

Minutes
ARCA Board of Directors
January 16, 2026

Embassy Suites Riverfront Promenade- River City Ballroom
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
Patrick Ruppe, 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, RCOG
Rebecca Nanyonjo, RCEB
Javier Zaldivar, Lisa Lopez, SARC
Jesse Weller, Julie Chetney, SG/PRC
Mark Klaus, SDRC
Omar Noorzad, Mark Wolfe, TCRC
Leinani Walter, Erria Kaalund, VMRC
Jane Borochoff, Almarietha Mathews, WRC

Board of Directors Members Absent:

Joe Czarske, HRC
Lavinia Johnson, IRC
Dexter Henderson, Cynthia Torres, SCLARC
Terri Colachis, SDRC

ARCA Advisory Representatives

Cesar Garcia, SCLARC
Miguel Larios, SDRC

Christine Couch, VMRC

Guests Present:

Pete Cervinka, Dr. Michi Gates, Carla Castaneda, DDS
Mia Garza, SARC
Amanda Pyle, GGRC
Felipe Garcia, IRC
Kate Kinamont, SDRC
Rajesh Voddiraju, RCEB
Anh Nguyen
Ami Sullivan
Henk Keukenkamp
Haruko Ueda
Maureen Fitzgerald

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 9:00 am by Randy Tellalian, Vice-President.

Introduction

Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of Agenda

The Board of Directors agenda was presented for approval. Randy Tellalian recommended to move Contract Negotiations Committee report under item F to item 1D.

M/S/C: To approve the agenda with recommendation.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 17, 2025, Board of Directors meeting were presented for approval.

M/S/C: To approve the minutes as presented from October 17, 2025.

Contract Negotiating Committee – Larry Landauer

Contract Committee met last week, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) had some language they would like to make in the contract around health information and HIPAA.

Public Comment

No public comments provided.

Strengthening Dementia Capable Care Through Partnerships- SARC and the National Task Group- Mia

Garza Associate Director, Community Services, SARC

Mia Garza presented information on the San Andreas Regional Center (SARC) project on building a

Dementia Capable Service System. Ms. Garza went over guidelines, screening tools, training education, and technical resources for professionals, families, and service systems.

President’s Report (ARCA)- Terri Colachis

No Presidents report provided.

DDS Report

Pete Cervinka shared his great appreciation for the partnership between regional centers and the Department. He provided an update on the state budget, indicating the Governor’s Proposed Budget includes an additional \$2.4B for developmental services next year to fully fund anticipated caseload increases and regional center operations to support the increase caseload. He shared the imperative to improve the use of technology and align expectations with available resources. DDS is constantly seeking improvements to enhance the efficacy and demonstrate outcomes of the programs. One reason that DDS’s proposed budget does not include any reductions was due to improvements in data matching in partnership with the regional centers that has allowed for greater federal claiming. Next week both he and Amy Westling, ARCA’s Executive Director, will be presenting at the Little Hoover Commission, regarding oversight of regional centers, performance, and meeting the expectations of individuals and families.

Carla Castañeda reported that the Department changed the way they processed allocations this fiscal year in order to get more funding out to regional centers more quickly, providing more certainty for operations earlier in the fiscal year. The Department was in the process of reviewing updated caseload for the subsequent allocations.

Dr. Michi Gates provided some organizational updates, with the employment services branch expanding with six new staff. The Office of the Developmental Services Ombudsperson now consists of both Lanterman and SDP Ombudsperson, the new Ombudsperson is Eden Rosales. The Community Appeals and Resolution Branch (CARB) has a new leader, Michael McNulty.

Dr. Gates provided an update on the Standardized IPP and survey. She also shared the recent directive and the need to collect data in SANDIS for requests for Notice of Action, disagreements, and denials. She also shared updates on the standardized intake, standardized respite tool, rate reform, Regional Center Performance Measures (RCPM), Quality Incentive Program (QIP), Self-Determination Program orientation and Fiscal Management Services standards, and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) monitoring.

Dr. Gates also shared that the Department is taking over the Local Education Area monitoring. She also shared that the Department received 152 applications for the Service Access and Equity grants. Awardees will be announced in March. Also, all twenty-one centers are implementing the 2025-26 Language Access and Cultural Competence (LACC) Plans.

Treasurer’s Report – Gloria Wong

Gloria Wong presented the financial statements for November and December 2025 with a focus on the December report. She reported that month ended with a surplus. And it is projected to

that fiscal year will end with a surplus.

M/S/C: To accept the financial statements for November 2025 and December 2025.

ARCA Executive Director’s Report – Amy Westling

Amy Westling shared her appreciation for the board and valued their participation.

A. Major Developmental Services System Updates

Ms. Westling shared there is a report identifying the projects ARCA staff has been working on, driven by a multi-year strategic plan.

B. FY 2026-27 Budget Update

i. Lanterman Coalition Budget Priorities

The Lanterman Coalition developed the Budget priorities with their top priority for the Coalition around regional center capacity and making urgent investments into regional center staff funding. Another priority is protecting historic investments in sustainable service rates and updating them. The final goal is to advance new outside revenue solutions to address shortfalls made worse by HR1 and other federal actions.

ii. Draft Governor’s Budget Position

Amy Westling reviewed the Executive Committee's recommendations, highlighting the importance of securing federal funding to sustain the system's operations. She also summarized the need to support the Department's initiatives. Additionally, due to the uncertainties in the May Revision, it was advised to hold off on any positions regarding issues outside the DDS budget until May.

M/S/C: To approve the Draft Governor’s Budget Position

C. Draft Little Hoover Commission Comments

Amy Westling shared the Little Hoover Commission draft comments. The Executive Committee suggested some adjustments. The first adjustment was to clarify the partnership between the Association, the regional centers, and the Department. Additional edits highlight various initiatives that the regional centers have taken the lead on, as well as the new core competency training that regional center service coordinators must complete.

M/S/C: To approve the Draft Little Hoover Commission Comments with amendments.

D. CalTASH Sponsorship Request

A summary of the request from CalTASH was provided to the members for a conference sponsorship. The Executive Committee recommended sponsorship at the \$2,000 level.

M/S/C: To approve the CalTASH sponsorship at the \$2,000 level.

E. Other

None.

Legislative Report – Eric Zigman

A. Federal Updates

Tony Anderson provided an update regarding some recent developments related to HR 1. One key aspect is the allocation of resources for rural hospitals; also, there will be some tax benefits. Additionally, he noted that yesterday marked the start of Affordable Care Act enrollment, during which people may encounter significant premium increases. There will also be additional costs associated with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and changes to Managed Care Organization (MCO) taxes. He concluded with a summary of some of the federal bills ARCA is watching, which included information on Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) and workforce bills.

B. Legislative Updates

Rick Rollens provided a brief update on changes in leadership changes in the Senate. He also shared that the Legislature has reconvened.

C. Sponsored Legislation

i. Dental Access

Tony Anderson shared that focus groups were conducted with regional centers' dental coordinators. This proposal will do is expand access to oral health. He is currently engaging with three interested authors.

ii. Youth Caregivers

Tony Anderson reported that there is an increase in impacts to health deterrents for youth caregivers resulting in 22% of students who drop out of school being caregivers. This bill will provide a career pathway for those students, but also create a career pathway for students who are interested in becoming a Direct Support Professional (DSP).

iii. 60th Anniversary Resolution

Roxy Ortiz reported that this year marks the 60th Anniversary of the two pilot regional centers, Golden Gate Regional Center and Frank D Lanterman Regional Center. ARCA staff is currently drafting the language and then will be looking for potential authors for the Resolution.

D. Other Legislation

Tony Anderson shared that Senator Grayson's office remains interested in advancing the concepts in SB 422. He also provided an update on SB 664, related to the Blue Envelope Program. There is a bill in Congress related to this topic that will provide a small grant for law enforcement to apply and implement this.

E. 2026 Grassroots

Roxy Ortiz updated the group that 50% of the meetings have been confirmed. Also, this week will be the kick-off meeting with the Grassroots Coordinators.

ARCA Board Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee – Terri Colachis

Randy Tellalian, Vice-President, reported on behalf of the President. He noted the Executive Committee met yesterday and all topics from that meeting have been covered during this meeting already.

B. Board Delegates Group – *Kelly Pennington*

Kelly Pennington reported that there were positive reviews from the ARCA Academy. The next Academy will be in Southern CA in October.

C. Directors Group – *Javier Zaldivar*

Javier Zaldivar reported that the Directors discussed the impact of the Public Records Act (PRA). He thanked Matthew Bahr for leading the efforts on PRA. Regional centers are maximizing resources to meet caseload ratios. There was a discussion around directives and priorities. Lastly, he mentioned that the rate reform is in its final stage.

D. Finance Committee – *Patrick Ruppe*

Patrick Ruppe shared that the committee met on Tuesday. They received updates on the budget. They also discussed A- and B-Series allocations. They also received updates on QIP, LOIS and rate reform.

E. Client Advisory Committee – *Tracey Miler*

Tracey Miller shared the ARCA CAC will meet on January 23, 2026. She reported that the CAC will be participating in DisCo at the Capitol. They are working on their longer-term goals.

F. Contract Negotiating Committee – *Larry Landauer*

Reported earlier in the agenda.

G. Standards & Practices Committee – *Mark Klaus*

The committee is meeting January 27, 2026.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Information Sharing

Mark Klaus expressed gratitude for the time invested in setting up these meetings.

Eric Zigman mentioned that the Golden Gate Regional Center is in the process of developing information in plain language. Amanda Pyle briefly discussed how they are using plain language for raising awareness about the START project. They utilized LACC funding to collaborate with the National Center for START Services to create START guides.

Amy Westling thanked Gabriel Rogin for agreeing to join the ARCA team as the Director of Leadership

Development.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 am. The next meeting will be on March 20, 2026.