

**Minutes**  
**ARCA Board of Directors**  
**October 17, 2025**

Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, Palm Ballroom  
1441 Quivira Road, San Diego, CA 92109  
Zoom Video/Teleconference ([link](#))

**Board of Directors Members Present:**

Lori Banales, Kelly Pennington, ACRC  
Mathew Bahr, Randy Tellalian, CVRC  
Gloria Wong, ELARC  
Srbui Ovsepyan, FDLRC  
Melissa Gruhler, Cali McKinzie, FNRC  
Eric Zigman, Marta Guzman, GGRC  
Patrick Ruppe, Joe Czarske, HRC  
Lavinia Johnson, 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, RCOG  
Rebecca Nanyonjo, RCEB  
Javier Zaldivar, Lisa Lopez, SARC  
Jesse Weller, Julie Chetney, SG/PRC  
Mark Klaus, Terri Colachis, SDRC  
Mark Wolfe, TCRC  
Leinani Walter, Erria Kaalund, VMRC  
Jane Borochoff, Almarietha Mathews, WRC

**Board of Directors Members Absent:**

Brigitte Sroujeh, FDLRC  
Briseida Ramirez, IRC  
Frank Paré, RCEB  
Dexter Henderson, Cynthia Torres, SCLARC  
Omar Noorzad, TCRC

**ARCA Advisory Representatives**

Miguel Larios, SDRC

**Guests Present:**

Pete Cervinka, Dr. Michi Gates, DDS  
Adrian Peirce, CPA-AGT Advisors  
Thomas Martin, CalABLE  
Mark Halvorsen, CVRC  
Amanda Pyle, GGRC  
Evelyn McOmie, NLACRC  
Sharmila Brunjes, NLACRC  
Anh Nguyen  
Ami Sullivan  
Maureen Fitzgerald  
Natalia Lewis  
April Lewallen  
Celeste Graham

**ARCA Staff Present:**

Amy Westling, Tony Anderson, Lauren Ettensohn, Sidney Jackson, Roxy Ortiz, Vivian Umenei, Rick Rollens

**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 for approval.

***M/S/C: To approve the agenda.***

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of August 22, 2025, Board of Directors meeting were presented for approval.

***M/S/C: To approve the minutes as presented from August 22, 2025.***

**Public Comment**

No public comments provided.

**Empowering the Disability Community – Thomas Martin, CalABLE Executive Director**

Thomas Martin conducted a presentation on CalABLE benefits, explaining how the program functions, the various ways funds can be utilized, and the process for opening an account. At the end of the presentation there was a Q&A session.

**President's Report (ARCA)- Terri Colachis**

Terri Colachis expressed her deep appreciation for the group's efforts, particularly Kelly Pennington's

work with the Board Delegates. She also highlighted the excellent contributions of the Executive Directors and their staff.

### **DDS Report**

Pete Cervinka shared that the January wildfires resulted in an income tax deadline delay for LA County, so within a few weeks the state will know how much revenue it has for current fiscal year. The Department of Finance (DoF) issues monthly reports which include revenues and expenditure. Revenues are ahead of projections.

Caseload projections are on target for this year. Next year's projection is expected to increase by 38,000 with about 70% of new individuals diagnosed with Autism. Future planning is important to achieve sustainability.

Public meetings for the Life Outcome Improvement System (LOIS) concluded, and now DDS staff are writing state and federal approvals.

Mr. Cervinka announced that privacy information does not get shared without a court order. HR1 has some things that impact people indirectly, such as work requirements. The Department is actively working with Department of Health Care Services and Department of Social Services to streamline the process for disability exemptions.

He also provided an update on rate reform and the ending of hold harmless along with Quality Incentive Program (QIP) eligibility and requirements.

Dr. Gates highlighted that the Regional Center Performance Measure (RCPM) training for service coordinators took a lot of effort from ARCA and is now on the Learning Management System (LMS). Other training courses available in the LMS for service coordinators are five special education webinars. There is a plan to combine RCPM with Performance Contract.

Dr. Gates updated the group on the DSP University training program and the work with Sacramento State to develop Learning Management System

There have been two focus groups completed for the standardized intake process. There is an expected delay in the implementation of the standardized respite tool.

The two offices of the Ombudsperson at the Department have been combined into one due to SB 471. The department will be sending out a letter on other legislative impacts.

### **Treasurer's Report – Gloria Wong**

- A. Gloria Wong presented the financial statement for September 2025 was shared with the meeting participants. ARCA's financials are in good standing.

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

- B. Adrian Peirce from AGT presented the annual audit, no changes have occurred between last year and this year.

***M/S/C: To accept the Annual Audit***

**ARCA Executive Director’s Report – Amy Westling**

Amy Westling requested members complete the Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower forms and turn it in to staff.

A. Major Developmental Services System Updates

Ms. Westling expressed her gratitude to the regional center staff for adapting to numerous changes aimed at advancing the system. Among these changes are the standardized Individual Program Plan (IPP), the implementation of the new rate model, and several other important initiatives for system reform, including the Public Records Act and the Master Plan for Developmental Services.

B. Draft ARCA Standard – Strategic Thinking

Ms. Westling referenced the draft document, noting strategic thinking supports regional centers’ adoption of ongoing changes and the implementation of various directives. She emphasized how the Association can enhance the performance of regional centers and integrate the vision for the future direction of the system.

***M/S/C: To approve the Draft ARCA Standard – Strategic Thinking***

C. Sponsorship Request for California Policy Center for IDD Event

There is a proposed sponsorship opportunity for the California Policy Center for IDD event. Recommendation from Executive Committee was to sponsor the amount of \$5,000.00 and allow each regional center to also contribute if they wish.

***M/S/C: To approve the Sponsorship Request for the California Policy Center for IDD event in the amount of \$5,000 and allow each regional center to also contribute, if they wish.***

D. Upcoming ARCA Academy Event

Tony Anderson provided an update on the progress of the upcoming ARCA Academy. There are 145 people registered with five remaining spaces. Presentation topics and speakers have been set up in the Whova app which is available to all registrants.

**Legislative Report – Eric Zigman**

A. Federal Updates

Tony Anderson provided an update on a few things with the impact of the government shutdown; he noted that the Social Security checks are not impacted. The Medicaid program is funded until the end of the year. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will be exhausted before the end of the calendar year. Housing projects will be delayed due to staffing shortages, with the exception of Section 8 and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

B. Legislative Updates

Rick Rollens provided a brief explanation as to why Democrats are holding out their votes on budget proposal due to the funding of health care subsidies. The Legislature is on recess until

January 5, 2026. The Governor will release the Budget no later than January 10<sup>th</sup>. Proposition 50 is on the ballot on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

- i. Tony Anderson and Roxy Ortiz provided a presentation on the bill outcomes; they highlighted certain key bills.

C. \* Proposed Sponsored Legislation

Tony Anderson oriented the Board on the proposed legislation with first proposal being aligned with one of the Master Plan recommendations, and it has to do with oral health. ARCA is looking into expanding the scope of what dental hygienists can do. The second proposal is to create workforce pathway program through schools for youth caregivers.

***M/S/C: To approve the Proposed Sponsored Legislation as Legislative Priorities***

D. 2026 Grassroots

Roxy Ortiz updated the group that the Save the Date flyer will be sent identifying March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> as the dates for the event. The hotel has been reserved.

**ARCA Board Committee Reports**

**A. Executive Committee – Terri Colachis**

All items discussed during the Executive Committee meeting have already been covered.

**B. Board Delegates Group – Kelly Pennington**

Kelly Pennington shared that the group had a great meeting, they received an update from Pete Cervinka. Kelly encouraged the group to get to know and meet their DDS liaisons.

**C. Directors Group – Javier Zaldivar**

Javier Zaldivar noted the IPP survey feedback has generally been positive and there is hope to get more surveys completed. Regional Centers continue to work on the rate reform implementation. They continue to support the department on the respite tool.

**D. Finance Committee – Patrick Ruppe**

Patrick Ruppe shared that the committee met last Friday. They discussed the methodology for the allocations. The draft Request for Proposal for LOIS is anticipated by May 2026. They discussed rate reform updates and ensuring there is sustainability for providers and ensuring rates are reflective of true costs. Members received cash flow updates.

**E. Client Advisory Committee – Tracey Miler**

Tracey Miller shared the ARCA CAC met on October 5, 2025. They presented at the Supported Life Institute. Next meeting will be on October 31, 2025.

Amy Westling expressed her gratitude to Tracey for representing ARCA at the Supported Life Institute and the tremendous benefit of self-advocates to be involved in active advocacy.

**F. Contract Negotiating Committee – Larry Landauer**

No contract changes and committee has not met.

**G. Standards & Practices Committee –*Mark Klaus***

The committee is meeting October 28, 2025.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

None.

**Information Sharing**

None.

**Adjournment/Next Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 am. The next meeting will be on January 16, 2026.