

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14, 2016  
Inland Counties Regional Center, Inc.  
Board of Trustees Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Asten; Tom Cosand; Ted Leonard; Amanda McGuire; Jack Padilla; Cameron Page; Elvia Sanders; Sheela Stark; Alva Stewart

MEMBERS ABSENT: Keith Nelson; Rene Rojo

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Steve Beckett; Lavinia Johnson; Don Meza; Merissa Steuwer; Vince Toms; Kevin Urtz; Treva Webster

RECORDING SECRETARY: Sandra Guzman

STAFF PRESENT: Wasima Alvi; Coby Carwile; CJ Cook; Jennifer Cummings; Kurtis Franklin; Andrea Gonzales; Maria Harkin; Demetira Lee; Debbie Mannon; Ruth Stacy

GUEST PRESENT: Luis Aguilar, Parent; Nathan and Maria Coombs, Parent; Greg Damewood, Parent; Gregory Mathes, OPARC; Shannon Meehan, SCDD; Rhonda Morris, Parents; Irma Perez, Parent; Tammi Simpson, California Mentor

Mr. Cosand called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 BOARD MEETING: 1) Motion made to approve the minutes of September 12, 2016 Board of Trustees Meeting M/S/C Stewart/Leonard.

PUBLIC INPUT:

1. Nathan and Maria Coombs: Parents were notified that son's aid was no longer working for Pathway. Pathway terminated son's aid and did not notify parents. When parents inquired why, they were told it was none of their business. Parents are son's conservators and advocate for him. Parents reported that the vendor was very rude to them. They also state that they were told that this vendor was the only vendor able to provide the type of service their son required. IRC has been unable to secure another vendor for them and feels IRC has failed at holding vendor accountable.
2. Rhonda Morris: Ms. Morris the mother and conservator for her 23-year-old daughter and 21-year-old son. Ms. Morris was informed in advance by son's aid that he was moving into a new position and would no longer be son's aid. Ms.

Morris notified her son and asked him who he would like as his new aid. Son expressed he wanted his uncle to be his new aid. Ms. Morris notified Pathway of son's wishes. Pathway informed mom that uncle would need to apply for the job. After two months and not hearing anything from Pathway, she decided to contact Pathway and asked if they had reached a decision regarding the uncle's employment. She was told personnel matters cannot be discussed with her. She explained she was only calling because it had been two months. She also stated she was willing to work with someone else if the uncle was not hired. She stated she was then told it was none of her business who Pathway hires. Ms. Morris feels Pathway is putting son's education in jeopardy by not hiring consumer's uncle or finding a replacement aid. Staff at IRC has told her that Pathway is the only vendor that provides that type of service which is a quality control issue.

3. Greg Damewood: Mr. Damewood stated as Commissioner for the Riverside Behavioral Department, he wishes IRC well on the upcoming anniversary of the December 2<sup>nd</sup> tragedy. He stated the County of Riverside had shared with him that it was an honor to aid IRC after the December 2<sup>nd</sup> terrorist attack. As the parent of an adult daughter, Mr. Damewood thanked IRC for the continual support extended to them via services. He also shared a hope that IRC will return to recording board meetings soon.
4. Shannon Meehan: Ms. Meehan from California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, San Bernardino Regional Office provided an update on efforts and outreach. State Council is collaborating with IRC's training unit on Self-Determination and Person Centered Planning. State Council is also collaborating with local SELPAs on Employment Soft Skills, Resume Building and Interviewing Skills. State Council continues to collaborate with Department of Rehabilitation, OPARC and Exceed Work Activity Programs (WAP) with providing trainings on "How Social Security Benefits are Affected by Wages". HCBS rules and the changes that are coming has several WAPs asking State Council to do trainings on employment incentives and why working is better than just receiving Social Security benefits. State Council is also excited to be participating in IRC Fall Festival. Information on upcoming trainings can be found on their website [www.scdd.ca.gov](http://www.scdd.ca.gov) San Bernardino Regional Office or by calling (909) 890-1259.

**SELF DETERMINATION UPDATE:** Mr. Meza reported that the Self Determination Committee continues to meet monthly. The program is currently in a holding pattern awaiting CMS' approval. The latest count of consumers interested in the program is 277. IRC's allotted number is 244. Mr. Meza also shared that he attended the Fiesta

Educative and had the opportunity to speak in regards of the Self Determination program and hopefully sparked some interested from the attendees.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Mr. Cosand stated a written report was included in the meeting packet.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Ms. Johnson reported as of November 1, 2016, IRC has 32,605 active cases. In June of 2000, there were 15,500 active cases which means IRC more than doubled in size. Managers continue to interview in the efforts of reducing caseload sizes. Newly hired Human Resource Manager, Maria Harkin and School Age Program Manager, Kathy DeCoud were introduced. In the efforts of returning to normalcy prior to December 2, the fence around the back parking lot was removed in late September. Installation of surveillance cameras and lighting fixtures have begun. The restoration of building 3 continues and will be ready for occupancy in early 2017. Ms. Johnson thanked CJ Cook, Steve Beckett, Kevin Urtz in helping draft the medial release announcement. The December 2<sup>nd</sup> Memorial Ceremony plans are finalized. The ceremony is open to the public however invitations were not sent out. The four organizations who accommodated and supported IRC that day will be presented a plaque. The County of San Bernardino will be having a private service at the same time as IRC. Cal State San Bernardino is planning on having an evening memorial ceremony on the 2<sup>nd</sup> as well.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Ms. Steuwer presented the draft budget proposal for fiscal year 2016-17. The major changes in the contract amendment are 1) ABX 2 1 funding for salary and benefits 2) Improve Caseload Ratios funding for additional CSCs 3) HCBS Regulations, funds allocated for one Program Evaluator and 4) Resources to Implement ABX 2 1, funds allocated for each regional center for (1) Employment Specialist and (1) Cultural Specialist positions. The total allocation for Operations including CPP is \$64,707,808 which is an increase of 14.13% compared to fiscal year 2015-16. 2. Motion made to accept Financial Report as presented M/S/C Padilla/Leonard.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- 1) **ANOTHER WAY:** Ms. Gonzales reported that Another Way will be handing out 1,000 food basket at the annual food drive scheduled for December 10th. There are 70 volunteers signed up to help on that day. Ms. Gonzales shared some thank you letters Another Way has received from consumers that were helped. She shared how overwhelmed the Santiago brothers were when they received funds so they could live on their own. Approximately 10-15 caseworkers per week come to Another Way to request funds for their consumers. Ms. Gonzales

thanked Lavinia Johnson and Kevin Urtz for approving the DJ Drea Fundraiser during the month of November. Over 200 song cards were received. The Toy Drive is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup>. For the very first time and with the help of sponsors, this year's Toy Drive became a fund raiser. There are 385 kids signed up to receive gifts.

- a) NAVIDAD EN EL BARRIO BOARD RESOLUTION: Ms. Gonzales requested the Board's approval to participate in the Navidad En El Barrio Food Drive Christmas Campaign. If approved, the Board Secretary will need to sign the Resolution of the Board of Directors. 3. Motion made to approve Another Way's participation in the Navidad En El Barrio M/S/C Padilla/Stark.
- 2) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT: Mr. Cook submitted a written report highlighting some of the activities the Community Engagement Team has worked on. The Annual IRC Fall Festival at the San Manuel Stadium will be held on Saturday, November 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to wear their favorite sport jersey.
- 3) LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Ms. Cummings provided a summary on bills that were recently passed or vetoed that may affect consumers, vendors or regional centers.
- 4) VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Ms. McGuire reported the committee met on October 17. Residential vendors voiced their concern with consumers aging out of their current care home. Some have resided in the same home with the same people for over 30 years. She also wanted to thank Vince Toms for keeping vendors informed of upcoming changes. The committee decided not to meet in December. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20 at DesertArc.
- 5) CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mr. Cook reported that the CETU team partnered with In-Roads Creative Programs, Premier Health Care and CAC Members on the Job Development Workshop. 20 out of the 25 people who signed up finished the program and will be graduating tomorrow. The workshop was a huge success.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **DISPARITY FUNDING REPORT:** Mr. Toms shared a power point explaining the use of ABX2 1 funds to promote equity and reduce disparities. IRC submitted a proposal requesting funds to start two programs to increase education in order to increase purchase of service. The programs are: 1) Autism Parent Education Program specifically for parents with children with autism and 2) Fiesta Familiar for language and ethnicity. IRC's proposal was approved and awarded \$516,634.

TRUSTEE INPUT: None

Mr. Cosand adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m. to go into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. and reconvened at 8:09 p.m. The Board took action on fiscal issues during Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Cosand at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cameron Page  
Board Secretary



Tom Cosand  
Board Vice Chair

#### MOTIONS FOR NOVEMBER, 2016

- 1) Motion made to approve the minutes of September 12, 2016 Board of Trustees Meeting M/S/C Stewart/Leonard.
- 2) Motion made to accept Financial Report as presented M/S/C Padilla/Leonard.
- 3) Motion made to approve Another Way's participation in the Navidad En El Barrio M/S/C Padilla/Stark.