RCDSC Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

#6 FY: 2025-2026

Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 9:00am

BY ZOOM:
Meeting ID: 845 4614 2191 / Passcode: 888824
Dial by phone: 1-669-900-6833

IN PERSON:
Konocti Harbor Resort & Spa
8727 Soda Bay Rd, Kelseyville

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Mike Sawyer (President), Will Lewis (Vice President), Diane Larson (Treasurer), Robert Taylor (Client Liaison), Dave Matson, Haley French, Debra Zeno, Kendra Suenram, Trixie Galletti, Samantha Bond, Matt Melvin

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Teresa Schnacker

FACILITATORS PRESENT: Pam Jenson (DM), Mark Konkler (WL), Kristi Patterson (TG), Jayson Alvarez (RT)

RCRC STAFF PRESENT: Jonathan Padilla (Executive Director & Interim Director of Client Services), Amy Medina (Director of Administration), Heather Odle (Director of Community Services), Dr. Jacinthe Roy (Director of Clinical Services), Nichole Haydon (Director of Human Resources), Sedona Bowser (Executive Assistant), Susan Villa-Alvarez (Administrative Assistant for Client Services)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jaclyn Balanay (Primary Liaison, DDS Office of Community Operations), Julie Eby-McKenzie (SCDD Northern California Regional Office Manager), Morgan Brown (Spanish Translator), Fabiola Olimon (Spanish Translator), Rebekah Wilson, Gabriel Baca Meza, Sherrie Erickson, Mariah, Valaria Baca, Carmen Baca, Maribel, Angelica Gamboa

AGENDA:

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Board President M. Sawyer at 9:03am
   a. Roll Call: S. Bowser conducted roll call, and a quorum was present.
   b. Timekeeper: M. Sawyer agreed to be a Timekeeper.
   c. Vision Statement: R. Taylor shared a part of the RCRC Vision Statement.
   d. Agenda Approval: M. Sawyer called to approve the agenda and asked if there were any changes. Hearing none, the agenda was approved as presented.
   e. Previous Minutes Approval: M. Sawyer called to approve the meeting minutes and asked if there were any changes or corrections. Hearing none, the meeting minutes were approved as presented.

2. **Community Comment/Input:** M. Sawyer called for community comment/input:
   a. Gabriel Baca Meza: There seems to be a lot happening in this country, both positive and negative. It seems we need to work harder than ever before to get the support our loved ones need and we ourselves need. There are signs of optimism and encouragement that the IDD community, individuals with intellectual disabilities, are organizing and standing up for themselves and speaking about issues that are affecting them because we know that systems will not change on their own, they will not automatically default to decision that will help us so we need to make sure we are heard. I had the honor to exercise that option on Thursday, May 7th in Sacramento alongside an estimate of 150 people across the state that was part of a fight for the health coalition opposing the proposed budget cuts to the Department of

Social Services and the Department of Developmental Services. It was a good turnout, and we got some press attention. Afterwards, some of us went to the budget subcommittee hearing where we gave public comments about the language and changes. I took this as a badge of honor, but I got to provide comment to the Executive Director of DDS, Pete Cervinka, basically telling him what I saw as an unintentional attempt to have less representation for individuals and their relatives on the governing board. I find it frustrating that we advocate so much to make sure the voices of the most marginalized and underserved individuals in the state be heard. It seems that DDS takes a step forward, which is good, then two steps back, which is not helping us at all. I am not aware at this time of any action taken by the governing board of RCRC with regards to that specific language on the trailer bill so I cannot comment on that. But I do hope that the board makes a statement regarding the wording of the bill instead of requiring participants on the board to may encourage participation. It needs to have firm language that we will be represented on the boards and that they will make future proposals.

3. **President's Report:** M. Sawyer

   a. New Board Members/Swearing In: Rebekah Wilson was introduced. She is from Del Norte County, a parent of five children with autism and a special ed teacher at the College of the Redwoods. She also has a nursing background and was a CASA supervisor for juvenile dependency court.

      W. Lewis motioned to approve Rebekah Wilson as a member of the board; R. Taylor seconded the motion; S. Bowser conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed.

   b. Executive Committee Recommendations:

      i. RCRC Salary Scale: S. Bond moved to remove this from the agenda, W. Lewis seconded the motion.

      ii. Executive Committee to select an ARCA Representative: M. Sawyer identified that there is nowhere in our documentation who the ARCA delegate is. Most regional centers have something specific about it but we don't. He asked the board to make a motion to formally state that the ARCA representative is selected by the Executive Committee, rather than pinning it to a single position.

         K. Suenram motioned that the ARCA delegate shall be selected by the Executive Committee; W. Lewis seconded the motion; S. Bowser conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed.

   c. Executive Committee Actions:

      i. Executive Director Performance Expectations: M. Sawyer indicated that the Executive Committee had completed the performance expectations for the Executive Director for the remainder of 2026.

      ii. Strategic Thinking Training: The Boad of Directors and RCRC Directors met to begin developing a current strategic plan. M. Sawyer asked the board to plan for an afternoon meeting prior the September board meeting to continue to work on the strategic plan and other work as a collaborative team.

4. **<u>RCRC Executive Director's Report</u>:** J. Padilla reflected on his board report about the tremendous growth rate the regional centers have seen in the last four years. Going forward we will be doing some strategic planning to hone-in on some key features to help the regional center to support our clients. We are working on updating our website to comply with website accessibility guidelines. The caseload ratio survey is reflective of the growth, indicating we are about 13 coordinators short of being able to meet the qualification ratios. Service coordination continues to be the priority in budgeting. Training for service coordinators continues to be fine-tuned to be more effective. S. Bond asked how likely it is that the amount that exceeds the allocation will be covered, to which A. Medina replied that it is the POS's that exceeded the allocation and DDS will positively cover it. S. Bond also asked about the low level of cash on hand and A. Medina confirmed that is typical and instead of larger cash reserves RCRC has a line of credit to be used as needed. Historically allocations are given in parts, the largest at the beginning of the fiscal year and reducing as the year continues. Last year and expected for the coming year, 95% of the annual allocation is given at the beginning of the year, which is very helpful in the budgeting. S. Bond requested RCRC work with DDS to allocate six months of reserves for cash on hand. M. Sawyer stated that the RCRC directors will meet with the newest board members to explain more detail on how the budget works. Additional reports from the other RCRC directors were attached to the board packet and . Additional comments were made:
    a. <u>Administrative Director Report: Amy Medina</u> - The May Revise came out and in summary RCRC is not seeing any decreases at this time. Some continued funding will be going towards LOIS (Life Outcomes Improvement System) to improve our current financial system and partner with systems throughout the state. DDS will continue to fund regional center building growth across the state.
    b. <u>Client Services Director Report: Jonathan Padilla (Interim)</u> – The Redwood Summer Games coming up are in need of volunteers preceding and during the games. You can connect with Community Corner Stones to get more information on volunteering. RCRC is allowing a small number of staff to volunteer.
    c. <u>Clinical Services & Intake/Eligibility Director Report: Dr. Jacinthe Roy</u> – No verbal report.
    d. <u>Community Services Director Report: Heather Odle</u> – No verbal report.
    e. <u>Human Resources Director Report: Nichole Haydon</u> – No verbal report.

5. **<u>New Business</u>**: M. Sawyer
    a. <u>CPRA Policies</u>: M. Sawyer shared that the board has decided to require board members to be assigned regional center emails to assist with CPRA compliance.

    W. Lewis motioned to approve the requirement for board members to be assigned an RCRC email; D. Larson seconded the motion; S. Bowser conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed.

    M. Sawyer called for any new business. No additional new business was shared.

6. **<u>Affiliate Reports</u>**: M. Sawyer called on committee chairs for their reports.
    a. <u>State Council</u>: Julie Eby-McKenzie from SCDD highlighted information from the packet.
        i. The statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee is meeting on the 18th to discuss how Self-Determination is rolling out statewide and listen to what issues local members see and discuss what improvements need to be made.

ii. Self-Determination Orientations have been updated to a 2-part process. The first part is recorded in English and Spanish, and anyone is welcome to view it online, but to get the certificate you must attend a live session.
iii. The National Core Indicator (NCI) surveys have gone out. If you know of someone who has received it, please encourage them to complete it and send it in.
iv. The HR1 budget has had significant impact. On May 21st from 12-1pm, Aaron Carruthers (SCDD Executive Director) has been invited to provide an update on budget and budget legislation.
v. The next State Counsel meeting is May 27th from 10-3 as both in-person and by zoom. Public comments must be in person or sent electronically prior to the meeting. The agenda is posted 10 days prior to the meeting.

b. Vendor Advisory Committee: Haley French – The Alliance of Service Providers continue to be impacted by the rollout of rate reform. Some of the biggest issues they are seeing are:
    i. Unclear and/or changing guidelines for authorization requests or approvals;
    ii. Travel is still not adequately covered due to no individualized travel time and mileage reimbursement and has an impact on the clients;
    iii. Payment delays are having a significant impact on providers.

    RCRC has been a good partner to service providers in trying to mitigate some of these issues and it is appreciated.

c. ARCA: Mike Sawyer/Jonathan Padilla – M. Sawyer talked about the trailer bill that discusses other changes to include board composition requirement changes. J. Padilla added that ARCA is analyzing the changes in the May Revision to identify which ones the regional center system wants to fully support and how to best meet the needs of clients. S. Bond asked if ARCA could share their letters of support to be shared with the board so the board can talk about it locally to which J. Padilla agreed we could bring that information in the future. M. Sawyer talked potential changes to the board composition to include 1) increasing the dollar amount of contracts that need to be approved by the board, 2) limiting the number of board members to 10-15 (ARCA has advocated against this), 3) removing the requirement of clients and family members on the board (still allowed but not required), and 4) more specific requirements (management has to have managed managers for at least two years, etc.). There is ongoing conversation back and forth regarding these proposed changes.

d. Client Advisory Committee: Robert Taylor – R. Taylor reported that Ron Lee from RCRC talked with the committee about the sewage leak in Lake County and how families were affected. Clients will be attending the People First Conference, and the committee discussed all the requirements for that event, including a dance. Taylor Guitierrez spoke to the committee about Redwood Transportation and how they assist clients with transportation. R. Taylor shared his last meeting as Chair is July 17th.

e. Self-Determination Advisory Committee: Robert Taylor – No report.

f. Self-Determination Testimony: Mariah is a client of RCRC who is on the Self-Determination Program (SDP). She said it would be nice if service coordinators could meet with their clients more than once a year but otherwise, she enjoys the plan and how it works and it has helped her achieve her goals. She was the 10th person chosen to participate. She now has her drivers license and is going to college and enjoys working with her facilitator. Before SDP she was not as independent as she is now. Her last goal is to own a house.

g. County Information Sharing: No report.

7. **Election of FY 2026-2027 Officers**: M. Sawyer explained and led the process of nominations and voting for new FY26/27 Officers of the Board of Directors, also known as the Executive Committee. The following nominations were presented and voted on:

a. President: M. Sawyer was nominated and accepted nomination through November 2026 when his term on the board ends and then, according to board process, an election for a new President will be held in November.
b. Vice President: R. Taylor was nominated and accepted nomination.
c. Treasurer: S. Bond was nominated and accepted nomination.
d. Secretary: M. Melvin was nominated and accepted nomination.

S. Bond motioned to vote on the nominees presented as the 2026/2027 Executive members; K. Suenram seconded the motion; S. Bowser conducted a roll call vote, and all were approved.

e. Client Liaison: During the June Client Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting the new CAC Chair will be identified and that person will then be the board Client Liaison. W. Lewis is intending to pursue that position.

8. **M. Sawyer presented J. Padilla with a 5-year plaque for employment with RCRC.**

9. **Community Comment/Input:** M. Sawyer called for community comment/input:

a. Gabriel: He highly encouraged all current board members to get informed about what is happening in Sacramento and speak up for our communities. ARCA has a position and has shared comments regarding the trailer bill. That's good. We need support from individual board members for proposals and advocate strongly against ones that could disenfranchise or weaken the voice of clients. This is very important because the work to advocate for our loved ones will never end. If we don't advocate for our families, who will? We'll give more suggestions later. Mariah is a good example of why we push for Self-Determination. This program has the potential to change the lives of the clients forever; to allow them to be the decision makers and to have full control of their lives and to accomplish goals that they would otherwise not be able to. He admires Mariah's accomplishments and future goals. He feels frustrated that we are not making as much progress as we could be considering RCRC was one of the first regional centers participating in this program We had an edge on the program and didn't seem to capitalize on it as much as we could have. So, let's go forward and fight harder for our clients. He hopes to one day attend a board meeting in person and to participate more with the board in the future and share more of his ideas. He asks everyone to speak up when you see injustice and ask questions, making sure what's happening is always for the benefit of the clients and always centering on them first because we would not be here without them.
b. Valerio: He was amazed at Gabriel's comment. He feels he may be harsh with

previous comments he has made but he feels in the past they have not had good experiences. They get shut down, not getting a second opportunity if something comes up, and that is suppression of the voices of those who feel the need to advocate for the community. The community is very hopeful for the new Executive Director of the regional center and hoping things will change for the better. He feels the director has inherited a culture of ruling with an iron fist and he is hoping everything changes for the better. He congratulated J. Padilla on his new position. He is asking the directors and regional center to strongly advocate for the clients they are supposed to serve. Their job is to look out for the needs of those they support but to date the community doesn't feel like they have had their questions answered or their needs heard as much as they like. He recognizes they are looked at as problematic, but he isn't sure they understand how difficult it is for those with disadvantages to live their life and make things have a positive outcome. When they sit in IPPs, the environment is perceived as hostile and they don't get the outcome they need. Most of the time they feel it is a waste of time, and they won't get the supports their loved ones need and that needs to change.

M. Sawyer called for additional public comment and upon hearing none (nor raised hands) moved to closing the meeting.

10. **Close the Meeting:** M. Sawyer adjourned the meeting at 10:15am

The Whistleblower training session for board members immediately followed the Board meeting.

The next Board of Directors meeting is Wednesday, July 8, 2026 at 6:00pm by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sedona Bowser, RCRC Executive Assistant

Draft Minutes reviewed and approved by:
Mike Sawyer, Board of Directors President 05/21/26

Minutes approved by the Board on July 8, 2026