



EASTER LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
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ELARC Board of Directors Meeting
March 13, 2018
Approved April 10, 2018

Present:

Tony Borrego
Joe Utar
Diane Lasell
Richard Helgeson
Devora N. Reed
Yougeng Sun
Nestor Nieves
Lida Chavez
Elias Fonseca

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Svs.
Rosalie Estrada, Executive Assistant

Absent:

Jose Reyes
Anthony De La Rosa, Excused
Virgilio Orlina, Excused

Guests:

Refer to Sign-In sheet

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I Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Tony Borrego, Vice-Chair, as Anthony De La Rosa, President was unable to attend meeting. 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

There was no community input.

IV. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting

A. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of February 13, 2018

M/S/C (Youngeng Sun/Richard Helgeson) To approve the Minutes of February 13, 2018 as recorded. Unanimous.

B. Minutes of Executive Session of February 13, 2018

M/S/C (Lida Chavez/Diane Lasell) To approve the Minutes of February 13, 2018 as recorded. Unanimous.

V. Nominating Committee

A. Election of Officers

The proposed Slate of Officers was presented for approval:

Tony Borrego, President

Richard Helgeson, Vice-Chairperson

Joe Utar, Treasurer

Diane Lasell, Secretary

M/S/C (Lida Chavez/Youngeng Sun) To approve the nomination of the slate of officers as presented. Unanimous.

VI. Executive Director's Report – Gloria Wong

A. 2017 ELARC Community Report

Ms. Wong indicated the March meeting serves as the Annual Board Meeting where the election of the Board Executive Committee for the next year is presented for approval. Additionally it is an opportunity to present the annual "Community Report" which provides highlights of the year and also presents a selected theme which celebrates ELARC consumers. This year the focus was on "employment". The Community Report introduced four ELARC consumers and their story on their employment experience.

In keeping with the "Community Report" theme ELARC's Employment Specialist, George De La Loza, reported on the agency's current and long-term efforts in advancing employment options for all consumers.

B. ELARC Employment Specialist Presentation: George De La Loza

Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services introduced Mr. George De La Loza, Employment Specialist. Mr. Hernandez indicated Mr. De La Loza started his employment with ELARC approximately 14 months back. Mr. De La Loza comes to ELARC with a lot of background and history in terms of job development and working with community colleges. He received his Master's in Urban Planning and Rehab Counseling and comes to ELARC with a wealth of experience. He has developed the plan required by the State of California for the development or collaboration between the Department of Rehabilitation, regional centers and the educational system. He has developed a program that brings together key organizations to meet and discuss employment options for regional center consumers.

Mr. George De La Loza addressed the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to share agency activities as it relates to employment.

George reported for the first time in 2014 the Department of Labor identified individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities as a primary group to focus on. This was new and stunning. California implemented the concept and called it the California Blue Print for Competitive and Integrated Employment (CIE). This would mean real jobs with real pay and benefits moving away from programs such as sheltered workshops. Employment First came to California by way of the East Coast States. The focus is now on employment and placement in above minimum wage jobs. DDS went further and decided to develop job incentives for employers to hire consumers and developed the Paid Internship Program (PIP). There is a need to provide internship opportunities for consumers to explore a variety of employment opportunities. Internships need to be made part of the school transition in the early planning stages of transition and having a clear vision of the goal. This new law requires three departments to work together, the Department of Rehabilitation, the local school districts which includes the community colleges, and the regional center which for the first time requires the three systems to collaborate and advance employment options for consumers. School districts work with consumers to develop plans for education, post-secondary education and employment. As a result this is an exciting juncture which holds tremendous promise in advancing employment as never before in California.

George shared his background which is primarily with community colleges in working and developing programs, and creating customized training opportunities.

A copy of the ELARC Employment Handbook was distributed. George indicated the handbook was developed before he began his employment with ELARC. Reference was made to page 4 of the handbook.

Paid Internship Program: Internships are available to any consumer with an employment goal who is of legal working age and eligible to work. Once a consumer expresses an interest to work with one of ELARC's vendors, regional center can fund up to \$10,400 in one calendar year. Additionally the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) has a paid internship program, and can work with consumers at the age of 16 years for an internship opportunity. The intern can decide to work in one place or test other options, the important feature is that the money follows the new internship.

One of the first things Mr. De La Loza did was develop the Paid Internship Program brochure, a copy of the draft was distributed to the Board. The brochure will be distributed to consumers. Reference was made to the backside of the brochure, "Fantastic Facts About Hiring People with Developmental Disabilities". Forbes magazine ranked consumers as highly desirable employees because they use less sick days, have low absenteeism, arrive to work on time daily and return on time from breaks more than co-workers. Ninety percent (90%) of employees with disabilities rated average or better on job performance. Service coordinators will distribute this brochure to their families when they meet.

George also shared the flyer he developed for the low cost employee incentive program. Employers do not pay anything. Recent legislation has provided funding for employers to be reimbursed up to \$10,400 per calendar year towards the employment of an individual with a developmental disability.

Additionally George indicated he developed a flyer to be distributed to businesses so that they can understand the program and how it works. There has been an extensive outreach effort with employers and working with school districts to promote this brand new program.

George reported he is currently working with two service providers, Ability First and FVO Solutions. As of December 2017, there have been 10 placements, and efforts are to continue to increase that placement count throughout the year. He indicated they are other service providers with whom he has already reviewed their plans, DESI and In2vision. The average hourly wage is \$12 per hour and participants are working an average of 10 to 40 hrs. a week and all have job coaches. There are individuals in food preparation, clerical, data entry, and the employers range from a law office to a catering company in Pasadena. Five consumers have been permanently hired.

Leadership Partnership Agreements (LPA's):

DDS is requesting that regional centers work together with Department of Rehabilitation, school districts, school districts and the community in order to make the program work. There are thirteen DOR's in the State of California. Thus far ELARC is part of two, LAUSD and San Gabriel Valley. ELARC has taken the lead in building a working partnership with: Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, East Los Angeles College, and Montebello in creating new programs. There is a lot of interest in making this work.

George indicates he works with supervisors and makes presentations to service coordinators to promote employment as a viable option for consumers. If there is an individual or concern with a consumer at the time of the IPP he makes himself available to be part of the team.

There are five areas being discussed statewide for consumer employment: (1) Transition Services; (2) Adult Pathways; (3) Post-Secondary Education Activities; (4) Supported Employment customized employment; (5) Business Partner Engagement.

George indicated he hopes to report to the Board in the future on new pathway programs that the colleges are doing, and hopes to report on upcoming new innovative programs.

George thanked the Board for their time.

The Board of Directors and Gloria Wong thanked George for his presentation on "Employment".

C. Grassroots Day: March 19 & 20

Ms. Wong reported Grassroots Day is scheduled for Monday, March 19 and Tuesday, March 20 in Sacramento.

1. Sacramento Delegation: There are a total of 7 individuals joining the Capitol Delegation. The delegation includes:

Devora Reed, Sibling/Board Member (1st year)

Nestor Nieves, Consumer/Board Member (2nd year)

Josefina Nieves, Parent (2nd year)

Maria Moberg, Parent/Vendor

Diana Gudino, Parent/Staff

Matthew Hosokawa, Consumer/Staff

Brendali Maldonado, Staff

Monday evening a dinner is scheduled and talking points for the legislative visits will be discussed. Tuesday, March 20, all day to be spent at the Capitol meeting with legislators. Appointments have been scheduled by ARCA.

All delegates attended a training session provided by Roxy Ortiz, Information & Training Specialist in preparation for this event.

2. Local Delegation

There are a total of 9 individuals who are scheduled to make local visits with legislators. Mr. Helgeson current board member and Terry Munoz, former board member are part of the local delegation.

3. Talking Points

Talking points for the delegation includes the restoration of funding for social recreation services and camp. An initial estimate from the Department of Developmental Services estimated the cost of restoration for FY 2018-19 at \$37.8 million. There was a high utilization rate of these services by Hispanic and Asian families prior to the 2009 POS cutbacks which prohibited regional centers from offering these services. A strong lobbying effort is being coordinated to promote the reinstatement of social recreation and camps as an option to families/consumers.

D. Caseload Ratio Survey

Ms. Wong reported the Caseload Ratio Study is due to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on March 10, 2018.

1. Review Results

Ms. Wong reviewed the results of the study. She reported as of March 1, 2018, ELARC did not meet the required average caseload ratio in one category "All Others". There are a total of five categories requiring varying caseload ratios. ELARC met four of the five categories as mandated by Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 4640(c).

The table depicting the actual ratio and the required ratio was reviewed.

Caseload Ratio Survey: March 1, 2018

	Medicaid Waiver	Age 36 mos. and Under	Moved from DC Since 4/14/93	Moved from DC within Last 12 Months	All Others
Actual Ratio	61.9	58.9	49.5	24.7	71.8
Required Ratio	62	62	62	45	66

Ms. Wong reported approximately two years ago there were funds made available through ABX-1 funds. A targeted allocation to hire additional service coordinators was received. The intent of this funding was to improve the ever-increasing caseload ratios to all regional centers.

Over the last two fiscal years there has been marked improvement in meeting the ratio requirements. Nevertheless for future compliance, additional funding is needed to sustain and continue to improve on the current caseload ratio. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is pursuing increased funding for the hiring of additional service coordinators in Fiscal Year 2018-19 in order to maintain regional centers efforts in reducing caseload ratios.

Ms. Wong reviewed the comparison of the Caseload Ratio Survey over the last two years. In 2016 ELARC did not meet three of the categories, Medicaid Waiver, Age 36 mos. and under and All Others. In 2017 ELARC improved its caseload ratio compliance by meeting four of the categories, with the exception of "All Others". This marked improvement is attributable to the dedicated funding for hiring additional service coordinators. To continue in this path of improvement in future years additional funding will be required. Without an adjustment to current funding the impact will result in a reversal of the gains ELARC has made over the last two fiscal years.

Caseload Ratio Survey: March 1, 2017

Caseload Ratio Survey: March 1, 2017	Medicaid Waiver	Age 36 mos. and Under	Moved from DC Since 4/14/93	Moved from DC within Last 12 Months	All Others
Actual Ratio	60.6	59.6	41.2	29.3	71.5
Required Ratio	62	62	62	45	66

Caseload Ratio Survey: March 1, 2016

	Medicaid Waiver	Age 36 mos. and Under	Moved from DC Since 4/14/93	Moved from DC within Last 12 Months	All Others
Actual Ratio	67.1	63.6	46.5	28.8	78
Required Ratio	62	62	62	45	66

Public input regarding the ELARC Caseload Ratio Plan of Correction must be received by April 2, 2018.

2. Community Meeting: April 10, 2018

The Public Meeting to review the ELARC Caseload Ratio Plan of Correction is scheduled at the ELARC Board Meeting on April 10, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.

E. Self-Determination Update

1. Federal Application Status

Ms. Wong reported as of today, March 13, 2018, the Waiver application for the Self-Determination Program was submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid. The application is back on the clock and CMS has 90 days to take action to either approve the application, deny the application or they can request additional information which will stop the clock until they receive the information. Assuming an approval within 90 days would mean a potential authorization by June 13, 2018.

2. Local Advisory Committee

(a) April 3, 2018

The next Local Advisory Committee is scheduled for April 3, 2018.

3. Enrollment Process: "Interest List"

DDS has developed a process for people who are interested in being part of the program during the first three years. Only 2500 individuals statewide will be allowed in the program. 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. 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 four years ago.

ELARC will have 85 additional consumers added to Self-Determination. The current 24 pilot participants will be grandfathered into the new Self-Determination Program but will need to abide by the new standards. A meeting will be scheduled with the current 24 pilot participants.

Informational Meetings:

Self-Determination Information Sessions are scheduled for March 14th from 10:00 am to 12 Noon in Whittier and April 19th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the ELARC Boardroom. Additionally the following sessions are scheduled:

- One Spanish language session on April 7th
- One Cantonese language session on April 11
- More sessions will be planned May through September in English and alternate languages.

Currently there are 181 names have been submitted to DDS for the Self-Determination interest list. Once names are submitted DDS will respond by issuing a formal letter confirming receipt. There is no deadline to submit names of interested persons.

F. Budget Update

1. Fiscal Year 2017-'18

(a) PEP (Purchase of Services Expense Projection)

The PEP Summary was distributed and reviewed. Ms. Wong stated the report represents actual expenditures through January 2018 and reflects the recently received second allocation,

the D-2. A POS deficit is reported ranging from a high of \$3,243,181 to a low of \$2,285,375. Deficit has decreased from previous months.

(b) Budget Performance Report: Operations

The Budget Performance Report was reviewed. A modest surplus of \$94,660 was reported.

(c) Contract Amendment: D-2

The D-2 allocation was received and was signed by Board President. The allocation is reflected in both the Operations and POS Budget Report.

G. POS Disparity Meetings

The POS Data Review Public meetings have been scheduled. They meetings will focus on the ELARC Purchase of Service Data Variances. Meetings are scheduled as follows:

- March 24 from 10:00 am to 12 Noon
CPAD at the Asian Youth Center in San Gabriel
- March 26 from 10:00 am to 12 Noon
Fiesta Educativa at the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation in Montebello
- March 27 from 10:00 am to Noon
ELARC Boardroom

VII Consumer Services Report

Mr. Felipe Hernandez reported on the following:

- Career & College Pathway's Services for adults with disabilities transition to employment had an open house at the Garfield Avenue address at the Glendale Community College. As was reported by George De La Loza, community colleges are very involved in creating opportunities for people with disabilities to get an ongoing education for potential jobs. Glendale also has a program for individuals with autism and technology. They have a career training site which they created last year and they are having a great deal of success working with individuals with disabilities but primarily with autism. It would be logical resources for our consumers.

- Advances in Autism: A full day conference is scheduled for April 28, 2018 at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles. The full day conference is designed for all those interested in learning about the latest breakthrough in research and treatment in autism spectrum disorder including health care providers, teachers, autism service providers, and families. Nationally renowned UCLA Center for Autism Reach and Treatment (CART) faculty will present on the most up to date information.

- SELPA

The San Gabriel Valley SELPA is sponsoring an Autism community dual kit parent training on Saturday, May 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the SELPA office on Alhambra Rd. in Alhambra. No RSVP is required. Parents with children in high school are encouraged to attend.

VIII Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee

There was no report.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee

There was no report.

C. Finance/Personnel Committee

There were no meetings scheduled.

IX Miscellaneous Announcements

A Public Notice flyer was distributed. Recent legislation to the Lanterman Act added section 4679, which allows the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to provide funding for Regional Centers to develop resources to meet unmet needs in their communities within certain guidelines, which are yet to be developed and distributed. ELARC has identified some unmet needs to share with DDS but ELARC would like to hear from its community on their perception of needed services.

ELARC will be proposing that funding be provided for the following unmet support and service needs:

- Home Health Agency Service
- Out of Home Respite-Culture and Language Specific to Asian Community
- In Home Therapy Services (OT, PT, Speech)-Spanish and Mandarin Speaking
- Competency Training
- Residential Services for Adults/Children with High Mental Health Needs
- Forensic Focused Residential Service

The completed survey should be returned to ELARC by no later than April 2, 2018. The survey may also be completed on line.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Diane Lasell, Secretary, ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Rosalie M. Estrada, Executive Assistant