

MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2024
Inland Counties Regional Center, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kiana Buffington

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

STAFF PRESENT: Robin Ferguson; Martin Morales; Monica Munguia; Mari Rodriguez; Reylisa Zalameda; Claudia Mora

GUEST PRESENT: Beth Burt, Autism Society Inland Empire; Stephani Congdon, Autism Society Inland Empire; Carlos Davis, Harrington Group; Bonita Ewan, Parent; Marlene Gaines, Hanna Interpreting; Michelle Gu, Harrington Group Steve Hull; Mark Kendell, Parent; Leslie Pacholski, Parent; Cassie Smith, Parent; Dan Strauss, FNRC Board Delegate; Gilbert Villalobos, GSDC Interpreting; Amy Westling, ARCA

RECORDING SECRETARY: Sandra Guzman

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Ms. O'Connell at 5:00 p.m. and announced two special guests attending remotely, Amy Westling from ARCA and Dan Strauss, Board Delegate from FNRC.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2024 BOARD MEETING: 1. Motion made to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 Board Meeting M/S/C Garnica/Naranjo. April Stewart abstained from voting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Connell announced that the Board received 3 written comments tonight.

1. A parent who wants to share her Deaf & Autistic son's journey.
2. Family member saying thank you to IRC.
3. Family members shared how IRC denied services entitled under the Lanterman Act.
4. Cassie Smith, Parent to autistic child who keeps getting her request to increase services denied. Child's father is deceased and feels she is being treated unfairly by IRC. How is it that David Beckett makes \$20,000 bi-weekly and Lavinia Johnson makes \$10,000 bi-weekly yet her child is being denied drum lessons. IRC is discriminating with a brutal mail in reimbursement process that takes 45 plus days when an online portal exists that only takes 30 days.
5. Leslie Pacholski, mother of 2 autistic children. She would like to bring to the Board's attention how supervisors and service coordinators are handling the needs of consumers. She can state that

she is more knowledgeable with the W&I Codes than most of IRC's employees. She had requested more respite hours for her 16-year-old and was denied. She also wanted to share how she is being treated unfairly by the vendor who provides the respite service. When they came to interview her, they asked her if their employee was the father of her kids. She feels the only reason they asked her was because her kids are interracial. Her husband works for 24hr Home Care.

6. Bonita Ewan, mother of 20-year-old deaf autistic child. She states he is the victim of bullying. She met with her child's new CSC which was fine. She realized that some things were missed with the use of ASL interpreter and needing to fix those things herself. She met with Estefania, IRC's Deaf Specialist who inspired her and felt excited to be a part of an organization. She speaks the same ASL language as she does. Being able to communicate directly has been so important to her. Regarding respite, she requested more respite hours, but her service coordinator told her there was a limit which she doesn't quite understand.

7. Beth Burk, stated she was grateful for the relationship she has with IRC. She shared she received a phone call about the 15-year-old autistic boy who was shot and killed. This is not about blaming but is here begging that we all work together. This young man was not receiving the services he needed. He wasn't receiving the mental health services he desperately needed. She also shared that she was contacted by Lake Elsinore Police Department regarding a mom of two autistic kids she who was surrendering them. What can we do? This is happening more and more frequently.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ms. Johnson thanked everyone for the public input and stated we will carefully investigate those concerns. Ms. Johnson reported the following: 1. As of February 2024, IRC serves 51,110 consumers. 2. IRC currently employs 1,135 staff of which 74 are managers, 742 are case management and 312 are administrative support staff. 3. IRC currently has an average caseload of 69:1, we continue to hire and held a Job Fair on January 26th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. 351 applied for case management positions. 214 candidates were interviewed 23 candidates had to leave the event before being interviewed but were contacted by HR to schedule an interview. 99 job offers were made and 76 offers were accepted. 4. We also held a manager's training on Leadership, hourly and wages on March 6th. It was very informative.

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 January and February meetings were included in the board packet. No questions from the board.
3. **LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** Ms. Cummings submitted a written report. The board had no questions.
4. **MASTER TRUST COMMITTEE:** Ms. Miller submitted a written report. There were no questions.

5. **VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** No report was submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **RETIREE ANNUITANT RESOLUTION:** Ms. Steuwer is requesting an amendment to the resolution previously approved by the Board. In submitting the paperwork, there was a discrepancy between IRC and CalPERS calculations. The correct amount should be \$33.06 instead of the previously approved amount of \$33.69. **2. Motion made to correct the amount to \$33.06 M/S/C Rojo/Connor. Ms. Stewart abstained from voting.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **CPA FINANCIAL AUDIT:** Mr. Carlos Davis of Harrington Group reviewed the financial audits for Inland Counties Regional Center, Inc., and Master Trust of California. The year ended June 30, 2023, financial statements of Inland Counties Regional Center and Master Trust of California were audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Both financial statements presented fairly in all material respects, the financial position of Inland Counties Regional Center, Inc., and for Master Trust of California. **3. Motion made to approve the Single Audit Report, Inland Counties Regional Center, Inc., and Master Trust of California financial audits as presented M/S/C Rojo/Connor.**
2. **SALARY SCHEDULE UPDATE:** Mr. Beckett went over the changes to the Salary Schedule with the Board. Lines highlighted in green indicate there was a change, upgrade or new addition. Last column provides an explanation. **4. Motion made to approve the Salary Schedule as presented M/S/C Leonard/Rojo. Ms. Stewart abstained from voting.**
3. **POS REQUEST:** Mr. Toms reviewed IRC's POS Report for 2022-23 with the Board. Mr. Cook and his team held 5 in-person meetings to gather the community's input of these measures. All 5 meetings were held in English, Spanish and ASL. **5. Motion made to approve the POS Report for 2022-23 as presented M/S/C Souder/Rojo.**

TRUSTEE INPUT:

Mr. Naranjo shared that his cousin gave birth to an 8 lb 21 oz healthy baby boy. Also, at his job at Chaffey College they will be holding the Annual Cougar Relay in Rancho Cucamonga.

Mr. Rojo is excited to share he has been working with his buddy on putting on a Car Show in April. Anyone interested in more information can contact Sandra and she will relay the question to me.

Ms. Siojo thanked Lavinia for giving her the opportunity to serve on the Board. This is her second time serving on the board and she hopes she can serve again.

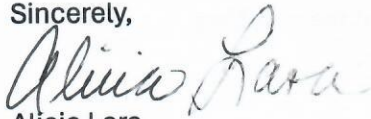
Mr. Rojo stated that being on the Board has been a great privilege and proud to say he was part of helping the board transition to where they are now. He is very passionate in what he does and he's an advocate.

Ms. O'Connell adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m. to go into Executive Session. Executive Session was called to order at 6:23 p.m.

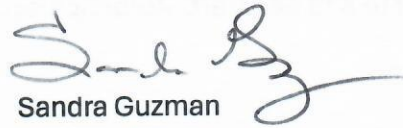
The Board reconvened at 7:22 p.m. The Board took action on ARCA Bylaws and Insurance matters.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Sincerely,



Alicia Lara
Board Secretary



Sandra Guzman
Assistant Secretary

Motions for the March 11, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting:

1. Motion made to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 Board Meeting M/S/C Garnica/Naranjo. April Stewart abstained from voting.

2. Motion made to correct the amount to \$33.06 M/S/C Rojo/Connor. Ms. Stewart abstained from voting.

3. Motion made to approve the Single Audit Report, Inland Counties Regional Center, Inc., and Master Trust of California financial audits as presented M/S/C Rojo/Connor.

4. Motion made to approve the Salary Schedule as presented M/S/C Leonard/Rojo. Ms. Stewart abstained from voting.

5. Motion made to approve the POS Report for 2022-23 as presented M/S/C Souder/Rojo.