



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
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ELARC Board of Directors Meeting
November 13, 2018
Approved January 8, 2019

Board Members Present:

Tony Borrego, President
Richard Helgeson, Vice-Chair
Joe Utar, Treasurer
Diane Lasell, Secretary
Lida Chavez
Nestor Nieves
Devora Reed
Virgilio Orlina, CAC Representative
Bryan Chacon, VAC Representative

Staff Present:

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

Absent:

Elias Fonseca*
Anthony De La Rosa*
Yougeng Sun

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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

Julie McKenzie, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, shared booklets developed by the State Council on *Working and Saving Money: Better than Just Living on SSI*. Booklets are available in Spanish/English and were distributed to the Board and audience. Additional copies are available from the State Council.

Chala Jitpatima, parent, expressed concern with Facebook and is trying to get her son's friends to communicate person-to-person rather than through Facebook. She feels this is a real concern.

IV. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting

A. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of October 9, 2018

M/S/C (Richard Helgeson/Virgilio Orlina) To approve the Minutes of October 9, 2018 as recorded. Unanimous.

V. Executive Director's Report – Gloria Wong

As part of the discussion on election day results, specifically on California's new Governor, Ms. Wong reminded the Board and audience of a "You Tube" interview hosted by the Lanterman Coalition on April 27, 2018, with then candidate Gavin Newsom. The interview focuses exclusively on Mr. Newsom's position on various topics on the operation of the regional center system.

A. "Building a System for Tomorrow: Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities to Lead Inclusive Lives

A copy of the above report was shared with the Board.

Ms. Wong indicated the document will be used to educate new legislators and the new Governor on the regional center system. The report covers four major subjects: (1) Supporting Community Participation; (2) Service to Diverse Communities; (3) Supporting People with Complex Needs and (4) Supporting Dynamic Service Coordination.

B. Southern California Regional Center Directors (SCRCD) & Service Providers: An Important Message

Ms. Wong shared with the Board a unified statement developed by the Southern California Regional Center Directors and a group of seventeen service providers. The vendors addressed the Directors group to strategize in the development of a plan to promote a rate increase for vendors in the 2019-'20 Fiscal Year budget. There has been a growing number of vendors statewide going out of business due to rate freezes and median rates. For providers remaining in the system the capitated rates have resulted in high staff turnover which impacts the quality of services. To sustain a stable and reliable pool of service providers is critical. To that end the unified position statement requests an 8% increase to current providers rates, to be included in the release of the January Governors Preliminary Budget for FY 2019-'20. The proposal will serve as a partial rate adjustment until the formal rate reform study results are completed in March 2019.

The plan of action moving forward is for all Southern California Regional Centers to commit to the establishment of local delegations that can meet with their local legislators to promote an 8% increase to rates in FY 20129-'20.

Roxy Ortiz, Information and Training Specialist has taken the lead in establishing delegations and scheduling visits. There are twelve districts in the ELARC catchment area. Appointments are currently being scheduled through mid-December. A one and a half page report has been developed which provides historical reductions over the last ten years and why an 8% increase is justified

C. ARCA Grassroots

The ARCA Grassroots Day has been scheduled in Sacramento for April 3rd & 4th, 2019. Positions will be developed to promote the 8% service provider increase as well as an adjustment to the regional center operations. Interested Board members should submit their name to Rosalie Estrada, Executive Secretary.

D. Purchase of Services (POS) Disparity Projects

Ms. Wong provided an update on the current Purchase of Services (POS) Disparity Proposals for ELARC and for the upcoming application cycle. The ELARC project continues to focus on the two lowest per capita ethnic groups, the Asian and Hispanic population.

1. ELARC

Ms. Wong reported that the third cycle of ABX2-1 funding for POS Disparity projects has started. ELARC is requesting the continuation of its current lower caseload project which includes five service coordinators managing a total of 200 cases, resulting in a 1:40 caseload ratio. The expansion of the project proposes to increase the total caseload to 600. The increase from 200 to 600 represents 6.5% of ELARC's total current active caseload. There would be ten additional units in Consumer Services that would become part of the reduced caseload project. Each unit would be assigned one service coordinator to carry a caseload at the 1:40 ratio. Two units are excluded from the project: Early Start and Residential Services. A copy of the agency organizational chart was distributed and reviewed to illustrate the units that will be affected by this proposed expansion of the project.

ELARC is committed to continuing the reduced caseload project in order to improve the POS disparity differential among the various ethnic groups and to expand this opportunity to additional families.

Ms. Wong cited the success of the project by sharing the changes to 31 cases that began with the specialized caseload and were recently transferred back to the traditional case management system. It was noted that 31 individuals graduated from the project with significant increases to their POS commitments, all a result of the intensified case management

activities that comes with a lower caseload ratio. To illustrate the point, the caseload for the Asian ethnic group participants started with an average POS per capita of \$2,700 upon transfer the POS commitment increased to \$5,600. Similarly for the Hispanic participants their average POS per capita began at \$3,900 upon transfer the POS commitments increased to an average of \$8,200. These are substantial gains for ELARC's lowest per capita ethnic groups. Ultimately these results speak to the success of the project and the need to replicate and expand the opportunity to other consumers/families.

Ms. Wong also shared the results of a "pre" and "post" survey results completed by the 31 recent graduates which speaks to the value and success of the lower caseload project.

2. Community Based Organizations (CBO's) Proposals

There are a total of twelve applicants that have submitted proposals to DDS. A list of the proposals was shared with the Board. Ms. Wong indicated ELARC has been working closely with proposal #4, The Regents of the University of California, The Family Mentor Partner Program for Latino and Chinese Families. They are collaborating with Fiesta Educative and CPAD. Based on the project concept ELARC is of the opinion that it is a perfect compliment to the lower caseload ratio project. We look forward to the project becoming operational in the near future.

To date, DDS has not made a final selection from the submitted proposals.

E. Self-Determination (SD) Update

The last Local Advisory Committee (LAC) meeting was held on November 6th and was well attended. A copy of the agenda was shared with the Board along with the Notes of the September 4th Local Advisory Committee. There were approximately 50 individuals in attendance. ELARC notified the 86 individuals selected to participate in SD as well as pilot participants which accounts for the very high attendance.

The first step in rolling out SD is for participants to attend a full day training, 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 for consumers/families 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. Ms. Wong reported there were five individuals selected who have chosen to not continue in the SD program.

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 the caseload due to the expansion of SD.

F. Budget Update

1. Fiscal Year 2018-'19

✓ PEP (Purchase of Services Expenses Report): No current report on POS as analysis is not due to DDS until December 10th.

✓ OPS Budget Fiscal Year 2017/2018: Ms. Wong reported a current deficit of \$324,936. Ms. Wong noted there is a pending allocation of \$502,904 (E-2) which is expected in mid-December or January 2019. This allocation will erase the current OPS deficit.

2. Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Update

The concern is over an administration in transition and how much leverage the new Governor will have in the development of a preliminary budget to be released in January 2019.

VI Consumer Services Report - Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services

Felipe Hernandez reported the following:

The HELP group located in the San Fernando Valley provides a social club for adults and schedules meetings for the parents of these consumers.

A meeting was conducted with the staff of the Office of Client's Rights Advocacy (CRA) in order to renew the Memorandum of Understanding. The CRA has hired a new assistant who will be available to assist consumers and their families. The CRA will be meeting with the individual case management units to share information and to answer questions staff may have.

DDS and Mission Analytics will be developing a risk mitigation plan for the reporting and tracking of special incident reports.

VII Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee – Virgilio Orlina, Chairperson

Virgilio Orlina, the last meeting of the Consumer Advisory Committee for this year was held earlier this afternoon from 3:30 pm to 5:00pm. It was held here at the ELARC Boardroom and via video conference to the Whittier Office.

The main topic of the meeting was on “Emotional Health”. The guest speaker was Ms. Erin Wurtemberg, who is a former employee of ELARC and is now working as a social worker at Los Angeles County. Ms. Wurtemberg presented a PowerPoint on Emotions, Feelings, being a human being, why do we have them. She also explained how emotions affect behavior, coping with anger and stress, sadness and depression. She also gave ways and references on how and where to get help. The consumer participated actively in asking questions and comments about the topic.

The CAC also had its Debriefing and Planning meeting on October 23, 2018. The purpose of this meeting is to plan for the 2019 CAC meetings and confirm topics that benefits individuals we serve. The goal is to keep all CAC meetings person centered and enjoyable for all who attend. We also discussed what worked during the 2018 CAC meetings and what could be done better for 2019. Among the topics for 2019 CAC meetings will be how legislative topics such as “How to Connect with Representatives”, “Relationships/Advocating”, and “Navigating Service Delivery System”.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee

Bryan Chacon reported the VAC meeting held on October 25, 2018.

✓ Liz Rodgers, ELARC Autism Specialist

Provided information on the benefits of a One Page Profile and how to complete it for the individual being supported.

✓ HCBS Final Rule Series, Principles, Guidelines and Implementation Activities topic was “What is Integration”. Vendors are being encouraged to continue working on identifying areas that need to be changed in order to meet the 2025 HCBS Final Rule requirement.

✓ The networking group is meeting with Alhambra Unified School District to collaborate on a Transition Fair that will take place on Saturday, March 16th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

✓ Frances Jacobs, Manager, Community Services reminded the group there is legislative information on the ELARC website.

✓ Self Determination training for service providers is scheduled for November 28, 2018 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

✓ ELARC will be developing teams of four to go and ask legislators to support service providers and regional centers.

C. Finance/Personnel Committee

1. Principal Meeting Rescheduling Update

The meeting with Principal has been re-scheduled for February 7, 2019.

VIII Miscellaneous Announcements

1. No December Board of Directors Meeting

2. Next Board Meeting: January 8, 2019.

IX Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Original signed by:

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

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