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Minutes
ARCA Board of Directors
June 27, 2025

The Westin Sacramento Monaco II Ballroom
4800 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95822

Zoom Video/Teleconference ([link](#))

Board of Directors Members Present:

Lori Banales, Kelly Pennington, ACRC
Mathew Bahr, Randy Tellalian, CVRC
Gloria Wong, ELARC
Melinda Sullivan, Brigitte Sroujeh, FDLRC
Melissa Gruhler, Cali McKinzie, FNRC
Eric Zigman, Edith Arias, GGRC
Patrick Ruppe, Joe Czarske, HRC
Lavinia Johnson, IRC
Gabriel Rogin, NBRC
Lety Garcia, NLACRC
Kim Smalley, Mike Sawyer, RCRC
Larry Landauer, Sandy Martin, RCOC
Becky Nanyonjo, RCEB
Dexter Henderson, SCLARC
Enrique Roman, Tracey Miller, KRC
Javier Zaldivar, Lisa Lopez, SARC
Jesse Weller, Julie Chetney, SG/PRC
Terri Colachis, SDRC
Omar Noorzad, Ramon Hooper, TCRC
Leinani Walter, Alicia Schott, VMRC
Jane Borochoff, Vanda Yung, WRC

Board of Directors Members Absent:

Briseida Ramirez, IRC
Angela Pao-Johnson, NLACRC
Martha Valdez, NBRC
Frank Paré, RCEB
Cynthia Torres, SCLARC
Mark Klaus, SDRC

ARCA Advisory Representatives

Aaron Olson, CVRC, Co-Chair, Community Services Directors
Cesar Garcia, SCLARC, Co-Chair, Directors of Client Services
Christine Couch, VMRC, Co-Chair, Directors of Client Services
Kyla Lee, SCLARC, Co-Chair Chief Financial Officers

Guests Present:

Pete Cervinka, Dr. Michi Gates, and Yang Lee, DDS
Ami Sullivan
Maureen Fitzgerald
Oina Enciso-English
Liu Bo Xu, SCLARC
Erria Kaalund, VMRC
Jesse Rocha, SCLARC
Marta Guzman, GGRC
Kate Kinnamont, SDRC
Anh Nguyen
Srbui Ovsepyan, FDLRC
Amanda Pyle, GGRC

ARCA Staff Present:

Amy Westling, Tony Anderson, Lauren Ettensohn, Sidney Jackson, Roxy Ortiz, Vivian Umenei, Darline Dupree

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM by Terri Colachis.

Introduction

Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of Agenda

The Board of Directors agenda was presented.

M/S/C: To approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 21, 2025, Board of Directors meeting were presented for approval.

M/S/C: To approve the minutes.

Public Comment

None.

SCLARC Presentation: Specialized Service Unit- Serving Individuals with Forensic Needs

Jesse Rocha, Director of Adult Services, and Lui Xu, Chief of Case Management, presented on the

Specialized Service Unit. They shared information that focused on providing specialized support and collaboration with criminal justice to improve outcomes. They explained the role of the Forensic Assessment Team, which reviews judiciary-involved cases, develops court recommendations, and reports, provides treatment recommendations and identify suitable follow-up activities and services.

President's Report (ARCA)

Terri Colachis expressed great appreciation for all of the demanding work of the ARCA team. She shared the challenges of the Budget and appreciated the hard work of the Department. The Association is very strong and everyone is represented. She thanked the challenging work Lauren Etensohn did with the dinner event the previous evening. Ms. Colachis also shared deep appreciation to Vanda Yung, Edith Arias, and Ramon Hooper as they term out. She and other Delegates shared some farewell thoughts about Melinda Sullivan's retirement.

DDS Report

Pete Cervinka introduced Yang Lee, who has joined the leadership team at the Department.

He shared information about the state Budget, which does not anticipate what is occurring at the federal level. The total developmental services Budget increased approximately \$3 billion. with anticipated population growth of 39,000 people. He noted the acceleration of the termination of the hold harmless provision in the rate reform. Beginning FY 2026-27 providers must be compliant with the Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) Rule, Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) rule and any applicable fiscal review/audit as a condition to be eligible to earn the 10% Quality Incentive Program portion of their rate. Funding will continue for Direct Support Professional (DSP) University. The Department included budget language that establishes a revised process for creation of initial Self-Determination (SDP) budgets.

The Department continues to watch federal events; it is not clear yet what the Senate will do to the budget bill. Medicaid reductions have been discussed with major changes to the program. Federal funds provide about 37% of funding to California's developmental services system.

The Department recently issued instructions to regional centers on immigration issues. Providing community resources that are needed is especially important.

Dr. Michi Gates reported that the Department recently received the Early Start program survey for 23-24 fiscal year which resulted in a "needs improvement" status. DDS will be adding two additional measures in the Regional Center Performance Measures (RCPM) to help in this area. The Department is now the lead agency with the Local Education Agencies (LEA) instead of the Department of Education and will be taking over monitoring of LEA Part C programs.

Dr. Gates provided an update on the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) monitoring protocol. She noted DDS is creating a new service to assist the Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals and those who support them to learn ASL, service code 664. The Department will be taking another look at the Social Recreation Purchase of Service (POS) policies for potential revisions. Standardized vendorization is expected to be implemented in January 2026. The Standardized Intake process will

probably be completed in another year. The Department's website has been updated, and it went live this morning and care was taken to ensure existing Internet bookmarks will continue to function.

Treasurer's Report – Omar Noorzad

The financial statement for May of 2025 was shared with the meeting participants. ARCA's financials are in good standing, with no changes to original projections. The statements indicate that ARCA is in the black by over \$250,000 year to date.

M/S/C: To accept the financial statements for May 2025

ARCA Executive Director's Report – Amy Westling

Amy Westling started her report by thanking Melinda Sullivan for her dedication to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

ARCA Annual Report

Every June, ARCA publishes an annual report detailing the projects the team has worked on throughout the year. Each member of the ARCA team shared a project that came to fruition this year, contributing to ARCA's mission.

Sidney Jackson highlighted the efforts of the Client Advisory Committee (CAC), focusing on their work related to housing. Vivian Umenei discussed the support provided to the new Chief Financial Officers through the development of a comprehensive manual. Darline Dupree talked about the implementation of AB 3291, which enables the regional center to offer rental subsidies to those at-risk of homelessness.

Lauren Ettensohn introduced the launch of new software designed to improve communication within the board and disciplinary groups. Roxy Ortiz shared insights on the collaboration with the Training and Information Group (TIG) regarding the initial implementation and development of the Regional Center Performance Measures (RCPM) service coordinator onboarding trainings. Lastly, Tony Anderson emphasized the importance of personal relationships in lobbying efforts.

M/S/C: To approve ARCA's Annual Report

2026 ARCA Proposed Meeting Schedule

Ms. Westling presented the 2026 ARCA proposed meeting schedule with the exception that the meeting for April 17th should be April 16th. Executive Committee recommended approval.

M/S/C: To approve 2026 ARCA's Proposed Meeting Schedule

Sponsorship for Supported Life Conference

There is a proposed sponsorship opportunity for the Supported Life Conference. Recommendation from Executive Committee was to sponsor the amount of \$3,000.00.

M/S/C: To sponsor the Supported Life Conference in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Sponsorship Request for El Arca de California Summit

There is a proposed sponsorship opportunity for El Arc de California's four annual events. Recommendation from Executive Committee was to sponsor the amount of \$10,000.00.

M/S/C: To sponsor El Arc de California in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Fiscal Year 2025-26 ARCA Office Holiday Schedule

Ms. Westling presented the 2025-26 Office Holiday Schedule. Holidays stay the same as current year. Executive Committee recommended approval.

M/S/C: To approve Fiscal Year 2025-26 ARCA Office Holiday Schedule

Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Update

A summary of the status of the 2025-26 Budget was provided in the packet, However, at the time, it was provided prior to a three-way Budget deal that has now been finalized.

Federal Issues

There is a draft of a comment letter regarding the Managed Care Organization Tax Rule which will result in a significant reduction in federal funding to the state. The letter expresses ARCA's opposition. Executive Committee recommended approval.

M/S/C: To approve Comments Letter on Federal Managed Care Organization Tax Rule.

Key Initiatives Update

Updated provided regarding status of major initiatives. DDS and regional centers are implementing a variety of policy initiatives from enacted legislation and prior Budget cycles. While much work on these items has been conducted, there remain additional steps to be taken. The provided attachment is intended to be a resource for regional centers and their communities.

Draft ARCA Standard- Regional Center leadership

A draft standard on regional center leadership was discussed. One big project ARCA has been working on is competencies for regional center boards and for Executive Directors. It identifies trainings and supports Executive Committee recommended approval.

M/S/C: To approve the Draft ARCA Standard Regional Center Leadership.

Strategic Priorities for FY 2025-26

The Strategic Priorities for FY 2025-26 were discussed; ARCA has a multi-year strategic plan that is drafted with the Strategic Planning Committee. The priorities are intended to reflect progress made through the year and also areas ARCA is focusing on. Executive Committee recommended approval.

M/S/C: To approve the Strategic Priorities for FY 2025-26.

Legislative Report – Eric Zigman

Federal Updates

Tony Anderson provided the federal update. Congressional members have been directed to remain in Washington, D.C. to get the Big Beautiful Bill Act passed by July 4, 2025.

Legislative Updates

Rick Rollens noted that the state budget is completed, pending Governor's signature. On Legislative side, all bills need to be heard and discussed by July 18. There will be a change of leadership in the Senate Pro Tempore,

Senator Monique Limón will assume her new position early next year. Several term limited members leaving next year. It is never too early to begin meeting the candidates.

Suspense Hearings

Senate and Assembly had their Appropriations meeting, and many bills were held in suspense. Details can be found in the meeting materials.

Sponsored Bills

SB 422(Grayson) California Workforce Development Board: developmental services. This bill was one of ARCA’s top priorities. This bill has died.

ACR 55 (Gonzalez, Jeff) ARC v. Department of Developmental Services: 40th anniversary. This resolution was adopted by both houses and has been chaptered.

AB 1172 (Nguyen) Adult Day programs: administration of inhalable emergency antiseizure medications. This bill’s idea came from ARCA’s Clinical Directors. The bill has been double-referred to Human Services and Judiciary. This bill will be on consent on Monday in the Judiciary committee.

Support if Amended

AB 308 (Ramos) Mobile crisis teams or units: procedures. This became a two-year bill.

AB 1220 (Arambula) Developmental services: denials of services and notices of actions. The author agreed to take ARCA’s language so now ARCA is in support of this bill.

Position Pending

SB 471 (Menjivar) Office of the Developmental Services Ombudsperson. This bill formalizes the department’s ombudsperson in statue, and the need to ensure that this person would not have the authority to override the planning team. Recommendation was to leave bill on a position pending.

Comments

AB 1099 (Bryan) Developmental services: initial intake: assessment. This bill would expedite the timeline for the intake process for foster youth. ARCA provided comments and continues to meet with sponsors of bill. There have been no new amendments to the bill.

Bills for Consideration

AB 1208 (Addis) California Developmental Disability Services Quality, Performance, and Outcomes Act of 2025. Recommendations were to provide strong comments on this bill.

M/S/C To approval a position of strong comment for AB 1208

AB 49 (Maratsuchi) Schoolsites: immigration enforcement.

Members discussed this bill at the previous Board meeting and were to bring this back to their Boards. Discussion was held at Executive Committee meeting yesterday, and they recommended a position of “watch.”

Other

SB 258 (Wahab) Crimes: rape. ARCA supports this bill as it removes the spousal exception to the definition of rape for individuals with disabilities. There are disability rights groups opposing this bill.

Committee/Task Force Reports

Nominating and Bylaws Committee – Melissa Gruhler

The committee did not meet. But in the March meeting, the committee did propose a slate of officers.

President, Terri Colachis (SDRC); Vice President, Randy Tellalian (CVRC); Secretary, Julie Chetney (SG/PRC); Treasurer, Gloria Wong (ELARC); and, Parliamentarian, Melissa Gruhler (FNRC).

M/S/C To approve slate of officers.

Executive Committee – Terri Colachis

The committee does spend a lot of time discussing these issues and appreciates confidence in the Executive Committee making recommendations.

Board Delegates Group – Kelly Pennington

Lisa Lopez reported on behalf of Kelly Pennington. The Delegates met on June 26, 2025, they are looking forward to ARCA Academy. They are planning to come the day before to the ARCA Academy to have social time to get to know each other and be supportive of the new Delegates coming in, of which there are a total of seven. They also reviewed comments from the board member onboarding draft. They had a closed session to discuss that the Executive Director’s evaluation process is beginning.

Directors Group – Gabriel Rogin

The Directors Group met on June 26, 2025 and began with informative discipline group reports. Patrick Ruppe reviewed his project related to supporting diverse board composition. Matthew Bahr presented the next steps of the Public Records Act with the formation of a workgroup. Jesse Weller shared the recent federal actions related to immigration. Amy Westling provided an overview of the Budget. Javier Zaldivar will be the new chair of the Directors group beginning in July. The meeting concluded with a discussion with Pete Cervinka, Dr. Michi Gates, and Yang Lee from DDS.

Finance Committee – Patrick Ruppe

Vivian Umenei provided the report on behalf of Patrick Ruppe. The group discussed the Service Provider Directory, rate reform, transportation, and early intervention. Hold harmless will end February 28. DDS’s Information Technology team presented on the LOIS project. The group discussed updates on ARCA’s proposal related to replacing the Core Staffing Formula.

Client Advisory Committee – Tracey Miler

The ARCA CAC met on May 30, 2025, discussed Medicare and Medi-Cal. They also determined the speakers for the October Institute on Self-Advocacy conference in Sacramento. They are meeting at 1:00 pm after the ARCA Board meeting.

Contract Negotiating Committee – Larry Landauer

The Committee did not meet. However, they will be meeting next week and discussing two areas, emergency preparedness and health information.

Standards & Practices Committee –Mark Klaus

Amy Westling provided update on behalf of Mark Klaus. At the last meeting the group reviewed and finalized the standard that was approved today. The next meeting will be July 22.

Strategic Planning Committee- Melinda Sullivan & Omar Noorzad

Melinda Sullivan shared that Lori Banales has agreed to replace her in this committee.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Information Sharing

Tracey Miller shared she has transitioned her last name to “Miller.”

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.