

**Kern Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting**

December 1, 2020

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

3200 N. Sillect Avenue ∞ Bakersfield, CA 93308 ∞ 661-327-8531

MINUTES

KRC BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jasmeet Bains, MD, Vice President
Kevin Gosselin
Ryan Jones
Mark Tolentino
Martin Vasquez, Secretary
Simon Verdugo
Shawn White, VAC

KRC BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Oscar Axume, President
Nickolerene Mensch, Treasurer

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Michi Gates, Executive Director
Kristine Khuu, Assistant Director of Client Services
Cherylle Mallinson, Director of Community Services
Tom Wolfgram, CFO

GUESTS PRESENT:

Megan Mitchell
Edwin Pineda
Mitzi Villalon

INTERPRETER:

Nidya Madrigal Navia

CALL TO ORDER

Jasmeet Bains, MD, acted as meeting chairperson in the absence of Oscar Axume, President. Dr. Bains called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. A quorum was present and the Board and audience introduced themselves.

APPROVAL/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

M/S/C (Gosselin, White) A motion was made to accept the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting dated December 1, 2020.

The motion was approved unanimously. None opposed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

M/S/C (Gosselin/Vasquez) A motion was made to accept the minutes of the last meeting; however, Dr. Gates noted that agenda item #3, *Meeting Minute Approval September 22, 2020*, was listed on the agenda with the incorrect date. The correct date is **October 27, 2020. The motion was then carried, noting that the minutes reviewed and approved were the**



minutes of October 27, 2020 and that the incorrect date was listed on the agenda only. The agenda will be corrected.

The motion was approved unanimously. None opposed.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input was submitted in advance and no public input was presented at this meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was presented.

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

No Board President Report was submitted due to the absence of Mr. Axume.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tom Wolfgram, CFO

- Operations Report as of October 2020 (Attachment 2)
 - Salaries and benefits show an increase. This is because there were 3 pay periods in the month of October. Expenses are below the budgeted \$450,000. This is on target with expenditures.
 - Community Placement Plan's salary appears to be half of last year's figure. This is because only half of the salary was allocated until January 1, 2021. This number will increase after the first of the year.
 - Foster Grandparent Program and the Senior Companion Program are both within budget.
- Purchase of Service Report as of October 2020 (Attachment 3)
 - Billed and paid expenses for September 2020 were \$14,208,489 and October 2020 were \$12,843,141 bringing the YTD total expenses to \$58,780,544. Taking into consideration that there are \$4.5 Million in unbilled services, the projected YTD total is approximately \$63.2 Million. Compared to last year's expenses of \$55.3 Million, expenses are projected to be \$8 Million more this year, a 15% increase. The increase in expenses are due to COVID-related costs and the expansion of services.

- Q. Kevin Gosselin questioned the variance between POS expenses for new services and the Operations Report salaries. He wondered why the salaries remained steady when more services were being offered.
- A. Tom explained that Operations and POS are two separate budgets that are not related to each other. Also, what is not shown on the reports is the number of vacant positions that are now available to fill. These new vacancies will be reflected in salaries when they are filled.

Dr. Gates added that the Operations Report is in a constant state of change, going up and down throughout the year, depending on circumstances. There are two new groups of new hires scheduled for



orientation this week and next week. Another large group of new hires is expected as hiring is taking place quickly to keep services available and consistent during the pandemic. This will definitely impact the Operations Report.

- Dr. Bains gave a shout-out to KRC for the added services for clients. Since many regional centers are showing a decrease in services due to COVID, the added services data should be captured and reported to DDS as well as the impact on client ethnicities.
 - Dr. Gates relayed that DDS is measuring the increase in participant-directed services. All regions have reported this data. DDS is analyzing and will be sending out a report. The ethnicity-related part of the analysis could possibly be part of the Self-Advocate Family Survey results. ARCA is also sending information on additional activities being undertaken by Regional Centers.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Michi Gates, Executive Director

- COVID 19
 - California has been experiencing another surge of COVID 19 cases. Kern County is back in the Purple Tier. Inyo and Mono Counties are in the Red Tier; Mono County is very close to moving into the Purple Tier.
 - Currently, there is an increase of COVID-19 cases in service provider staff for Kern Regional Center. In the beginning, Dr. Gates had days with no cases to report; now she is reporting new cases every day. KRC statistics from March 2020 to present are 159 clients and 156 service providers testing positive for COVID 19. Regional statewide statistics from the same time period are 4,167 clients and 2,300 service providers testing positive. Kern Regional Center was #2 on the list of regional centers for COVID infection rates, but has dropped to #4.
 - Most positive cases are occurring in individuals living with family. Although positive cases in congregate settings are mostly staff, we are very concerned with these populations. The fact that mostly staff, and not individuals, are infected in the congregate settings is testimony to proper protocols being vigilantly practiced by staff in caring for our people.
 - DADD Surge Sites – DDS has opened Fairview Development Center and Porterville Development Center as surge centers. A special thanks to Mike Gutierrez for coordinating these DADD sites, sharing his staff, and day program sites with us.
 - Q. Dr. Bains asked about KRC's supply of Personal Protective Equipment and if KRC has a testing site.
 - A. Michi reported that KRC has a good inventory of PPE available to staff and clients. There is no additional KRC resource for COVID-19 testing at this time as there are already many sites available throughout our



communities; all staff and clients are utilizing available sites within their respective counties for testing.

- Q. Dr. Bains asked if socialized classes are open in schools, do we have outreach to schools, and can KRC offer services?
- A. Kristine Khuu conveyed that she has regular meetings with the Superintendent of Schools in Kern County to keep abreast of situations and offers KRC's services at all times as well as during the pandemic. Among the resources offered are respite, daycare, and personal assistance. Some schools are open, but some were questionable. Each school district and the State and County colleges determine their own plans and schedules, so each one can be different.

Comment:

Dr. Bains expressed that California is expecting surges and increases of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations throughout December 2020 and January 2021. She stressed the use of all precautions. A vaccine is expected within the coming weeks and DDS is asking for client prioritization for the vaccine.

Dr. Bains requested that Kristine Khuu, during the next regular meeting with the Superintendent of Schools, reiterate the resources that KRC, along with the criterion involved, in order to help us capture some of those individuals who might be able utilize the resources.

Dr. Gates added that ARCA has sent a letter advocating prioritizing our individuals for the vaccine. Dr. Gates will forward the ARCA vaccine prioritization letter to the Board for review.

- DDS Self-Advocate and Family Survey
 - The Self-Advocate and Family Survey will be available on the DDS website until December 18. The percentage of KRC responders is in line with the percentage of clients we represent. The goal of the survey is to obtain information from our clients and their families of how they have been doing during the pandemic and to identify areas where we have not been able to meet needs. This information will direct us in the development of participant-directed and other services.
 - Dr. Bains expressed some concern about client and family accessibility of the survey on the KRC website. Dr. Gates relayed that social media had been used to publicize the survey and e-mail "blasts" had been sent to providers asking them to share the survey information with everyone on their case load. A highly-visible posting with links will also be placed on the KRC website tomorrow.
- Self-Determination Training
 - DDS continues work on transitioning individuals. There are 2,500 individuals eligible for the Self-Determination program; approximately 300-400 have participated. June 6, 2021 is the end of the pilot program.



- KRC takes the lead of the regional centers who have transitioned individuals. This is partly because KRC was a Pilot Center for the program, so individuals have been in the program for a while and staff are familiar with it. There were 95 slots originally available and a final number of 75 individuals are interested in entering the program. Of those 75 individuals, 38 have successfully transitioned.
- The Local Advisory Committee met yesterday and discussed this topic. The committee expressed frustration with the slow transition period. This occurs, in part, to structure issues, specifically the Budget Certification and Spending Plan. Fast-Tracking should improve the process. In September, KRC had 21 individuals who had successfully transitioned. Looking at past experience, KRC has set a goal to transition 5 individuals per month. After implementation of Fast-Tracking, one person transitioned in less than 30 days. The plan is to have 5 more individuals transition by December 31.
- Cherylle Mallinson coordinated a Meet & Greet Session to generate more awareness of the Self-Determination Program within the community. Independent Facilitator Training entities attended along with individuals and families to educate them about opportunities and help them decide if they would like to engage in Fast Track transitions to SDP.
- On January 25, 2021, a Local Advisory Committee meeting will take place to troubleshoot and brainstorm how to address barriers and discuss resolutions to help transition individuals.

STAFF REPORT

Cherylle Mallinson, Director of Community Services

- Performance Contract Plan 2021
 - Cherylle Mallinson presented the Performance Contract Plan 2021 to the Board of Directors and the public for review on October 27, 2020. In response to the feedback she received, Cherylle is now asking the Board of Directors to approve an added bullet point to Measure 5, Number and Percent of Adults Residing in Adult Family Home Agency (AFHA) Homes :

- On Page 2, Measure 5 of Attachment 4, under the section entitled *Activities Regional Center will Employ to Achieve Outcome*, the following change was proposed:

Add an additional bullet point that reads: *Increase availability of Adult Family Home Agency (AFHA) homes.*

The new section would read:

- Develop plan to comply with statutory monitoring requirements.
- Increase availability of Adult Family Home Agency (AFHA) homes.

M/S/C (Gosseling/White) A motion was made that the language change of the Performance Contract Plan 2021, Page 2, Measure 5 be changed as requested.

The motion was approved unanimously. None opposed.



- Cherylle then presented the entire Performance Contract Plan for Fiscal Year 2021, including the language change approved by the previously-approved motion, to be approved by the Board and then submitted to DDS.

M/S/C (Gosseling/White) Motion was made that the Performance Contract Plan 2021 in its entirety be accepted and approved for submission to DDS.

The motion was approved unanimously. None opposed.

- **Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) Fiscal Year 2021**

- Cherylle presented the Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) Fiscal Year 2021. The plan outlines what Kern Regional Center is doing in regard to resource development. Feedback is requested every year from the public, stakeholders, providers and self-advocates to help us plan potential resources that will bring opportunities and enhanced services to individuals and families. The plan presented includes recommendations based upon this feedback.
- Dr. Baines had previously stated her concerns about walk-in clinics not being able to fully address the needs specific to people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Although not listed on the plan included in this Board Packet, a new revised plan has been posted to the KRC website that includes an additional recommendation to develop a 24-hour/7-days-per-week community clinic specifically for this population. A project request was submitted to DDS and an answer is expected in early January 2021.
 - Dr. Baines was very pleased and expressed her appreciation for this effort. As soon as an answer is received from DDS, she would like to proceed as soon as possible to collaborate with programs in the community who would be interested in supporting this effort.

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING CALENDAR

- Board members agreed to keep the meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. There will be no meeting during the months of July and December. The 2021 dates will be posted to the website and sent to Board Members.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Board Training will take place before the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Bains expressed her thanks to DDS for being here and supporting Kern Regional Center. Her special thanks were expressed to the KRC Board of Directors for their hard work and inspiration during a very challenging year. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

