

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION
MARCH 4, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen Jr.
Nilo Choudhry
Cammy DuPont
Elizabeth Espinosa
Myra Mezquita
Todd Rubien
Alex Soschin
Russell Tanner
Sofia Vergara

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joan Elaine Anderson
Betty Pearson-Grimble
Austin Dove
Zoe Giesberg
Philip Jackson
David Wyles
Vanda Yung

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Kelly, Danny Franco, Liz Spencer, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser,
Kate Harvey, Rhiannon Maycumber, Sandy Rivera, Anjanette
Robinson, Aga Spatzier, Kenneth Sears, Megan Mendes, Megan
Tommet-Ramirez, Angela Quinonez, Rochelle Cole

GUESTS: Marcia James, Barbara McCants, Jo Mullins (DDS), Cynthia
Sandoval (DDS), Mary Hernandez (DDS) Chris Arroyo (SCDD),
Raymundo Blanco, Trisha Lurie Cozine, Sylvia Fahimian, Danny
Feingold, Brett Gordon, Esther Kelsey, Adriana Madrigal, Sandy
Rubenfeld, Robert Schwartz, Ayode Woods, Veronica Green,
Matthew Seymour, James Taylor, Renee Taylor, Kahiir Hall,
Jenny S, Sonya Vaughn, , Felisha Ford, David Mezquita, Tresa
Oliveri, Sue Williams, R. Herbert

CALL TO ORDER (ACTION*)

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Sofia Vergara at 6:08pm.

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

Sofia Vergara, Board President, welcomed everyone to Westside Regional Center. Sign in Sheet is in the back. Todd Rubien read the WRC Mission Statement.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Arroyo with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) let everyone know there is a total of \$20,000 available through their 2020 Program Development Grant focusing on the identified areas of Housing, and Health and Safety.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Sofia reported that she is excited to be in the new role. She thanks all of the members of the Executive Committee and others who have helped to guide and support her starting this new role. By attending many committee meetings and speaking with Dr. Kelly and the folks at WRC, she has learned so much in a short time. She also thanks the WRC staff and Dr. Kelly for all their hard work. Sofia reiterates that the Board is asking that the community attend the POS meetings at the end of March. There will be a closed session directly following this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 8, 2020 BOARD MEETING (ACTION*)

Alex Soschin, Board Member (Motion) and, Russell Tanner, Board Member, (Second) the approval of the January 8th, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 8, 2020 BOARD MEETING.

No public comment. The motion passed.

9 AYES

0 NO

0 ABSTENTIONS

REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kelly reported on the theme of the importance of planning and preparation. Given the recent flooding at WRC, the coronavirus epidemic, and the recent ransomware attack at another regional center, we are learning from our past in order to be prepared for the future. This includes a thorough look at our emergency preparedness plan, and a heightened awareness of our health and safety protocols onsite and in the community. Dr. Kelly also highlighted the growth of WRC by 14+ new hires so far this year. WRC has applied for several new grants including one for a project related to assistive technology in the workplace and Mental Health Services Act funding. WRC was awarded \$106,000 for ongoing work to reduce cultural disparity. Dr. Kelly discussed the hard work of the WRC HCBS team and congratulated them on their completion of their Person-Centered training. Finally, Dr. Kelly extended thanks to Cesar Garcia for his work in Self Determination as WRC currently has 17 certified budgets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

➤ FINANCE

Cammy DuPont reported that the Finance committee met today, and went over the latest Budget status report. That status report is available in the back. The Audit committee will need to meet prior to the next Board meeting, and is tentatively scheduled for March 25th at 5:00pm in the ED office. Danny and Cammy are available if anyone has any questions.

➤ CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Todd Rubien reported that after Chris Arroyo gave his training on Boardmanship, CAC decided to focus on CAC business. They are working with Chris on how to solve statewide issues. CAC has found that WRC is experiencing many issues like other regional centers, and working with Chris to fix. Todd also discussed interpersonal issues within the CAC meetings, and is requesting to meet with the Board to discuss.

➤ EXECUTIVE SEARCH

Sofia Vergara reported that the BOD is working with Envision Consulting to find a permanent Executive Director for WRC. They have met with Matt Kamin from Envision, in order to finalize a survey to help get feedback. The search committee and Matt helped developed the job description, and it has been posted in various online job boards. She encourages everyone to spread the word. Feedback received during meetings will inform the search process moving forward. Looking for two more board members to actively participate in the process; contact Sofia if interested.

➤ CLIENT SERVICES

David Wyles and Cesar Garcia were both absent, so Nilo gave a brief report. The ILS and SLS info will be put forth at next board meeting.

➤ **BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Nilo Choudhry acknowledged a big thank you to Chris Arroyo for providing the informative and helpful Boardsmanship Training to us in February. Chris has also provided board training for WRC in the past. A Mandatory Board Training on the 'DDS Contract with WRC' will take place 4/1/20. The Executive Director search will precede nominations process.

➤ **POLITICAL ACTION & ARCA**

Zoe Giesberg has turned in written PAC and ARCA Report, and that is in the back. Nilo summarized the reports. The Governor's 'May Revise' to the budget will be coming up. Budget hearings are taking place in Sacramento. Today the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 on Health and Human Services is meeting to discuss and take input on the Governor's budget proposals, oversight items, and advocacy proposals. The Senate Budget Subcommittee will be meeting 3/12 on Electronic Visit Verification (EVV). On 4/19 it will meet on the 'DDS Budget'. Overall we need to continue advocacy for increased funding for sustainability of the system. The state-wide Developmental Services Task Force has four work groups. Vanda Yung is in the Disparity work group. Dr. Sofia Vergara will represent as a Self-Advocate and as the WRC Board Member at the fast-paced Grassroots Day in April. Rhiannon Maycumber will lead the WRC team composed of board member, vendor, staff and Client and family.

➤ **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

This month's meeting was rescheduled because of inadvertent flooding at WRC. The RFP, which was to be discussed at the meeting is in the back for review and posted on the WRC website. Dr. Kelly and team encourages anyone with feedback to contribute. Next meeting will be March 26th, 2020

➤ **SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

No Report at this time

➤ **FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTER**

Liz Spencer reported that the FREC and WRC Early Start program are holding the "Moving on Up" conference on April 4th, from 9:30 to 2:30 at WRC. WRC is also continuing their twice monthly I.E.P clinics. FREC is pleased to continue their partnership with LMU, as well as to partner with the Learning Rights Law Center. The center will continue to sponsor seven monthly support groups, as well as the IHSS workshop and Early Start Orientation. Shout out about the transition event this Saturday, March 7th, 2020.

➤ **EQUITY**

Tom Kelly reported that the Equity Committee discussed the theme "where we have been and where we are going". WRC has found that there are challenges for Latino families in accessing services and, managing partnerships with outside agencies. The Equity Committee also notes that transition periods can be sources for confusion for all populations. He emphasizes that education and information are key in helping people access our services, and for overcoming challenges. WRC has been focusing on both multi-media and print materials to help provide more information and to help the community understand the breadth of our services.

➤ **SELF DETERMINATION**

No report at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Myra summarized her experience at the ARCA training in February. Amendments to the law were brought up, more info requested. Other RCs are going through leadership changes, and it was interesting to discuss what this is like and know that they are experiencing similar challenges. This training provided opportunity for discussions about how board/staff collaboration can continue and can improve.

Elizabeth Espinosa reported the latest from the Department of Health is that as of today there are 6 cases confirmed of Coronavirus in LA County. She reiterated concerns for the health and safety of our Regional Center populations. The consistent message is to continue to refer to the Department of Health and the CDC for accurate and up-to-date information, and practice common-sense health habits.

Alex Sochin reiterated the support from the Board to the entire Westside community as we deal with the Coronavirus epidemic. He also said how extremely proud he is of Dr. Sofia Vergara stepping into the role of Board President and working so hard to take on the challenges. He thanked the Board for his opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee and states that it was humbling. 'Thanks to Chris Arroyo of State Council and the DDS Technical Team for their support'.

Ayode Woods states that he seen a lot of people with masks on and wants to know why? Dr. Kelly explained, that as per the CDC, masks should be used by people who are already sick in order to keep them from spreading symptoms to other people. They do not protect the wearers from getting sick.

Kenneth Sears, WRC employee, commented that the coronavirus impacts the entire community, including the folks at Westside who are out in the field.

Nilo thanked everyone for sharing their concerns.

ADJOURNMENT (ACTION*)

The regular Board Meeting was adjourned by Sofia Vergara at 7:26pm and no public comment followed.



Nilo Choudhry
Board Co-Secretary



Todd Rubien
Board Co-Secretary