



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
October 9, 2018
Approved November 13, 2018

Board Members Present:

Tony Borrego, President
Richard Helgeson, Vice-Chair
Joe Utar, Treasurer
Anthony De La Rosa
Lida Chavez
Yougeng Sun
Nestor Nieves
Virgilio Orlina, CAC Representative
Bryan Chacon, VAC Representative

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Svcs.
Elizabeth Harrell, Supervisor, Information
and Training
Carmen C. Luna, Supervisor
Brendali Maldonado, Community Svcs.
Specialist

Absent:

Elias Fonseca*
Diane Lasell*
Devora Navera*

.....
I Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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

There was no community input.

IV. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting

A. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of September 11, 2018

M/S/C (Anthony De La Rosa/Bryan Chacon) To approve the Minutes of September 11, 2018 as recorded. Unanimous.

V. Executive Director's Report – Gloria Wong

A. Partners in Community Inclusion (PICI) Presentation

Ms. Gloria Wong provided background information on the establishment of PICI. PICI is a series of sessions offered to ELARC parents presented by the agency's Educational Specialist, Mary Hosokawa. The series focuses on future planning for consumers by developing a long term vision that prepares them to transition from public education into their communities after graduation.

Ms. Wong introduced Mary Hosokawa, Educational Specialist who introduced the panel of presenters.

Mary Hosokawa thanked the Board, Gloria Wong and the audience for the opportunity to share the PICI experience. She indicated Partners in Community Inclusion (PICI) began in the early 2000's as a way to provide tools and support for parents pursuing inclusion for their children in the community, especially as their children prepare to transition to adult life. The framework of PICI was developed by a consultant, Mark Starford, but since the mid-2000's ELARC has made it a home-grown program.

In current year there have been two separate PICI groups: an Alhambra English speaking group and a Whittier Spanish speaking group. Previously ELARC conducted PICI sessions for Chinese parents in collaboration with CPAD (Chinese Parent Association).

PICI is a series of meetings or classes for family members of children served by regional center. It runs from January to May and each meeting has a theme related to the goal of community inclusion. The participants engage in discussions and activities that help them inventory their own values, develop a personal vision of inclusion in an environment where they feel supported by the community of PICI parents. Ms. Hosokawa indicated the purpose of "PICI Harvest" is to share what the PICI experience has meant to the participants. It is hoped the "PICI Harvest" will help reach other parents and family members so that the numbers can grow.

Parents from the current series were invited to share their experience with the Board in a personalized PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Hosokawa thanked all the parents who volunteered to present and also those who could not be present due to scheduling conflicts.

Mr. Peter Woo parent of Alex addressed the Board. Mr. Woo indicated he came to the United States when his son was 15 years old. Alex has had opportunities that were not available in China. He indicated Alex is his pride and as a single parent he is part of PICI to learn, to grow and appreciate the ups and downs that happen every day. Alex brings a different meaning to him, he has given him a chance to become a good father. Alex is also the center of their family and he states he just wants to enjoy this special experience with his son. Mr. Woo stated he always tries to teach Alex to accept and enjoy his extraordinary life and the challenges he has to

face. He continues to encourage his son, he will never give up on him. He thanked those that helped him achieve the vision he has for Alex. He stated his present vision is that Alex can maximize opportunities to make friends on his school campus. He was elected to be the Treasurer of the International Club of Citrus College in Spring 2017. It's still really hard for him to overcome obstacles but he is always trying and as his father he will keep encouraging him to never give up.

Mei Lei is the parent of Laker. Laker is 16 years old. Her vision was that Laker will be a happy and an independent artist who uses computer technology to integrate his visual talents with the competency of digital mixed-media. Mom hopes his passion for art will have a long term result. Mei stated the family will continue to encourage Laker and support him to make good choices that will enhance his independence and support his love of art. Through art he has learned many things including academics, socialization, self-expression and the appreciation of beauty. Art gives Laker joy and purpose and it has helped make him the very special person he is today.

Ms. Wong thanked May and Peter for finding the time to address the board and share their personal experience with PICI. Ms. Wong noted that Mei is also part of the Family Resource Center (FRC) and serves on the ELARC Local Advisory Committee (LAC) on Self-Determination. Peter has been part of PICI for many years. Ms. Wong indicated she has met Alex and has personally seen his wonderful achievements.

Mary Hosokawa introduced Brendali Maldonado, Community Services Specialist, who will be translating the Spanish speaking parent presentations into English.

Ms. Martinez stated they are a group of families of special angels that despite adversity they do not give up. She indicated they are mothers, educators, rehabilitators. They know how to appreciate the good times and when they fall they get up. They learn how to confront situations in a positive way.

Ms. Lara stated their vision is to have their children included in the community, school, work, church, etc. She indicated that all participants would like to see their children as independent as possible according to their individual abilities.

Ms. Maria Flores stated PICI has been her inspiration in moving forward and to not lose hope that one day her son will be independent. She thanked Mary Hosokawa for her motivation and encouragement to develop short and long term goals that allows her son to be integrated into the community with activities such as volunteering at the library and at the Pasadena Rose Parade in preparing the floats.

Ms. Rueda indicated she is the mother of a 14 year old young man. She shared that PICI taught her integration, support for her son, and knows now her son has no limits. She stated as long as she knows he is learning she can find the correct objectives so that he can continue to learn

and prepare for the future. She stated PICI means life with dignity for her son and thanked Mary Hosokawa for the inspiration provided to be a better parent.

Ms. Maura Mercado stated PICI has taught her how to have a vision for her son and how to become stronger with each passing day. She indicated another motivation for her is that she would like to see her son participate in sports, such as basketball and football. She thanked Mary Hosokawa because she is a great motivator and feels personally she has helped her tremendously.

Ms. Argueta stated how she valued being part of a group of parents with similar needs. The group collaboration lead PICI to formally recognize organizations and individuals that have positively impacted their children's life, such as public school teachers in Pico Rivera and Whittier as well as ELARC service coordinators. Another group collaboration cited was the parents successful effort in having a local park, Smith Park, become wheelchair accessible by installing ramps and special swings.

Ms. Leticia Gallo shared what PICI has meant to her and her family over the years. She indicated PICI has been a great learning experience that has taught her how to navigate the regional center system, the school and the community. She has learned to confront different trials and challenges that have come their way and how to appreciate the successes of her son, such as becoming part of the wrestling team for four years at California High School. Her son graduated and now attends Rio Hondo College where he is taking classes in graphic design. Through PICI and its activities parents have become an extended family from which they learned about different programs and resources to consider for their children. She thanked Mary Hosokawa for her patience and guidance and ELARC for allowing PICI to exist as a system of support.

Ms. Saccone spoke to her many achievements over the last couple of years. She spoke with pride about the establishment of a non-profit and the many donations received towards that effort. Next step is to open a second non-profit in "Morelia". She credited her PICI colleagues in helping her in this effort. Parent acknowledged Mary's influence by offering her hope and confidence to attain her goal.

Mary Hosokawa shared a slide show which was put together by the PICI group. She thanked the parents for their time, their presentations and kind words.

Ms. Gloria Wong, on behalf of the Board, thanked the parents for taking the time to present and to share their personal stories.

B. 2019 Performance Contract (PC)

The draft 2019 Performance Contract was presented in detail at the September Board Meeting. No public comments from the community has been received to date. The document presented to the Board is the same version submitted in September as there was no input for changes.

The PC must be submitted to the Department of Developmental Services by November 1, 2018. There were no questions or comments on the 2019 PC.

M/S/C (Richard Helgeson/Anthony De La Rosa) To approve the 2019 Performance Contract as presented. Unanimous.

C. Purchase of Services (POS) Disparity Proposals

Ms. Wong provided an update on the current Purchase of Services (POS) Disparity Proposals for ELARC and for the upcoming application cycle.

A public meeting was conducted on October 2, 2018. As has been reported, DDS is opening the third cycle for POS Disparity proposals. \$11 million is available to regional centers and community-based organizations (CBO's) to apply for proposals that will reduce the POS disparity among the various ethnic groups. The PowerPoint presentation used at the October 2, 2018 community meeting was shared with the Board. Panel presenters at the October 2nd meeting included: Gloria Wong, Elizabeth Harrell, Lupe Jacquez, Cultural Specialist, Carmen Castro Luna, Supervisor.

Background information was provided on the development of the proposals and the disparity report of December 31, 2017 which was posted on the ELARC website. The report analyzes expenditures on POS by all the various ethnic groups served by ELARC.

ELARC demographics were reviewed: 70% are Hispanic and 12% are Asian. Because the lowest POS per capita averages uniquely impact the Asian and Hispanic community, ELARC's proposals focus their activities on these two ethnic groups.

Ms. Wong referenced the annual March report on caseload ratios and the impact it has on POS disparity. Ms. Carmen C. Luna, Supervisor of the Specialized Caseload Unit, reported on the 200 cases in the project she oversees. ELARC is nearing the completion of the second year of the lower caseload ratio project. There was discussion on the success of the project. The 200 cases selected had expenditures of POS \$2,000 or below. Recently there were 31 consumers who graduated from the program and were returned to traditional service coordination. Ms. Wong referenced the 31 graduates from the project and the remarkable changes to POS commitments. For the Asian community the average initial expenditure was \$2700 when they graduated from the project it became an average of \$5600. The Hispanic families were at \$3900 on average and left the project at \$8200 on average. There is a substantial difference when you can have a number of meetings with families, with a 1:40 caseload ratio in comparison to the typical 1:80 ratio. Service coordinators generally meet with the consumer and the family one time during their birth month but the enhanced service coordinators meet with the family 6 to 12 times during the same time period, which allows for a much more comprehensive review and solidifies a strong and trusting bond.

Ms. Wong reported ELARC is about to begin the third cycle of funding for its special projects. ELARC is currently working on the application due October 16, 2018 to DDS. As a result and success of the lower caseload ratio project ELARC would like to expand the project by adding

more cases that would be served by other existing Consumer Services units. The proposed expansion would impact ten units that would each have a dedicated service coordinator with a caseload of 1:40. The expansion would be in addition to the current specialized unit under Ms. Luna which currently has five service coordinators with 200 cases at a 1:40 ratio. This expansion would result in a total of 600 cases being part of the project and represent 6.5% of ELARC's total caseload. ELARC is committed in continuing the reduced caseload project to improve the POS disparity differential and to expand this opportunity to additional families. The plan was presented at the public meeting on October 2, 2018 and no objections were noted.

Elizabeth Harrell reported on the public meeting. There were a total of 10 individuals, parents and providers. There was good dialogue with the audience. Ms. Carmen Luna shared with the audience what families are identifying as barriers in accessing services and looking at education and transportation. A provider from ELARC who is working on his Ph.D. and is doing research in this area would like to work together in addressing these barriers.

There are seven Community Based Organizations (CBO's) who have been very active in the ELARC catchment area in instituting their DDS approved proposals. One in particular that ELARC is working closely with is the Tarjan Center. It is hoped that their parent mentor program will also be a good match to the lower caseload ratio project by providing support to families on generic services whether it be with in-home supportive services, or assisting in applying for social security benefits, etc. Ms. Harrell reported that DDS developed contracts with the CBO's and it has been a slow start getting the contracts finalized. She anticipates she is going to see more work from the other CBO's and reported they are in the process of securing money for next year.

Liz Harrell reported ELARC has the most CBO's. The grant projects range from helping parent navigate the system, doing outreach and explaining regional center services. The regional center is also working with the Korean American Association.

Mr. Sun, board member, shared that as of last Sunday Tarjan is already sending out applications for mentors and indicated he received an application which he submitted to Tarjan.

D. Self-Determination (SD) Update

Ms. Wong reported DDS has selected the first 2500 participants for the initial implementation of the new Self-Determination Program.

Ms. Harrell stated that for ELARC there were 24 slots reserved for individuals in the original pilot. Eighty-six individuals were identified for new positions. The Department of Developmental Services conducted a random selection process last week and notified families that were selected. ELARC has letters that are being sent to those in the pilot and another letter to the 86 new individuals selected. Letters were translated in all languages served by

ELARC. David Castaneda is the Self Determination Service Coordinator for the consumers in the original pilot project and he is currently contacting families regarding next steps.

The first step in rolling out SD will be to attend an orientation session, which is mandated by law. DDS is currently finalizing the orientation curriculum. They are planning to do a "trainer the trainer" the first or second week of November, the actual orientations will not begin until January 2019. Currently, Liz Ornelas, Supervisor of the pilot SD cases, is reviewing the list of selected participants to determine the current service coordinator assignment and reviewing the current types of services and supports being received.

A meeting is scheduled for next week with the case management supervisors and service coordinators. A service coordinator from each of the units has been identified to be the Self-Determination liaison to ensure there is a direct communication back to the full unit.

As it pertains to resources, regional center is waiting for DDS to provide more direction and guidance on the fiscal management service which is a crucial part of SD. Additionally the goal is to have a pool of Independent facilitators who can work with the provider community.

The next meeting of the Local Advisory Committee is scheduled for November 6th.

The current plan at this time is that most of the 24 consumers from the SD pilot project will remain with their current service coordinator, David Castaneda. Although future plans may result in a redistribution of his current caseload due to the expansion of SD.

ELARC Self-Determination Update/Fact Sheet:

As of this date, the appeal process stays in place. Further clarification is expected from DDS.

"One Page Profile" document was reviewed with the Board.

One of the essential parts of SD is having a strong Person Centered Plan, having a vision for self or your child, where you see your child and what services and supports are needed to achieve that vision.

The Person Centered Practice Coordinators with the disparity project, created a one page document entitled "How to Create a Person Centered Plan: One Page Profile" which is being mailed to all selected families in preparation for the first SD meeting with their service coordinator. The focus is on the individuals core qualities and abilities.

Ms. Wong noted the document applies to both POS disparity and self-determination participants.

Mr. Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services, stated he projects the transitioning of cases to start sometime in January 2019. Staff will need to be trained before meeting with families in

January. As a reminder selected consumers/families must attend an orientation to ensure they want to proceed with SD. Should someone opt out of SD there will be a list established so that another interested individual can take that slot.

Legislative Staff Briefing Session on SD:

Liz Harrell attended the ARCA Legislative Staff Briefing session in Sacramento on October 3rd. The session was an information session explaining self-determination. It included DDS, regional centers as represented by the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), and advocacy organizations. Liz represented the Regional Center System along with ARCA.

Liz reported she appreciated the opportunity to participate and represent the work of all the regional centers on self-determination as well as the work of ELARC over the past 20 years with the SD pilot project. The meeting was arranged by ARCA and DDS. A brief background presentation of the legislation was offered, and the parents who were originally involved in the initial writing of the legislation were present along with Disability Rights California. Nancy Bargmann and Jim Knight from the Department of Developmental Services spoke about the role DDS has taken with self-determination and why it took so much time to get Medicaid Waiver approval. They took time in explaining what still needs to be done and why things aren't done yet. Amy Westling, ARCA, expressed enthusiasm in wanting to see Self-Determination succeed as the next natural progression of the Lanterman Act.

Liz also shared ELARC's experience with the SD pilot, lessons learned as well as the current implementation efforts and the realities of how quickly it can be rolled-out.

The meeting concluded with the State Council speaking to the Statewide Advisory Committee activities. It was noted that Virgilio Orlina, current ELARC Board Member and SD Advisory Chair, participates in this committee.

The next Local Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for November 6th and is an open to the public.

Virgilio Orlina reported the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting Teleconference meeting will be on Tuesday, October 16th from 2:00p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The committee members will go to designated teleconference locations throughout California to participate.

Included on the agenda will be the presentation by the Department of Developmental Services on the implementation updates with discussion from the SSDAC members. The updates will be about the participant selection, orientation materials, budget development, setting assessment, financial management services and the independent facilitator.

E. November 6, 2018: Election Day

A reminder election day is on Tuesday, November 6th.

Ms. Wong reported all regional centers are voter registration sites. Roxy Ortiz, Information and Training Coordinator, has been working with our consumers on voter registration and teaching them about the legislative process.

Ms. Ortiz developed a Legislative Activities Update which was reviewed. ELARC had the highest count of consumer registration in Los Angeles County and was in the top five statewide ranking from January to June 2018. She has empowered service coordinators by helping them understand the role they play in helping their consumers register to vote. The effort is being made to make sure all consumers understand they have the right to vote and how to register. Training for the service coordinators is done on an annual basis and this year NVRC launched an on-line electronic module in September 2018 to meet the required annual staff training. Ms. Ortiz also conducts new staff training as needed.

Additionally the regional centers, with ARCA taking the lead, scheduled webinar interviews with gubernatorial candidates to discuss the needs of the regional center system and seeking their support.

Ms. Ortiz has also conducted workshops in Spanish.

Additionally Disability Rights California offers information and support to individuals who feel they have been discriminated at the polls, there is a hotline where they can report problems.

F. Budget Update

1 Fiscal Year 2018-'19

✓ PEP (Purchase of Services Expenses Report) No current report as analysis is not due until December 10, 2018 to DDS.

POS Budget FY 2017/2018: At this time Ms. Wong reported a \$2 million surplus for previous fiscal year.

✓ Budget Performance Report: OPS (2018/19)

Ms. Wong reported an operations deficit of \$432,729 for current fiscal year. There is a \$502,904 outstanding allocation for the Community Placement Plan (CPP). It is expected funds

will be allocated with the E-2 allocation around late November or December. Once received there will be a surplus of approximately \$70,000.

✓ E-1 Contract Amendment

An executed copy of the E-1 Contract Amendment was received and shared with the Board.

2. Fiscal Year 2019-'20

Ms. Wong reported budget negotiations are currently underway. The concern is that we are in the midst of a transition to a new administration but the current administration is taking the lead role in the development of a budget that will be issued as a "Preliminary Budget" for Fiscal Year 2019-'20 in January 2019 on behalf of a new administration that will have played a limited role in its development. Currently the lead candidates have an opportunity to provide input. Gavin Newsom has developed a committee, and ARCA has been invited to give input on the funding gaps in the regional center system. ARCA has developed a variety of strategies which includes the development of a report entitled "Building A System for Tomorrow" focusing on how the regional centers are supporting consumers to lead inclusive lives in their community and the resources needed to sustain that focus.

The Southern California Regional Center Directors were approached by the Lanterman Coalition (about 17 providers) in the Southern California area. A joint meeting was scheduled to discuss strategies on how to influence the 2019-'20 budget. A draft joint statement by the Directors and service providers is under development and is expected to be completed by October 15th. Details will be shared at the November Board Meeting. Ms. Wong indicated she presented at the Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting in hopes of expanding the base of service provider to support for this plan.

Ms. Wong announced Grassroots Day is being planned for April 3rd & 4th 2019 in Sacramento and hopes that Board members may be able to participate in this event.

VI Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee

Virgilio Orlina, Chairperson, CAC, reported the last meeting of the CAC was held on September 18, 2018 in the ELARC Boardroom and with a video conference connection to the Whittier Office. There was a great number of attendees.

The main topic of the meeting was about Self-Determination. The guest speaker was ELARC Information and Training Supervisor, Elizabeth Harrell. She used a plain language PowerPoint presentation entitled "*Your Life, Your Way.*" Ms. Harrell explained Self-Determination, how it works and what happens at the IPP meeting. Ms. Harrell also discussed different things

participants can do with SD such as individual budgets, and the different services and supports available. The consumers participated actively in asking questions about the topic.

During the meeting, Gloria Wong, Executive Director, updated the consumers on the budget and purchase of services disparity projects.

In his Consumer Advocate report, Mr. Jesse Padilla, reported on the ARCA and DDS CAC meetings he attended in Sacramento as well as the ACCESS Services meeting. The ARCA meeting focused on Affordable Housing, Emergency Management/Preparation, Employment, and Legislative Action.

The Consumer Advocates engagement with the community and consumers continues. His next visit, on October 17, 2018, will be with Lincoln Training Center. Mr. Padilla also announced that the deadline to submit the Christmas Tree Ornament for the State Capitol is October 25, 2018. For more than 29 years, the State Capitol Christmas Tree has been decorated with ornaments made by individuals with developmental disabilities. The Department of Developmental Services is requesting ornaments from regional center clients to decorate the tree.

The CAC will also have a Debriefing and Planning meeting on October 23, 2018. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the goals and plan for the CAC meeting topics for 2019.

The next CAC meeting will be on November 13, 2018 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. The topic will be "*Emotional Health*".

B. Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC)

Bryan Chacon, Chairperson/VAC provided the report for July. He indicated the vendors had a special training from the Department of Labor on minimum wage, overtime and record keeping. The Federal Department Labor, Wage and Hour Division were also present. The training was well attended and there were several questions particularly on local minimum wage and travel time.

Mr. Chacon reported he will be reporting on CMS final rule series which presents an activity the service providers should be doing in preparation for CMS Final Rule. July's activity was "At Risk Situations Required Modifications with Documentation and the Person Centered Plan". This is to be worked on throughout the month and given to Maribel Garcia, ELARC staff, for review and consideration of future discussion.

There was no meeting in August.

September Meeting: Mr. Chacon reported Ms. Wong presented a systems update. The topics presented included the 2019-'20 fiscal year budget; getting prepared legislatively for the new administration; a recap of the director's meeting with the Lanterman Coalition of Service Providers; Self-Determination and the POS Disparity reduced caseload project.

The CMS final activity for September was to discuss guidelines and activities to prepare for CMS Final Rule entitled “GEM” (Good Enough for Me). This is to help demonstrate the Final Rule Objectives which are to maximize opportunity and choices for individuals, promote integrity by making sure individuals have access to the community, and ensuring individuals preferences are supported and rights are protected.

The next VAC meeting is scheduled for October 25th in the boardroom, speaker will be Liz Rodgers, ELARC Autism Specialist and Certified Person Centered Trainer.

C. Finance/Personnel Committee

1. The Principal

Richard Helgeson, Board member, stated the meeting with the Principal representatives has not yet been rescheduled.

VIII Miscellaneous

There were no reports.

IX Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Original Signed By:

Diane Lasell, Secretary, ELARC Board of Directors
Recorded by: Rosalie M. Estrada, Executive Assistant