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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 Ettensohn, 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)- 60<sup>th</sup> 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.