ARCA ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL CENTER AGENCIES
980 9th Street, Suite 1450, Sacramento, California 95814 • 916.446.7961 • www.arcanet.org

Minutes
ARCA Board of Directors
June 26, 2026

The Westin Sacramento- Monaco Ballroom
4800 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95814
Zoom Video/Teleconference [(link)]

Board of Directors Members Present:

Lori Banales, Kelly Pennington, ACRC
Mathew Bahr, Randy Tellalian, CVRC
Gloria Wong, ELARC
Srbui Ovsepyan, Brigitte Sroujieh, FDLRC
Melissa Gruhler, Cali McKinzie, FNRC
Eric Zigman, Marta Guzman, GGRC
Patrick Ruppe, HRC
Lavinia Johnson, Briseida Ramirez, IRC
Enrique Roman, Tracey Miller, KRC
Deanna Mobley, Martha Valdez, NBRC
Angela Pao-Johnson, Lety Garcia, NLACRC
Rebecca Nanyonjo, Sadia Mumtaz, RCEB
Jonathan Padilla, Mike Sawyer, RCRC
Larry Landauer, Sandy Martin, RCOC
Javier Zaldivar, Lisa Lopez, SARC
Dexter Henderson, SCLARC
Jesse Weller, Julie Chetney, SG/PRC
Mark Klaus, Terri Colachis, SDRC
Omar Noorzad, TCRC
Leinani Walter, Erria Kaalund, VMRC
Jane Borochoff, Almarietha Mathews, WRC

Board of Directors Members Absent:

Joe Czarske, HRC
Cynthia Torres, SCLARC
Mark Wolfe, TCRC

ARCA Advisory Representatives

Kyla Lee, SCLARC
Cesar Garcia, SCLARC

Miguel Larios, SDRC
Christine Couch, VMRC

Guests Present:
Pete Cervinka, Dr. Michi Gates, Carla Castañeda, DDS
Edgar Ramirez, IRC
Ronke Sodipo, RCEB
Kate Kinamont, SDRC
Andy Ponce, WRC
Anh Nguyen
Ami Sullivan
Maureen Fitzgerald
Asael DelRosario
Alexandra Lardizabal
Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez
Tracey Reliford

ARCA Staff Present:
Amy Westling, Tony Anderson, Gabriel Rogin, Lauren Ettensohn, Sidney Jackson, Roxy Ortiz, Vivian Umenei, Rick Rollens, Darline Dupree

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 9:06 am by Terri Colachis, President.

Introduction
Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of Agenda
The Board of Directors agenda was presented for approval.
M/S/C: ***To approve the agenda as presented.***

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of March 20, 2026, Board of Directors meeting were presented for approval.
M/S/C: ***To approve the minutes as presented from March 20, 2026.***

Public Comment
Maureen Fitzgerald expressed gratitude to ARCA for posting the board minutes. She also requested that consideration be given to posting the Board packets and urged regional centers to post the ARCA board meetings on their website's calendar.

The Importance of Federal Advocacy- Tony Anderson, Associate Executive Director, ARCA
Tony Anderson presented a comprehensive overview of the six key pillars of federal policy that shape the landscape of developmental disabilities. In his discussion, he highlighted various critical areas. One of the main points he emphasized was the ongoing shortage in the direct support workforce, which

poses significant challenges in delivering quality care and support to those in need. He mentioned ARCA has sponsored bills on this issue. Additionally, he thoroughly reviewed a strategic five-point policy agenda aimed at addressing these urgent issues and improving services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

<u>President's Report (ARCA)- *Terri Colachis*</u>

Terri Colachis took a moment to express her heartfelt appreciation to the group for the unwavering support they have shown her throughout her seven years serving on the ARCA board.

<u>DDS Report</u>

Dr. Michi Gates expressed her gratitude to President Colachis for her time and dedication. She informed the members that the department will be holding a public meeting to gather public comments on the definition of "cost-effectiveness". Additionally, Dr. Gates updated the group on the standardized intake process, the definitions of generic and common services, and the standardized respite tool.

She also reported that the State Council on Developmental Disabilities is now the only agency authorized to provide self-determination orientation. She mentioned that guidelines for the Community Placement Plan and the Community Resource Development Plan will be released shortly.

Pete Cervinka reported that the budget for developmental services was largely approved as proposed by the Governor in May. The budget includes a significant increase year-over-year, primarily to support caseload growth. He provided some federal updates and explained their implications for California.

Mr. Cervinka noted that the Trailer Bill Language has been agreed to by the Legislature and Administration, except for three items: the Needs Assessment, Community Placement Plan, and Community Resource Development Plan, as well as the timeline proposal for Canyon Springs and Porterville Development Center. He reviewed the Trailer Bill Language in detail.

<u>Treasurer's Report – *Gloria Wong*</u>

Gloria Wong presented the financial statements for May 2026, reporting a positive net income and good financial standing.

M/S/C: ***To approve the financial statements for May 2026.***

<u>ARCA Executive Director's Report – *Amy Westling*</u>

Amy Westling expressed her gratitude to Terri Colachis for her service on the ARCA board.

A. 2027 ARCA Proposed Meeting Schedule
   Amy Westing presented the 2027 ARCA Proposed Meeting Schedule.
   M/S/C ***To approve the ARCA 2027 Proposed Meeting Schedule.***
   .

B. Fiscal Year 2026-27 ARCA Office Holiday Schedule
   Amy Westing presented the Fiscal Year 2026-27 ARCA Office Holiday Schedule.

M/S/C To approve the Fiscal year 2026-27 ARCA Office Holiday Schedule.

C. FY 2026-27 ARCA Board Members
Amy Wesling presented the Fiscal Year 2026-27 ARCA Board Members.
M/S/C To approve the Fiscal Year 2026-27 ARCA Board Members.

D. ARCA Annual Report
Amy Westling provided an overview of some of the work ARCA has accomplished regarding the operations formula for regional centers. Additionally, a new position has been created to support regional centers and offer leadership training. Ms. Westling invited ARCA staff to share highlights from their work this past year.

Tony Anderson spoke about the advocacy work he had the opportunity to work on with the Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC). Roxy Ortiz discussed the Training & Information Group (TIG) and their progress on completing three outstanding training modules related to the Regional Center Performance Measure (RCPM) Service Coordinator core competencies.

Darline Duppre highlighted the successful outcome of AB 1172 and her representation of ARCA in various groups, including the Office of Administrative Hearing Advisory Committee. Sidney Jackson emphasized the work of the Community Services Directors Group, which has tirelessly worked on the standardized vendorization and the service provider directory.

Lauren Ettensohn shared her experience liaising with building management during the temporary closure of the ARCA office in response to a building fire. Lastly, Vivian Umenei reported on her work with the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) regarding the Core Staffing Formula and the CFO manual.
M/S/C To approve ARCA's Annual Report.

E. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget Update
Amy Westling reported that the only outstanding budget item concerns the Needs Assessment Trailer Bill Language, for which the association currently does not have a formal position. The Executive Committee recommends that the association provide comments to inform the process rather than drive the planning team's decisions.
M/S/C To approve ARCA's Comments on the Needs Assessment Trailer Bill Language.

F. Major Developmental Services System Updates
Amy Westling noted that during the first six months of the year, a considerable amount of time is spent doing ARCA's work related to the budget development process. Once the budget is established, the focus shifts to implementing policies, which involves executing strategic initiatives and monitoring their progress. This year, key areas of focus included ensuring consistency and adhering to the Public Records Act.

G. Strategic Priorities for FY 2026-27
Amy Westling informed the members that the board typically adopts strategic priorities that

align with the current strategic plan. This is the final year under the existing plan. ARCA will be developing a new strategic plan, led by the Strategic Planning Committee in the coming year. This year, the proposed strategic priorities for the association will align with the current plan, which emphasizes systemic sustainability in light of the significant growth within the system.
M/S/C: To approve the Strategic Priorities for FY 2026-27.

H. Standard on Notices of Action
Amy Westling provided an update to the members regarding the new Standard on Notices of Action. She emphasized the importance of using plain language to ensure that these notices clearly convey information to individuals. Additionally, she highlighted the commitment to keeping individuals and their families informed throughout the decision-making process.
M/S/C: To approve the Standard on Notices of Action.

I. Supported Life Institute Sponsorship Request
Amy Westling reported that the Supported Life Institute is an organization with which ARCA has previously collaborated and has also sponsored their conferences. The Executive Committee recommends sponsoring at the gold level.
M/S/C: To approve the Sponsorship for the Supported Life Institute Conference at the Gold Level.

J. Other
None.

<u>Legislative Report – *Eric Zigman*</u>

A. Federal Updates
Due to time constraints, this item was not addressed.

B. Legislative Updates
Due to time constraints, this item was not addressed.

C. Supported Bills
Due to time constraints, this item was not addressed.

D. Tracked Bills
Due to time constraints, this item was not addressed.

E. ARCA Sponsored Legislation
   i. AB 1670 (Arambula) – Medi-Cal: dental care
   Tony Anderson provided a brief review of AB 1670; he concluded by reporting that the bill died in the Appropriations Committee.
   ii. AB 2324 (Garcia) – Vocational education: youth caregivers
   Tony Anderson reported that AB 2324 has swiftly moved through the various hearings on Consent.
   iii. SCR 174 (Pérez) – The 60th anniversary of pilot regional centers

Roxy Ortiz reported that SCR 174 has been signed by the Governor.

F. Bills for Consideration for a Formal Position
   i. AB 308 (Ramos)- Developmental services: safety training
      Amy Westling reported that the Executive Committee recommends a Support Position for AB 308 rated to safety training.
   ii. AB 1575 (Arambula)- Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act
      Amy Westling reported that the Executive Committee recommends a Support Position for AB 1575 as amended.

M/S/C: To approve a Support Position for AB 308 and AB 1575.

G. Other
   i. SB 969 (Reyes)- Weights and measures: electric vehicle fueling systems
      Eric Zigman reported that this bill was gutted and amended and is no longer related to remote services, so it will no longer be tracked.

ARCA Board Committee Reports

A. Nominating and Bylaws Committee- *Melissa Gruhler*

Melissa Gruhler stated that the ARCA Bylaws requires a vote for executive officers during the annual meeting.

M/S/C: To approve the proposed Slate of Executive Officers.

B. Executive Committee – *Terri Colachis*

No report provided

C. Board Delegates Group – *Kelly Pennington*

Lisa Lopez submitted a report on behalf of Kelly Pennington. Ms. Lopez expresses gratitude to Erria Kaalund, Lety Garcia, and Terri Colachis for their dedication to serving on the ARCA board.

D. Directors Group – *Javier Zaldivar*

Javier Zaldivar reported that the Directors are actively focused on improving efficiency. They have requested to engage in discussions with the department, particularly regarding directives. Additionally, the Directors are working to support the provider community and are continuing to monitor compliance with the Public Records Act.

E. Finance Committee – *Patrick Ruppe*

Patrick Ruppe reported that the committee convened on June 12. They discussed the provider rate model, additional licenses for the provider directory, the budget and Trailer Bill language, the standardized respite tool, the Quality Incentive Program (QIP), and updates to LOIS.

F. Client Advisory Committee – *Tracey Miler*

Tracey Miller announced that the group held its elections, resulting in her re-election as Chair. Steven Sanchez from the Alta California Regional Center (ACRC) was elected as Vice-Chair. The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met in May for its strategic planning session, Tony

Anderson added that the group identified key priorities.

G. **Contract Negotiating Committee – *Larry Landauer***
Sandy Martin reported on behalf of Larry Landauer that the committee will meet next week.

H. **Standards & Practices Committee –*Mark Klaus***
Mark Klaus expressed his gratitude for the diligent efforts and achievements of the committee, acknowledging the significant impact their work has had.

I. **Strategic Planning Committee –*Lori Banales***
Lori Banales reported that they have contracted Leading Resources Incorporated to gather survey information from board members and perform interviews with identified stakeholders. These efforts will inform the October meeting aimed at creating the next Strategic Plan.

Old Business
None.

New Business
None.

Information Sharing
Terri Colachis reported that members will receive a link to provide feedback for Amy Westling's evaluation.

Adjournment/Next Meeting
The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm. The next meeting will be on August 21, 2026.