

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**  
**Inland Counties Regional Center, Inc.**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**BOARD PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Kiana Buffington; Jay Connor; Carmen Estrada; Alicia Lara; Maureen O’Connell; Cameron Page; Gizelle Siojo; Teri Smith; Joshua Souder; April Stewart; Alva Stewart

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Eric Naranjo

**DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Steve Beckett; Lavinia Johnson; Don Meza; Merissa Steuwer; Vince Toms; Treva Webster

**STAFF PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE CALL:** Kurtis Franklin

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Sandra Guzman

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Page at 4:08 p.m.

**MINUTES OF JULY 12, 2021 BOARD MEETING: 1. Motion made to approve the minutes of the July 12 10, 2021 Board Meeting as presented M/S/C Buffington/Souder.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The following public comments were submitted:

**Laura Rathbun, Family Member:** I’d like to know if the IRC conducts periodic reviews of all its service providers to ensure that consumers are being treated well and safely. I have concerns after my son, who has high functioning autism, told me about problems in two different programs he was in.

In one program, his job coach was caught speeding by police and left clients alone in her car while she went into a store. In another program, the director blatantly lied to me about the severity of a violent incident that my son witnessed. My son’s description of the incident was later confirmed by another consumer in the program in text messages to my son so I know the director lied.

I hope there is some type of review or oversight of the service providers and if so, I’d like to know what it is. And, if there isn’t, I request that it be started. Thank you.

**Greg Damewood, Family Member:** Is there any hope of help for future Disneyland discounts. Also – the status of Day Programs as some are going via computer – but my special person has nothing at her facility or in Moreno Valley. Thank you for your kind response - Greg

Mr. Page referred the two public comments to the appropriate manager or director.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Ms. Johnson reported the following: 1. IRC serves 41,131 consumers; 2. IRC currently has 763 employees which 481 are service coordinators. 3. For the period of 4/15/20 – 6/28/21 IRC has had 2,439 COVID positive consumers, 90 have resulted in death. 4. IRC’s prior announcement to open the buildings to the public after Labor Day has been changed to “when it is

safe". IRC is mandating that anyone entering the buildings must have 2 Antigen tests with negative results. 5. Due to the surge in COVID cases, IRC has instituted a new testing protocol for both vaccinated and non-vaccinated staff.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Question from the Board: Where is IRC's enrollment level compared to other regional centers? Mr. Meza reported that IRC's number appear to be lower but that is mainly due to the size of our regional center. If you look at how many are participating, the number is comparable.

Question from the Board: Regarding the State being eager to increase Early Start referrals to pre-pandemic levels. Is the department assisting in identifying children in need of services? Ms. Webster reported that DDS has a video and is working with other organizations to put together an informational brochure. At IRC, even before this was discussed, program managers had contacted Children's Network and informed them that although the building was closed, IRC was still open for business. Numbers dropped at first but once we learned how to provide service remotely, our numbers are back to pre-pandemic levels.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **ANOTHER WAY:** Ms. Gonzales submitted a written report. No questions from the Board.
2. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** The minutes from the Executive Committee Meetings were included in the board packet. The Board had no questions.
3. **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Ms. Cummings submitted a written report. There were no questions from the Board.
4. **MASTER TRUST COMMITTEE:** Ms. Miller submitted a written report. No question from the Board.
5. **VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Ms. April Stewart submitted a summary from their July and August VAC Meetings. The Board had no questions.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**IRC HEALTH BENEFITS:** Ms. Steuwer reported that the Executive Committee met on August 11, 2021. Health benefits were discussed and approved for the new plan year. There was no change to IRC's health benefit carriers for this new plan year. There will be no increase to the employee's share of cost.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **APPROVAL OF VAC COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:**
  - a. Level 2-3: Abdullah Koulsi
  - b. Level 4: Kendra CreedMs. April Stewart is requesting the Board's approval to appoint Abdullah Koulsi as the Level 2-3 representative and Kendra Creed as the Level 4 representative. **2. Motion made to approve**

**Abdullah Koudsi and Kendra Creed as the new VAC representative's M/S/C Buffington/Souder.**

2. **ARCA REPRESENTATIVE:** Mr. Page announced that he will need to step down as IRC's ARCA Representative and would like to recommend Mr. Souder as the new ARCA Representative. **3. Motion made to approve Mr. Souder as the new ARCA Representative for IRC M/S/C Buffington/O'Connell.**
  
3. **RFP POLICY REVISION:** Mr. Toms reported that #11 on page 4 was added to the policy. Contracts that are less than \$250,000 in Start-Up Funds will not be required to follow the RFP process. **4. Motion made to approve the RFP Policy as presented M/S/C Buffington/Souder.** Ms. April Stewart abstained from voting.

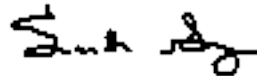
**TRUSTEE INPUT:** None

Mr. Page adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m. to go into Executive Session. Executive Session was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 4:37 p.m. The Board took no action during Executive Session. 5. Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

Sincerely,

Carmen Estrada  
Board Secretary



Sandra Guzman  
Assistant Secretary

**Motions for the September 13, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting:**

1. **Motion made to approve the minutes of the July 12 10, 2021 Board Meeting as presented M/S/C Buffington/Souder.**
2. **Motion made to approve Abdullah Koudsi and Kendra Creed as the new VAC representative's M/S/C Buffington/Souder.**
3. **Motion made to approve Mr. Souder as the new ARCA Representative for IRC M/S/C Buffington/O'Connell.**
4. **Motion made to approve the RFP Policy as presented M/S/C Buffington/Souder.**