



EASTER LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
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**ELARC Board of Directors Meeting
 November 14, 2017
 Approved as Recorded January 9, 2018**

Present:

Anthony De La Rosa
 Diane Lasell
 Nestor Nieves
 Virgilio Orlina
 Richard Helgeson
 Devora Reed
 Yougeng Sun
 Jose Reyes

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
 Rosalie Estrada,
 Executive Secretary

Absent:

Joe Utar (excused)
 Tony Borrego (excused)
 Elias Fonseca (excused)
 Lida Chavez (excused)

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I Welcome & Roll Call

Mr. Anthony De La Rosa, President, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was present in order to conduct necessary business.

II Introductions/Opening Round: Board of Directors and Audience

Introductions of the Board of Directors and of the audience were conducted.

III Community Input

Julie Eby-McKenzie, Area Board X, announced the Area Board has a newsletter which provides information on relevant Los Angeles Area events. Julie indicated if anyone is interested in receiving a copy they should sign-up on the sheet provided.

Julie reported the Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center is partnering with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to conduct a training “Project Leadership” for family members of individuals with disabilities to advocate for a better future. The sessions are scheduled for January 6, 2018, January 13, 2018, January 20, 2018 and January 27, 2018 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Additionally a “save the date” flyer was distributed. Wrights Law, a special education advocate will be making a presentation on September 7, 2018. It will be an all-day conference at the California Endowment Center in Los Angeles. Flyers were made available.

IV. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting

A. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of October 10, 2017

M/S/C (Richard Helgeson/Diane Lasell) To approve the Minutes of October 10, 2017 as recorded. Unanimous.

V. Executive Director's Report – Gloria Wong

A. Purchase of Services (POS) Disparity Funds

1. DDS: Disparity Funds Guidelines

The legislature has allocated \$11 million dollars per funding cycle. The funded projects are intended to reduce the POS expenditure disparity among the various ethnic groups. For the second cycle the guidelines have changed allowing Community-based Organizations (CBO's), both profit and non-profit organizations, to apply for these funds. In the initial phase applicants were limited to only regional centers. The deadline for submitting applications was November 6, 2017. DDS expects applications to conclude the review process by December 21, 2017. Selected projects awarded funding will be posted on DDS website.

2. DDS: Public Meeting Notice

DDS hosted three statewide meetings to present the guidelines for the disparity funds program. On November 7, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, DDS held one of three meetings in the Los Angeles County area at the Ramona Hall Community Center. There were also public meetings in Oakland and Fresno in late September 2017. The meetings were divided into three agenda items. First, DDS presented on POS disparity data from a statewide perspective and discussed the various efforts being undertaken to reduce disparities and concluded with a presentation on the process for funding disparity proposals in the second cycle. The second part included presentations by various regional centers that were awarded funding for the first cycle. ELARC was asked to present on its various projects and their current status. Lastly, the meeting closed by allowing the audience to participate in an open "Mic" session. DDS advised the audience that they would be posting summary notes on their website in the near future.

3. ELARC: Community Meeting

Regional Centers were required to conduct a community meeting about their specific proposals for the \$11 million. ELARC conducted its public meeting on October 25, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Flyers were printed and distributed. There were approximately 10 individuals in attendance. There was an in-depth discussion on the disparity projects. Ms. Wong reviewed the power-point presented at the ELARC public meeting.

Common themes identified at both the DDS stakeholder meeting and the ELAR local community meeting included the following points:

- (1) Lack of culturally and linguistically responsive service options and providers.
- (2) Families need additional assistance in navigating the service system.

- (3) Need for information in native languages, especially about the individual program planning process, consumer rights, and available services.
- (4) Cultural barriers prevent families from requesting services and exercising their rights.
- (5) Need to build trust between public systems and communities.

4. ELARC: Proposals

ELARC has applied for a continuation of the two most successful projects funded under the first cycle, which includes:

(a) Reduced Caseloads & Targeted Supports: Currently there are 5 services coordinators assigned low POS per capita cases including cases with no purchase of services. Focus is on 200 cases with a reduced caseload ratio of 1:40. Currently there are 198 cases which have been identified for the Reduced Caseload project. Recruiting families to participate in this project has been more difficult than anticipated as families do not want to change service coordinators due to long-standing positive relationships. ELARC is requesting that the "Reduced Caseload" project be approved for a two year period allowing for a longitudinal study and for more in-depth results. Additionally, ELARC is requesting the continued funding of the two previously approved "Person-Centered Coordinators", each focusing on the Asian and Hispanic community. Their role includes assisting newly registered families/consumer on navigating the regional center system from the initial stages at intake, by creating a culturally sensitive person-centered introductory approach to a complex system. Additionally, the "Person-Centered Coordinators" also focus on cases that are not part of the "200" lower caseload ratios by working with existing service coordinators on lessons learned and approaches to reduce lower POS expenditures to Asian and Hispanic families.

(b) Orientations: Parent Organizations

Develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for parent run organizations that serve populations identified as underserved in ELARC's catchment area. The partnership will include outreach to under-served community populations and to regularly present scheduled orientations in the various languages at the early stages of registration. The parent run organizations will serve as a bridge for families to connect with a culturally relevant source of ongoing parent support.

5. Community-Based Organizations (CBO's)

There were numerous CBO's that met with ELARC staff to discuss their proposals and sought formal support of their proposals. The CBO's interested in submitting proposals included: Fiesta Educativa, Chinese Parent Association (CPAD) and the Institute for Maximum Human Potential (IMHP) which is representing multiple applicants with varying concepts.

A general discussion ensued regarding Cantonese being the predominant Chinese dialect used by ELARC families/consumers. It was shared that families self-identify the preferred language of communication to be used by the regional center. This information guides the service coordinator assignment. Board member, Mr. Sun, and audience participant, Dr. Chien, both commented that Mandarin is the more widely used dialect in China and that Cantonese is confined to a limited geographical area in China.

B. Self-Determination

Self-Determination is an alternative to the traditional regional center case management service delivery and funding will be based on the previous year's history of funding. Federal approval is required and DDS continues consulting with the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) before the application is formally submitted.

1. Local Advisory Committee

The last Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting was held on November 7, 2017. A copy of the agenda was shared with the Board along with a copy of the powerpoint presentation which was done by Elizabeth Harrell, Supervisor, Information and Training.

In the past two months there has been statewide training throughout the State, at which Elizabeth Harrell, ELARC Supervisor of Information & Training, participated as a panel presenter at DDS's request.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 6th, 2018.

2. Fact Sheet

A fact sheet on Self Determination was developed and distributed for information.

3. Federal Application Status

It has been approximately 2 ½ years since the Bill was passed on authorizing California to establish a Self-Determination project. DDS has been working with the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and it is hoped that by the end of the calendar year approval will be granted. Once approved participation will be limited to 2,500 consumers for the first three years. Thereafter it will be opened to all interested participants without any restrictions to the number of participants. DDS will randomly select participants for the first phase (2,500) from the lists submitted by regional centers.

DDS will be updating their website mid-November on the latest update.

C. Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 Budget Update

1. Purchase of Services (POS) Update

The 2017-18 Sufficiency of Allocation Report was reviewed.

ELARC is projecting a deficit ranging from \$4.9 to \$2.5 million. Last fiscal year ELARC ended the fiscal year with a \$6 million surplus. Regional Centers are required to complete a Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR), a comprehensive financial analysis of projected POS expenses. The first SOAR is due to DDS by December 10th of each year. As regional centers pay in arrears this allows for four months of actual POS expenditures to be part of the report. The reporting date minimizes the projection estimates to just over six months until the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Wong will have an updated report at the January 2018 meeting.

2. Budget Performance Report: Operations

In Operations (OPS), there is a projected deficit of \$119,267.

There is an outstanding operations allocation of approximately \$162,000 for the "Community Placement Plan" (CPP). DDS withholds this specific allocation until April/May to determine if the targeted number of developmental center placements were met. If the goal is attained as projected DDS releases the committed funds, otherwise they allocate according to the percentage of placements made.

(a) October 2017 Caseload Ratio Survey

DDS has required a high level of budget analysis by regional centers as a result of trailer bill language and ABX-2-1 funding. One of the reports requested was for an update on current caseload ratios. Standard practice is to submit caseload analysis based on March 1st stats. The result of the October analysis was included as an attachment for Board discussion. ELARC met four of the five categories, with the exception the 1:66 category. There were no changes from the report submitted in March 2017.

Ms. Wong reminded the Board that ELARC was allocated \$619,000 to hire additional service coordinators to reduce caseload ratios. At the time hiring was conducted on a staggered basis throughout the fiscal year. Unfortunately, there is no consideration in giving annual costs for salary increases and benefits. The cost of the originally hired staff now exceeds the original allocation of \$619,000 and the results are a much tighter operations budget.

VI Consumer Services Report: Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services

There was no consumer services report since Felipe Hernandez was unable to attend the Board Meeting.

VII Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) (Virgilio Orlina)

Mr. Virgilio Orlina reported the CAC held its 2018 Planning Meeting on October 24, 2017. In attendance were Liz Harrell, Supervisor, Information and Training, Jesse Padilla, ELARC Consumer Advocate and Brendali Maldonado, Information and Training Specialist and Mr. Orlina.

The goal for the CAC in 2018 is to come together and make the CAC a more positive and productive environment for all individuals served and strive to make each CAC meeting an enriching experience for all the CAC members.

There was also discussion at the planning meeting about what was learned from the 2017 CAC meetings. The CAC topics for 2018 meetings were presented. Mr. Padilla will continue to update the email list and sending out emails to the members before each CAC meetings. In addition to the emails Ms. Maldonado will post meeting notices on the ELARC website and will send an E-Notification to the CAC members about the CAC meetings. There was also discussion on how to make the CAC meetings more interactive and strive for increased participation.

Topics for 2018 CAC Meetings are as follows:

- January 16 Mobility Training
- March 20 Interacting with Law Enforcement
- May 15 Employment
- July 17 Self-Advocacy
- September 18 Self-Determination
- November 13 Emotional Health

As the Christmas season is just around the corner, Jesse Padilla announced that the ELARC's State Tree Ornament project had a wonderful turnout of 160 ornaments for the 2017 86th Annual State Capitol Tree Lighting Ceremony. The ornaments are now on the way to Sacramento to adorn the State Capitol Christmas Tree this December. For more than 20 years the State Capitol Tree has been decorated with ornaments made by individuals with developmental disabilities. The ornaments have been posted on the ELARC Facebook and Instagram pages.

The next CAC meeting will be on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and will be held at the ELARC boardroom and via video conference from the Whittier Office. The main topic will be Emergency Preparedness. The guest presenter will be Jesse Padilla, ELARC Consumer Advocate. Also included in the agenda for next Tuesday CAC Meeting will be the election of the CAC Vice-Chair.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee (Jose Ruiz)

Jose Ruiz, VAC Chair, reported the VAC met on October 26, 2017. One of the topics discussed was planning with ELARC and the VAC for the employment forum. Mr. Ruiz stated there was a concern expressed by a consumer on how job developers create job opportunities and how "job coaching" is offered. Historically, service providers have never been the best in providing "job coaching". The VAC, as service providers, would like to assess practices being used. Every vendor has outcomes and we want to determine if goals are being met. The Vendor Advisory Committee will be meeting on November 16th and discussion will continue on this topic.

Mr. Ruiz reported the Emergency Operations planning continues to be a topic of importance.

Roxy Ortiz, ELARC, Information & Training Specialist provided information regarding Trailer Bill 279 which unfortunately did not pass. The bill was for the minimum wage adjustments for specific local jurisdictions. Ms. Ortiz urged the vendors to get in touch with their respective city council and mayors to raise awareness on the issue on how it affects the community and the vendors.

The next VAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16th at 10:00 a.m.

C. Finance/Personnel Committee (Joe Utar)

There was no report.

VIII Miscellaneous Announcements

Mr. Anthony De La Rosa announced on November 16th the State of California is requiring all hospitals to participate in a save life medical and health exercise. He indicated one of the roles at Monterey Park Hospital is to coordinate this effort and he extended an invitation to the Board if they are interested in seeing how the hospital command center works. There will be an emergency exercise at Monterey Park Hospital starting at 8:00 a.m. It will provide information on how information is provided both internally and externally.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2018. Ms. Wong wished a happy and safe holiday season.

Anthony De La Rosa stated on behalf of him and his family wished all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There being no further business to discuss the board meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Original signed by Diane Lasell

Diane Lasell, Secretary
Eastern Los Angeles Board of Directors

Recorded by: Rosalie Estrada, Executive Secretary

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