



**EASTER LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER**  
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**ELARC Board of Directors Meeting**  
**February 13, 2018**  
**Approved March 13, 2018**

**Present:**

Anthony De La Rosa  
Tony Borrego  
Diane Lasell  
Richard Helgeson  
Devora N. Reed  
Yougeng Sun  
Virgilio Orlina  
Nestor Nieves  
Lida Chavez  
Joe Utar

**Staff Present:**

Gloria Wong, Executive Director  
Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Svs..  
Noriko Ikoma, Supervisor, Early Start  
Rosalie Estrada, Executive Assistant

**Absent:**

Jose Rios, Excused  
Elias Fonseca, Excused

**Guests:**

Refer to Sign-In sheet

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**I Welcome & Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Anthony De La Rosa, President. 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.

Gloria Wong announced that Alma Janssen, who was present at the meeting, is the new Regional Center Liaison with the Department of Developmental Services. Ms. Janssen was welcomed by the Board.

**III Community Input**

Mr. De La Rosa asked that those in the audience who have any community input please limit their comments to 3 minutes.

✓ Mr. Norman Fulco, parent and former Board member addressed the Board regarding entitlement and the Lanterman Act. Mr. Fulco wanted to clarify his comments from the last Board meeting, January 9th, over concerns that “entitlement” in California was in jeopardy. He wanted to share that since then the issue was clarified and that the reference was to the U.S. Congress not California. He indicated the U.S. Congress has their own statutes which allows them to suspend entitlement which includes social security, Medicare, etc. and these programs are funded regularly and have their own laws. The Congress has the authority to make necessary changes. Mr. Fulco indicated he met with Nancy Bargmann, Director of the Department of Developmental Services to discuss these concerns over “entitlement”. Ms. Bargmann indicated that there have been no problems with service funding and with entitlement. She also shared that the nearly \$1 billion cut to the regional centers from 2009 have been very difficult to the Community Services system. She cited the efforts of the Lanterman Coalition as crucial in restoring nearly \$500 million to the system. Mr. Fulco stated Ms. Bargmann could not explain how much control the Health and Welfare Agency has over Medicaid money coming into the system.

#### **IV. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting**

##### **A. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of January 9, 2018**

Minor corrections were noted.

***M/S/C (Diane Lasell/Tony Borrego) To approve the Minutes of January 9, 2018 as corrected. Unanimous.***

#### **V. March 2018 Board Meeting**

##### **A. Slate of Officers – Executive Committee**

Correction on the Slate of Officers: For Vice-Chairperson, should read Richard Helgeson rather than John.

The Slate of Officers for the Annual Board Meeting was presented. Elections will take place at the March 13, 2018 meeting.

#### **VI. Executive Director’s Report – Gloria Wong**

##### **A. Budget Update**

###### **1. Fiscal Year 2017-18**

###### **(a) PEP (Purchase of Services Expense Projection)**

The POS Expenditure Projections (PEP) Summary was distributed and reviewed. Ms. Wong stated the report represents actual expenditures through December 2017. The report reflects the recently received second allocation, D-2. A deficit is reported ranging from a high of \$3,213,720 to a low of \$1,958,332.

(b) Budget Performance Report (Operations)

The Budget Performance Report was reviewed. A deficit of \$147,363 is reported, but that will be reversed with the recently received D-2 allocation.

In Operations ELARC received \$161,816 for the Community Placement Plan. Amount is not reflected in the current Budget Performance Report. The allocation will create a modest surplus of approximately \$25,000.

(c) Cash Flow

Ms. Wong reported at this time she does not anticipate any difficulties with the cash flow.

**B. Fiscal Year 2018-'19**

1. Governor's Preliminary Budget January 10, 2018

Ms. Wong provided highlights of the Governor's Budget.

(a) ARCA Budget Analysis

The Analysis of the FY 2018-2019 November Estimate, Governor's Budget, was reviewed.

There were some adjustments made to FY 2017-2018. In Purchase of Services there was a \$39.4 million decrease to POS due to less than projected POS expenditure for under-utilization of minimum wage funds. Additionally for Operations there was a \$54,000 increase in the Intermediate Care Facility-Developmentally Disabled (ICF-DD) Administration fees.

**FY 2018-2019:**

The November estimate anticipates the Regional Center Community Caseload to be 333,024 consumers for January 31, 2019. This is an increase of 15,187 (4.8%) over the 317,837 projected for January 31, 2018. There is no indication about the restoration of the cutbacks in 2009.

There is an increase to Purchase of Services of approximately \$330 million.

**Respite Care:**

There was a \$51 million increase in In-Home Respite Services which reflects continued growth. The Policy and Procedure for Respite Services is on the agenda for discussion. Ms. Wong reported in 2009, in order to reduce expenses in POS, one of the measures was for regional centers to place a uniform cap on respite services statewide. This was changed as of January 1, 2018, and a policy was developed which will be discussed requiring Board approval.

**Transition of Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) Services from DHCS:**

There was a transition of cost for consumers who receive BHT services from regional centers to Medi-Cal. The transition to DHCS will begin on March 1, 2018. Additionally children who receive these services through Medi-Cal Managed Care will also transition to DHCS on July 1, 2018.

**Uniform Holiday:**

Currently service providers select their personal schedule for holiday closure. Ms. Wong reported back in 2009 when cuts had to be made there was a measure put in place for a uniform holiday closure to be implemented for all providers. Approximately six years ago when

the budget situation improved the mandatory holiday closure was lifted. The Uniform Holiday Schedule has now been reinstated on a statewide basis with 14 mandatory holidays set by DDS. ARCA is opposing this action due to its impact on service providers.

**Operations:**

A \$31.4 million (4.7%) increase over current year. The Governor will release the May Revised on May 15, 2018.

3. Additional Budget Analysis Online

Additional information on the budget can be located on the DDS website. Specific links were cited on the Board agenda as reference.

4. Lanterman Coalition

(a) Fact Sheet

The Lanterman Coalition Fact Sheet was briefly discussed. The Lanterman Coalition which includes regional centers is composed of 24 major stakeholders in California who advocate on behalf of the 330,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Lanterman Coalition was a way of having a unified voice rather than division between service providers, regional centers and stakeholders. The Coalition is urging the Legislature to fund new and affordable housing for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with the money from the sale of the three remaining developmental center properties, all of which are prime land in California. The money would be used for the Integrated Community Living (ICL) fund and would go towards the development of independent living. The ICL fund would focus on affordable housing for adult consumers.

(b) Correspondence from the Lanterman Coalition to the Assembly Committee on Budget, Subcommittee #1 on Health and Human Services and the Senate Budget Committee #3 on Health and Human Services was shared with the Board. The correspondence lists the members of the Lanterman Coalition.

ARCA Budget Position – Modified January 18, 2018 was distributed and reviewed. The letter which was addressed to Senator Richard Pan, Chair of the Senate Budget Committee #3 and Assembly member Joaquin Arambula, Subcommittee #1 along with the ARCA Modified Budget Positions was also distributed for review. Ms. Wong reviewed the budget positions.

Budget priorities for FY 2018-'19 include:

- Restoration of social recreational services and camp. Every effort was made to restore social recreational and camps to no avail. ARCA will once again attempt to promote restoration of these services for next fiscal year. Ms. Wong indicated that as part of the POS equity efforts these services need to be restored.
- To fund and establish a process to address unmet service provider fiscal requirements, (i.e.) a minimum way issue.
- Reinvestment of funds from the disposal of developmental center land into affordable housing. Refer to the Lanterman Coalition report above.

Recommendations from the ARCA Executive Committee include:

- \$39.4 million reduction in POS in FY 2017-'18, due to lower than expected utilization of funds budgeted for increased in the state minimum wage. ARCA is requesting that these funds be appropriated and reinvested in the Lanterman Coalition effort to finance start-up programs to meet unmet needs.
- Uniform Holiday Schedule: As was reported above, the policy proposed by the Governor should be rejected due to its impact on service providers as well as individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Service providers should be allowed to develop an individualized holiday schedule.
- Regional Center Operations: All case management positions should be funded at the higher salaries assumed in the caseload ratio relief policy item from the FY 2016-'17 budget. As a result of ABX 2-1 funding regional centers were allocated funds to hire more service coordinators. The hiring of additional service coordinators was done to assist regional centers to come into compliance with specified caseload ratios as required by the Lanterman Act in five categories. Due to this allocation ELARC hired additional service coordinators and was able to have a significant impact on reducing caseload ratios in all categories over the last two years.

The funding allocation has proven to be problematic in that the full amount had to be spent in the year allocated and as hiring was staggered throughout the fiscal year the annualized and total fiscal impact exceeds the original allocation. Additionally, this one-time flat allocation does not take into account annual merit increases and related increases for benefit costs. The end result is an ongoing cost that far exceeds the original allocation. It was also noted that the core-staffing formula allocates funding for the service coordinator position at an average of \$38,000 a year which falls far below actual salary costs for these positions. All these aforementioned factors have exacerbated the operations budget and the resulting modest balance.

In addition, regional centers are requesting operations funding for position(s) to implement the Self-Determination program, expected to be approved and operational by next fiscal year.

- Implementation of Statewide Minimum Wage Funding: The problem exists with the municipalities vs. the State minimum.
- DDS Loan Authority: The proposed increase in DDS' General Fund loan authority should be supported.

### **C. Gubernatorial Candidates Forum**

There was an effort by ARCA to schedule a forum in March which was unsuccessful. Efforts will continue to plan for the forum in Sacramento in sometime in April or May.

**D. Grassroots Day: March 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**

Ms. Wong reported a delegation for Grassroots Day has been confirmed. Necessary reservations will be made and the appointments with the legislators will be made by ARCA.

Roxy Ortiz, Information and Training, has scheduled legislative workshops for participants. Workshops will provide a basic introduction to the visits and talking points. Roxy will contact the Board delegation attending Grassroots Day in Sacramento.

**E. Respite Policy Amendment**

DDS correspondence regarding the previously submitted respite policy was shared with the Board. DDS has temporarily approved the policy for 90 days, but is requiring some modifications to the policy on two key points. The temporary approval allows ELARC to institute the respite policy changes that went into effect as of January 1, 2018.

The revised ELARC Respite policy was presented by Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services. Mr. Hernandez reviewed the changes requested by DDS on pages 3 & 4 of the policy.

***M/S/C (Lida Chavez/Richard Helgeson) to approve the Respite Policy as presented. Unanimous.***

**F. Self-Determination**

1. Federal Application Status

Gloria Wong reported DDS continues to work with the Center for Medi-Caid Medi-Care (CMS) Services. DDS reported they have a conference call scheduled with CMS on February 14<sup>th</sup> to work out some details before the application is submitted. It is anticipated that the application will be submitted in two weeks. If submitted at the end of February CMS will have a 90 day review period which will result in a May or June approval. .

The next process will be to make a decision on those consumers who will be part of Self-Determination. ELARC will have 85 additional consumers added to Self-Determination. The current 24 participants will need to be grandfathered into the new Self-Determination Program but will need to abide by the new standards.

2. Local Advisory Committee

A copy of the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting of November 7, 2017 Meeting Notes and the agenda for the February 6, 2018 meeting were distributed.

The Self-Determination Program (SDP) Enrollment Process Update, February 8, 2018 was reviewed.

DDS has developed a process for people who are interested in being part of the program during the first three years. Their names will be added to a list from which DDS will randomly select potential SDP participants for the first three years. DDS wants to ensure that the selections from each regional center will reflect the demographics of the agency. Regional Centers can submit names from the interest lists they have been compiling over the last three years. Individuals must obtain information about SDP prior to name being submitted to DDS for

possible inclusion in SDP. DDS has indicated that regional centers and Community Based Organizations (CBO's) can submit names of individuals who attended any information sessions related to Self Determination since the passage of the law.

Regional Centers and CBO's are being encouraged to schedule informational meetings on an ongoing basis and develop a process for submission of names on an ongoing basis.

It will take about 10 days for DDS to add the name to the list once the information has been submitted. Once DDS receives the individual's name and Unique Client Identifier (UCI) number, a letter will be sent to the individual at their current address confirming their name has been added to the DDS list. Persons can also verify enrollment by going on to the DDS web page and clicking on the SDP verification link.

Thus far ELARC has submitted 307 names. . There may be some duplication, as CBO's may also be submitting names of ELARC consumers/families who attended their informational meetings.

ELARC informational meetings have been scheduled into April 2018.

- Three English language session with interpretation on February 28, March 14 in Whittier, and April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- One Spanish language session on April 7<sup>th</sup>
- One Cantonese language session on April 11
- More sessions will be planned May through September in English and alternate languages.
- Planning three months at a time to learn what works/what does not work.

If an individual would like to be notified via email about the ELARC Informational Meeting sessions, they may send an email with name/consumer name, address, phone number to **[selfdetermination@elarc.org](mailto:selfdetermination@elarc.org)**.

If an individual attended an informational meeting with ELARC, but does not see their name on the list after checking on the DDS website, they may contact Elizabeth Harrell, Supervisor, Information and Training.

Those in the pilot do not need to sign-up, they have automatically been added to the list.

## **G. Purchase of Services (POS) Disparity Proposals**

### **1. DDS Approval Update**

DDS made money available for the second disparity proposals funding cycle. ELARC submitted an application in November 2017 and a couple of weeks ago received approval from DDS. Ms. Wong responded to the audience that only regional centers were allowed to apply for the first funding cycle. For this next round, second cycle, the application process has been expanded to include Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

Ms. Wong reviewed the ELARC and the Community Based Organizations proposals that were approved.

(a) ELARC: POS Disparity Proposals:

- Reduced Caseload and Targeted Support: Continue with the Specialized caseload Unit with 5 service coordinators at a 1:40 caseload ratio. Also included are two a designated Person-Centered Coordinators. This has been approved for another year. ELARC is preparing to transition some of the cases back to the original service coordinator. Ms. Wong stated that approximately fifteen (15) of the original cases in the specialized project are in the process of being transitioned back to traditional service coordination. The agency is analyzing pre and post survey data on these cases and will provide the results to the Board once the analysis is completed. Another fifteen (15) cases meeting the low per capita criteria will be identified to replace the cases exiting the project.

**Requested: \$444,132**

**Received: \$366,000**

- Parent Run Organizations: To Provide Orientations (Early Start/Over 3). Project was also approved.

**Requested: \$15,000**

**Received: \$15,000**

(b) Community-Based Organizations (CBO's)

There were seven organizations who were awarded funds from DDS which included ELARC as a partner. ELARC is calling for a meeting with each of the seven organizations to collaborate on the approved projects.

Information on the approved CBO proposals was reviewed.

2. Children's Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA) Research Project Update

Ms. Wong reported DDS awarded CHLA \$500,000 through Lanterman Regional Center for a research study on disparities. There will be nine regional centers selected to participate in this research which will include the establishment of community focus groups.

Ms. Wong reported there are three community meetings regarding POS Disparity scheduled at the end of March, announcement flyers were distributed. Presentation material is being developed for the upcoming meetings, March 24, 26 and 27. A full report on the meeting, feedback and presentation material will be shared with the Board at the April meeting.

## VII Consumer Services Report

Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services indicated he will focus on one particular topic, sexual assault in California.

Mr. Hernandez reported there was a series of six sessions held in January on NPR about sexual assaults to individuals with developmental disabilities. It is a nationwide issue and not just in California. Sexual assaults occur 7 times greater for persons with developmental disabilities and the numbers did not include sexual assaults which occur in residential facilities or institutions which would bring the numbers higher. All states are obligated to report sexual assault and vendors must also report sexual assaults. State of California has special incident reporting which requires an investigation into allegations to determine if the report is substantiated or not. Sexual assaults are very difficult to investigate as the developmentally disabled individual can't always provide the information and therefore making it difficult to

prosecute, given the limitations in communication and there are not any witnesses or there are witnesses but are afraid to say anything especially if the predator is a staff person.

Additionally persons with developmental disabilities desire to have friends/relationships and they sometimes misinterpret the intentions of caretakers or individuals who know them well and tend to be the higher number of perpetrators. However, with the use of DNA testing there have been more convictions in sexual assault cases.

Westside Regional Center and ELARC are looking to partner together to bring in a nationally known individual, Karen McLaughlin who is an expert on training individuals with disabilities on relationship and sexuality issues. Part of the effort is to train individuals on what is appropriate sexual contact is and what is considered an appropriate social relationship. Approximately two years ago the CAC sponsored a sexual relationship workshop in Whittier and it was one of the more well attended by consumers.

The Community Services Department will be working with Westside Regional Center to develop a plan for training workshops for consumers.

Mr. Hernandez also reported ELARC has a Trend Review Committee who reviews trends from vendors and consumers in terms of the incidents which may have occurred in the community that may be linked and require action.

## **VIII Committee Reports**

### **A. Consumer Advisory Committee (Virgilio Orlina)**

Virgilio Orlina, CAC chair, reported the last CAC meeting was held on January 16, 2018. It was held in the ELARC Boardroom and via video conference at the Whittier office from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The main topic was Travel Training and the guest speaker was Ms. Monica Marroquin, Transportation Mobility Specialist of Mobility Management Partners. Ms. Marroquin presented a PowerPoint on the Travel Training program which they are providing to individuals with disabilities to train them on how to travel on their own throughout Los Angeles County using public transportation. She also explained how their Individual and Group Travel Training includes how to understanding the transit schedule and maps, learning how to complete trip plans, how to make transfers to other services and how to obtain bus passes and discount cards

Mr. Jesse Padilla, Consumer Advocate, updated the CAC members and guests present about the Consumer Services Meeting he attended where the topic was conservatorship. Mr. Padilla also reported on employment and indicated ELARC is focusing on getting service providers to apply for the Paid Internship Program (PIP) and Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE).

The goal is to have consumers work in real jobs by providing PIP and CIE supports to consumers. Mr. Padilla also updated the CAC on the ACCESS Services meeting he attended recently and indicated there was discussion on the 2017 Consumer Satisfaction Survey, traveling outside L.A. County and the presentation on how they are improving security and safety of ACCESS vehicle through the use of audio and video.

Gloria Wong, Executive Director, updated the CAC about the budget that California Governor Jerry Brown released on January 10, 2018 for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year.

There will be no cuts in the system but the amounts of increases are very conservative. An updated proposal will be released by the Governor on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

The next CAC meeting will be on March 20, 2018 and the topic will be Interacting with Law Enforcement. The guest presenter will be Officer Elvy Gonzales of the Alhambra Police Department.

**B. Vendor Advisory Committee (Jose Reyes)**

Jose Ruiz, VAC Chair, was unable to attend meeting, therefore there was no report.

**C. Finance/Personnel Committee.**

There was no report.

**IX Miscellaneous Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**X Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss the general session was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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

**XI Executive Session**

The Executive Session was called to order by Mr. Anthony De La Rosa, Board President, for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

***M/S/C (Diane Lasell/Lida Chavez) To adjourn the Executive Session. Unanimous.***

Respectfully submitted by:

*Original Signed by:*

Diane Lasell, Secretary  
Eastern Los Angeles Board of Directors

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