



EASTER LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
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ELARC Board of Directors Meeting
January 9, 2018
Approved February 13, 2018

Present:

Tony Borrego
 Diane Lasell
 Richard Helgeson
 Devora N. Reed
 Yougeng Sun
 Virgilio Orlina
 Nestor Nieves
 Elias Fonseca
 Jose Reyes

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
 Felipe Hernandez, Chief of
 Consumer Services
 Elizabeth Harrell, Supervisor,
 Information & Training
 Rosalie Estrada,
 Executive Secretary

Absent:

Lida Chavez, excused
 Anthony De La Rosa, excused
 Joe Utar, excused

Guests:

Refer to Sign-In sheet



I Welcome & Roll Call

Anthony De La Rosa, President, was unable to attend board meeting, therefore Mr. Tony Borrego, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 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

Tony Borrego announced community input will be limited to 3 minutes and remarks should be in general in nature and not specific to any consumer.

✓ Virgilio Orlina, CAC representative shared information about an experience and opportunity he was given. He was selected as one of the volunteer extras in the filming of *“Run, Hide, and Fight In the Work Environment.”* The filming was a TV quality production with emphasis on saving the lives of employees and individuals with disabilities and how to protect themselves from active shooters. The project was produced by the City of Los Angeles Police Department and Information Technology Agency. The filming was held at the Department of Disability in downtown Los Angeles on December 11, 2017. It will be distributed to the various TV

channels. There were about 15 individuals with disabilities who participated in the production and Virgilio reported he was the only one in a wheelchair. Virgilio shared a group photo taken of the 15 individuals.

The premier may take place during the first week of February 2018 after editing is completed. They will notify the participants through email and will share the information upon receipt.

✓ Mr. Norman Fulco, parent and former board member addressed the Board regarding concerns over gross underfunding of the regional center system which goes back to 2008/2009. He indicated he has seen good, experienced people leave residential homes due to the low salaries. There is a disparity of about \$10.00 an hour for people who work in residential home vs. state staff that work in developmental centers and in mental health. He stated he would like to see this issue remedied.

Mr. Fulco addressed Ms. Gloria Wong stating another regional center director told him the legislature is suspending the entitlement clause in the Lanterman Act which will be introduced as part of the 2018-'19 Fiscal Year process. Ms. Wong stated that she has not heard of such a radical proposition and is skeptical that it will be part of the preliminary budget proposal being introduced by Governor Brown January 10th. Ms. Wong encouraged all to watch the Governor's presentation of the 2018-'19 budget to determine if such a position is announced. Additionally, Ms. Wong stated the details of the developmental disability budget will become available after the Governor's announcement and will be posted on the DDS website. Ms. Wong cited that should there be such a shift in policy and commitment to the community-based system, regional centers, there would quickly be a boisterous challenge by the community to squelch such an attack to the long standing practice of entitlement to services.

Mr. Borrego thanked Mr. Fulco for his input.

IV. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting

A. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of November 14, 2017

M/S/C (Richard Helgeson/Virgilio Orlina) To approve the Minutes of November 14, 2017 as recorded. Unanimous.

V. Executive Director's Report – Gloria Wong

A. 2016-'17 Fiscal Year Annual Expenditures of Purchase of Services

Ms. Wong reported the *2016/17 Fiscal Year Annual Expenditures of Purchase of Services by Ethnicity, Age, Diagnosis, Language, Residence Type and Insurance-Related Data* has been posted on the ELARC website. A copy of this report was shared with the Board of Directors and will become part of ongoing Board discussions over the next few months as analytical material is developed in preparation for the public meetings to be held in March.

The partnership with Community Based Organizations, Fiesta Educativa and CPAD, have proven to be very positive and as such have helped tremendously in the development of plans to address disparity in partnership with these agencies and their membership.

1. Community Meetings

Ms. Elizabeth Harrell, Supervisor, Information and Training reported on the community meetings scheduled for March 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon in partnership with Fiesta Educativa at the Mexican American Opportunity (MAOF) offices located in Montebello. Revised flyer was distributed. The CPAD meeting will be held on March 24, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon at the Asian Youth Center in San Gabriel. There will also be a public meeting to review the data with the community on March 27th at the ELARC Main office in the Board Room from 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. Flyers were made available.

B. DDS – Disparity Projects: Funding Update

In order to improve equity, ELARC has undertaken activities as a result of ABX-2 approved proposals. ELARC's primary proposal is the establishment of a specialized unit in the consumer services division which carries a reduced caseload ratio of 1:40. The caseload is comprised of 200 cases, Hispanic and Asian ethnicity, whose POS expenditures fall below \$2,000 or have "No POS".

Ms. Elizabeth Harrell and Mr. Felipe Hernandez reported on the ongoing proposals.

- ✓ Ms. Harrell reported ELARC just conducted parent orientations in partnership with the Family Resource Center and Fiesta Educativa for children over the age of 3 years.
- ✓ ELARC awarded a grant to the Chinatown Service Center as well as to the Proyecto Pastoral. Both are Community-Based Organizations (CBO's) who do not work with individuals with developmental disabilities. The grant will be used for the agencies to do outreach. Brendali Maldonado, Training Specialist, will provide training on the basics of regional center eligibility so that when their staff are doing outreach in the community they can incorporate referrals to the regional center as needed. The parent run organizations will serve as a bridge for families to connect with a culturally relevant source of ongoing parent support.
- ✓ Additionally ELARC conducted several behavior management workshops in various languages, other than English, on Saturdays. Unfortunately, despite a strong outreach effort, attendance was poor and some sessions had to be cancelled. Some families expressed a preference to being part of a blended group, rather than segregated, with translation provided at these sessions.
- ✓ ELARC is working with other regional centers in developing informational materials in languages other than English. ELARC is also working on developing informational videos in English and other languages.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The Person-Centered Coordinators are housed in the Information and Training Unit and they provide a high level of support to Consumer Services and assist resource development and outreach to small grassroots organizations, identifying resources in the local neighborhoods. Support is also provided to monolingual Chinese or Spanish to newly registered families at the intake process educating the family on the regional center system and answering questions they may have prior to being assigned to a service coordinator.

Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services reported on the Service Coordination Specialized Caseload project.

✓ Reduced Caseloads & Targeted Supports: Currently there are 5 services coordinators assigned to low POS per capita cases and cases with no purchase of services. Focus is on 200 cases with a reduced caseload ratio of 1:40. Mr. Hernandez indicated Carmen Luna is the supervisor for the project.

Currently there are 5 Service Coordinators directly reporting to Ms. Luna. There is 1 Cantonese speaking and 4 Spanish speaking service coordinators. The selection of these service coordinators was done after they were interviewed and asked what their aspirations were for the enhanced caseload. The five were selected based on having effective interviewing skills, being able to converse with family members, and being able to understand the different situations and backgrounds of these families.

A curriculum has been developed which includes a better understanding of the regional center system, understanding the diagnosis, and its consequences. Mr. Hernandez stated that many families are referred to the regional center by their physician's, they come to the office, not knowing why.

Understanding the role of the service coordinator: Some families have commented they do not understand the role of the service coordinator. The 5 service coordinators are spending a lot of time with their assigned families and yet there are families who have voiced they don't want to spend a lot of time with their newly assigned service coordinator due to family demands and limited availability.

A great deal of time is spent with the families educating them on the IPP process for services and the service coordinators solicit family/consumer input.

There has been discussion regarding the development of a survey which would be completed at the beginning of the project and then a final survey at the end of the project prior to the transfer back to their original service coordinator. The intent is to determine from the families what worked and what did not work.

Ms. Wong reported that the current ABX2-1 allocation will sustain the projects through March 2018. It is hoped that DDS will see the value of continuation funding of the project, ideally, over the next two years but at the very least for one more year of operation. Ms. Wong indicated that ELARC's proposal of a specialized unit, is innovative and unique in its arrangement, most regional centers proposals centered on information and training components.

C. Performance Contract (PC) 2018

1. 2018 PC

Correspondence was received from DDS regarding the 2018 Performance Contract adopted by the Board of Directors on October 10, 2017. DDS reviewed the performance contract for compliance with applicable statutory provisions and the DDS contract guidelines dated August 25, 2017. The PC for 2018 was approved as submitted. A copy of the letter was shared with the Board of Directors.

2. 2017: Year End Report

The PC 2017 Year End Report was distributed. The report is compiled by DDS. Internally each area of the PC is assigned to various Management staff. Through the year they are responsible for tracking the data.

The 2017 Year End Report will be is posted on the ELARC website in April or May.

D. Self-Determination Update

Self-Determination is an alternative to the traditional regional center case management service delivery system 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

(a) November 7, 2017 Meeting & Presentation

The last Local Advisory Committee Meeting was held on November 7, 2017. A copy of the agenda was shared with the Board as well as the power-point presentation used at the November meeting.

(b) 2018 Meeting Dates

The proposed 2018 meeting dates for the ELARC Self Determination Local Advisory Committee was distributed. All meetings will be held in the Boardroom in Alhambra from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

(c) Federal Application Status

DDS continues to work with the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and it is anticipated that the application will be resubmitted by the end of January. If the application is approved within 90 days of submittal, the Self-Determination project will be implemented in 2018. There will be a total of 2,500 consumers participating in the first three years. As being requested by DDS, regional centers Regional Centers will submit the list of individuals interested in being part of the Self-Determination. ELARC is in the process of compiling the list which will be sent to DDS. Anyone who has attended any informational meeting where Self-Determination was discussed is eligible to be placed on the list. DDS will make the final selection.

Ms. Harrell reported there are three informational sessions scheduled for February, March and April for service coordinators with maximum attendance at 45 per session. DDS has developed the curriculum for these sessions.

E. Budget Update

1. Statewide POS Summary

Ms. Wong reported there is a statewide budget deficit ranging from \$59 million to \$105 million. ELARC is projecting a deficit over \$4 million but it is expected that DDS will make regional centers whole.

2. ELARC: Purchase of Services Expenditure Projection

The POS Expenditure Projections Summary was distributed and reviewed. Correspondence from DDS dated December 29, 2017 was shared with the Board. The correspondence makes

reference to the respite policy and requested that all regional centers revise their Respite Services policies in light of the repeal of the Welfare and Institutions Code effective January 1, 2018. ELARC submitted a revised Respite policy on September 13, 2017. DDS is temporarily approving the policy for 90 days effective January 1, 2018. DDS is requesting the Respite Services Policy include a description of the regional center's respite services and exceptions process that is easily understood and a statement that the regional center will only consider services such as In-Home Supportive Services as a generic resource when the approved service meets the respite need as identified in the consumer's IPP or individualized family service plan.

Ms. Wong noted the Governor will be presenting the California State Budget on Wednesday, January 10th for fiscal year 2018/2019.

Operations: ELARC is currently reporting a deficit of approximately \$135,616 which includes expenditures through November. There is an outstanding allocation of approximately \$163,000 for the Community Placement Plan (CPP) which is typically received in April. The result would mean a modest surplus of approximately \$28,000.

VIII Consumer Services Report

Felipe Hernandez reported the following:

- ✓ George De La Loza, Employment Specialist has been working on partnership agreements between the Department of Rehabilitation and the Educational System. Long range plan is to have 13 agreements in place. Mr. De La Loza is currently working with the Los Angeles Unified School District, Alhambra and the Montebello School Districts. The goal is to have at least one agreement signed by December 2018.
- ✓ Correspondence was received from the Department of Developmental Services re: personal property which will be made available to regional center consumers as a result of the closure of the developmental centers. The Department of General Services has approved a plan to allow individuals with developmental disabilities to have first access to surplus DS personal equipment, furnishings, and supplies prior to DDS disposing of items using the standard process at no cost. A plan will be developed to inform the community.

IX Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee

Virgilio Orlina, CAC Chair, stated as the CAC begins the new year their goal is to increase attendance and to be consistent in every CAC meeting. During the last planning and debriefing meeting which was attended by Jesse Padilla, Consumer Advocate and Mr. Orlina, they discussed areas that need to improve. Virgilio reported the CAC experienced poor attendance in Alhambra but good attendance at the Whittier office for the November CAC Meeting last year. This forced the election for the Vice Chair to be moved to the January 16, 2018 CAC Meeting. There was discussion to focus on the need to find ways to remind and encourage consumers to check their emails, visit the ELARC website, and to consistently attend CAC meetings and not just for the topics of interest to them.

The last CAC meeting for 2017 was held on November 21st. The guest speaker was Jesse Padilla, Consumer Advocate. Mr. Padilla presented a PowerPoint on Emergency Preparedness. He discussed how to prepare for an Emergency Disaster, how to use the

Feeling Safe Being Safe Workbook, such as how to stay safe during earthquakes (and other disasters), and how to prepare an emergency backpack.

The next CAC meeting will be on January 16, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the ELARC Boardroom in Alhambra and via video conference at the Whittier office. The topic will be Mobility Training. The guest speaker will be Monica Marroquin, Travel Instructor Lead, Mobility Management Partners. The informational session will provide consumers and support with essential travel skills such as reading a bus/train schedule, how to pay the fare, boarding and exiting a bus/train and making a transfer.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee

Jose Ruiz, VAC Chair reported the Working Group Meeting met on January 5, 2018 at San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center. Brian Chacon and Mr. Ruiz worked with Frances Jacobs, Manager, Community Services to contact all vendors that have experience going through the Health & Safety (H & S) Waiver process for feedback through emails and follow-up calls to complete a questionnaire to better understand the issues and experiences of two vendors that went through the process at ELARC. They received 6 out of 10 vendor responses before the stake holders meeting held on January 5th.

Bryan Chacon (Vice-Chair from ELARC's VAC) was in attendance preparing ELARC's vendors, and he provided feedback and questions that the six vendors had during the meeting. This meeting was a requirement as per Assembly Bill 107 (Chapter 18, Statutes of 2017), which requires DDS to convene a work group consisting of regional centers, service providers, advocates, family members, and consumers to consider a simplified processes for providers seeking rate adjustments pursuant to a health and safety waiver or an unanticipated rate adjustment request. The working group may also make recommendations on alternative criteria and procedures for considering requests for rate adjustments.

There were a lot of concerns and questions regarding the lack of funds to support or sustain programs. Local minimum wage concerns coming this July 2018 was a big topic along with the timeliness on getting responses from DDS regarding H & S waiver requests. Vendors had concerns over not receiving clear directions of this time consuming process and overall needing better clarity.

In attendance for DDS: Jim Knight, Office of Federal Program and Fiscal Support; Brian Winfield, Deputy Director; John Doyle, Chief Deputy Director and Steven Palwowski, VP from Burns and Associates (rate study).

Jose Ruiz also wished to thank Jesse Padilla for attending the meeting and addressing the consumers who were present at this meeting.

C. Finance/Personnel Committee.

1. Independent Audit Review Fiscal Year 2016-'17

The contract with DDS requires the regional centers to conduct an independent annual audit and the findings of the financial audit must be posted on the regional center website.

2. Financial Statement Preliminary Report

Richard Helgeson, Board Member, reported the Board Finance Committee met on December 11, 2017 with Windes, Inc. to review a draft report of the independent financial audit conducted

for FY 2016/17. Present at the meeting were Joe Utar, Board Member, Gloria Wong, Executive Director, Patricia Alvarez, Chief of Administrative Services Sophia Tang Hao, Controller.

Representatives from Windes, Inc. included Tom Huey, Audit Partner, Donita Joseph, Tax Partner and Cherie Williams, Senior tax Accountant.

A copy of the final report from Windes, Inc. which was reviewed at the December 11th Board Finance Committee meeting. The report was highlighted and made available for all Board members.

Mr. Helgeson reported the audit was a “clean audit”, there were no issues or concerns. He indicated it was a good experience and the felt the process went well.

3. IRS: 990 Filing

Windes representatives reviewed a draft of the “990” form which will be filed with Internal Revenue Services (IRS). Based on the Board Finance Committee review the form will be finalized and filed. A summary of the “990” filing will be posted on ELARC’s website.

IX Miscellaneous Announcements

There were no announcements.

X Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

M/S/C (Virgilio Orlina/Diane Lasell) To adjourn the Board of Directors meeting. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by:

Original Signed by:

Diane Lasell, Secretary
Eastern Los Angeles Board of Directors

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