



The ARCA Academy

- a training event for regional center board members -

April 29th, 2023

Hosted at Alta California Regional Center

May 6th, 2023

Hosted at San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center

Sponsored by

The California Community **Collaborative**
for Developmental Services

AGENDA

| Time | Event |
|-----------------|---|
| 9:00 AM | Breakfast |
| 10:00 AM | Welcome Mark Wolfe, President, ARCA Board of Directors |
| 10:10 AM | Plenary Session #1 “Themes and Trends in Developmental Services” Brian Winfield, Chief Deputy Director, DDS [April 29] Nancy Bargmann, Director, DDS [May 6] Amy Westling, Executive Director, ARCA |
| 11:10 AM | Plenary Session #2 “How to Change Perceptions of Regional Centers: What We are Communicating and to Whom” Leslie A.M. Smith, McCormick L.A. Public Relations [April 29] Carolina Quezada, Senior Program Manager, The Nonprofit Partnership [May 6] |
| 12:10 PM | Lunch |
| 1:00 PM | Breakout Sessions, Round 1 A. <i>The Non-Profit Board Officer: What’s Your Role in the Mission?</i> Allison Fuller, Co-Founder, Envision Consulting Matt Kamin, Co-Founder, Envision Consulting B. <i>Call to Order: Strategies for Encouraging Public Participation Without Losing the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Board Meetings</i> May Harris, CEO and Managing Attorney, FPLG [April 29] Matthew B. Learned, Chair of FPLG’s Litigation Practice Group, FPLG [May 6] |
| 2:10 PM | Breakout Sessions, Round 2 A. <i>How Regional Center Boards Represent Local Communities – Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow</i> Phil Bonnet, Retired Executive Director, ACRC -AND - <i>Finding Your North Star Through Strategic Planning</i> Greg Nielsen, Nielsen Training and Consulting [April 29] Dennis Miller, Founder and Chairman, Dennis C. Miller Associates [May 6] B. <i>Boards of Directors Retention and Recruitment</i> Bob Reich, Executive Consultant, Brainstorm Bob Consulting |
| 3:15 PM | Closing Session |
| 3:30 PM | End of Conference |

Welcome To The ARCA Academy!

The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) represents the California's network of 21 regional centers, serving over 400,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities in California.

In mid-2019, several ARCA Board Delegates discussed the interest their regional centers' boards had in training and board development opportunities. They brought forward the idea of a training event, open to all regional center boards, meant to bring board members together to learn best practices, improve their oversight skills, and generally support their work as the people helping guide large non-profits.

The ARCA Board of Directors formally approved the idea, and under the direction of an *ad hoc* committee, the first event was held in February 2020. During the pandemic, training continued but moved online. Board Delegates expressed interest in again having in-person training options available to facilitate statewide networking and relationships between regional center board members.

Thank you for joining us, and for your commitment to ensuring that California's regional centers can continue to work to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities.

Mark Wolfe

Mark Wolfe is a longtime movie producer and studio executive of over 100 films, including Terminator 3, Harrison Ford's K-19: The Widow Maker, Four Weddings and a Funeral, and more. He, along with his then-business partner LeVar Burton, owned the beloved children's educational brand Reading Rainbow. In his dotage and retirement, he serves on several non-profit boards including the one whose event you are now attending. He understands you are likely hoping he will stop talking soon so you can get to the good stuff.

Plenary #1

Themes and Trends in Developmental Services

Nancy Bargmann

Nancy Bargmann was reappointed in 2020 by Governor Gavin Newsom as the Director of the California Department of Developmental Services, where she has served as Director since 2016. The Department assists over 400,000 Californians with intellectual/developmental disabilities with opportunities to lead more inclusive and independent lives which reflect their needs, choices and values.

Nancy started her career in the field of developmental disabilities as a direct service professional and then as a regional center service coordinator working with children who are at risk for or have a developmental disability and their families. She has held a variety of leadership positions at California's regional centers including community services director and associate executive director. She also served as executive director for a non-profit housing foundation, leading efforts to develop affordable and sustainable housing for individuals who receive regional center services. Additionally, Nancy worked for a national service provider as California state director and vice president of business development and operations. Prior to her role as Director, Nancy was appointed Deputy Director of the Department's Community Services Division, leading the closure of all of California's developmental centers.

Nancy earned a Master of Science degree in social work from San Diego State University, and a Master of Business Administration degree from the Pepperdine University School of Business and Management.

Nancy is committed to supporting access and breaking down barriers to services, and choices in quality supports for individuals who have intellectual/developmental disabilities, and their families.

Brian Winfield

Brian Winfield was reappointed Chief Deputy Director, Program Services of the California Department of Developmental Services in 2020, where he has served as Chief Deputy Director since 2018. He has held numerous positions with the Department since 1998, including Deputy Director, Assistant Deputy Director, Acting Deputy Director, Branch Manager, Section Chief, Assistant Section Chief and Community Program Specialist II. Brian was a Case Manager and Resource Developer at the Alta California Regional Center from 1995 to 1998 and a service provider as Program Director at Cole Vocational Services from 1991 to 1995.

Amy Westling

Amy Westling is the Executive Director of the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA). She joined ARCA in 2012 and has focused on advancing services for the more than 400,000 people statewide who rely on regional center services, and on securing funding for the system. Prior to that, she worked for Alta California Regional Center coordinating the movement of individuals with developmental disabilities from institutional to community settings and for Central Valley Regional Center overseeing service coordination for school-aged children in rural counties. She previously worked as the Clients' Rights Advocate for six counties in the Central Valley.

Plenary #2

How to Change Perceptions of Regional Centers: What We are Communicating and to Whom

Leslie A.M. Smith

Leslie A.M. Smith has almost 30-years' experience with her own public relations consulting business, McCormick L.A., and is continually successful at implementing thorough and strategic campaigns that strengthen an organization internally and externally. Primarily working with small businesses and nonprofits, her courses and curriculum simplify and demystify the marketing processes. As a consultant, Leslie takes a careful approach to understanding the inner workings of organizations to understand what the motivators and drivers behind the products of services produced by her clients. As a planner and facilitator, Leslie is often sought after for her practical approach and her thought partnership.

In 2020, she penned and published *Laws of Promotion*, a 50-page marketing guidebook outlining the basic rules of promoting a small business. This year she co-authored *Microenterprise Hits The Big Screen* with Carla and Hilda Sramek. The book both chronicles Carla's journey creating a microenterprise nonprofit (Carla's Movie Restaurant), and serves as a roadmap for other people with disabilities to explore microenterprise as a career path. Both books are available on Amazon. She lives in Long Beach with her husband and rescue dog, where they raised two wonderful daughters.

Carolina Quezada

Carolina Quezada, in her current capacity as Senior Program Manager, leverages 25 years of programmatic, executive and fundraising experience for the benefit of the nonprofits she serves at The Nonprofit Partnership. In her professional trajectory, she has raised funds for nonprofits, provided direct educational and tutoring services to youth and adults, and has supported all manner of operational functions. She has also gained experience in grant making roles by completing a two-year fellowship in philanthropy and coordinated and participated in volunteer-led grant making committees. Among her most rewarding roles, however, have been that of board member and Executive Director. As an organizational leader, Carolina has learned the value of nurturing close collaboration between Executive Directors, board members and other key organizational stakeholders. Carolina holds a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Management (MAOM) from Antioch University Los Angeles.

Breakout Session, Round 1

Option A

The Non-Profit Board Officer: What's Your Role in the Mission?

Allison Fuller

Allison Fuller is the co-founder at Envision Consulting and has worked in the nonprofit world for more than fifteen years. As a former nonprofit executive leader, and volunteer Board member she brings a wealth of experiences and knowledge to the nonprofit arena. Her areas of expertise include executive leadership, contract administration, strategic engagements, executive recruitment, and nonprofit strategic restructuring.

Matt Kamin

Matt Kamin is the co-founder at Envision Consulting and has been working and volunteering in the nonprofit world for over sixteen years. He holds an MBA in nonprofit management. Matt has served as Executive Director of Palisades Emergency Residence Corporation in New York, Children's Nature Institute in Los Angeles, and Los Angeles Youth Network in Hollywood. Matt has also served as a consultant to organizations serving populations ranging from disabled adults, domestic violence, children in nonpublic schools, and the geriatric community.

Breakout Session, Round 1

Option B

Call to Order: Strategies for Encouraging Public Participation Without Losing the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Board Meetings

May Harris

May Harris (she/her) serves as CEO and Managing Attorney at FPLG. She chairs the firm's transactional practice group, working with an outstanding team of FPLG attorneys and professionals in service to clients of all sizes, including museums, schools, churches, medical organizations and other charitable tax-exempt entities.

Serving in the roles of nonprofit founder, board member, corporate counsel and executive director over the course of her career, Ms. Harris has been instrumental in the development of each of the organizations she has led, and she understands the challenges facing nonprofit executives every day.

Over her two decades of legal practice, Ms. Harris has developed widespread recognition of her expertise & knowledge specific to the challenges facing tax exempt organizations and social enterprises. She excels at advising growth-focused purpose-driven organizations, ensuring they receive practical, real-world advice they can apply immediately with staff, board members, stakeholders and donors to establish, protect and fulfill their mission, vision and values.

Matthew B. Learned

Matthew Learned serves as chair of FPLG's Litigation Practice Group, leading a dedicated team of legal professionals in the representation of the firm's nonprofit and business clients.

Mr. Learned began his legal career "in-house" for an independent record label, before transitioning into civil litigation. His diverse civil litigation experience over more than a decade includes taking complicated cases through trial and appeal, with both the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and the California Court of Appeals.

Over the course of his legal practice, Mr. Learned has assisted individuals enforce their statutory rights as members of nonprofit organizations, boards of directors navigate internal disputes, and organizations deal with employment actions, contract disputes, and trademark infringement matters.

Breakout Session, Round 2

Option A

How Regional Center Boards Represent Local Communities – Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Phil Bonnet

Phil Bonnet has spent his entire professional career supporting Californians who are affected by developmental disabilities. He started his journey as a minimum-wage direct care professional working in residential care for kids with autism in Los Angeles. He took on roles of increasing responsibility and was hired as the first Executive Director of a family-based nonprofit organization in Paradise, CA. The agency's mission was to support people in transition from state-run institutions to a full life in the community.

Phil was hired by the Redwood Coast Regional Center Board of Directors to be RCRC's Executive Director in 1997, during a time of transition and great uncertainty. He worked closely with the board and local communities to dramatically improve services and relationships.

Phil became the Executive Director of Alta California Regional Center in 2006. He has a long history of working collaboratively with the people and families served, community-based boards, and service provider organizations. He has taken on many leadership roles within California's developmental services system. Phil retired from Alta in 2021 and he currently lives in South Lake Tahoe, where he remains involved in activities to support people who are served by regional centers. He is also an avid skier and fisherman...

Finding Your North Star Through Strategic Planning

Greg Nielsen

Gregory Nielsen is a sought-after consultant, facilitator, and speaker committed to helping leaders and organizations translate vision into reality. He is an accomplished nonprofit CEO, having previously led the Center for Nonprofit Excellence. His leadership was recognized locally and nationally, and honored with awards from the Better Business Bureau for Ethics and the Louisville Urban League for championing diversity. Gregory is a military veteran, having previously served as an officer and attorney in the United States Army. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Government and International Relations from the University of Notre Dame and a Juris Doctorate from Notre Dame Law School.

Dennis C. Miller

Dennis C. Miller, the Founder and Chairman of DCM Associates, Inc., is a nationally recognized expert in nonprofit leadership executive search and board and leadership performance coaching with more than thirty-five years of experience working with nonprofit board leadership and chief executives across the country. Dennis is an expert in board governance, leadership development, philanthropy and succession planning. In addition, he is a sought-after motivational speaker, retreat facilitator and leadership performance coach. Dennis' experience working with hundreds of nonprofit organizations and business trade associations has provided him with the knowledge and insights to understand the competencies required of today's nonprofit leadership.

As the former president and chief executive office of Somerset Medical Center and Foundation, his reputation as a respected healthcare executive resulted in numerous honors, including the status of Fellow in the American College of Health Executives and Regent's Award for his contribution to the healthcare executive field.

He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals, Chaired the Board of Trustees for the Center for Health Affairs, Inc. in Princeton and received his Fellowship in the American College of Healthcare Executives. Dennis obtained his undergraduate degree from Rutgers University and a master's degree in Public Health Administration from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

Dennis has served in a leadership role on numerous national, state and regional nonprofit boards and business and trade associations. Passionate about leadership and governance, Dennis is the Founder of the Center for Excellence in Leadership, Governance and Philanthropy at Fairleigh Dickinson University and served as their Executive Director from 2012-2016. Dennis was also the Board Chair of St. Joseph's Regional High School in Bergen County, a private college preparatory high school and chaired their successful capital campaign and was elected to their Hall of Fame in 2013.

Dennis is the author of four books on nonprofit organization success: *A Guide to Achieving New Heights: The Four Pillars of Successful Nonprofit Leadership*; *The Nonprofit Board Therapist: A Guide to Unlocking Your Organization's True Potential*; and *The Power of Strategic Alignment: A Guide to Energizing Leadership and Maximizing Potential in Today's Nonprofit Organizations*, and his new book, *A Guide to Recruiting Your Next CEO: The Executive Search Handbook for Nonprofit Boards*.

With his fifth book, *Moppin' Floors to CEO: From Hopelessness and Failure to Happiness and Success*, Dennis mixes the right ingredients for an engaging, illuminating and compelling autobiography: a gut-honest recount of his highly eventful life; lots of engaging stories; and some valuable life lessons. Dennis shows up how anyone, including a troubled kid from New Jersey, can overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles, make it to the top and live a happy and fulfilling life.

Breakout Session, Round 2

Option B

Boards of Directors Retention and Recruitment

Bob Reich

Bob Reich is Executive Consultant with Brainstorm Bob Consulting, providing broad based training, coaching, planning, and consulting services to help, guide, and support nonprofit organizations identify needs, plan, achieve their goals and objectives and strengthening operations. He brings over 30 years of diverse professional background to his work, including all aspects of nonprofit organizational management, boards, programming, fund raising & grants, and outreach. He also teaches workshops and classes on the same topics as well as public speaking at universities, community education and professional association organizations.