#### KERN REGIONAL CENTER

3200 N. Sillect Avenue • Bakersfield, CA 93308 • (661) 327-8531

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. KRC Malibu Conference Room 3300 N. Sillect Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93308

### **MINUTES**

August 28, 2018

**Present Board Members:** 

Ismael Romero Oscar Axume Quanah Mason Nickole Mensch Ryan Jones

Jasmeet Bains, MD Mark Tolentino Raymond McCaslin Jasmeet Bains

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### 1. Executive Session

#### 2. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Ismael Romero. It was determined that a quorum was present.

#### 3. Approval/Additions to Agenda

A. Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors Agenda dated August 28, 2018. M/S/C – (Axume/Mensch) to approve agenda. 5-0-0.

#### 4. Meeting Minute Approval

**A**. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors held May 22, 2018 and Special Board of Directors Meeting of June 5, 2018.

**M/S/C** – (Mason/Villalon) to approve minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors held May 22, 2018 and the Special Board Meeting of June 5, 2018. 5-0-0.

#### 5. Public Input

- A. **Miguel Fuentes**, has really enjoyed being part of the Just Johnsons program.
- B. **Marcella Ladden**, "we all have disabilities and we all deserve to have a job." Marcella states she is pleased with Just Johnsons and has various duties related to the program.
- C. Chris Villapunda, enjoys Just Johnsons.

- D. **Jose Salinas**, stated that Just Johnsons is a good program; it helps consumers keep busy.
- E. **Glenn (illegible)**, Just Johnsons helps consumers do a good job out in the community. Consumers show their respect out in the community. Glenn enjoys Just Johnsons.
- F. **Johnterra Wright,** has been with Just Johnsons for over a year. Other Programs were not able to help her. She is now motivated and ready to go to work while making money.
- G. **Katherine Lucas**, given the opportunity to be a part of Just Johnsons approx. one year ago. She has learned valuable job and life skills. Consumers make products by hand at Just Johnsons and donate the products to the animal shelters, the Ronald McDonald house and the Jamison Center. Katherine asked that Just Johnsons not be shut down.
- H. **Tiffany Moy**, Just Johnsons has taught Tiffany job skills. She is now able to communicate better with her co-workers. She is afraid of having to go out and look for a different job.
- I. **Shantay Rice**, started on June 29<sup>th</sup> with Just Johnsons. Shantay states she used to be lazy and now she is motivated and looks forward to going to work. She is concerned she will not be able to make money, the way she is making it now, at a different location.
- J. **Alliceson, Vaughn**, has been with Just Johnsons since May of 2018. She has since learned how to complete a time card and request time off. She has also learned life skills. She feels she will be homeless and broke if Just Johnsons is shut down. Alliceson stated that Just Johnsons will give individuals in wheel chairs and/or low functioning individuals an opportunity.
- K. **Raymond Lueden**, has been with Just Johnsons for 7.5 years. Prior to Just Johnsons, Raymond bounced around from job to job. Raymond feels Just Johnsons gave him opportunities that other employers did not offer. He has gone from consumer to mentor to supervisor. He attributes his skill sets to Just Johnsons.
- L. **Christina Quintanilla**, is here to request that the Board reconsider shutting down Just Johnsons as it would impact many individuals. Just Johnsons has helped with Christina's interaction and work skills. Just Johnsons donates to non profits; they too, would be affected by the closure.
- M. **Sky Watkins**, it's important to Sky that the Board does not shut down Just Johnsons. Just Johnsons has helped Sky grow as a person and learn responsibilities.
- N. **Kelsey Threlkeld**, Just Johnsons is important to Kelsey as it helps pay bills and has provided Kelsey with the opportunity to learn new skills. Kelsey feels Just Johnsons is an advanced program that will help others.
- O. **Althia Reeder**, Just Johnsons has made a huge difference in Althia's life. He has learned a lot of skills and has improved his communication.

- P. **Sean Desmond**, Laura Montgomery spoke for Sean. Just Johnsons has helped Sean with valuable life skills. Sean enjoys the staff at Just Johnsons; he has been asked to become a supervisor with Just Johnsons.
- Q. **Rachel Bowen**, Laura Montgomery spoke for Rachel. This is the program that has worked best for Rachel as they work with their behaviors instead of turning clients away. Rachel sated that Just Johnsons has also helped control her cigarette addiction. Rachel requested that the Board keep Just Johnsons open for other clients.
- R. **Eva Rocha**, KRC Carnival will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup> at Shriner's Noble Park. Everyone is invited.
- S. **Glenn Priesy**, Just Johnsons has thought Glenn how to control his emotions. He enjoys being complimented regularly by Just Johnsons staff on his work.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **REPORTS**

#### 6. Client Representative

- **a.** Roy Rocha spoke about his artwork project. He is requesting more artwork from consumers. Roy will be posting the artwork on the walls of Kern Regional Center.
- **b.** Roy invited consumers to the Client Advisory Committee. He explained that consumer would be able to express their concerns at the committee meetings.

#### 7. Board President Report

#### A. Appointment of New Board Members

- **a.** Ismael introduced Jasmeet Bains, Ryan Jones, Raymond McCaslin and Mark Tolentino.
- **b.** Jasmeet Bains is a physician who works with KRC consumers. Jasmeet grew up in Kern County and works in Taft. She is a strong advocate for KRC consumers.
- **c.** Ryan Jones is an engineer with Chevron. Ryan has been in Bakersfield for approximately 7 years and is an advocate for Mark Tolentino's sister, who is a consumer of KRC. Ryan looks forward to working with KRC and serving the Board.
- **d.** Mark Tolentino is a younger brother of a KRC consumer. Mark's sister has been a consumer of KRC since 1994. Mark was born and raised in Kern County. Mark looks forward to working alongside the Board to make positive change.
- **e.** Raymond McCaslin has many years of banking background. Raymond moved to Kern County approximately 3 years ago and joined the Board in hopes to give back to the community.
  - **M/S/C (Axume/Villalon)** to appoint Jasmeet Bains, Ryan Jones, Mark Tolentino, Raymond McCaslin and Loren Presley to the Board. 5-0-0.

#### B. Reappointment of Nickole Mensch

**M/S/C** – **(Axume/Villalon)** to re-appoint Nickole Mensch to the Board of Directors, retroactive to 2017. 5-0-0.

# C. Appointment of ARCA Delegate Tabled for next Board Meeting

#### 8. Financial Report

- **A.** Tom Wolfgram presented his financial report.
  - a. Please see Attachment 1.
  - **b.** The operations allocation for the E Series is \$21 million for this coming year. This is \$1 million above what KRC had for the 17/18 year. The majority increase is for the purpose of core staffing. This is so that KRC can hire service coordinators to assist with bringing caseload ratios down.
  - **c.** The preliminary allocation for Purchase of Services is \$133 million.
  - **d.** Tom is working on finalizing the budget for the 18/19 fiscal year for operations. KRC has received all three of the advanced payments from the State in a timely manner. KRC did not have to borrow any money this year.
  - **e.** Today's balance is \$19 million in KRCs checking account.
  - **f.** For operations, it is estimated that KRC will have a carryover of about \$150 thousand to \$200 thousand.

#### 9. Executive Director's Report

- a. Michi Gates responded to a concern that came up during the May Board Meeting related to referrals for services to KRCs vendor community and ways that KRC can ensure that consumers are given an array of options. Since that meeting, KRC has provided a training for service coordinators on the Sandis system, which maintains all of the consumer and vendor information. Service coordinators were trained on searching by category of service and were provided extensive detailed handouts. Each unit in the agency had a discussion on this issue and talked about providing options so that consumers can make choices.
- **b.** KRC is working on lowering caseloads. Lowering caseloads can result in Service coordinators having more time to explore the various service providers and visit the programs to learn what is available. Service coordinators are being asked to talk to each other about vendors to help others become familiar with the vendors that are out there.
- **c.** The ability to fund for Social Recreational services did not go through despite the efforts. It's a monetary issue. The efforts to have it restored will continue.
- **d.** Furlough days, or Uniform Holidays, for day programs were rejected. These are forced closure dates that affected the funding for day programs and affected the individuals we serve.
- **e.** Half day billing was reinstated; this means if an individual attends a day program and is only there for 65% of the day, the day program can only bill for half of the day.
- **f.** \$25 million bridge funding was approved for vendors. They are still deciding how to distribute that to direct care service providers. This is meant to keep vendors in business until a rate reform takes place.

- **g.** Kern Regional Center, specifically, was included in budget bill language. \$300 thousand was appropriated to the department of finance. The \$300,000 can be given to Kern if Kern can show that we are meeting all federal and state regulations, that Kern is complying with its fiscal solvency plan and that Kern is complying with the special contract language provided by DDS.
- **h.** The Regional Center system statewide has now grown to a \$7 billion annual budget. The annual caseload growth is 3.7%. Our client population is growing faster than our state population.
- i. Federal funds are now covering 39% of the budget for the Department of Developmental Services.
- j. There is a focus on affordable housing for the individuals that we serve this year as well as competitive integrative employment. There is also a focus on resource development for the safety net, the roll out of the self-determination program, funding rates for our vendors (rate study), compliance with the federal final settings rules and continued attention to addressing cultural disparity and the way that we provide services.
- **k.** ARCA is currently working on a report on when the Regional Center system is going. They are hoping to have this completed by the end of the month.
- **l.** Kern continues to participate in bi-weekly calls with the Department of Development Services to ensure that Kern is compliance with the special contract language. DDS is also now reporting to the legislature monthly on Kern Regional Center's progress.
- **m.** KRC has met the goal of filling 25 growth service coordinator positions by the end of this month. Thank you to Karey Cones and the management staff that participated in the interviews to make this happen. Thank you to Shannon and the staff that participate in the training process for the new staff.
- n. KRC is currently working on its response to the 2015 DDS draft audit report on Kern Regional Center. Next week, KRC will be engaging in settlement discussions with DDS regarding outstanding amounts owed from previous audits.
- **o.** There was a 50% response to the vendor rate survey. The next step is to do a family survey. The results will be presented to the legislature in March of 2019 in hopes to address the under-fundings.
- **p.** Assemblyman Jim Frasher has started a select committee specifically about intellectual and developmental disabilities and he will be chairing that. The hope is for future hearings to occur to raise awareness of the population that we serve and hopefully obtain some legislation and extra funds for our system.

#### 10. Vendor Advisory Committee

- **a.** The Vendor Advisory Committee did not meet this month.
- **b.** On September 11th, KRC is having a vendor fair from 1:30 to 3:30.
- **c.** On September 13<sup>th</sup>, Mitzi will be attending the VAC portion of the Southern California Conference of Regional Center Directors. She will report back on what she learns at that meeting.
- **d.** On Sept. 25th, the VAC will have it's next meeting between 10:00 am and noon.
- **e.** On Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, KRC will be having its carnival event. 25 vendors will be there with booths. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 4-12, this covers access to all events and games within the carnival.

**f.** The vendor advisory luncheon will take place on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### 11.Staff Report

#### A. Caseload Ratio Plan of Correction

- **a.** Celia Pinal provided the draft Caseload Ratio Plan of Correction letter to the Board for review 7 days in advance. This is part of KRC solvency plan. The priority has been on hiring service coordinators to bring down the caseloads. Currently Kern Regional Center has 8,921 active clients and 122 service coordinators. KRCs average ratio is 1 to 73. The goal was to meet 1 to 74. There is also waitlist of both bilingual and non-bilingual potential service coordinators.
- **b.** For ES service coordinators, the Statewide average is 1 to 62. KRC does not have a strict ES unit. For Medicaid waiver clients, the ratio is 1 to 62. These clients are spread out amongst the various units. For clients of the Developmental Center that are in community placement, the statewide ratio is 1 to 45; KRC's ratio is 1 to 40. For regular caseload ratio, the ideal ratio is 1 to 66, however, across all regional centers the statewide average is 1 to 72. KRC hopes to continue to maintain lower caseload ratios.
- c. There are currently 226 consumers in the assessment unit.
  M/S/C (Villalon/Axume) to approve the Caseload Ratio Plan of Correction, as presented by Celia Pinal (see Attachment B). 9-0-0.

#### **B.** Self Determination

- **a.** Self-determination is another way of providing services to consumers. With Self Determination, an individual can select a vendor of their own without the vendor having to go through the vendorization process.
- **b.** Self Determination is part of the CMS final rule, HCBS or Home and Community Based Services that the Federal Government in the State of California applied for and received.
- **c.** KRC has a local Self Determination Committee. The Committee includes family members that have been in the 19 year pilot. They meet each month to talk about outreach.
- **d.** The next SD meeting will be Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in the Malibu Room. The committee attended the last vendor fair and reached out to the providers that were present.
- **e.** KRC provided informational meetings throughout the various cities in KRC's catchment area. Numerous families attended; KRC was able to generate 136 individuals interested in Self Determination. KRC was awarded 95 spots total. KRC needs more individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Epilepsy to meet the representation needs. The majority of the interested individuals are male.
- **f.** The selection process will be random based on the statistical analysis that the state is running.

#### C. Community Placement Plan

**a.** Abbey, the first Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Special Healthcare Needs. This house is a 5 bed home. Cherylle walked the board through photographs of the project progress.

- **b.** The homes are being modified so that as consumers age, they do not need to move.
- **c.** There is a vested interest in all of the Regional Centers to continue the CPP monies to continue to meet the community's needs. Data is obtained from stakeholders to determine what services need to be developed for the community.
- **d.** It has been determined that transportation in Eastern Kern is a need for Kern Regional Center.

#### **D.** Performance Contract

- **a.** Each year, KRC has to submit a document that contain specific timelines for submitting calendar year outcome based performance plans. These guidelines are consistent with the legal requirements of developing and implementing performance contract, as specified in WIC §4629, and to support the quality management system framework.
- **b.** KRC will hold a public meeting and publish the notice of public meeting 10 days in advance to notify the community.
- **c.** Cherylle asked that the Board review the document so that in September, she may obtain a vote from the board to approve the document and submit to the state.

#### **BOARD TRAINING**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **GOOD AND WELFARE**

a. Meeting is adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the Malibu Conference Room at the Kern Regional Center.

Note: Requests for a disability related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Administrative Assistant during regular business hours at 661-852-3360.

Respectfully submitted:	
	Eva Rocha

#### **Action Items:**

M/S/C - (Axume/Mensch) to approve agenda. 5-0-0.

**M/S/C – (Mason/Villalon)** to approve minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors held May 22, 2018 and the Special Board Meeting of June 5, 2018. 5-0-0.

**M/S/C – (Axume/Villalon)** to appoint Jasmeet Bains, Ryan Jones, Mark Tolentino, Raymond McCaslin and Loren Presley to the Board. 5-0-0.

**M/S/C – (Axume/Villalon)** to re-appoint Nickole Mensch to the Board of Directors, retroactive to 2017. 5-0-0.

**M/S/C – (Villalon/Axume)** to approve the Caseload Ratio Plan of Correction, as presented by Celia Pinal (see Attachment B). 9-0-0.

KERN REGIONAL CENTER

BUDGET AND EXPENSE REPORT
FY 2017/2018
AS OF JUN 30, 2018

·	Col. 1		Col. 2	,	Col. 3		Col. 4		Col. 5		Col. 6		Col. 7		Col. 8		Col. 9
(1) - OPERATIONS	Preliminary Allocation - D Series	D-	1 Allocation	D-:	2 Allocation	D-3	& Allocation		tal Allocation To Date thru D-3 llocation - Col.1 thru Col. 4	Cla	erations By im to State ıly thru Jun 2018	Pr	ojected - June 2018		otal Projected		Projected alance - Col. 5 - Col. 8
	001100						, aloodaon		1110 001. 4	<u>.                                    </u>	2010	<u> </u>	2010		01. 0 1 001. 1	1	
GENERAL Salaries and Benefits Operating Expenses	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	\$	1,257,639 3,504,480	\$	578,709 964,167			\$	16,538,214 4,468,647		5,690,534	\$	<u>-</u>	\$	15,166,922 5,690,534		
TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES	14,701,866		4,762,119		1,542,876				21,006,861	2	0,857,457		-		20,857,457		149,405
Less: Interest Income Less: ICF SPA Fees (see Note Less: Other Income	2)										(81,594) (54,951) (15,636)		- ·		(81,594) (54,951) (15,636)		81,594 54,951
SUBTOTAL GENERAL	\$ 14,701,866	\$	4,762,119	\$	1,542,876			\$	21,006,861	\$ 2	0,705,276	\$	-	\$	20,705,276		15,636 301,585
Percentage									100%		98.56%		0.00%				1.44%
COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PLAN (CPP Salaries & Benefits Operating Expenses	)	\$	480,613 235,152		127,144			\$	480,613 362,296	\$	444,504 56,345	\$	<u>-</u>	\$	444,504 56,345		
SUBTOTAL CPP	\$ -	\$	715,765	\$	127,144			\$	842,909	\$	500,849	\$	**	\$	500,849	\$	342,060
FOSTERGRANDPARENT (FGP Salaries & Benefits	& SCP)	\$	59,043		22.222		400 500	\$	59,043	\$	53,423	\$	-	\$	53,423		
Operating Expenses SUBTOTAL FGP	¢	\$	26,967 86,010	\$	89,996 89,996	\$	100,569 100,569	\$	217,532 276,575	•	115,222 168,646	•	-	\$	115,222 168,646		107,929
30BTOTAL FGF	Ψ -	φ	00,010	φ	03,330	φ	100,009	φ	210,313	φ	100,040	Φ	-	Ф	100,040		107,529
GRAND TOTAL OPERATIONS	\$ 14,701,866	\$	5,563,894	\$	1,760,016	\$	100,569	\$	22,126,345	\$2	1,374,770	\$	_	\$	21,374,770	\$	751,575
Percentage									100%		96.60%		0.00%				3.40%

Note 1: The "Projected Balance" is an estimate of the difference between KRC's funding allocation from DDS (col. 5), and Total Projected (col. 8)

Note 2: The Intermediate Care Facility State Plan Amendment (ICF SPA) administrative fees are included in this fiscal year as an offset to current year expenditures. The fees are 1.5% of current year day program and transportation costs for KRC clients that resided in ICF's.

## **Attachment 1**

		Col. 1	Col. 2		Col. 3		Col. 4		Col. 5	Col. 6	Col. 7	Col. 8			Col. 9
(2) - PURCHASE OF SERVICES GENERAL		Preliminary Illocation - D Series	D-1 Allocatio	n D	-2 Allocation	D-3	3 Allocation	Da	otal Allocation To te thru D-3 Alloc - col.1 thru Col. 4	Purchase of Service By Claim to State - July thru Jun 2018	Projected - June 2018		otal Projected Col. 6 + Col. 7		ected Balance - col. 5 - Col. 8
Out of Home Care Day Programs Other Services SUBTOTAL GENERAL	\$	28,787,609 22,216,516 71,522,176 122,526,301	\$ 7,129,944 7,274,193 20,198,665 34,602,802	3 5	127,880 127,880	***************************************	221,440 221,440	\$	35,917,553 29,490,709 92,070,161 157,478,423	\$ 35,865,227 29,985,496 88,106,467 153,957,190	\$ 181,465 519,297 626,582 1,327,344	\$	36,046,692 30,504,793 88,733,049 155,284,534	\$	(129,139) (1,014,084) 3,337,112 2,193,889
Less: ICF SPA Funded		122,020,001	04,002,002	-	121,000		221,440		101,410,420	(3,184,112)	1,527,544		(3,184,112)		3,184,112
TOTAL GENERAL	\$	122,526,301	\$ 34,602,802	2 \$	127,880	\$	221,440	\$	157,478,423	\$150,773,078	\$1,327,344	\$	152,100,422	\$	5,378,001
Percentage					·		·		100%	95.74%	0.84%			•	3.42%
COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PLAN (C Out of Home Care Day Programs Other Services	PP)		\$ 256,718 - 998,200		210,350	\$	25,916	\$	492,984 0 998,200	\$ 334,902 \$ 41,142 104,627	\$ 41,657 11,503 811,606	\$	376,559 52,645 916,233		116,425 (52,645) 81,967
TOTAL CPP	\$	-	\$ 1,254,918	3 \$	210,350	\$	25,916	\$	1,491,184	\$ 480,671		\$	1,345,437	\$	145,747
Percentage									100.00%	32.23%	57.99%				9.77%
TOTAL PURCHASE OF SERVICE	\$	122,526,301	\$ 35,857,720	) \$	338,230	\$	247,356	\$	158,969,607	\$151,253,748	\$2,192,111	\$	153,445,859	\$	5,523,748
Percentage									100%	95.15%	1.38%				3.47%
GRAND TOTAL ALL BUDGETS	\$	137,228,167	\$ 41,421,614	1 \$	2,098,246	\$	347,925	\$	181,095,952	\$ 172,628,519	\$2,192,111	\$	174,820,630	\$	6,275,322
Percentage									100%	95.32%	1.21%				3.47%

Note 1: The "Projected Balance" is an estimate of the difference between KRC's funding allocation from DDS (col. 5), and Total Projected (col. 8)

Note 2: Reimbursement for the estimated costs of day program and transportation for Intermidiate Care Facility State Plan Amendment clients is not funded by DDS's Standard Agreement. The reimbursement to KRC will be provided from the SPA ICF's within the catchment area.



# KERN REGIONAL CENTER

Striving to Achieve Equality, Independence and Empowerment

August 17, 2018

Brian Winfield, Deputy Director Department of Developmental Services 1600 9<sup>th</sup> Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Winfield:

In a letter dated July 9, 2018, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) informed Kern Regional Center that, based on caseload ratios submitted to DDS on March 7, 2018, Kern Regional Center (KRC) did not meet required caseload ratios for clients enrolled in the Home and Community-Based Waiver program; for clients 3 years of age and younger, for clients who have moved from the developmental centers to the community since April 14, 1993, and who are not younger than the age of three years nor on the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver. This is ICRC's plan of correction as required in Section 4640.6(f) of the Welfare and Institutions Code (W & I).

Kern Regional Center (KRC) Caseload Ratio reflects data taken on March 6, 2018, it indicates KRC did not meet statewide caseload standard of 1:64 (average). Data collected on March 6, 2018 reflects ICRC's Caseload Ratio is 1:89.

KRC has been faced with a multitude of challenges including non-compliance with Caseload Ratio. On December 12, 2017, KRC's Special Contract Language was amended to include additional provisions. Provision 2: Ensuring Regional Center Fiscal Solvency-

Contractor shall ensure that the regional center operates within its allocated operations budget. Contractor shall develop, with assistance from the retained management organization, a short-term and long-term plan for ongoing financial sustainability, which includes remaining within the annual Operations budget beginning in Fiscal Year 2017-18 and maintains caseload ratios consistent with statewide regional center performance. Contractor shall require the retained management organization to provide the State with updates on the development of the plan during weekly status calls and to provide a draft plan for the State's review on or before December 15, 2017. Contractor shall require the retained management organization to present a written report containing the initial plan to the Board at its January 2018 board meeting.

On February 26, 2018, the KRC Executive Team including Columbus Organization discussed Kern Regional Center's organizational structure and caseload ratios with Brian Winfield, Deputy Director via teleconference. Discussion involved caseload ratios pertaining to

W & I Code 4640.6(c). In regards to Medicaid Waiver and non-Medicaid Waiver, KRC has a mixed configuration of Medicaid waiver and non-Medicaid Waiver caseloads and to restructure to Medicaid Waiver only caseloads, would pose a significant organizational and financial challenge on ICRC. Plan of implementation pertaining to this discussion would involve hiring 25 new service coordinators and 4 Program Managers (2 replacements and 2 growth).

KRC has held several public meetings on Caseload Ratio, Respite, Purchase of Service Utilization, and Self Determination, These meeting were held in January, February and March 2018. A reemerging theme and input from the public was on caseload ratio. The public meeting held in March 1, 2018 had the most public comment on this concern. The input was provided mostly by the parents. They expressed concern on the availability of their son' s/daughter's services coordinator due to high number of clients being serviced on the service coordinator's caseload. They also expressed a concern with the quality of case management services and provided a suggestion to reduce the number of clients to facilitate a quality service delivery system. More outreach meetings were held on March 2, 14, and 21, 2018 in the neighboring communities. These were sparsely attended and had minimal feedback.

Caseload ratios and the plan to hire at a minimum 25 additional service coordinators were discussed at the Board Meeting on March 27, 2018. KRC has implemented this plan and continues to update the Board and vendors on its progress.

Since the discussion on February 26, 2018, KRC has hired 25 new service coordinators and plans to hire additional service coordinators by September 30, 2018. It is the intent and commitment of KRC to monitor caseload ratios more attentively in order to efficiently distribute cases and maximize service delivery. KRC will continue to strive towards establishing caseload ratios in accordance with W & I Code 4640.6(c) using the operations allocation provided by the state.

Respectfully,

Celia Pinal, MSW

Kern Regional Center

**Director of Client Services** 

cc: Michi Gates, Ph.D. Executive Director, Kern Regional Center Ismael Romero, Interim Board President, Kern Regional Center Amy Westling, Executive Director, Association of Regional Center Agencies