

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2023
Inland Counties Regional Center, Inc.
Board of Trustee Meeting

BOARD PRESENT: Jay Connor; Carmela Garnica; Alicia Lara; Theodore Leonard; Eric Naranjo; Maureen O'Connell; Briseida Ramirez; Rene Rojo; Gizelle Siojo; Teri Smith; Joshua Souder; April Stewart

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kiana Buffington

BOARD FACILITATOR: Bertha Soria; Robyn Souder

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Steve Beckett; Kurtis Franklin; Felipe Garcia; Eric Hamler; Lavinia Johnson; Don Meza; Merissa Steuwer; Vince Toms; Treva Webster

STAFF PRESENT: Freddy Casillas; Andrea Gonzales; Martin Morales; Estefania Pena; Mari Rodriguez

GUEST PRESENT: Rosa Abad, Ives Torres Foundation; Sandra Avillas, Ives Torres Foundation; Sofia Benitez, 24 Hour Homecare; Marbella Certes; Laura Garcia, Parent; Araceli Gil, Ives Torres Foundation; Jorge Jardiez, Parent; Guadalupe Martinez, Parent, Cheryl Miller, Parent; Esmeralda Navarro; Olga Lilia Rojas, Parent; Eloisa Serna, Ives Torres Foundation; Matoya Terrell, State Council on Development Disabilities

RECORDING SECRETARY: Sandra Guzman

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Ms. O'Connell at 5:05 pm.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 Board Meeting: 1. Motion made to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2023 Board Meeting as presented M/S/C Rojo/Naranjo.

PUBLIC INPUT: The following 3 public comments were received electronically:

1. Barbara Tyler, Family Member: It took a lawsuit for Regional Centers to begin to address the needs of their clients with hearing loss. In the Deaf community they are known as Deaf-Plus, and my brother is one. Thanks to the lawsuit, IRC actually got around to HIRING a DEAF EMPLOYEE. Did this person go out and meet the Deaf IRC clients or attend their IPP meetings to ascertain their needs? NO. The employee is completely unfamiliar with the clients. This is Unacceptable. So, what is this person doing?? Focusing on the hearing community, NOT on the Deaf clients. Who designed this program? Did an actual DEAF adult design it, who is knowledgeable of Deaf needs? Whoever did, has done it backwards. Focus on our Deaf adults first, establish a baseline and hierarchy of needs, and then reach out to the community. For example, as with any second language, skills decline with time, and this is especially true of our Deaf adults with additional disabilities. My brother has asked for a TUTOR or a CLASS to help him maintain communication skills and NEVER has been given one. Housing with other Deaf adults and Continuing (UCLA Calls it Lifelong) Education must be a priority. ***IRC Trustees: YOUR PRIORITIES as hearing adults ARE NOT OUR PRIORITIES as Deaf adults. Got it? Put someone in charge who actually KNOWS the needs of the clients you're supposed to serve. Also, WHO is making decisions about ASL Interpreters for our family members during IRC meetings?

Is this a hearing person with NO KNOWLEDGE of the Deaf clients? Are you trying to save money AT CLIENTS EXPENSE? Apparently someone has the power to deny in-person interpreters and force video interpreters instead. This must stop. They don't even read the IPPs to find out client needs! Why doesn't IRC recognize that most Deaf clients have additional disabilities, such as VISION Impairments and Cerebral Palsy, and video interpreting cannot be used???? A DEAF CASE MANAGER MUST now be assigned to EVERY IRC CLIENT WITH HEARING LOSS.

2. Brandie Huckabee, Family Member: Learning new skills and working with everyone.
3. Pat Jones, Vendor: Info for vendor.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ms. Johnson reported the following: 1. As of November 1, 2023, IRC serves 48,682 active consumers. 2. IRC currently employs 1061 staff of which 725 are in case management and 361 are administrative. The current standard caseload ratio is 72:1. 3. After 10 years of serving IRC as the Director of Intake, Clinical and Early Start, Treva Webster has announced her plans for retirement. Her last day with IRC will be January 5, 2024. 4. On Saturday, October 28, IRC hosted the IRC Fall Festival Cultural Resource Fair. The event was held at the Riverside Convention Center in downtown Riverside. The event was attended by 2,000 attendees, 120 IRC vendors and other guests including Dr. Cory Jackson, Assembly Member from the 60th district community of Moreno Valley/Hemet areas. There were performances, booths, raffles, and music.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Written reports were submitted by the Directors. The Board had no questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ANOTHER WAY: Ms. Gonzales submitted a written report. There were no questions from the Board.
2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The notes from the November Executive Committee were included in the board packet. There were 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. There were no questions.
5. VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: No report submitted.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. NATIONAL CORE INDICATOR (NCI) PROJECT: Ms. Terrell from State Council on Developmental Disability (SCDD) shared families of the regional center will be receiving one of three NCI surveys 1. A child living in the family home, 2. An adult living in the family home or 3. An adult living outside of the family home. Surveys will be mailed out directly from SCDD to the families of regional center clients. Families are encouraged to complete the survey and return the survey back in the pre-paid envelope. Surveys can be completed online as well by using the code

provided in the letter to complete the survey. For those who work with families of the regional center, SCDD encourages you to help families complete the survey. Participating in this survey helps your regional center and DDS understand how services and supports impact you. One of the areas they are interested in is employment. Not every consumer will have an opportunity, a sample pool is pulled by a computer program and then the surveyors will start making phone calls. This is a State Council project and not a regional center one. You can visit DDS' website at [DDS.ca.gov](https://dds.ca.gov) and go to NCI to see the breakdown. Ms. Garnica shared that SCDD is recruiting individuals to conduct interviews. This is a great way to get involved and it is also a paid position. For more information log into <https://scdd.ca.gov/qap>.

2. WORKER'S COMP INSURANCE: Ms. Steuwer is requesting that the board give the Executive Committee the authority to approve the Worker's Comp Insurance effective January 2024 once the quote becomes available. We are projecting an overhaul increase in employees of about 19%. After speaking to our broker, it will be safe to assume a 15% to 30% increase. We are projecting low premium to be about \$735,000 or high \$830,000. For January 2024 we are projecting a premium of \$782,000. **2. Motion made to grant the Executive Committee the authority to approve the Worker's Comp Insurance effective January 1, 2024, for no more than \$782,000 M/S/C Rojo/Connor.**
3. ANOTHER WAY'S BUDGET PROJECTIONS FOR 2024: Ms. Gonzales is looking for a motion to approve Another Way's projected budget for FY 2023-2024. Two things impacting the budget is 1) Golf Tournament being rescheduled for May 2024 and 2) the Toy Drive is being reinstated after being placed on hold due to COVID. **3. Motion made to approve Another Way's projected budget for 2023-24 M/S/C Rojo/Naranjo.**
4. 2024 BOARD TRAINING SCHEDULE: Ms. O'Connell stated the Board Training Schedule for 2024 was prepared by the Executive Committee and inquired if the Board wanted to make any changes. No request for changes. **4. Motion made to approve the 2024 Board Training Schedule as presented M/S/C Leonard/Souder.**

TRUSTEE INPUT:

Mr. Rojo shared that he attended the Fall Festival and enjoyed being with families and other community vendors. He also shared that he tragically lost his mom on October 2nd and recently had her memorial services. Lots of people attended. She was very involved in the community and held fund raisers for her church. He will continue to follow in her footsteps.

Ms. Siojo shared she will be crocheting blankets on YouTube and goes to centers and gives them to babies.

Ms. O'Connell adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m. to go into Executive Session. Executive Session was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 6:34 p.m. The Board took action to draft a letter to ARCA.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Sincerely,



Alicia Lara
Board Secretary



Sandra Guzman
Assistant Secretary

MOTION FOR NOVEMBER 13, 2023:

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3. **Motion made to approve Another Way's projected budget for 2023-24 M/S/C Rojo/Naranjo.**
4. **Motion made to approve the 2024 Board Training Schedule as presented M/S/C Leonard/Souder.**