



**EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER**  
1000 S. Fremont Ave. • P.O. Box 7916 • Alhambra, CA 91802-7916  
(626) 299-4700 • FAX (626) 281-0730

**ELARC Board of Directors Meeting**  
**April 10, 2018**  
**Approved May 8, 2018**

**Board Members Present:**

Tony Borrego, President  
Diane Lasell, Secretary  
Yougeng Sun  
Nestor Nieves  
Lida Chavez  
Virgilio Orlina  
Anthony De La Rosa  
Brian Chacon, VAC (for Jose Reyes)

**Staff Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Joe Utar, Excused  
Elias Fonseca, Excused  
Richard Helgeson, Excused  
Devora N. Reed, Excused

**Guests:**

Refer to Sign-In sheet

.....  
**I Welcome & Roll Call**

The meeting was called at to order at 6:05 pm by Diana Lasell, Secretary, as Tony Borrego, President was running a little late. 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**

Virgilio Orlina shared his experience at the 33<sup>rd</sup> CSUN Assistive Technology Conference held on March 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 in San Diego. Virgilio thanked Gloria Wong, Executive Director for giving him the opportunity to attend the technology conference. The event showcased demonstrations and workshops of new and developing assistive technology in the areas of technology and transportation. Virgilio reported he attended a session on Enabling ASD Students for Greater Success in the Workplace which was presented by Yuri Kobayashi of IBM Research in Tokyo, Japan. He discussed a pilot program in Japan which would increase the employment rate of a person with ASD and developmental disabilities. The pilot program includes a new approach which includes combining training, technology and development of self-awareness to enable ASD students to be successful in the workplace.

He was also able to attend a session on Smart Home Technology for People Experiencing Intellectual Disabilities. The session presented a person centered technology plan, equipment individuals have chosen, staff training options and how technology impacted independence and connectivity at home.

Virgilio also reported he attended a session on Android for Users with Motor Impairments. A speaker from Google presented on a new feature in android accessibility services for users with motor impairments. The main focus was on Switch Access and Voice Access.

He also had the opportunity to attend on Everyday Ways to use Amazon “Alexa” or Google “Home” to Enhance Your Life session. The presentation was on how “Alexa” and “Google” home products are used to increase independence in a variety of settings.

The 2019 CSUN 34<sup>th</sup> Assistive Technology Conference is scheduled for March 11-15, 2019 at the Marriott Anaheim.

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

##### **A. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of March 13, 2018**

***M/S/C (Anthony De La Rosa/Virgilio Orlina) To approve the Minutes of March 13, 2018 as recorded. Unanimous.***

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

Ms. Wong briefed the Board of Directors and the audience regarding a recent notification by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) that their offices were broken into on February 11, 2018. The specific offices impacted by the break-in included the audit and legal division of DDS. The office was ransacked and set on fire, triggering the activation of the sprinkler system which caused extensive water damage to files and material. Based on legal record retention requirements the files went back over a ten year period. It is uncertain if the perpetrators obtained any personal information in the case files. Laptops were stolen but due to application of the highest federal encryption standards the information in the hard-drives were determined not to be compromised. Nevertheless, due to the uncertainty as to whether any of the paper files were taken prior to the start of the fire, DDS has opted to act with an over-abundance of caution and formally notify the public of a potential breach of personal data. A copy of the news release was shared with the Board. DDS has sent out 582,000 letters to consumers registered within the ten year span. DDS has set-up a call center for any questions individuals may have. The call center will be active for approximately three months and will be open Monday through Friday. The investigation is ongoing, the CHP is involved and a special investigator has been assigned to the case. A general statement has been posted by ELARC for regional center employees, service providers, including parents who have parental fees assessed. A notice has also been posted on the ELARC website, Facebook and twitter.

For individuals who would like to be proactive DDS is suggesting individuals contact the credit bureau to determine if personal data may have been compromised.

##### **A. Caseload Survey Public Meeting**

The Board Meeting (4/10/2018) served as the Public Meeting to review the caseload ratio plan of correction. Reference was made to Attachment #2.

Ms. Wong reported the regional centers are required to annually submit an assessment on the caseload ratio compliance to DDS. 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 standards requiring varying caseload ratios. ELARC met four of the five categories as mandated by Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 4640.6(c). Ms. Wong reviewed the figures below which reflect the actual and required ratios for ELARC as of March 1, 2018.

<b>Caseload Ratio Survey</b>	<b>Medicaid Waiver</b>	<b>Age 36 mos. and Under (Early Start)</b>	<b>Moved from DC Since 4/14/93</b>	<b>Moved from DC within Last 12 Months</b>	<b>All Others</b>
<b>Actual Ratio</b>	<b>61.9</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>71.8</b>
<b>Required Ratio</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>66</b>

Ms. Wong reviewed the comparison of the caseload ratios for the last two years. In Fiscal Year 20215-'16 ELARC did not meet three categories: Medicaid Waiver, Age 36 mos. and Under and the All Others categories.

In Fiscal Year 2016-'17 special funding was approved by the legislature for the hiring of additional service coordinators in order to improve caseload ratio compliance. The result reflects a vast improvement for ELARC, where four of the five ratio requirements were met compared to two of the five the previous fiscal year.

**Caseload Ratio Survey: March 1, 2017**

	<b>Medicaid Waiver</b>	<b>Age 36 mos. and Under</b>	<b>Moved from DC Since 4/14/93</b>	<b>Moved from DC within Last 12 Months</b>	<b>All Others</b>
<b>Actual Ratio</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>71.5</b>
<b>Required Ratio</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>66</b>

**Caseload Ratio Survey: March 1, 2016**

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

Ms. Wong noted the statute requires regional centers to submit a “Plan of Correction” if all ratio requirements are not met. The following statement was presented as a response.

**Plan of Correction:** Additional funding is needed to sustain and continue to improve the current caseload ratio. The 2016-'17 allocation for additional service coordinators was granted as a one-time fixed amount without future adjustments for increase costs in salaries and benefits for subsequent fiscal years. In order to sustain continued compliance additional funding will be needed. 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 efforts in reducing caseload ratios.

Ms. Wong stated that the “Notice of Public Meeting” was posted on ELARC’s website noting an April 2, 2018 deadline for submitting public comments. No comments were received on the Plan of Correction. Additionally, no comments were provided at the public meeting.

**M/S/C (Yougeng Sun/Tony Borrego) To approve the Plan of Correction as presented by Ms. Gloria Wong. Unanimous.**

## **B. Purchase of Services (POS) Disparity Report**

### **1. Community Meetings Update**

The Regional Centers are required to compile data relating to purchase of service authorization, utilization, and expenditures by each regional center as it pertains to consumer ethnicity, age, diagnosis, language, residence type and insurance related data. The report was posted on the ELARC website by the mandated deadline of December 31, 2017. Select information was extracted from the full 57 page report to develop a power-point presentation for the community meetings. The complete POS data report was distributed at the community meetings along with the power-point presentation.

### **2. Presentation**

A copy of the power-point presentation was shared with the Board and individuals in the audience. Ms. Wong reported the power-point presentation was shared at the community meetings held with Fiesta Educativa, the Chinese Parent Association (CPAD) and the final session held at the ELARC office in Alhambra.

A thorough review and discussion of the power point data was conducted as part of the Board Meeting. ELARC demographics were presented by ethnicity, age group, residence and diagnosis. The largest ethnic group for ELARC is the Hispanic population at 70.7%, the second largest is the Asian population at 12.3%, White Caucasian population at 10.3% ranks third. The focus of the presentation to the community contrasts the POS disparity among these three ethnic groups: Hispanic, Asian and White.

A comprehensive presentation by key personnel was conducted to brief the Board on the various special projects being undertaken to reduce POS disparities.

### **POS Disparity Project Staff Presentation: :**

As part of the POS disparity presentation a select panel of ELARC staff, who have been part of the various projects established with ABX-2-1 funding, provided a direct update to the Board of

Directors. The report included projects that are completing the one year implementation phase and the second phase (year 2) which was recently approved by DDS. Presenters included:

- Elizabeth Harrell, Supervisor, Information & Training
- Lupe Jacquez, Cultural Specialist
- Vivian Lau Person-Centered Practices Coordinator
- Maribel Garcia, Person-Centered Practices Coordinator
- Carmen Castro-Luna, Supervisor, Enhanced Caseload Ratio Unit
- Adriana Roman, Service Coordinator with Reduced Caseload (1:40)

Ms. Harrell opened the presentation reporting on the \$11 million that was made available to Regional Centers for implementing projects that would promote efforts to reduce POS disparities to their population. Over the last five years ELARC has been actively involved with two primary parent groups: Fiesta Educativa and the Chinese Parent Association (CPAD). POS community meetings have been hosted over the years by these parent groups allowing for direct input on concepts and approaches to improve ELARC's POS variances. These open discussions with parents/consumers guided the development of the numerous and varied projects developed by ELARC and funded by DDS as part of the ABX-2-1 \$11 million allocation to the regional center system. The projects have focused on training to families, outreach to the community, the development of informational material, translation of all pertinent material, existing and new. Additionally, two unique project components were established by ELARC with emphasis on an alternative approach to the conventional service coordination practices. The two primary elements of the project are: a substantially reduced caseload ratio at 1:40 (one service coordinator to forty cases) with a total of 200 cases identified to be part of the project, and the second component is the creation of two person centered coordinator positions that have established culturally sensitive strategies in the development of Individual Program Plans (IPP) for Hispanic and Asian families in an effort to better understand the barriers to the large POS funding differential for these groups and how to improve access to services.

***Lupe Jacquez, Cultural Specialist***, presented on some of the various projects she oversees.

**Training:** Focus was on parents who are new to the system and who needed the extra support. ELARC partnered with two parent organizations, Fiesta Educativa and CPAD in order to provide orientations to new families entering the system. Training was also provided to the Early Start families who were new to the regional center system. Additionally, behavior modification training for families was offered in their native language (Spanish and Cantonese).

**Partnership and Outreach:** Lupe indicated she visited the local community and located different organizations who did not typically serve the population served by Regional Centers. She visited different community centers and food banks in the community. ELARC partnered with two organizations, Proyecto Pastoral and the Chinatown Service Center who are currently assisting with ELARC's outreach efforts.

**Information Material:** Lupe reported feedback from parents indicated that our translated material does not meet quality standards. A group of bilingual parents were identified to review current translated material and to obtain feedback on the quality of the translation. The recommendations cited the need for improvement, and noted that "word" translation was accurate but unique concept/message was lost. As a result a "Translation" Committee has been established to assist in the review of material as we transition to an improved standard of quality in the translation of documents/material.

Ms. Jacquez shared that the second year of funding projects with ABX-2-1 funds expanded its criteria beyond regional centers to include Community Based Organizations (CBO's). ELARC had seven CBO's that were awarded funds to create a myriad of projects that will promote POS equity for the Hispanic and Asian communities.

***Maribel Garcia, Person-Centered Practices Coordinator (PCPC) (Spanish Speaking):***

The role of the person-centered coordinator is to support families that are either new to the regional center or have been part of the regional center for some time but need more person-centered resources to help them fulfill their vision. Ms. Garcia highlighted the project that works with families entering the regional center system at the intake stages. It was recognized that regional center system can be difficult to navigate at the initial stages of eligibility, particularly for Hispanic and Asian monolingual families. The goal through the project is to be able to, offer extensive support to these families through the process. A total of 6 to 7 hours is spent with the family in a one month period introducing them to regional center, going through the process of what the regional center is, how to request services, how to partner with the regional center, understanding the role is of their service coordinator, accessing generic resources, and preparing them for their initial IPP.

Maribel indicated the PCPC's have learned a lot this first year about supporting the families. She referenced Attachment #3, Section #2, which are flyers and information that both she and Vivian Lau, PCPC counterpart to Asian community, have been working on. Also included in this section is the data collected over the past year of the survey results. A survey is done at the start of their first meeting and at the end of their work with the family to try to understand if this one-on-one process had helped the families better understand the regional center. The results indicate the parents understand the process of the regional center and how to request services. They have also learned there are topics for parents that are hard to understand, i.e. IPP process. There has been some discussion regarding the possibility of developing videos or finding alternative ways of explaining topics which are a little more difficult to navigate, i.e. applying for IHSS services or SSI which can involve time and paperwork.

Maribel shared a quote from one of her families: "I feel I have a big family here at the regional center that is supporting me." Ms. Garcia shared that typically at the first meeting parents share their grief about understanding the diagnosis but at the end of the process express acceptance and relief to know the level of support that exists.

***Vivian Lau, Person-Centered Practices Coordinator (PCPC) (Chinese Speaking):***

Ms. Lau focuses her services to ELARC's Asian monolingual families. She has initiated the same process identified by Ms. Garcia, Vivian's counterpart, for Asian families starting at the intake process. Vivian shared that for families currently in the system service coordinators can request support from the PCPC. Such intervention includes assisting families with "No POS" expenditure and conducting an in-depth exploration of potential services and offering guidance on how to navigate the system.

Vivian referenced the ELARC Community Resource Guide 2018, which was developed based on feedback from the various community meetings. Service Coordinators were consulted on the creation of the 2018 guide, they offered feedback on the most common resource requests to

ensure inclusion in the report. The Resource Guide has been translated into Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean. This information will also be posted on the ELARC website. Vivian stated the project is very exciting and she is happy to be part of this innovative approach to meet the needs of the families.

***Carmen C. Luna, Supervisor, Enhanced Caseload:***

Ms. Luna stated that as focus and attention is being placed on disparity she hopes that one day there will no longer be the issue of “disparity”. The ABX-2-1 funding has allowed ELARC to offer a unique and intense approach to families with below average POS expenditures over the last two years.

Ms. Luna stated she supervises the Enhanced Service Coordination project. She indicated they are working with 200 consumers and has five service coordinators in place, four speak Spanish and I speaks Cantonese and is commensurate with the ethnic breakdown at ELARC. The five service coordinators each have 40 cases. The consumers/families they are working with are monolingual Spanish and Cantonese speaking and have had either no purchase of services or an expenditure of \$2,000 or less during a fiscal year. Families meeting this criteria are eligible to participate in the project. Families are called to see if they would like to participate, service coordinators give them a little background information on the project and if the family says yes, the family is transferred to one of the enhanced service coordinators for case management. After the work is done with the family the case will go back to an in-home unit for ongoing service coordination.

Ms. Luna reported there has been some difficulty in reaching the 200 cases. Some of the families did not want to participate in the project because they were so happy with their current service coordinator and did not want to leave them. Finally the project got off the ground March 2017. This past March 2018, the unit transferred back 20 cases back to the conventional case management system for ongoing service coordination.

The goal of the project is to reduce disparity in purchase of services and this is being done by providing enhanced case management services that focuses not only on the consumer but on the whole family by better understanding barriers to access and by providing education about the regional center system and collaborating with Community Services Department to enhance service quality and develop needed resources. The reason ELARC is able to provide this enhanced case management is due to the reduced caseloads. With the reduced caseloads the service coordinators are able to comprehensively pay attention to the needs of the consumers and the families. To put this in perspective, the typical service coordinator meets with the consumer once a year during the birth month, the enhanced service coordinators have been meeting with families anywhere from 5 to 12 times during the same time period. The meetings last from anywhere from 1 to 3 hours. There is a tremendous difference in the amount of contact they have with the families and subsequently the type of case management they are able to do. One of the most important benefits of this enhanced management style is the trust that is built between the consumer, family and the service coordinator. Ms. Luna stated she feels this is really important because this relationship allows the service coordinators and the family to feel comfortable when discussing topics that are very sensitive and that involves things which are very personal to the consumer and the family. Each time the service coordinator has contact with them they are able to understand a little more about their story, to understand their needs, not only in regards to regional center services but the needs for generic resources and support the family may need and allowing the service coordinator to understand barriers from

the consumer and family's perspective. The perspective of the service coordinator has also been very important for the project in shaping how ELARC will move forward in working with families.

Ms. Luna stated what they are finding that often times the family is not in a place where they are able to receive a regional center service because their needs of the family are not in alignment with the service need of the consumer. Many of the consumers and families they are working with are lacking basic needs, so things like food, shelter, clothing, employment and immigration issues. The enhanced service coordinators have had to spend a lot of time with the consumers and families in helping them access these services. Many of the enhanced service coordinators have been working with the families through every process, they are assisting the families from the time the initial phone call is made to the letter the family may be receiving that needs attention such as requesting records, and being there to support in obtaining the necessary services. Once the service is in place it is hoped that the family would be more receptive to regional center services. After working with families for a year, they are more receptive to accepting for the consumer.

Ms. Luna stated the work is intensive and takes a lot of time but end result is definitely rewarding. She indicated there are still families who are not receiving services but they don't want to receive anything. It may be a cultural issue or maybe the needs of the consumer or family are being met, and we need to respect their decision.

A huge focus of the project is to provide education to the consumers and families. ELARC wants to make sure that education is being provided throughout the year. There are five areas which are covered as part of the curriculum: (1) understanding the diagnosis; (2) understanding the role of the service coordinator; (3) understanding the regional center system (4) the IPP process; and (5) how to access services and supports. Whenever a service coordinator goes out to visit the family they have the opportunity to talk about one aspect of the curriculum.

Ms. Luna reported one of the things they have been doing over the last year is to collaborate with the Community Services Department to develop resources and improve service quality. A consideration is possibly developing a work program in some areas that are underdeveloped in our area, such as the East Los Angeles area, or working with existing providers to encourage them to hire staff that speak languages other than English. Additionally Ms. Luna indicated the regional center wants to encourage service providers to provide culturally competent services, so that when the service provider goes into the family home they feel respected.

In closing Ms. Luna wanted to acknowledge the families who have given their time and they have been wonderful to the enhanced service coordinators, they have opened their doors to them and shared their stories and it is because of them regional center is learning more on how to address the issue of disparity.

***Adriana Roman, Enhanced Service Coordinator:***

Ms. Roman thanked the Board for the opportunity to be able to share her experience on this project. She indicated it has been a very rewarding experience and she has learned so much from the families.

Ms. Roman indicated she had written a script for her presentation, but she decided to speak from the heart. She indicated there are situations where you go into the homes and the needs at times are easy to identify, such as families are dealing with issues of poverty, immigration,



needing assistance accessing generic services, these are times when you dive right in and help them tackle these critical issues with maybe generic resources or regional center funded resources even before getting to the curriculum of the POS project.

Adriana shared a story of one of her consumers she has been working with. At first glance it was hard to identify what the needs were especially when they tell you that everything is running smoothly. They indicate they are meeting their daughter's needs and are not asking for any regional center funded services. She indicated this is where the role of the Enhance Service Coordinator is important. The time spent with families is crucial, the more times they go back to the household the more opportunities they have to get to know their consumer and their families to know what goes on in the day to day lives of consumers. They start putting down walls and start to open up to the service coordinator.

Ms. Roman shared the story of a 20 year old female consumer, who is a single parent living with her parents who are providing an immense amount of support. At first glance it appeared all was running smoothly but the more time she spent with this consumer and her family she found out the consumer was suffering from depression. She expressed feelings of very low self-esteem and she discovered the family did not want anyone outside their family circle to know that their daughter had a disability. Consumer is the parent of an eight year old who had no idea that mother has a disability and mom did not know how to explain this. Little by little Adriana reported she was able to get her to access generic services such as counseling and psychiatric services which eventually lead to the help she needed. She started to feel more self-confident and started feeling that she wanted to become more independent. Initially consumer was opposed to sharing her feelings with anyone. Adriana stated she took time to sit with the parents and her consumer to explain more about her disability so that they would all have a better understanding and how they can support her.

Adriana stated she helped her access other generic services such as Access Services, as she was totally dependent on her parents for transportation. After she helped her consumer with the application and got the service available for her, she now travels in the community on her own, she picks her child up from school, when previously her parents always insisted on doing this for her. Now she is able to do this independently and it is a source of pride and confidence. Adriana reported her consumer accepted funding for regional center services, she is receiving Independent Living Skills (ILS). A referral was submitted for parent support services, she is very concerned about explaining her diagnosis to her child. She is now talking about moving out on her own. Adriana states it has taken months to build the relationship between the family and the service coordinator, and it has truly enabled them to conduct accurate assessments and identify the barriers in accessing services.

Adriana ended in saying she is thankful for the opportunity to work in this special project and was happy to share the experience with the Board.

Ms. Wong thanked all the presenters for adding the inspiring personal touch to the stories behind the "POS Data" Report.

### **C. Performance Contract Draft 2017 Year End Report**

In the interest of time, this agenda item was deferred and will be placed on a future agenda.

### **D. Self-Determination Program (SDP) Update**

E. Harrell reported the Self-Determination Waiver application was submitted on March 13, 2018.

This triggers the 90 day review process timeline and barring any required changes would result in an approval in June 2018.

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 in April with the current 24 pilot participants.

Currently ELARC is scheduling informational sessions. Sessions are scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> at Palm Park in Whittier, June 28<sup>th</sup> in the ELARC Board Room and July 25<sup>th</sup> also in the ELARC Board Room.

It is unknown when DDS will be drawing the names of selected SDP participants.

## **E. Budget Update**

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

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

Ms. Wong reported the deficit has decreased, projecting a deficit of \$2.7 million. There are regional centers reporting a surplus and it is anticipated that the deficits will be made whole. .

#### **(b) Budget Performance Report: Operations**

A modest surplus of \$60,272 remains available in the operations budget. Ms. Wong reiterated the reasons for this narrow balance, which is in large part due to the escalating costs of additional service coordinators hired with a finite allocation and with no future adjustments for increased costs over subsequent fiscal years.

Ms. Wong noted that the outdated operations funding formula, commonly referred to as the "core staffing" formula, is over twenty years old and funding levels are not consistent with current salary scales and benefit costs.

#### **(c) Grassroots Day Event Update**

Josefina Nieves, parent attending the event, reported she had very positive meetings with legislators and their assistants. Thank you cards are being sent to individuals she met with. She indicated she covered all the talking points and was not rushed. She had three appointments with staffers.

#### **(d) Budget Hearings**

Budget hearings are continuing, and what is being promoted is the restoration of camps and social recreational programs for consumers.

## **VII Consumer Services Report: Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services**

Felipe Hernandez reported the following:

- ✓ The Self-Advocacy Conference is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. Comments have been very positive.
- ✓ There was a presentation at the last Consumer Services In-Service on April 9, from Club 21, on serving adults with Down Syndrome. Focus is on the 0 to 21 years of age. They have a variety of services such as advocacy and social skills training. They are also vendored for conferences for parents of individuals with Down Syndrome. They are located in Pasadena.
- ✓ Resources for Service Coordination: In the last few weeks it has become increasingly difficult for consumers in psychiatric settings and they can't return home or to their previous residence. The State has not been able to come up with adequate resources. There are funds being made available through CPP but at the same time these resources will not be available for several years. Currently there are 6 individuals who are in a crisis mode, and service coordinators are looking for a place where they can safely be placed and also keeping families safe. Families are fearful of having consumers return to the home due to the intensity of behaviors.

## **VIII Committee Reports**

### **A. Consumer Advisory Committee**

Ms. Wong announced that Virgilio was selected as one of the volunteer extras in the filming of *"Run, Hide and Fight in the Work Environment"*. Liz Harrell reported that ELARC was contacted by the Office of Emergency Management stating they were collaborating with the

City of Los Angeles Police Department and wanted to include individuals with disabilities. ELARC put out the casting call, Virgilio auditioned and got the part.

The video which can be viewed on U-tube was presented to the Board. Virgilio also received a certificate from the LAPD. The video is posted on the ELARC website.

Virgilio reported the last CAC meeting was held on March 20, 2018. It was held in the ELARC Boardroom and via video conference at the Whittier office. He indicated it was a great turnout of consumers and support groups.

The main topic of the meeting was a special presentation on How to Interact with Law Enforcement. The guest presenter was Officer Elvy Gonzales of the Alhambra Police Department. Officer Gonzales discussed understanding police officer roles and duties, emergency situations, and interactions with officers. The presentation ended with contact information on how to contact the police in the event of an emergency and non-emergencies. The consumers and support groups participated actively in asking questions and comments during the presentation. Officer Gonzales was asked by the audience if the officers are trained to work with people with disabilities. Officer Gonzales responded that the officers are actively getting trained. It is a state requirement and the officers do know about regional centers and their services.

In his consumer advocate report, Mr. Jesse Padilla reported some of the activities, meetings, and advocacy outreach for consumers he attended. Mr. Padilla recent advocacy presentation was on March 27, 2018 with CAPC organization in Whittier.

During the meeting, they were able to conduct the election for the CAC Vice Chair. Marisol Guerrero was elected Vice-Chair.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2018 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the ELARC Board room in Alhambra and video conference at the Whittier office. The topic will be on Employment.

## **B. Vendor Advisory Committee**

Brian Chacon, Vice Chair, Vendor Advisory Committee, reported the following:

The last VAC meeting was on March 22, 2018. The meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in the Board Room and video conference at the Whittier office.

The three topics discussed, HCBS Final Rule and Implementation (will be a standing agenda item). Cristina Ontiveros, Community Specialist,, ELARC, will be distributing agenda items prior to the scheduled meetings to ensure that all vendors are compliant with the settings. There are certain activities being asked of the vendors to go over with their group and report back to Ms. Ontiveros, who is heading the working group with ELARC.

Training Topics: Continues to be a challenge to find new and innovative topics. The VAC has partnered with SEEK, a vendor, to administer a survey. Feedback from the vendors was poor so it was opened up to a table top exercise on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The group discussed five training needs which will be scheduled throughout the remainder of the year. Topics include labor laws, health issues, emergency response, medical system safety, OSHA law regulations and staff requirements for services. Two training have already been scheduled.

Networking group is working on the next Community Resource Fair which will be held in April of 2019. To date 20 vendors have been recruited to assist with the planning details. Looking to space close to the Alhambra Campus, possibly the Oval Mall.

The next VAC meeting is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the Board Room.

## **C. Finance/Personnel Committee**

There were no meetings held.

## **IX Miscellaneous Announcements**

There were no announcements.

## **X. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Diane Lasell*

Diane Lasell, Secretary, ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Rosalie M. Estrada, Executive Assistant