

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
COASTAL DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES FOUNDATION  
SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2020  
ZOOM VIDEO**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Allen  
Joan Elaine Anderson  
Nilo Choudhry  
Elizabeth Espinosa  
Zoey Giesberg  
Myra Mezquita  
Betty Pearson-Grimble  
Todd Rubien  
Russell Tanner  
Sofia M. Vergara  
David Wyles  
Vanda Yung

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Thompson Kelly, Cesar Garcia, Danny Franco, Hillary Kessler, Mary Lou Weise-Stusser, Sonya Lowe, Steve Yi, Kate Harvey, Rhiannon Maycumber, Liddy Amador, Cristina Azantian, Stephen Browning, Brenda Buendia, Sandy Cabanatan, Tatiana Carredano, Patricia Crook, Ana De Silva, Feben Fantu, Myriam Garcia, Mina Gomez, Jessica Haro, Jose Hernandez, Jill Hewes, Stephanie Lee, Natasha Lopez, Megan Mendes, Veronica Mills, Natalie Monge, Martha Montealegre, Jacqueline Montenegro, Philomena Morais, Jennifer Morales, Nelson Orozco, Anjanette Robinson, Blanca Rojas, Sonia Soriano, Aga Spatzier, Megan Tommet-Ramirez, Claudia Williams

GUESTS: Christofer Arroyo (SCDD), Megan Mitchell (DDS), Tresa Oliveri, Dave Hadacek, Edwin Pineda (DDS), Blanca Ramosn, Lisa Anderson, Karina Andrade, Nelson Arguelles, Mackenzie Bath, Elena Bustamante, Linda Butler, Martha Chavez, LeeAnn Christian (DDS), Felicia Ford, Teresa Garcia, Francis Gomez, Nayma Guerrero, Douglas Hedenberg, Clara Hernandez, Beverly Hutchinson, Alyssa Jackson, J Jones, Esther Kelsey, Adriana Madrigal, Barbara McCants, Joanna Montes, Ellen Seldon, Rebecca Shipman, Rocio Sigala, Dana Simon, Nora Snowden, Annetta Sparks, Michele Wicen, Wesley Witherspoon, Sammy,

**CALL TO ORDER (ACTION\*)**

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Betty Pearson-Grimble at 6:06pm.

## **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)*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Wesley Witherspoon inquired about supports being provided for the community in regards to education and internet difficulties.

Ereida Galda let everyone know that the FREC is offering a training for parents and families regarding social distancing. More information can be found on the FREC website.

Nilo Choudhry, Board Member, noted that on Tuesday from 5:00-6:30pm there will be a webinar on special education and distance learning. She also discussed the plan for Board training and Board governance in partnership with the new Executive Director, Roschell Ashley.

Chris Arroyo, SCDD, let everyone know that the State Council was made aware of Special Contract Language regarding the WRC Board. DDS has outlined what they expect, and Chris asks that the community supports the staff and the Board for their hard work to meet these expectations.

Elizabeth Espinosa, Board Member, thanked Chris Arroyo for his comment about contract language, and for the training he will be providing. Elizabeth also noted that the digital divide has presented obstacles to families during COVID 19. Also discussed was the Public Comment section.

Felicia Ford noted that she has a resource for rental help for families who have lost income as a result of COVID. Contact Felicia for more information.

Douglas Hedenberg and Sammy thanked the WRC staff and Board for supporting them and others in the community who are vulnerable and whose voices are magnified by the support they receive. Several anonymous participants thanked Westside Staff for their hard work and support.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Betty Pearson-Grimble, Board President, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted that the Board continues to work together with the staff and community to mend their relationships. Betty discussed the importance of being a "working board", with much of the work being done in the various committees and behind the scenes. Finally, Betty thanked everyone on the Board and on the staff for their hard work so far this year.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 5, 2020 BOARD MEETING** (ACTION\*)

**Todd Rubien, Board Secretary (Motion) and, Vanda Yung, Board Member, (Second) the approval of the August 5th, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.**

**No public comment. The motion passed.**

**11 AYES  
0 NO  
1 ABSTENTIONS**

**RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 5, 2020 BOARD MEETING.**

**REPORT OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dr. Tom Kelly, Interim Executive Director, thanked everyone for their support and hard work during this past year as he was Interim Director. He noted that even though the only constant is change, this staff and community supported him to make the job easier and rewarding. Dr. Kelly updated everyone on the most recent COVID-19 statistics, which include 68 people we support, and 60 providers, currently. Fortunately, the numbers appear to be trending down, with the largest increase of positive cases occurring between May and July. Dr. Kelly also noted that DDS continues to extend many directives through the next few months. Notably, directives affecting community providers to bill for alternative services, and the differences between remote and alternative services. More information about the DDS directives is forthcoming and is continuously updated on the WRC website.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

➤ **FINANCE**

Danny Franco, Director of Finance, reported that the Finance Committee met today to discuss the current and last fiscal year's budget. He noted that as of the end of last fiscal year, WRC had spent 97% of its budget. As July 31, 2020 WRC has only spent 6% of the current fiscal year budget. Overall, Danny notes that this year's budget allocation appears to be enough to cover projected expenditures. Finally, Danny noted that WRC has hired an attorney to help with the Board Special Contract Language. WRC is asking for a detailed billing statement for auditing and transparency purposes. That statement is forthcoming. The full Budget Status Report Summaries for June 30 and July 31 can be found in the Board Packet.

➤ **CLIENT SERVICES**

The Client Services Committee will resume meeting in November, prior to the next Board Meeting. Details are forthcoming.

➤ **CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Esther Kelsey, CAC member, read the report on behalf of Joseph Allen, Board Member. Esther reported that CAC has continued to be productive even in the face of continued quarantine due to COVID-19 and members are eating healthier, attending trainings such as earthquake preparedness & voter registration, and keeping up with the current happenings at WRC. Finally, she reported that CAC sends their thoughts and prayers to those who are affected by, or who have lost loved ones because of COVID-19. The full CAC report can be found in the Board Packet.

## ➤ **EQUITY**

Dr. Tom Kelly, Interim Executive Director, reported that the Equity Committee met this month and discussed the current disparity projects and funding. Due to COVID-19, projects have been adapted to be more virtual, and therefore, changes in venue and money must be approved by DDS. New project ideas have included an Employment Options Video that will be animated, and Distance Learning and information binders that can be distributed to families. The current Equity project involves reworking the two monthly newsletters that go out to the WRC community so that they reach more people. This month's Equity Committee Meeting Minutes can be found in the Board Packet.

## ➤ **FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTER**

Ereida Galda, Family Support and Education Specialist at the FREC, read the report on behalf of Director Liz Spencer. The FREC will be hosting a webinar starting next week entitled "Why Inclusion is Important for All Preschoolers", in which presenter Dr. Mary Falvey will be speaking. This will be held on three consecutive Thursdays. There will also be a workshop series entitled "Different Thinkers" as presented by Dr. Mariana Lenaera. The next workshop is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>. The FREC also has begun their twice monthly I.E.P. clinics and have started the SibShop Sibling support group back up as of August. Finally, Ereida noted that the FREC continues to partner with families in as many creative ways as possible to support them. This has included delivering PPE right to their doors, or meeting in socially-distant outdoor spaces to provide help. The full FREC report, which includes dates and details, can be found in the Board Packet.

## ➤ **SELF DETERMINATION**

Self Determination did not meet this past month. There will be a report following their September meeting.

## ➤ **SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

JoanElaine Anderson, SPAC Representative and Board Member, reported that although SPAC does not meet in August, they did host a Vendor Town Hall. Highlights included the various ways that the vendor community continue to be creative in how they support people because of COVID-19. JoanElaine noted that this shutdown has been difficult because vendors are unable to provide in-person services, and therefore groups like transportation services have little to no work at this time. Overall, the vendor community pledges to continue to focus on supporting people through technology and working hard to meet DDS guidelines as they continue to change.

## ➤ **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Dr. Tom Kelly, Interim Executive Director, reported that the Strategic Planning Committee met to discuss the ongoing partnership with the Strategic Planning Consulting firm, Strategy Matters. The team from Strategy Matters will be joining the Strategic Planning meetings in September and October for their first meet & greet, and planning meetings. The Committee also discussed the importance of representation of the WRC community as part of its official membership. New seated members of the Strategic Planning committee will include representation of: WRC community/family members, persons supported, vendors, WRC staff and WRC board members. The Strategic Planning committee is excited to move forward with its planning consultant and new members. This month's Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes can be found in the Board Packet.

➤ **POLITICAL ACTION & ARCA**

Zoey Giesberg, ARCA Representative and Board Member, reported that now is the most important time for the community to call their senators in support of the COVID relief package for Medicaid and HCBS services for people with disabilities. Zoey also noted that there is going to be an informational session recorded for the community that includes information on how to register to vote, how to be an informed voter, and how to turn in and track your ballot. Registration info for this can be found here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcodemsrT4vH9HPqes6r0aNIGeu6nMjobiX>. The full Political Action & ARCA report can be found in the Board Packet.

**ADJOURNMENT** (ACTION\*)

The regular Board Meeting was adjourned by Betty Pearson-Grimble at 7:20pm.

**Approved by the Board of Directors 11/4/2020  
Board Secretary: Todd Rubien**