



# ELARC CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES

Date of Meeting: July 17, 2018

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## In Attendance

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**CAC Chair:** Virgilio Orlina

**CAC Vice Chair:** Marisol Guerrero

**Members Present:** Amanda Guerrero, Anthony Reyes, Alexis Guevara, Jesse Perez, Thomas Sandoval, Rocio Atenco,

**Guests present:** Gisel Robles, Julie Gaona, Rigo Gaona, Josefina Nieves, Yvette Torres, Ruth Nunez, Terry Robles, Nestor Nieves, Maryanne Guerrero, Brian Salazar, George Gonzalez, Calvin Cervantes, Delfino Martinez

**Guest Speaker:** Julie Eby-Mckenzie, Julie and Rigo Gaona

**ELARC Staff:** Jesse Padilla, Brendali Maldonado, Mary Hosokawa, Gerard Torres

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## Welcome/Opening

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- Introductions were conducted – no opening round due to large group and tight agenda.
- Marisol read the Mission Statement
- Jesse Provided the Groundrules
- Virgilio provided the Facilitation Statement
- The notes from May 15th were reviewed with a couple changes that need to be made

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## Consumer Advocate Report – Jesse Padilla

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### Access Services:

At the Access CAC meeting on 7/10 there was a presentation by Disability Rights California on Service Dogs on Access and public entities and this presentation covered everything from the verification needed as a Service animal to the difference between a service animal and emotional support. To find out more on this here is a website you can research [www.transit.dot.gov/regulations](http://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations).

### ARCA CAC:

At the recent ARCA CAC there was presentation on healthcare regarding what Medi-CAL covers and what it doesn't cover. Medi-CAL has a new Diabetes Prevention Program to help people prevent Diabetes. Medi-CAL also covers adult dental and transportation services if someone can't get to and from their appointments while also covering non-medical and non-emergency transportation if all other resources were exhausted.

### DDS CAC:

I read a newsletter article about how they are advocating for better affordable housing so individuals like ourselves can live the life we want. It is difficult with most individuals with disabilities who receive SSI to make money last through the month.

- DDS invited an agency named Progressive Employment to give a nice overview of what they do. They also discussed how they get consumers meaningful jobs by researching the skills that matches their abilities, and how they retain/schedule Job Coaches based on their consumers' needs.

- End of Life/Thinking Ahead was the next topic and it was hands on. We filled out the End of Life Thinking Ahead Workbook. It was hard to do because I had to think about what I would want to happen if I died but we all need to make plans for the future.
- SD Orientation: They showed us a section of the upcoming Self Determination Orientation presentation and asked us for our feedback. Most of us in the room agreed that it was not user friendly and we hope they will take our recommendations to improve it.

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## Presentation – Julie Eby-McKenzie, Julie & Rigo Gaona

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- Julie Eby McKenzie and Julie introduced themselves and introduced the movie
- Movie was shown – After the movie Q & A:
  - Anthony feels like he doesn't have the support he needs from friends and family to achieve his dreams. Julie responded by saying that she feels that he could be an excellent employee if he wants to work. She said to not give up on his dreams. She believes he can do it.
  - Can the video be found on YouTube. Julie Eby-McKenzie replied saying that you can download it with a small fee.
  - How did 14(c) come about? Julie Eby-McKenzie responded: an exception was put in a law. At the time it was enacted it was for veterans coming back from war. But it was used for people with disability. She feels that it was intended well, but they have long outlived their use for this. In California, sheltered workshops are going away.
  - You can complain to the department of labor...how does this work? Julie responded by saying that her understanding is that if you are working sub-minimum wage and you feel your time study is incorrect, you can make a complaint with the department of labor. She asked if anyone here knows disability rights California. Many raised their hands. She said that they are the ones that can help you with going in front of a judge with your complaint. Also, she clarified that Goodwill is changing their ways. She did not want anyone leaving thinking that Goodwill is "the bad guy" as it may have been portrayed in the movie.
  - How can someone advocate for themselves? Julie replied stating that there some agencies where this gentleman can go in. Like dept. of rehab. They can help with resume, clothes for work, etc. They can get the assistance from their SC at a regional center. They can go to their consumer advocate. They can help them write a resume. Any of your local advocate advisory committees can help. Look at their websites, get their numbers. You can also contact Julie to give you phone numbers. You need to be persistent...persistence is the key. Julie Eby-McKenzie added, you will need to go to your SC. If you feel that your SC is not listening, you can always request a new SC. You need to have someone in your corner. You start with the RC. If your SC is in your corner, they'll know how to connect you with all these aforementioned resources. You are entitled to get services through the RC; however, you need to be persistent to get a job because you are not guaranteed employment. You need to compete for the job just like everyone else.
  - Whatever it is that you want to accomplish there are 3 words that you need to learn: Think, Plan, Do. She explained each one in detail.

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## Announcements/ Burning Issues

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No announcements or burning issues.

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## Next Meeting

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The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 4:00pm held in our Alhambra and Whittier via videoconferencing. The topic will be on *“What is Self-Determination”*.

### OTHER ELARC COMMITTEES and UPCOMING MEETINGS

|             |                    |                   |   |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| CAC         | September 18, 2018 | 4:00pm-6:00pm     | Video Conference: Both Alhambra and Whittier Boardrooms |
| ELARC Board | September 18, 2018 | 6 pm              | Alhambra Boardroom                                      |
| VAC         | September 27, 2017 | 10:00am - 11:30am | Video Conference: Both Alhambra and Whittier Boardrooms |

### GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| ARCA:  | Association of Regional Center Agencies  |
| ASA:   | Autism Society of America  |
| BOD:   | Board of Directors   |
| CAC:   | Consumer Advisory Committee  |
| CPAD:  | Chinese Parents Association for the Disabled                                     |
| CMSD:  | ELARC Community Services Department (Resource Development and Quality Assurance) |
| CSD:   | ELARC Consumer Services Department (Service Coordination)                        |
| DDS:   | Department of Developmental Services   |
| ELARC: | Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center  |
| FAC:   | Family Advisory Committee  |
| FRC:   | Family Resource Center   |
| GHL:   | Guide to Healthy Living  |
| I & T: | ELARC Information and Training Unit  |
| OPS:   | Regional Center Operating Budget   |
| PICI:  | Partners in Community Inclusion  |
| POS:   | Regional Center Purchase of Service Budget                                       |
| SD:    | Self-Determination   |
| TASK:  | Team of Special Advocates for Kids   |
| VAC:   | Vendor Advisory Committee  |
| VLF:   | Vendor Leadership Forum  |