING.

There was public comment and Board discussion. The motion Passed:

13 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE REPORT - ACHIEVABLE

No one reported.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Cammy Dupont, Board Treasurer, reported the Committee met this evening and the finance report is available at the back of the room. Cammy mentioned they asked Carmine and Danny Franco, Director of Finance, to provide the Board with a list of all contracts that are over \$250,000. Also a short list of 8-10 top vendors to see how much is being spent on them. There needs to be a lot of oversight and they do fiscal reviews for vendors and some vendors who receive more than a \$1,000,00 for providing services, they need to do a financial audit. Alejandro Soschin mentioned this would be helpful for the Board to have this knowledge to do their fiduciary duty.

Alejandro Soschin said they have very good financial controls, but his concern is what happens in the lean years when DDS only gives the regional center 80% of their budget at the beginning and if for any reason Sacramento has a shortfall, what will happen.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Nilo Choudhry, Committee Member, thanked Betty Pearson-Grimble for leading the committee and Vanessa Arauza for assisting with interview appointments of the 10 potential candidates to the Board. DDS has asked them bring on three more Board Members to meet the ethnic requirements proportionate to the latest census-related demographics of the area, which is based on the LA County statistics. There are two Hispanic and one Asian opening. They are recommending Sofia Vergara, Lizeth Rivera and Vanda Yung to be on the Board.

APPROVAL OF THE NOMINATION OF SOFIA VERGARA, LIZETH RIVERA AND VANDA YUNG TO THE WRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS (ACTION*)

Nilo Choudhry, Board Co-Secretary, (Motion) and Todd Rubien, Board Co-Secretary (Second) approval of Sofia Vergara, Lizeth Rivera and Vanda Yung to the WRC Board.

RESOLUTION: TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF SOFIA VERGARA, LIZETH RIVERA AND VANDA YUNG TO THE WRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

No public comment, the motion passed:

13 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

Richard acknowledged the Nominations Committee hard work and commitment.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Todd Rubien reported that CAC continues their commitment to improve the lives of the WRC clients. They ask the Board to help them with their cause by helping them create a better more open job market and affordable housing so they can live normal and independent lives in the community. They look forward to maintaining an open relationship with the WRC Board to help them attain a status quo in society. They are often looked down by society because society doesn't readily accept people who behave differently. They ask the Board to help them by allowing them to participate in PCP Training at the same time as the Service Coordinators are being trained. By allowing clients to have Spanish training, it would be helpful for them to communicate with others. They look forward to the Annual Client Holiday Party to which the Board of Directors is invited.

POLITICAL ACTION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Zoe Giesberg reported that the mid-term is upon us and it is voting season. The next Board meeting is the day after the general election. This election is very important. They have redesigned the mail in ballot to make it easier. For more information, please go to

www.lavote.net and recommends checking if they are already registered to vote. There are legislative meet and greets throughout the Los Angeles area. Voting is a right and we need to exercise our right. Larry Ryan shared that the DMV recently had a crash in their computer system regarding voting registration and a lot of people were affected. If you get a notice, you need to go to another website to be able to vote. How do we know if the clients who are eligible to vote are receiving the information they need to vote, and is the Regional Center doing something about it. JoanElaine Anderson, encouraged clients and others to come to EmpowerTech and register online.to vote. The committee will meet at 5:00 pm before each Board meeting.

CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Richard Breen, Co-Chair, reported they have been revising the service standards especially with Early Intervention. They recently did a comprehensive revision of the standards relating to Early Start. The use of insurance is another area they are looking at. Then the standard for center based infant development programs, followed by behavior intervention, speech and language and occupational therapy. They have been redrafted to make them more understandable.

APPROVAL THAT THE EARLY START STANDARDS BE ADOPTED. **(*ACTION)**

David Wyles, Board Member, (Motion) and JoanElaine Anderson, Board Member, (Second) approval that the Standards be adopted.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL THAT THE EARLY START STANDARDS BE ADOPTED.

No public comment, Board discussion, the motion passed:

13 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

The Committee will be looking at the adult standards next and adult clients and others are encouraged to get involved and participate in the adult services standards. The next committee meeting will be at 4:30pm on November 7th.

ARCA

Zoe Giesberg, ARCA Representative, reported they met at Harbor Regional Center in August. Nancy Bargmann from DDS attended the meeting and mentioned that they saw a surge in Autism cases so they hired an autism specialist. They are welcoming advice from everyone. They issued the Disparity funds guideline on August 17th and applications are due by October 16th and must be in compliance when HCBS come out in 2020. They got a 53% response for the rate study. ARCA just did a survey on what they need to do and what they need to focus on. They are working on creating a strategic plan. They are doing a large advocacy for affordable housing, employment, service coordinator caseloads, issues concerning workers compensation and keeping track on the gubernatorial election. They are keeping track on a few bills. The Medicaid waivers are going to be expanded to include our population as a "Medically Underserved Population"

which could mean more Medicaid money. Alejandro Soschin asked about the federal update and would like to hear more information from Achievable.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Alejandro Soschin reported there is no report as they have not met yet. They are vetting options.

SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC)

JoanElaine Anderson, Committee Chair, reported they did not meet last month. SPAC tries to meet and gather and share information. She urged Board members attend the trainings the staff puts together for them. They will try to put together a gift card drive and will have more information at the next Board meeting.

FAMILY RESOURCE EMPOWERMENT CENTER (FREC)

Liz Spencer reported that on September 7th the Family Resource and Empowerment Center staff attended the Motions to Advocacy training with Chris Arroyo. On Saturday, July 20th they did Mindfulness for Siblings workshop. On September 18th from 6:45pm to 8:30pm they will have a CHADD meeting that will help individuals understand why it feels so difficult to complete tasks. It is open to the entire community. On November 6th, 6:00pm to 8:00pm there will be a talk on Special Needs Trusts.

EQUITY COMMITTEE

The committee will meet in September.

SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY GROUP

Judy Mark, Chair, reported that Self-Determination will be happening within days. On October 1st, DDS will be announcing the people who will be a part of the phase in. Also, they will be sending you a letter, or you can put your UCI# in the DDS system. Over 300 people applied, but only 64 will be selected based on diversity, ethnicity, age and disability. Most likely it will be ethnicity, but it will be semi-random. The orientations will be at WRC in late November. JoanElaine asked if anyone has given thought on how to deal with those who do not get picked this time around. Judy also mentioned that maybe a few people will drop out, but in 3 years it will be available to everyone in 2021.

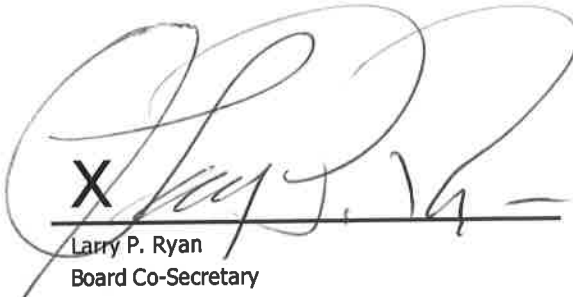
OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Espinosa said that she recently met with Miguel Santana, Chief Administration Officer for Mayor Garcetti and now he is President and CEO of the LA County Pomona Fairplex. It was the first time the LA County Fair had a day for individuals with special needs, but it wasn't widely promoted. Elizabeth asked if Westside has an Instagram yet or a Twitter handle. We do not, but Dr. Kelly mentioned that in one of the Equity Proposals there is a request for a social media consultant.


Kim Sinclair, Autism Society of Los Angeles, reported that the Parent Empowerment Project now has around 64 clients. They recently hired five more parent leaders and Kim introduced two of them and they provided brief updates.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm by Chairperson, Richard Breen. He also reminded the Board that if they have an agenda item to please contact him between meetings to add it to the agenda.

X 

Larry P. Ryan
Board Co-Secretary

X 

Todd Rubien
Board Co-Secretary

X 

Nilo Choudhry
Board Co-Secretary