



**ASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER**  
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**ELARC Board of Directors Meeting**  
**July 10, 2018**  
**Approved September 11, 2018**

**Board Members Present:**

Tony Borrego, President  
Richard Helgeson, Vice-Chair  
Diane Lasell, Secretary  
Anthony De La Rosa  
Devora Reed  
Lida Chavez  
Yougeng Sun  
Nestor Nieves  
Virgilio Orlina, CAC Representative  
Bryan Chacon, VAC

**Staff Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Joe Utar (Excused)  
Elias Fonseca

**Guests:**

Refer to Sign-in Sheet

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**I Welcome & Roll Call**

The meeting was called at to order at 6:04 pm by Tony Borrego, 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.

**III Community Input**

Chala Jitpatima, parent, addressed the Board reporting she met with Frances Jacobs regarding her concern expressed at the June Board Meeting on making the PowerPoint available to participants. She indicated Ms. Jacobs is working on this issue and she will be getting back to Ms. Jitpatima.

Ms. Jitpatima addressed the Board regarding Person Centered Training (PCT). She indicated the next PCTs are scheduled in August and November of 2018 and are both full. She recommended there be more sessions scheduled as there are many parents who are very interested on this presentation.

Ms. Gloria Wong, Executive Director, reported staff are doing their best to meet the high interest which is why two (2) sessions were scheduled this year. Ms. Wong indicated ELARC will continue to offer PCT sessions in the upcoming calendar year to continue meeting community interest. As an alternative, Ms. Wong stated the State Council is conducting PCT this year. Ms. Julie McKenzie, SCDD representative, stated they will also be scheduling facilitator PCT training in the near future.

Mr. Yougeng Sun shared he attended a Self-Determination session sponsored by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) on June 16<sup>th</sup> in South Gate and indicated her found the session to be very informative.

There were no other comments from the community.

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

##### **A. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of June 12, 2018**

***M/S/C (Richard Helgeson/Nestor Nieves) To approve the Minutes of June 12, 2018 as recorded. Unanimous.***

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

##### **A. POS Disparity Update**

###### **1. FY 2016-17 Purchase of Services (POS) Data Report**

A year-end "Purchase of Services (POS) Data Report" is submitted to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) by May 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. The report reviews previous fiscal year POS expenditures by ethnicity and also presents the outcome and feedback of the community meetings hosted by ELARC. The May 31<sup>st</sup> "POS Data Report" was the basis of the presentation to the Board.

The report contains six components: (1) background information; (2) ELARC Demographics; (3) Attendance; (4) Meeting Notes; (5) Community presentations & Issues Identified in Data; (6) Project Updates and Recommendations.

Ms. Wong provided highlights of the report.

The three largest ethnic groups served by ELARC are: Hispanic, Asian and White population. The Hispanic group represents 70.7% of the total population served by ELARC, Asian

population is 12.3% and White is at 10.3%. The two predominant ethnicities served by ELARC are Hispanic and Asians, collectively they represent 83% of all consumers served by ELARC.

Ms. Wong reported the diverse demographics demands that ELARC's personnel reflect the linguistic and cultural composition of the community it serves. Service Coordinators comprise 169 of the 276 total staff. Eighty-two (82%) percent of the 169 speak Spanish with 22% speaking Chinese. For Management, a total of 27 persons, 67% speak Spanish and 14% speak Chinese. Overall the 276 staff, 78% speak Spanish and 18.9% are Chinese speaking. Communication with the consumer/family in their native language is an integral part of being culturally sensitive and establishing a trusting relationship.

The report references attendance at the three community meetings and it was noted that attendance has diminished over the last three (3) years. One meeting was held at headquarters (Alhambra Office), where the primary audience were service providers. The largest attendance is reached when ELARC partners with Fiesta Educativa and the Chinese Parent Association for the Disabled (CPAD), who service the Hispanic and Asian community. The Fiesta Educativa meeting had 21 individuals in attendance and CPAD had a total of 12 present.

A panel of ELARC presenters addressed Fiesta Educativa on March 26, 2018 to review POS expenditure trends by the various ethnicities and to address the efforts and projects that ELARC is undertaking to reduce POS variances amongst the top two ethnic groups. The presentation allowed time from the audience to directly address the ELARC panel with questions or comments on their perspective relating to POS disparity. This segment of the meeting was extremely productive. Due to time constraints the audience requested a follow-up session which would exclusively allow the audience to conduct a "Question & Answer" (Q&A) session with ELARC staff. A continuation of the March 26<sup>th</sup> presentation will be hosted by Fiesta Educativa on August 14<sup>th</sup> to continue the "Q&A" dialogue between the audience and ELARC staff.

Some of the concerns expressed at the public meetings included:

- Special education expertise needed to challenge public education services and regional center. Representation at IEP's.
- Desire to better understand the vast array of services offered.
- Assistance with transitional services from public school to regional center funded adult services.
- Information needed in native language.
- Ensure the quality of translated material.
- Quality of services delivered by service providers needs to be part of progress reports.
- Service providers should involve families in the writing of progress reports.
- Families to conduct an evaluation of services delivered by vendors.

Ms. Wong noted in FY 2015-'16 California's MediCal Managed Care health plans assumed the responsibility for providing and funding Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) services for children and adolescents diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. There were 319 ELARC consumers that transitioned to Medi-Cal or private insurance funding in the latter part of FY 2015-'16. A minor number were transferred in FY 2016-'17. An analysis of the two fiscal years indicates a significant shift in funding from ELARC POS to Medi-Cal, for a total of over \$3 million. Ultimately the results represent a reduction to the average POS expenditures for these ELARC consumers. Of concern is that the report does not account for those services which were continued, without interruption, by a generic funding source.

In general, generic services are not captured as part of the POS expenditure data report and therefore is unable to offer a full and complete analysis of all supports and services being received by individual consumers. It is hoped that with time the POS report can be refined to include such critical data in order to offer a more accurate representation of the POS averages for all ethnicities.

A historical comparison of POS authorizations since the beginning of the POS review process indicates a consistent and modest increase year over year for the Hispanic and Asian communities.

**Per Capita Authorization Comparison**  
**Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-'12 to FY 2015-'16**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>FY 2011-'12</b>	<b>FY 2016-'17</b>	<b>\$ Difference</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>\$12,922</b>	<b>\$14,432</b>	<b>+\$1,510</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>\$14,848</b>	<b>\$16,559</b>	<b>+\$2,241</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>\$28,639</b>	<b>\$38,167</b>	<b>+\$9,528</b>

A factor that must be considered as we analyze the above figures is the "residential" service component. There is a culturally driven preference to not use "residential" services but to have consumers remain in the family home as illustrated by the following stats:

- Hispanic 92.1%
- Asian 92.9%
- White 66.2%

The result is a substantial disparity in the per capita averages among the three ethnic groups. Residential services, in its various categories, constitutes the most costly of all regional center funded services. The table below compares POS funding for consumers of all ages living at

home. By doing so the differential in POS expenditure averages dramatically decreases as illustrated by the following table.

**Per Capita Authorization (PCA)  
For All Ages Living at Home  
By Ethnicity  
Fiscal Year 2016 – ‘17**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Consumers</b>	<b>PCA</b>	<b>\$ Difference</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>\$15,615</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>1,672</b>	<b>\$11,919</b>	<b>- \$3,696</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>\$10,282</b>	<b>- \$5,332</b>

Special projects that have been instituted to narrow the per capita differential were reviewed. Focus of the review was placed on the reduced caseload ratio project. Highlights of the project:

- 200 cases
- Selection criteria
  - ✓ No POS
  - ✓ POS funding at \$2,000 or below
- 5 Service Coordinators (SC)
- Caseload of 1:40 per SC

Thirty-one of the original 200 cases have been transferred out after 1 ½ years of being in the project. A pre and post comparison on the changes to the average POS expenditures clearly shows the importance and ultimate success of a lower caseload ratio. The following statistics were shared to illustrate this success.

	<b>PRE</b>	<b>POST</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>\$3900</b>	<b>\$8200</b>	<b>107.73%</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>\$2600</b>	<b>\$5700</b>	<b>109.41%</b>

The following data was the basis for the above results and it was reviewed with the Board.

**Reduced Caseload Ratio Project**  
**Per Capita Expenditure (PCE) Pre/Post Comparison**

Ethnicity	Consumer Count	Annual Expenditure			
		Before (Expenditures)	After (*Expenditures)	\$ Changes	% Changes
Asian	10	\$26,799.14	\$56,119.75	\$29,320.61	109.41%
Hispanic	21	\$82,882.76	\$172,171.51	\$89,288.75	107.73%
<b>Total</b>	31	\$109,681.90	\$228,291.26	\$118,609.36	108.14%
Per Capita Expenditures		\$3,538.13	\$7,364.23	\$3,826.11	108.14%
Per Capita/Asian		\$2,679.91	\$5,611.98	\$2,932.06	109.41%
Per Capita/Hispanic		\$3,946.80	\$8,198.64	\$4,251.85	107.73%

Ms. Wong is hopeful that DDS will consider the success of the project as ELARC applies for the next funding cycle. Some of the other efforts tackling POS disparity were briefly covered.

Ms. Wong reviewed the recommendations being made to DDS as part of the May 31<sup>st</sup> report.

(1) Restoration of suspended services, namely social recreation and camp. Reductions went into effect as a temporary measure to contend with budgetary challenges dating back to 2009. This policy change has disproportionately affected Hispanic and Asian consumers at ELARC. These are critical support services for a population that utilizes residential services at very low levels. These services are critical support services for populations that have a high percentage of consumers living at home with families.

(2) Reinstate start-up fund grant for the development of new models of service delivery that are responsive to linguistic and cultural needs. Many years ago money was set aside by DDS for the purpose of awarding grants to service providers with start-up funds for new and innovative services. This corresponds to comments from parents asking for new innovative and culturally sensitive services in their community.

(3) Reassess the current format of the fiscal year “POS Data” report in an effort to streamline its content and create a more “user friendly” display for families/consumers. Additionally, the report should clearly distinguish between overall POS average expenditures and POS averages for consumers living at home with their families, which for ELARC is the vast majority of its constituency. Ms. Wong is promoting that DDS reassess how the report is produced so that it has more meaning and relevance to the community.

(4) Effort to account for services that impact POS averages in the POS Data report, such as:

- Shift in funding from regional center to another entity (i.e.) Medical Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT)
- Contracted services paid by regional centers which are not consumer specific and is not captured in “POS Data” report
- Generic services

Additional projects and efforts to address POS disparity in the regional center system includes:

1. Georgetown University: Community of Practice
2. ARCA Report: “Building a System for Tomorrow”
3. Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) Research Project
4. ABX2-1 Projects
  - ELARC
  - Community Based Organizations (CBO)

**B. Performance Contract (PC) Update**

1. 2019 PC Meetings

The Performance Contract is developed for the calendar year versus the fiscal year. Currently we are in the middle of PC 2018 and ELARC will be conducting two public meetings on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, one at headquarters and one in the Whittier area. A flyer was distributed. The meeting will discuss the 2018 PC by providing updates on the various measures. Additionally, the PC 2019 draft will be reviewed. The PC draft will be presented to the Board at the September meeting for review and comments. At the October Board Meeting the PC for 2019 will be presented to the Board for final approval to submit to DDS by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Over the past couple of years the Performance Contract has added some additional objectives on employment and cultural competence. George De La Loza, Employment Specialist, will be participating at the Performance Contract community meetings so that he can speak to the activities which will improve employment opportunities. On the cultural competence component, Carmen Castro-Luna, Supervisor, will be participating at the PC meetings to discuss the cultural competence activities of the Performance Contract.

Flyers for the community meetings were distributed.

2. 2017 PC Year End Report

The year-end report for PC 2017 was reviewed.

Mr. Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services, reported on some of the activities Mr. George De La Loza has undertaken. He has presented to community groups as well as been the lead person to the San Gabriel Valley SELPA, Alhambra Unified School District, Montebello Unified School District and the Los Angeles Unified School District in an effort to develop LPA (local partnership agreements) which are required. He is actively involved in developing a relationship with the Department of Rehabilitation. Mr. De La Loza has worked with families and service coordinators in providing them with support and information.

### **C. Self-Determination Update**

Ms. Wong reported Self-Determination was approved by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on June 7<sup>th</sup>. ELARC will have 114 slots available out of the 2,500 participants. The 114 slots includes the 24 consumers currently part of the original pilot self-determination program, which has been in effect for approximately 18 years. Regional Centers will continue to conduct pre-enrollment meetings and can submit names of interested participants to DDS until October 1, 2018. To date ELARC has submitted 250 names to DDS. Many families have already received a confirmation from DDS that their name has been received and added to the list. Anticipating the list will exceed 2,500, they will then select the number of individuals who will be part of the initial project. Once individuals are selected to be part of the project regional centers will conduct orientation sessions. Should anyone decide to not go forward with the project, regional centers will go back to recruit participants from the list developed by DDS.

#### *1. Local Advisory Committee (LAC)*

##### *(a) Upcoming Meetings*

The dates for the local advisory committee meetings are September 4<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup>.

##### *(b) June 5, 2018 Minutes*

The Minutes of the June 5, 2018 Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee were distributed to the Board for their information.

#### *2. Informational Meetings Update*

An update on the Self-Determination Public Meetings/Updates for 2018 was distributed to the Board for their information.

#### *3. Budget Categories*

Information on Proposed Budget Categories with Proposed SDP Services was shared with the Board for their information.



#### 4. *Statewide Self-Determination Meeting*

Mr. Virgilio Orlina, CAC, Chair Local Advisory Committee, reported the next Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee meeting will be held on July 19, 2018 from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Sacramento. Included on the agenda will be DDS updates on the SD implementation timeline as well as in-depth discussions on a variety of implementation concerns, participant selection and orientation training. Mr. Orlina reported he will be attending this meeting.

#### **D. Budget Update**

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

###### (a) PEP (Purchase of Services Expense Report)

Ms. Wong reported ELARC is projecting a surplus of approximately \$3 million.

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

Ms. Wong reported a surplus of approximately \$84,000 in Operations.

##### 2. *Fiscal Year 2018-19*

###### (a) June 27<sup>th</sup> Budget Signed

Ms. Wong reported the budget was signed on time by the Governor.

###### (b) Overview of Budget

Overall the budget went from a \$6.4 billion to a \$6.9 billion budget statewide. Regional Center will have a better understanding of the allocation sometime in September when the first allocation is received. There were no cuts but the growth allocation to operations was minuscule. There were hopes that camp and social recreation would be reinstated but the Governor prevailed in overturning this effort.

###### (c) Trailer Bill Language: SB 853

A summary of Trailer Bill Language, SB 853, was shared with the Board. Ms. Wong indicated the respite service cap was lifted as of January 2018. Trailer Bill language requires regional centers to post online their purchase of service policy on respite services including existing procedures and assessment tools to determine the hours of services to be approved.

Reference is also made to Self-Determination (SD), additional federal funds for SD are still available for independent facilitator training. Regional Centers have asked DDS to consider funding for a project manager to implement and coordinate self-determination activities. Currently all self-determination activities are done by existing staff.

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

Felipe Hernandez reported the following:

(1) ELARC is currently working on developing a training/curriculum for service coordinators (145) who have consumers on their caseload between the ages of 16 and 22 and are still in the public school system. Looking at ways to develop a relationship with the school district, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and the regional center to facilitate a better understanding at the IPP and the individual transition planning meetings. Hopefully this will assist on the roles of each agency and secure better services through the school district as consumers get closer to job situations, such as internships, paid or not paid. It is hoped once they graduate from high school they will be able to add more disclosures on actual jobs. Looking to conduct training for service coordinators in smaller groups.

(2) Mr. Arturo De La Torre, Supervisor for the School Age Unit and was with ELARC for twenty-six year, resigned t at the end of May. Ms. Cristina Ontiveros was a Community Specialist in the Community Services Unit who was promoted to Supervisor to replace Mr. De La Torre's position.

(3) Best Buddies received \$1.5 million from the state budget. Best Buddies teams up college age individuals with individuals with disabilities for recreational activities in the community.

(4) Local Resources for Individuals with Autism: Chuck E. Cheese is having on the first Sunday of every month from 9:00 am to 11:00 a.m. reduced sensory activities at selected Chucky E. Cheese sites. There will be lower lights and less noise and certain types of activities lead by CARD staff.

Los Angeles County Fair is sponsoring a similar experience on September 6<sup>th</sup> at the Pomona Fair Grounds from 9:00 am to 12 Noon. The experience will be a more relaxed and less stimulating sensory type of environment. More information is available through Fair Kids at the L.A. County Fair Grounds.

(5) Stanford University is studying brain development in relation to behavior cognition in girls between the ages of 6 yrs. to 14 years of age. They are paying a \$100 stipend. The study will be doing MRI's and NIRS scans, cognitive and behavior evaluations. They will receive payment for travel, food and lodging.

## **VII Committee Reports**

### **A. Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC)**

Mr. Virgilio Orlina reported the next Consumer Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17, 2018 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the ELARC Boardroom and via video conference at the Whittier office. The guest speaker will be Ms. Julie Eby-McKenzie of the Los Angeles State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Additionally there will also be a panel of self-advocates who will join Ms. McKenzie. A video entitled Bottom Dollars, which focuses on advocating for employment, will also be shown during the meeting.

Mr. Jesse Padilla, Consumer Advocate, will update the consumers on the DDS CAC meeting he attended recently in Sacramento. He will also be covering the following topics: Access Services Inc., ARCA CAC, and his consultations.

Mr. Orlina also reported Mr. Padilla continues his outreach efforts to consumers. He is scheduled to do a presentation on August 22, 2018 at the New Day Program in Montebello and a possible outreach with the Whittier Union School District Transition program.

### **B. Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC)**

Bryan Chacon, VAC Chair reported the VAC met on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The VAC meets on the fourth Thursday of every month. A video conference is also held at the Whittier Office. There were two trainings provided, one was provided by Albert Guzman, SIR Coordinator, on seclusion and restraint reporting. The second training was provided by a representative from the Disability Rights California who reported on expanding reporting requirements.

Time was spent discussing the rate study. A one page handout was generated by VAC Leadership regarding the service provider survey due August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The survey is a critical as it will assess the adequacy of current payment rates. These findings of the study will be sent to legislators to determine possible rate changes in the future. The VAC offered informational videos on YouTube. Also collected a list of vendors that are in process or have completed the survey as VAC leadership will be following up with vendors to see if they need any type of assistance or redirection.

The VAC also held a special election for the Vice-Chair since Bryan Chacon moved from Vice-Chair to Chair in May. There was one nominee, Ron Rosen from Mercedes Homes, who was nominated and elected as Vice-Chair effective June 28<sup>th</sup>. Bryan and Ron will be in their positions for one more year in order to abide by their Bylaws. The Bylaws state every odd year elections are held. They will be extending leadership for an additional year.

Cristina Ontiveros, as Felipe Hernandez indicated, introduced Maribel Garcia, as the new HCBS Program evaluator, as Cristina was promoted to Supervisor.

A group is working on the annual resource fair. They are getting closer to securing the oval mall at the Alhambra and are in the final leg of partnering with the Family Resource Center as a co-sponsor. The fair will be held in April of 2019.

The next VAC is scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. There will be an extended training from the Department of Labor for approximately 2 ½ hours long on topic of the VAC meeting. A hot lunch will be provided.

**C. Finance/Personnel Committee**

*1. The Principal*

(a) Richard Helgeson, Board Treasurer, announced a meeting is scheduled with Principal Representatives August 28<sup>th</sup> to review the employee pension plan

**VIII Miscellaneous**

Ms. Wong reminded everyone there is no Board Meeting in August. Gloria wished all a wonderful Summer.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2018.

**IX Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Original signed by*

Diane Lasell, Secretary, ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Rosalie M. Estrada, Executive Assistant