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Minutes
ARCA Board of Directors
March 20, 2026

Embassy Suites Riverfront Promenade, 100 Capitol Mall, 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 Sroujeh, FDLRC
Melissa Gruhler, Cali McKinzie, FNRC
Eric Zigman, Marta Guzman, GGRC
Joe Czarske, HRC
Briseida Ramirez, IRC
Enrique Roman, Tracey Miller, KRC
Gabriel Rogin, Martha Valdez, NBRC
Angela Pao-Johnson, Lety Garcia, NLACRC
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, Mark Wolfe, TCRC
Erria Kaalund, VMRC
Jane Borochoff, Almarietha Mathews, WRC

Board of Directors Members Absent:

Patrick Ruppe, HRC
Lavinia Johnson, IRC
Rebecca Nanyonjo, RCEB
Cynthia Torres, SCLARC
Leinani Walter, VMRC

ARCA Advisory Representatives

Miguel Larios, SDRC

Guests Present:

Pete Cervinka, Dr. Michi Gates, DDS
Amanda Pyle, GGRC
Don Meza, IRC
Evelyn McOmie, NLACRC
Ronke Sodipo, RCEB
Mia Garza, SARC
Kyla Lee, SCLARC
Pamela Starmack, SDRC
Mayra Ochoa, VMRC
Anh Nguyen
Ami Sullivan
Maureen Fitzgerald
April Lewallen
Thomas White
Stephanie Groves
Jay Miranda
Jasmine- Spanish Interpreter

ARCA Staff Present:

Amy Westling, Tony Anderson, Lauren Etensohn, Sidney Jackson, Roxy Ortiz, Rick Rollens, Darline Dupree

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:14 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 with recommendation.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 16, 2026, Board of Directors meeting were presented for approval.

M/S/C: To approve the minutes as presented from January 16, 2026.

Public Comment

No public comments provided.

Connecting to Your Community- An Inside Approach- Pamela Starmack, Marketing & Communications Director, San Diego Regional Center (SDRC)

Pamela Starmack presented on marketing information SDRC uses to reach its communities. Ms. Starmack went over details on ways to connect, advertisement, brand development, ways to

communities with a diverse community, and using social media. She provided a brief overview of marketing channel strategies. She concluded her presentation by sharing some tips and pointers.

Treasurer's Report – Gloria Wong

Gloria Wong presented the financial statements for February 2026. She mentioned that there was a positive net income. The year to date also reflects a positive net income.

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

President's Report (ARCA)- Terri Colachis

Terri Colachis shared she had a positive experience with Grassroots Day; she enjoyed the presentations.

DDS Report

Pete Cervinka shared his great appreciation for the partnership between regional centers and the Department, particularly related to rate reform service code updates. Mr. Cervinka mentioned that the department released a directive yesterday offering two years of funds for planning for Community Based Services (HCBS). He also mentioned DDS received very positive public input on the Self-Determination Program orientation which will launch April 1.

Mr. Cervinka shared DDS is working on an updated directives webpage that will allow people to search by topic and subscribe to those they are interested in.

Dr. Michi Gates reported that the Individual Program Plan (IPP) survey return rate is still low. The IPP agreement form in SANDIS allows DDS to pull important data. Dr. Gates shared that all the regional centers have engaged in testing the standardized respite tool. She also mentioned that various stakeholders provided input on the standardized intake process.

Dr. Gates also mentioned that the department will post HCBS bi-annual data on website. California's application for Part C grants is now posted on the website for public comments.

Dr. Gates shared some upcoming events. The Safety Net continuum workgroup continues its work on outlining a continuum of support.

ARCA Executive Director's Report – Amy Westling

Amy Westling shared her appreciation for the regional center staff and the hard work they have been doing.

A. California Community Living Network Conference Sponsorship

Ms. Westling shared a sponsorship request by the California Community Living Network (CCLN) for their conference on May 7 and 8. It was recommended to support CCLN in the amount of \$1500.

M/S/C: To approve sponsorship of \$1,500 for the California Community Living Network Conference

B. FY 2026-27 Budget

i. Current Status

Amy Westling reported that there is \$100B in cash reserve, but there is a long-term structural deficit. The proposed January budget was largely a workload budget, which could change based on stock market volatility. There will be a budget hearing in the Assembly on April 15 and on the Senate on May 7.

ii. Trailer Bill Language Positions

Amy Westling reviewed the proposed Trailer Bill Language with recommended positions from the Executive Committee.

M/S/C: To approve the Trailer Bill Language Positions

C. Other

None

Legislative Report – Eric Zigman

A. Legislative Updates

Rick Rollens updated the members with key timelines and mentioned that the second half of March bills are introduced for hearings. March 26 through April 5 the legislators will be on Spring break.

B. Federal Updates

Tony Anderson highlighted two principal areas; one was the House Energy hearing this week with a focus on HCBS. He mentioned that the President has developed a task force to eliminate fraud in Medicaid/Medicare. Mr. Anderson also mentioned that he will be having meetings with Congress on Tuesday.

C. Grassroots Day Report

Roxy Ortiz reported that Grassroots was a success and reviewed the evaluation results, which yielded positive remarks and comments. There were 119 appointments that were secured with either the legislators themselves or their staff with 189 individuals, families, providers, and staff participating.

D. Sponsored Legislation

i. AB 1670 (Arambula)- Dental Desensitization

Tony Anderson shared the recent updates for the bill indicating that desensitization can be done up to three times a year and then on the fourth time they can bill again for desensitization techniques if needed and it must be paired with another dental procedure. The bill is headed to the Assembly Health committee.

ii. AB 2324 (Gonzalez, Jeff)- Youth Caregivers Career Pathway Program

Tony Anderson reported that he has a meeting with the staff today. The bill is in the Assembly Education Committee.

iii. SCR XXX (Perez)- 60th Anniversary of Pilot Regional Centers

Roxy Ortiz reported that the joint authors have been secured, with Senator Sasha Perez being the lead joint author and Senator Scott Wiener as joint author. No bill number has been identified at the moment.

E. Bills for Consideration of a Formal Position

Roxy Ortiz provided brief summary of the major highlights of key proposed legislation with recommendations from the Executive Committee.

M/S/C: To approve formal positions.

F. Other Legislation (Advisory)

Due to time constraints this item was not reported on, and members were encouraged to review the information.

ARCA Board Committee Reports

A. Nomination and Bylaws Committee- *Melissa Gruhler*

Melissa Gruhler reported that the committee met twice during the month of February and proposes the following slate of officers for the 26/26 fiscal year with President Julie Chetney, Vice President Almarietha Mathews, Secretary Joe Czarske, Treasurer Gloria Wong, and Parliamentarian Melissa Gruhler.

B. Executive Committee – *Terri Colachis*

Terri Colachis shared no report and thanked everyone for attending the Executive Committee meeting yesterday.

C. Board Delegates Group – *Kelly Pennington*

Kelly Pennington reported that the Executive Director from San Diego Regional Center (SDRC), Mark Klaus, attended their meeting to present on the Standards and Practices Committee and the vacancies available in that committee. Tracey Miller also presented on the Consumer Advisory Committee and the direction they are going in.

D. Directors Group – *Javier Zaldivar*

Javier Zaldivar reported that the Directors discussed the Trailer Bill Language (TBL) and rate reform implementation. He also mentioned they had some discussion on strategies on messaging and engagement.

E. Finance Committee – *Patrick Ruppe*

Amy Westling reported on behalf of Patrick Ruppe. Ms. Westling reported that the committee met last Friday and they focused on the budget outlook, provider rate implementation, program oversight, and operational readiness across regional centers.

F. Client Advisory Committee – *Tracey Miler*

Tracey Miller shared the ARCA CAC will meet in April. Tony Anderson presented on TBL at their last meeting. The CAC will be attending the DisCo at the Capitol event.

G. Contract Negotiating Committee – *Larry Landauer*

Larry Landauer reported that the committee has not met, their next meeting is next week.

H. Standards & Practices Committee –*Mark Klaus*

Mark Klaus reported that their next meeting will be Aril 23, 2026. He reported there is an opening for a Delegate on that committee.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Information Sharing

None

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 am. The next meeting will be on June 26, 2026.