



**REGIONAL ACCESS PROJECT FOUNDATION**

**Board Meeting Approved Minutes**

Wednesday July 23, 2025 at 9:00 AM

41550 Eclectic St. Palm Desert, CA 92260

- I. CALL TO ORDER 9:01** by *A. Wilson on behalf of J. Pye* - Roll Call *C. Borba, G. Colangeli, M. Gonda (Remotely), B. Gonzales (Came in at 9:02), J. Hayes, B. Kroonen, M. Meyer, G. Nestande (Remotely), K. Rodgers (Arrived at 9:26), T. St. Johns, A. Smith, V. Tanner, A. Wilson, J. Pye.*

*Absent: A. Dew (excused), C. Galvez, R. Ortega (excused).*

*Also Present: L. De Lara, J. Frank, A. Nieto, M. Robles, T. Fantini, V. Arroniz-Espinoza, A. Lackie, A. Huesca, S. Minor, Angela Colangeli.*

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

In order to meet Brown Act requirements, items may be added to the agenda only upon decision by a majority of the Board of Directors to add the item because of a need for immediate action.

Motion:	<i>Approve The Agenda As-is</i>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>B. Kroonen</i>	<i>C. Borba</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**IV. CONSENT ITEMS: Action Required**

- A.** Approval of June 25, 2025 Board Meeting Draft Minutes - Receive and file (Attach. #1)
- B.** CEO Report - Receive and File (Attach. #2)
- C.** Coachella Valley Healthy Living Report – Receive and File (Attach. #3)
- D.** Grant Report - Receive and File. (Attach. #4)
- E.** Facilities Report – Report and File (Attach. #5)

*Palo Verde Healthcare District Update provided by CEO and Amy Cuen, representing supervisor Perez.*

Staff Recommendation: To receive and file the June 25, 2025 BOD Minutes, CEO Report, Coachella Valley Healthy Living, Grants, and Facilities Report.

Motion:	<i>To receive and file items A, C, D, E</i>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>B. Kroonen</i>	<i>G. Colangeli</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

*To receive and file item B - Motion by V. Tanner – Seconded by M. Meyer.  
Approve – 15 Oppose – 0 – Abstention - 0*

V. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS – Action May Be Required

A. Leave of Absence from RAP Board for Rudy Gutierrez effective July 9, 2025 to October 15, 2025

Executive Committee Recommendation: For the Board to accept the Leave of Absence until October 15.

Motion:	<b><i>For the Board to accept the Leave of Absence until October 15.</i></b>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<b><i>V. Tanner</i></b>	<b><i>M. Meyer</i></b>	<b><i>15</i></b>	<b><i>0</i></b>	<b><i>0</i></b>

B. Supervisor V. Manuel Perez or his Representative- to provide update on County matters of interest.

***Amy Cuen Duffy – Reported that The County was recognized and supervisor Perez accepted an award on behalf of Parks Dept. For Lake Cahuilla. Park – Veterans Park \$5M investment.***

C. NPO Centric presentation on recent highlights, including the 2025-26 UCR Professional Certificate in Nonprofit Management applicants - Taly Fantini, NPO Centric Director. (Attach. #6).

Staff Recommendation: Approve and file the monthly report.

***Kenny Rodgers arrived at 9:26***

Motion:	<b><i>Approve and file the monthly report.</i></b>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<b><i>B. Kroonen</i></b>	<b><i>C. Borba</i></b>	<b><i>16</i></b>	<b><i>0</i></b>	

D. 2025 Desert Fast Pitch Presentation and County Wide NPOC Update– Stephanie Minor, Development Director. Tentative Budget (Attach. #7)

E. GRANTS TRACKER FY 2025-2026: (Attach. #8)

F. GRANT REQUESTS: PALO VERDE (PV) MENTAL HEALTH (MH) GRANTS - Action Required

1. THE GRANTS COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR PV MENTAL HEALTH GRANT #1 and #2.

RAP Board Members conflict for George Colangeli for PV MH Grant 1 and Bea Gonzalez and Matt Gonda for PV MH Grant 2.

***G. Colangeli Left room at 9:52***

PV MH Grant #1	Peace from Chaos (PFC)
Program:	Restoring Wellness Through Community-Driven Whole Person Care
Requested Amount:	FY25-26 PV Mental Health Grant \$88,000; FY26-27 PV Mental Health Grant \$88,000
Palo Verde Valley (PVV) is federally designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area with a score of 19—indicating a severe lack of behavioral and primary health providers. According to the 2023 HARC Blythe Community Health Survey, residents face high rates of trauma, depression, substance use, and chronic disease—especially among low-income Latinx and BIPOC communities. PFC is a community trusted, grassroots nonprofit based solely in Blythe serving the extremely rural and underserved PVV. As community members first, it delivers 24/7 bilingual mental health advocacy, peer support, and crisis response to over 10,500 residents.	
Average Score:	75%
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Sponsorship Grant: 1,793.79; FY23-24 Sponsorship Grant: 5,000; FY24-25 Sponsorship

	Grant: 5,000
NPO Membership:	N/A
Renewal Date:	N/A

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 5 No: 0): To approve a higher amount of \$100,000 which includes an NPOC membership and up to \$10,000 for NPOC services.

Staff discovered a calculation error, and is instead recommending a change in amount to be \$90,000 for a cash grant and up to \$8,000 for NPO Centric Membership and consulting.

**The Board recognized, acknowledged and discussed perceived Conflict of interest for G. Colangeli and decided that his recusal was sufficient.**

Motion:	<b>To approve \$90,000 for a cash grant and up to \$8,000 for NPO Centric Membership and consulting.</b>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<b>M. Meyer</b>	<b>V. Tanner</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Recused – G. Colangeli left room.**

PV MH Grant #2	Riverside County Latino Commission (RCLC)
Program:	Palo Verde Valley Mental Health
Requested Amount:	To provide an additional \$25,000 for PV Mental Health
RCLC has identified a significant gap in mental health services in the PVV. Two years ago, RCLC began providing mental health support and quickly recognized the critical need for expanding services. RCLC is seeking funding to address this gap and extend services to this underserved population. In partnership with the Palo Verde Unified School District (PVUSD), RCLC aims to enhance accessibility to mental health services in the region. PVUSD has proven to be a valuable partner and trusted link to the community, allowing RCLC to leverage their expertise in understanding local needs. Together, RCLC will engage the community through targeted outreach efforts, educate residents about available mental health resources, and facilitate access to care. RCLC clinician, specifically designated for this program together with the PVUSD will work on identifying individuals and families in need of services.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY21-22 Mental Health Grant: \$75,000; FY25-26 PV Mental Health Grant \$100,000

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 5 No: 0): To approve an amendment of an additional \$35,000 for the FY25-26 PV Mental Health Grant

Motion:	<b>To approve an amendment of an additional \$35,000 for the FY25-26 PV Mental Health Grant</b>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<b>M. Meyer</b>	<b>A. Smith</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>George Colangeli</b>

**Recused - left room: B. Gonzalez, M. Gonda.**

G. GRANT REQUESTS: SMALL GRANTS - Action Required

1. GRANTS COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR SMALL GRANT #1, AND #2.
2. GRANTS COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF A LESSER AMOUNT THAN REQUESTED FOR SMALL GRANT #3, #4 AND #5.

Small Grant 1	Friends of the Desert Mountains
Program:	Environmental Connections por Vida
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Friends of the Desert Mountains (FODM) has an agreement with Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) to work with all 14 of their elementary schools though their 3rd grade ASES afterschool program. CVUSD is located in the Eastern CV and serves many disadvantaged communities in the region. Their area contains tribal lands, agricultural communities, and large populations of immigrants and migrant workers. In this school district,	

97% of their 17,000 enrolled students qualify for reduced lunches. 42% of their student population also includes English Language Learners. The entire district includes Title 1 schools. This program serves over 200 3rd grade students every year and has been ongoing since 202

Average Score:	81%
Prior RAP Funding:	Small Grant FY22-23:10,000; Small Grant FY24-25:10,000;
NPO Membership:	Active

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 4 No: 0): To approve request for \$10,000.

Motion:	<b>To approve request for \$10,000.</b>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<b>V. Tanner</b>	<b>M. Meyer</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>M. Gonda</b>

**Joe Hayes stepped out of room – did not vote**

Small Grant 2	Desert Access and Mobility
Program:	"Pathways to Possibility" - Empowering Independence Through Accessible Transportation
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Desert Access and Mobility, Inc., is a nonprofit organization serving adults and seniors with physical disabilities across the CV. Desert Access and Mobility empowers these individuals to live independently and fully by providing critical mobility services and support. We focus on isolated and underserved populations—particularly low-income seniors—who face significant barriers to transportation, healthcare access, social engagement, and basic mobility. Our core services include door-to-door transportation to essential medical appointments, grocery stores, pharmacies, and community resources.	
Average Score:	87%
Prior RAP Funding:	Small Grant FY22-23: \$10,000; FY20-21 Historical COVID-19: \$10,000
NPO Membership:	N/A

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 4 No: 0): To approve request for \$10,000.

Motion:	<b>To approve request for \$10,000</b>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<b>M. Meyer</b>	<b>S Benoit</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Small Grant 3	DO THE RIGHT THING (DTRT) - Greater Palm Springs
Program:	DO THE RIGHT THING - Greater Palm Springs
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
DTRT accepts nominations from teachers, parents, and other adults in the community in recognition of students' good deeds or positive behavior. The goals of DTRT are to recognize and reward positive behavior, accomplishments, and attitudes in order to: build self-esteem in children; increase socially-desirable behavior in area youth; and to foster positive relationships between young people and law enforcement. In the 2 years since the first DTRT monthly award cycle, the program has already recognized more than 2,300 school-age children in the CV -- from Palm Springs to the Salton Sea	
Scores:	79% Three reviewers scoring: 90,78,70
Prior RAP Funding:	Small Grant: FY24-25: \$10,000
NPO Membership:	N/A

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 3 No: 2 S. Benoit and C. Borba): To approve a lesser amount of \$5,000.

Motion:	To approve a lesser amount of \$10,000.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

<i>M. Meyer</i>	<i>B. Kroonen</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1 - V. Tanner</i>	<i>0</i>
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Small Grant 4	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Desert
Program:	Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Rising back-to-school costs and a shrinking economy can be a heavy burden for families of school age youth. Through our efforts, we aim to ease that burden and ensure children have the essential supplies they need to thrive academically without added stress. We plan to continue our annual Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway for students across all grade levels—elementary, middle, and high school. Each backpack will be tailored at grade level and filled with fundamental supplies such as notebooks, paper, pencils, pens, glue sticks, crayons, markers, colored pencils, highlighters, calculators, and pencil cases. This free giveaway will be open to school-age children throughout the Coachella Valley along with our program participants. We'll spread the word by contacting past recipients, use of our social media channels, website, local media, community partners, and school districts.	
Average Score:	81%
Prior RAP Funding:	FY20-21 Historical Covid: \$10,000; FY24-25 Small Grant: \$7,500 FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention \$15,000
NPO Membership:	No

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 5 No 0): To approve a lesser amount of \$7,500.

Motion:	<i>To approve a lesser amount of \$7,500.</i>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>B. Kroonen</i>	<i>V. Tanner</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>3 - K. Rodger, T. St. Johns, J. Hayes.</i>	<i>0</i>

Small Grant 5	Rotary Club of Coachella East (RC of CE)
Program:	Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program (RYLA)
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
RC of CE is proud to support youth development by sponsoring local students to attend RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) — a transformative, three-day leadership camp designed to inspire and empower high school students. RYLA provides hands-on leadership training, team-building activities, and motivational sessions that equip students with confidence, purpose, and the tools to become effective leaders in their schools and communities.	
Average Score:	77%
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Sponsorship: \$5,000
NPO Membership:	No

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 5 No: 0): To approve request for a lesser amount of \$7,000 for 10 students.

Motion:	<i>To approve request for a lesser amount of \$7,000 for 10 students.</i>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>V. Tanner</i>	<i>B. Kroonen</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Kenny Rodgers</i>	<i>0</i>

H. GRANT REQUESTS: SPONSORSHIP GRANTS - Action Required

1. GRANTS COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR SPONSORSHIP GRANT #1 and #2.

2. GRANTS COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING DENIAL OF SPONSORSHIP GRANT #3.

Sponsorship 1	The Exception
Program:	Raising The Future (RTF)
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
RTF is a transformative, countywide community event designed to address the unmet needs of at-risk youth and their families across Riverside County, with particular alignment to the priorities of the 4th Supervisorial District. The event creates a dynamic space where county agencies, community-based organizations, educational institutions, and justice partners come together to deliver hands-on workshops, inspiring speakers, and resource-rich experiences. This full-day engagement connects youth with creative, pro-social opportunities—ranging from art, music, and self-defense to financial literacy, tech and AI, and career pathways. Simultaneously, adults are offered workshops on parenting, trauma recovery, behavioral health, digital safety, and advocacy tools, ensuring that families grow stronger together.	
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	Active
Renewal Date:	06/30/26

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No: 0): To approve request for \$5,000.

Motion:	<b>To approve request for \$5,000.</b>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<b>J. Hayes</b>	<b>V. Tanner</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Sponsorship 2	Alianza Coachella Valley
Program:	The Hue Music & Arts Festival 2025
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
The Hue is an all-day, youth-led music festival held in the Eastern CV every year. Members of Alianza's Youth Organizing Council are responsible for all aspects of the event, from selecting the performance line-up, to promotion, venue setup, and MCing. It serves as a community-driven alternative to the Coachella music festival that takes place in the area around the same time each year. The Hue emphasizes and nurtures creativity, public speaking, and leadership skills - giving young people the tools needed to secure the necessary permits for large-scale events, the ability to map event plans with City and County officials, and work on bringing local artists to the space.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY21-22 Mental Health Grant \$50,000; FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant \$16,600; FY23-24 Sponsorship \$2,500; FY23-25 Juvenile Intervention Grant \$60,000
NPO Membership:	N/A
Renewal Date:	N/A

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No: 0): To approve request for \$5,000.

Motion:	<b>To approve request for \$5,000.</b>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<b>K. Rodgers</b>	<b>J. Hayes</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Sponsorship 3	March Forth Kenya Kids (MFKK)
Program:	Healing Drum Sessions: Palm Springs Village Fest
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
On Thursday nights, MFKK has developed a free community drum session during Palm Springs Village Fest. MFKK specifically focuses on teaching children and giving them the opportunity to learn music skills from professional artists in the community and beyond. They teach the basics on African drums and other percussive instruments with a focus on individual attention. They provide “microlessons” to all ages, but specifically to children whose families may not be able to afford full-time lessons. They also aim to instill a connection and sense of community between people of all ages, races, cultures, and creeds. Their lead teacher is Oneko Arika, an international touring percussionist from Africa, residing in the CV. Each weekly session maintains 2 teachers with up to 8 students at a time. They rotate people through as necessary to ensure that all individuals who would like to participate get a turn.	
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	N/A

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 5 No: 0): To deny the request but approve NPOC Membership and encourage applicant to apply for Desert Fast Pitch.

Motion:	<i>To deny the request but approve NPOC Membership and encourage applicant to apply for Desert Fast Pitch.</i>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>M. Meyer</i>	<i>S. Benoit</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>3 - K. Rodgers, A. Smith, V. Tanner</i>	<i>0</i>

I. NPO Centric Business Plan – There are 2 recommendations to adopt the document with the changes as submitted. The second recommendation, Staff’s, changes the plan from a one-year to a three-year plan. ([Attach. #9](#))

1. NPO Centric Committee Recommendation: To approve the NPO Centric Business Plan for FY2025-26 with recommended edits by Committee. As directed/recommended by committee, the Final Draft was approved by NPO Centric Committee Chair, Aurora Wilson, and Vice-Chair, Maria Meyer.
2. The CEO and NPO Centric Director met with Committee Chair Wilson and Vice-Chair Meyer to discuss the changes requested by the Committee. All changes were reviewed and completed. There was agreement by the four persons that changes to the content are needed for future plans rather than making the changes this year. Also, it is reasonable to change the length of the period to be more in line with traditional 3-5 year plans.

Staff Recommendation: To approve a 3 year Business Plan, FY 2025-28. The next Business Plan in 2028 will address core topics with greater focus. The yearly review in April/May by the Committee will continue.

Motion:	<i>To approve a 3 year Business Plan, FY 2025-28. The next Business Plan in 2028 will address core topics with greater focus. The NPO Centric Committee will review annually and decide at a later date on the timeline.</i>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>V. Tanner</i>	<i>K. Rodgers</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

J. Change to the RAP Rental Lease- Include the NPO Centric membership fee. The pricing is based on the organization’s Most Recent Year End Revenue on leases for all nonprofits effective January 1, 2026.

([Attach. #10A](#))

On July 2024, the RAP Board approved:



- ~~To Impose a Fee for Meeting Rooms - Meeting rooms have been free to nonprofits during business hours and a minimal fee for non-business hours. The NPO Centric Committee proposed to the Facilities Committee the following changes:~~
- NPO Centric members can reserve meeting rooms for free during business hours and a minimal fee in non-business hours.
- Non-NPOC members to have a fee for business hours and a higher amount for non-business hours. Effective Jan. 1, 2025.
- Effective Jan. 1, 2025 tenants will be required to be NPOC members and have no extra fees for business and non-business hours.

The RAP Board approved the June 2024 - Business Plan which addresses tenants being NPO Centric members– (**Attach. #10B**)

Facilities Committee Recommendation (Yes: 3 No: C. Borba, M. Gonda): To incorporate the NPO Centric Membership Policy into the RAP nonprofit tenant leases, with the pricing range based on the organizations Most Recent Year End effective January 1, 2026.

Motion:	<b><i>To incorporate the NPO Centric Membership Policy into the RAP nonprofit tenant leases, with the pricing range based on the organizations Most Recent Year End effective January 1, 2026.</i></b>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<b><i>J. Pye</i></b>	<b><i>V. Tanner</i></b>	<b><i>13</i></b>	<b><i>2- C. Borba, G. Colangeli.</i></b>	<b><i>0</i></b>

K Rescheduling the Strategic Planning session planned for November. The Board decided to have the Strategic Planning meeting in November. Due to scheduling conflicts, an alternative date has been selected – Thursday November 20, 2026 from 8 AM- 1 PM.

Executive Committee Recommendation: To reschedule the Board Planning Session to November 20 from 8 AM- 1 PM.

***Acknowledge – Change Year to 2025***

Motion:	<b><i>To reschedule the Board Planning Session to November 20 from 8 AM- 1 PM.</i></b>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<b><i>J. R/e</i></b>	<b><i>M. Meyer</i></b>	<b><i>15</i></b>	<b><i>0</i></b>	<b><i>0</i></b>

## VI. Information Item

A. Board Attendance for 2025 (**Attach. #11**) ***Maria Meyer noted that the May Attendance does not reflect attendance for M. Meyer and G. Nestande.***

B. Grants Committee: Met on July 14. Approved June 16 Minutes (**Attach. #12**). Next meeting Sept. 15.

C. Executive Committee: Met on July 14. Approved June 16 Minutes (**Attach. #13**). Next meeting Sept. 15.

D. Finance/Investment Committee: Next meeting Sept. 15.

E. NPO Centric Committee: Next meeting TBD.

F. Facilities Committee: Met July 14. Approved June 25 Minutes. (**Attach. #14**) Next meeting TBD.

## VII. BOARD MEMBER / STAFF COMMENTS



*CEO Noted – John Franke leaving.*

*Kenny Rodgers mentioned that he would like to have the Grants Committee consider addressing the fiscal limits in the future.*

*M. Meyer noted that the Grants Committee's reasons for reduction or denied requested amounts was missing. CEO stated that this oversight will be corrected in the future.*

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: **11:14** Next meeting September 24, 2025 at 9 AM.