



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
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**ELARC Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2020
Approved April 14, 2020**

Board Members Present:

Tony Borrego, President
Richard Helgeson, Vice-Chair
Joe Utar, Secretary
Yougeng Sun
Nestor Nieves
Diane Lasell
Anthony De La Rosa
Virgilio Orlina, CAC Representative
Ron Rozen, VAC Representative

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Svcs.
Edith Hernandez, Associate Chief of
Consumer Services
Rosalie Estrada, Executive Secretary

Absent:

Bryan Chacon (excused)
Lydia Chavez (excused)
Devora Reed (excused)

Guests:

Refer to Sign-In Sheets

I Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 P.M. by Tony Borrego, Board President. Mr. Borrego welcomed all to the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center Board of Directors Meeting. A quorum was established in order to conduct necessary business.

II Board & Community Introductions/Opening Round:

The Board and audience introduced themselves.

III. Community Input (3 minutes per person)

Chala Jitpatima, parent addressed the Board of Directors stated her son, Charles, is 26 years old and is an ELARC consumer. Her youngest son is 24 years old, was a former consumer of ELARC. She reported that he has been accepted at UCI for his Mater's in statistics. He hopes to someday be a professor and acquire his Ph.D.

Ms. Jitpatima addressed the Board about the LIFT program with Alhambra Unified School District and offered extensive background. She indicated the LIFT program was developed as a result of her efforts to begin a transition program for her son who graduated from Alhambra High School. She attended School Board meetings to advocate. The transition program which was available for Alhambra High School special education students was in El Monte. She addressed the school board on how important it is for the Alhambra School District to have its own transition program. She indicated in 2011 she received a full scholarship from the Department of Special Education to receive training for one week in Washington D.C. She returned with a curriculum and informational material. Upon her return she was contacted by the superintendent of the Alhambra Unified School District and a transition plan was completed for her son. The transition plan was the LIFT North. She stated that this was the best transition plan at that time. She indicated the Alhambra School District treated her son very well. She indicated she recently met Pat Mahoney, Director of Special Education. She shared that she was very happy with the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center.

Chala noted that March is International Women's month and added that she is proud to be a woman and a mother. She acknowledged the women in the room and presented each of them with a red rose.

Ms. Wong recognized Chala's many years of tireless advocacy for her sons. She stated Chala was very instrumental in the development of the transition program not only for her son but also for the benefit of other developmentally disabled students in the Alhambra School District. Ms. Wong congratulated Chala and also to her son for his accomplishments.

Ms. Wong also thanked her for recognizing the women in attendance.

Norman Fulco addressed the Board saying one of these days he would like to come to a meeting where he won't break up the great tidings which was just shared. He stated he is making the assumption that the Board knows who Key Community Housing is. He stated they create housing for persons with developmental disabilities and were started by ELARC. He indicated recently they have had an attitude towards the individuals living in the Doreen Home, where his daughter lives. He stated their attitude towards developmental disability "stinks". He indicated they have been trying to install a wheelchair swing for the residents. The swing would be placed where there are some huge trees which take a lot of room on the lawn area. Donations have been made for the swing and the removal or trimming of the trees. He stated Key has lied to parents stating the city, Temple City, would not allow trimming or removal of the trees. They have consented to putting up the swing but refuse to create the necessary space by removing the trees. Mr. Fulco stated there really is no place for the bad attitude when it involves the developmentally disabled. He indicated that he is hoping that someone is going to get to their Board of Directors and get a favorable ruling so that the swing can be installed. The trees are a safety and a health hazard since they give out pollens which affects the allergies of some of the residents in the home, including his daughter. Key has been made aware of this but they are standing firm on their position to not remove the trees. Mr. Fulco indicated he

feels they need to change their attitude. He hopes whatever influence the Board has they can get them to change their attitude.

Ms. Wong recognized the challenges with Key Housing Corporation and reported there have been multiple efforts by staff to come to a favorable resolution with the Key Board of Directors. Ms. Wong reported she will be meeting with Key Housing at their upcoming Board meeting on March 18th. Attending the meeting will be ELARC Staff, Elizabeth Harrell, Manager, Community Services, Doris, Housing Specialist, and DDS Representative, Ernie Cruz,

Mary Hosokawa, parent, addressed the Board asking for information on efforts being undertaken to educate service providers on the CoronaVirus outbreak. Ms. Wong stated that there is an update report to be included later on the agenda.

Additionally, Ms. Hosokawa asked if ELARC is playing a role in getting the census completed in a way which reflects the numbers. Historically the population served has been under-counted. Mr. Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services, shared that information has been received from the Census Bureau on providing education to the community on the importance of the census. Their flyer has been distributed to staff and also posted on the internet. Information has gone out to vendors and the community. The local representative from the Census Bureau has been invited to attend the April Consumer Services Staff Meeting. She has also presented at staff unit meetings to provide information.

Nestor Nieves, Board member, indicated there are a lot of families who have not been registered with the regional center and wanted to know what efforts are being made. Mr. Hernandez stated through consumer services there is a rotation system so that each unit can provide outreach to various local schools, fairs where information on eligibility is provided along with the types of services provided.

Mary shared their garage had been converted into an apartment for her son who loves the bachelor life. Gloria congratulated Mary on this notable milestone for her son.

Mr. Rickel, parent, reported he works for Autism Speaks and indicated he is grateful to the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center. He informed the audience that the Autism Walk is scheduled for April 25th at the Rose Bowl. This will be a great opportunity for the community and vendors to come together and support a worthy cause. Mr. Rickel provided informational material for the Autism Walk.

IV. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2020

A. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of February 11, 2020

M/C/S (Virgilio Orlina/Anthony De La Rosa) To approve the Minutes of February 11, 2020 as recorded. Unanimous.

B. Minutes of Executive Session of February 11, 2020

M/S/C (Anthony De La Rosa/Richard Helgeson) To approve the Minutes of the Executive Session held on February 11, 2020. Unanimous.

V. Executive Director's Report

A. Draft Slate of Officers

On March 10, 2020 the Proposed Slate of Officers was presented as follows:

Richard Helgeson, President

Devora N. Reed, Vice-Chair

Joe Utar, Treasurer

Youngeng Sun, Secretary

Tony Borrego, President, indicated Devora Reed, Board Member, was not able to attend meeting but did indicate she votes for the slate of officers as presented.

M/S/C (Anthony De La Rosa/Diane Lasell) To approve the slate of officers as presented. Unanimous.

B. ELARC Organizational Chart

Ms. Wong shared the latest ELARC Organizational Chart.

Ms. Wong indicated she invited Frances Jacobs, the existing Manager of Community Services and the incoming Manager, Elizabeth Harrell.

Ms. Wong shared some background information on Ms. Jacobs who has been with ELARC for 42 years. Ms. Jacobs began her career with ELARC as a service coordinator. She would soon move to a new and developing unit of two persons assigned to develop service resources for ELARC consumers. Over time this became what it is today the "Community Services Division" (CSD) focusing on Information and Training, Resource Development and Quality Assurance. Staffing went from two persons to presently at twenty, which includes Ms. Jacobs as the Manager.

Ms. Wong referenced the organizational chart and highlighted how much the agency has grown over this 42 year span. ELARC is fortunate to transition the Managerial responsibilities of CSD

to another seasoned well established ELARC employee, Liz Harrell. Ms. Harrell has been with ELARC for 22 years, with the exception of a one year break to work for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

Nestor Nieves, board member, asked Gloria if there are any plans for what will happen when upper management retires.

Ms. Wong indicated she has been with ELARC for 43 years. She began as a service coordinator and through numerous promotions in management over her long ELARC career she became Executive Director twenty-five years ago.

Ms. Wong referenced the organizational chart and noted that all management staff have been promoted from within the agency. As a result the level of total experience is wide in scope and depth. As such there is a fertile pool of experienced personnel, of all ages, that will offer the Board a wide array to select from as the “elder” management gets ready for retirement.

Ms. Wong reflected on the growth of ELARC over the years. Currently there are 280 employees, when Ms. Wong started her employment in 1977 there were approximately 70 total staff and going back to the inception of ELARC there were only 8 employees. Despite the exponential growth over these many years the operation at ELARC has never lost sight of its grassroots creation and the need to remain loyal to those original values.

Ms. Wong reviewed the organizational chart with emphasis on Consumer Services. Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services has dedicated 42 years of services. Edith Hernandez, Associate Chief of Consumer Services has been with ELARC for 22 years.

The Early Start division is led by Carmen Vasquez, Manager, with 26 years of experience. There are two supervisors Noriko Ikoma, 22 years experience and most recently the addition of another supervisor Priscilla Solano, with 5 year experience, totaling 53 years of experience in Early Start.

Additionally, there are 7 Consumer Services supervisors in the Alhambra office with a total of 137 years of combined experience.

In the Whittier satellite office , there are 4 supervisors with a total of 81 years of experience.

Residential Services is managed by Jesse Valdez who has been with ELARC for 33 years. Two supervisors, with vast experience, oversee the residential cases: Margarita Duran with 24 years of service and Rhoda Tong with 20 years of dedicated services for a total of 77 years of dedicated service.

In summary the sum total of the expertise for the Consumer Services Management team is 580 years, which should be comforting to Mr. Nieves, Board member, original question as to what happens when “upper management retires”. The choice can be external candidates but there

is a viable cluster of internal candidates with extensive experience that can be considered in the filling vacant “Upper Management” positions.

C. Community Services Division: Management Transition and Project Updates
Frances Jacobs, Manager, Community Services &
Elizabeth Harrell, Incoming Manager of Community Svcs.

Ms. Wong , in introducing Ms. Jacobs and Ms. Harrell reminded the audience of their joint 63 years of experience at ELARC thus making the transition from a retiring manager to a new leader a smooth and seamless process.

Frances Jacobs added that 7 of the consumer services supervisors transitioned from the Community Services Division, transferring with an abundance of knowledge on the resource development and quality assurance front. She added that this is unheard of in most organizations and unique to ELARC’s operation.

Ms. Jacobs stated she has been at ELARC for 42 years which was not her original plan. She expected to stay a couple of years and then go to the Department of Public Health. It is rather ironic today because of the current situation with the Department of Public Health and the CoronaVirus, that at the time she is exiting the agency there is a major public health crisis. She stated the individuals at this agency are a rare breed of people. This played a large role in her decision to remain with ELARC, and to reject other offers from other regional centers. She stated she knows the people she has worked with and they truly care about the population being served which really makes a difference.

Frances Jacobs thanked the Board of Directors for being a wonderful Board. The Board has changed over the years but it has always been a pleasure to come before them and present proposals. She indicated staff appreciate that they can come to them with information to make a decision in support of the work being done for the benefit of the persons served by ELARC.

Ms. Jacobs stated when she started at ELARC in the residential services unit, she wondered why consumers have to live in licensed home, and it really bothered her. It wasn’t until later, after a few promotions, she realized it really did not have to be that way. She stated she has been very fortunate to work under the leadership of Gloria and the Board of Directors to be able to make a difference and explore why consumers can’t live like we all do, they need to have the same opportunity. Legislation and the various Trailer Bills which were enacted changed the way the community would live. The most important was the idea of independent supported living. Frances indicated during the course of her career she feels lucky that she was able to see this come to pass. She indicated there is one home for intermediate living services, similar to a nursing home which had a wing for just people with developmental disabilities. They still exist in some regional centers but they no longer exist in our area as we created more inclusive options.

Ms. Jacobs reported in 2006 – 2007 is when regional centers began depopulating state hospital and scattered housing was developed. These single family homes could be found in anyone's neighborhoods. Currently ELARC has a total of 20 homes and we are in the process of developing a home in La Habra which is currently being renovated. Currently ELARC is looking for an additional 4 homes to purchase for the FY 2019-'20 plan but there are additional projects which will be submitted to DDS in the 20/21 Fiscal Year. Trailer Bill language makes reference to placements in IMD (Institutions for Mental Disease) regional centers are required to move to consumers in IMD placements. An effort is being made to determine how much housing is needed for consumers living in IMD's.

Frances Jacobs provided information on the Community Resource Development Plan. In order to determine unmet needs for ELARC consumers, a survey, which is available on line, is completed by consumers/families. Additionally service coordinators submit information on unavailable resources. Reason for collecting the data is to submit this information to DDS in order to substantiate why resources are being developed.

ELARC has developed 2 multi-family projects which consists of two apartment buildings each with 36 units for individuals with developmental disabilities. A waiting list is developed to ensure that all the units are occupied at all times.

Frances indicated when she started in Community Services in 1993 she began with only two staff, Tony Flores and Cristina Tang. Doris Weis was hired in 1995 as the Housing Specialist. This was the total Community Services Unit. Ms. Weis also gets involved with quality assurance, and addresses complaints that come into Community Services, plus new vendorization processing. As case management staff grows, and the number of consumers increase it is difficult to keep up with the support for case management.

Projects for 20/21:

Ms. Jacobs reported plans for the new fiscal year includes new homes with an enhanced behavioral support and a community crisis home for limited stay. These homes require a tremendous amount of time to establish and maintain.

Employment development oversight was moved from Community Services to Consumer Services. A full-time through Trailer Bill language for an Employment Specialist was created. George De La Loza was hired and works for Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services.

Trainings continue for staff, the Consumer Advisory Committee, the Vendor Advisory, Family trainings.

The Center for Medi-Care/Medi-Caid Services (CMS) will be another labor intensive project for Community Services. In addition to the regional center becoming a provider, all the vendors will need to become Medi-Cal providers. ELARC has over 700 vendors.

HCBS final ruling is due March 2022. There is one specialist who is taking on this project along with other Community Services projects.

Service Provider Rates: The rate study was conducted as a result of Trailer Bill language. Along with Community Services keeping on top of the new rates the Purchase of Services (POS) department works closely with them to ensure the new rates are recorded and implemented.

Frances Jacobs thanked the Board for their continued support.

Liz Harrell, also thanked the Board and indicated she is glad to be back at ELARC and is honored and humbled to move into the Manager position being vacated by Frances Jacobs as she retires from the agency.

Liz reported one of the things she is taking on is an AB 637 Waiver which is the process whereby the regional center can proposed an alternate service delivery approach. It has to do with the rate structures that are in place for the homes which were originally develop with CPP funds from DDS, for the consumers coming out of the developmental centers. The homes were built at a time when rates were pre-established and based on the facility being at full capacity. When there is a vacancy it creates a hard ship to the provider. ELARC has been consulting with other regional centers and they are facing the same problem. We are developing a proposal which is called the “sustainable rate increase”, in order to be able to get creative on how to keep the homes open even though they might not be at full occupancy. The proposal will be presented to the Board in April.

COVID-19:

Ms. Wong reported COVID-19 is affecting the operation of large organization and where you have mass gatherings. DDS has been contacting regional centers as of last week and there is a working group out of ARCA with various representatives. At the local level ELARC has developed their own workgroup to address ELARC’s plan, in relation to 280 employees, and the vendor community which includes congregate living, residential services, individuals living independently in their own apartment, SLS, how to deal with day programs, where individuals come together. These are areas of concern and a protocol for both adults and children is being developed. The team meets on a weekly basis at a minimum to assess the situation.

New information released this afternoon became available from the California Department of Public Health. They put out an advisory that in Los Angeles there was one case identified through community transmission. When the source of the infection is unknown there is no way to determine how many others could have been affected.

Liz Harrell shared that this is an ever evolving situation which changes by the hour, there has been an internal workgroup established with representatives from Community Services, Human Resources, Clinical including the ELARC physician, and Consumer Services to address the

multiple operational issues due to this health crisis. The group met twice the week of March 9th. Meetings are scheduled weekly or more if needed. The work group is working on the internal staffing protocol and steps to take, as well requirements for vendors. This information is posted on the ELARC website. Additionally Everbridge, which is a mass notification system will be used so all vendored providers are aware of the requirements. DDS has developed guidance from their clinical team in regards to the precautions which need to be taken which was included in the Everbridge alert. Additionally a phone message was sent via Everbridge informing individuals this is serious outbreak, the need to take precautions and also redirected individuals on additional information that can be located on the ELARC website, the DDS website and the Public Health in their respective community.

Los Angeles County has a Public Health Department that governs the entire L.A. County and there are only three cities which have their own Public Health Department, Pasadena, Long Beach and Vernon.

Additionally Human Resources is sharing updates and getting information out to support staff, trying to secure supplies, i.e. sanitizers.

ELARC is also using website and special media while posting information on the website. ELARC has been working with other regional centers and ARCA. Liz reported Tri-Counties put together a wonderful directive and have used it for our service providers. Lanterman developed a directive in six different languages around COVID-19 which has been posted on the website.

Additionally, as of today, the notice from the Department of Public Health defines what a mass event is or a mass gathering. Basically any group of people that are sitting at arm's length. Four counties where there has been a documented case of community transmission, the State is recommending as much as possible the cancelling or postponement of any public events or mass gatherings.

The in-house team is meeting Wednesday, March 11th, and there is a list of all the public meetings or trainings which are coming up in the next couple of months will be reviewed. Liz indicated the POS Disparity Meeting, based on our contact with Fiesta Educativa and CPAD meetings have been postponed. By statutory requirements regional centers must have one public meeting. ELARC is exploring using streaming, whether it be Facebook or Utube. The meeting will be held possibly May or June.

DDS will be tracking any cases or exposures to COVID-19.

The team will be reviewing the list to determine whether they go forward and should be cancelled. The VAC, CAC, and the Board Meetings are on the list for review.

Maria Castello, Fiesta Educativa, in attendance, reported the meeting on March 21st is postponed, to early October or early September.

Anthony De La Rosa shared that he works in an acute hospital and there is COVID-19 overload for the past two weeks, but fortunately they have a centralized information system which filters all the information coming in. There are a few things he would like to share.

The virus which causes the COVID 19 disease is very much like the flu. It is necessary to be mindful of droplets, sneezing or coughing, and to be at least six feet away from others. Because this virus is so contagious, there is a silver lining to it, it dies very easily. One should maintain a very clean environment with hydrogen peroxide, Clorox wipes or alcohol, soap and water. The virus survives on solid surfaces given the right conditions, such as a certain temperature range and a certain humidity range, it doesn't like too cold or too hot, or too humid or too dry. When the conditions are ripe virus can survive for weeks. The virus cannot survive on porous material for more than 2 hours. If a person needs to cough, cough into your sleeve, your jacket your shirt is porous and the virus will be there for 2 hours, there is no need to throw the clothes away, it can be washed.

Protect oneself from droplets, this is critical! Anthony indicated the numbers for COVID-19 will be rising significantly because testing is now available through large volume labs, such as Lab Core and Quest. As more persons get tested the numbers will rise but there is no need to panic.

Masks not needed unless you are going to be within 6 feet of an infected individual. What needs to be done is identify the population that was infected, and then control it so that it does not spread, like Italy.

Wash hands and don't touch your face! Wash your face more than normal. Don't shake hands, fist bump!

The symptoms are coughing, respiratory distress and fever. There are persons who don't show any symptoms at all.

D. Self-Determination Update

1. Progress Report February 2020

The Self-Determination newsletter was shared with the Board. Liz Harrell reported while she was with DDS she had the pleasure of working on a couple of projects, one being Self-Determination. The Self-Determination newsletter was the last one she wrote before leaving DDS. Nestor Nieves, Board member, and Josefina Nieves, mother, were featured in the newsletter. DDS is trying to keep the information flowing about Self-Determination.

2. Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Funding of Special Projects

The Local Advisory Committee is scheduled for April 7, 2020. The agenda will have a discussion regarding the use of the Federal Participation Funds.

(a) Award \$65,574 – Concept Discussion

DDS released a directive on the suggested use of the funds, ELARC will present concepts to the Local Advisory Committee. One of the suggestions was to support initial spending plan development. Concepts will be discussed at the April 7th meeting.

E. Purchase of Services (POS) Disparity

1. Developmental Services (DS) Task Force Services Areas & Equity Workgroups

DDS has developed a Developmental Services Task Force on Service Areas and Equity Workgroups. Ms. Wong indicated she is part of the workgroup. There are 38 individuals participating on this committee. A copy of the handout from the Developmental Services Task Force Service Access & Equity Workgroup Meeting of February 18, 2020 were shared with the Board. This first meeting was a kick-off discussion and the next meeting is scheduled in April.

2. ELARC POS Disparity Meetings

- (a) March 21st - CPAD Meeting: Postponed
- (b) March 23rd , Fiesta Educative Meeting: Postponed
- (c) March 25th ELARC: Will be held in the ELARC Boardroom

3. ELARC Disparity Project Funds Award

DDS reviewed proposals based on the Disparity Funds Program Guidelines and they notified ELARC of their intent to continue funding Reduced Caseload Ratio Project. There are five service coordinators who carry 200 caseloads with a ratio of 1:45. The approval will continue for another year. ELARC, for the second time, requested an expansion of the project but it was denied.

Ms. Wong indicated she will be sharing with the Board at the April meeting the PowerPoint presentation to be used at the March 25th POS Disparity meeting. The report will focus on the enhanced caseload ratio results and the success of the project.

F. ARCA Academy

Three Board members attended the ARCA Academy in Sacramento on February 22nd . Ms. Wong indicated a training session will be scheduled in order to share the information with the full board of directors. Liz Harrell will also be present.

Additionally there will be a training on cultural competency sometime in May.

G. "Around Alhambra" Newspaper

1. AUSD LIFT North & ELARC Job Program Article

Appearing in the Alhambra News was a story of the Alhambra Unified School District LIFT North program. A copy of the article was shared with the Board.

H. Budget Update

1. Fiscal Year 2019-20
 - ✓ PEP (Purchase of Services Expense Report)

Ms. Wong reported that there is a P.O.S. deficit of approximately \$5.678,290. The amendment to the contract was received but there is no allocation for POS. DDS will assess how many Regional Centers have surpluses and redistribute funds.

- ✓ Budget Performance Report

There is a surplus in Operations of \$1.5 million. The last two fiscal years ELARC ended the year with a meager \$100,000 surplus. Much of the increase in this year's operation is tied to the high rate of caseload growth in Early Start and other related Trailer Bill Language (TBL) Hiring of staff for Early Start was recently completed on a staggered basis over the last 6 months. Next effort will be to expand the Community Services personnel.

2. FY 2020 - '21

Budget hearings are being scheduled. Grassroots Day is set for April 20 & 21, 2020. Board members who are interested in participating should contact Rosalie Estrada as soon as possible. Mr. Sun as indicated he would like to part of the delegation.

VI Consumer Services Report

- ✓ State Senator Susan Rubio and her sister, Assemblymember Blanca Rubio Visit to ELARC

Felipe Hernandez was contacted by a representative for the Senator and the Assemblymember advising him that they were interested in learning more about developmental disabilities. Both members have background in education as former teachers. They were interested in pre-school, elementary and high school. Arrangements were made for them to visit the Total Education System program, a preschool program which early start children attend here on the

Fremont Campus. They visited the program for about an hour and a half. They then visited Charlie's Trio in Alhambra where there are several students working through Project LIFT in collaboration between the Project and the Regional Center PIP (Paid Internship Program). ELARC works together with LIFT to determine the site location. A visit was also made to Frida Pickles Floral Design in San Gabriel and the sister met some of the AUSD Lift North students working also through the ELARC PIP program. Ms. Sanchez and her husband Juan Saldana are small business owners and are parents to an 11 year old daughter, Sophia. They have hired 4 students to work in their shop. It was a good opportunity to highlight the efforts being made with Alhambra Unified School District and the PIP program. George De La Loza, Employment Specialist also accompanied the group. The visit went very well and was a good experience for the two sisters.

✓ Statewide Chiefs Meeting

The statewide Chief's meeting was held on March 5 & 6th in San Jose and Edith Hernandez attended the meetings also. He indicated as he moves along Edith will become familiar with the group and will be developing an association with them.

Some of the Points discussed:

(1) There was a concern by ARCA that the data they are getting from DDS and from regional centers is not always as detailed they need for POS funding issues. They are reviewing how the regional centers collect data and how we can work together and improve data collection throughout the State so that when the information needed by the Legislature is current and accurate.

(2) DDS announced they have a new office, the Office of Clinical Services, which is staffed by a variety of disciplines. Their purpose is to provide statewide consultation to regional centers and their staff and will consult on individual cases if it is needed. They will also be looking at standards of care at regional centers.

VII Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee

Virgilio Orlina reported the next meeting of the CAC will be on Tuesday, March 17th from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. in the ELARC Boardroom and via video conference with the Whittier office. The main topic will be on Self-Determination and the guest speaker will be Julie Eby McKenzie, community Program Specialist of the State Council, on Developmental Disabilities. The meeting will provide an update on Self-Determination. Jesse Padilla, Consumer Advocate, continues his outreach reach to the community and its consumers by conducting self-Advocacy presentations to different day programs for consumers. Mr. Padilla also continues to be available for consultation in the areas of advocacy, transportation, independent living and employment.

The Consumer Advisory Committee continues to hold the CAC debriefing and planning meetings to discuss what worked and what didn't work during the last meeting to make future CAC meetings better.

Other topics for the CAC Meeting in 2020 are as follows:

May 19	How to Make a Difference
July 21	Planning Your Regional Center Services and How to Choose and Change Vendors
September 15	Access Services
November 17	Options

Mr. Orlina reported on Tuesday, March 17th they will wait to see if there are any changes as it pertains to future meetings.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee

Ron Rozen, Vice-Chair Vendor Advisory Committee reported the VAC meeting held on February 27th was well attended in the Boardroom as well as in Whittier via video conference. At the February meeting it was announced that Frances Jacobs would be retiring and there was a transition to Liz Harrell.

There were two presenters, the first one was Roxy Ortiz, Information and Training Specialist who focused on the new voting solutions to deter fraud. It gave clarity to the service providers so that they could share the information with their participants. She also shows a video where Marisol Guerrero is the star, in regards to how to operate the new voting machines. Ron indicated from his personal experiences this system is a good approach because it makes it more accessible.

The second presenter, Liz Rodgers, Person Centered Planning Trainer and Autism Specialist, who she spoke about utilizing Person-Centered thinking skills to gather information about HCBS alignment. She spoke about the ten standards, and provided the interpretive guidelines. The follow-up training on choices was also well done and was very well received.

Ron indicated he is the co-chair of the working committee and they have been working with Alhambra Unified School District and extended his thanks to Felipe Hernandez and George De La Loza for opening the door for them and have had a successful meeting with Pat Mahoney and staff and have been invited back. Ron indicated he is scheduled to meet on March 18th to collaborate on their preschool at the Moorefield explorers at the education center. They are currently working on sponsoring a run, a fundraiser, a cultural diverse food, as well as a community resource component sponsored by the vendors. Ron indicated because of the current situation as it relates to COVID-19, this event may have to be re-evaluated. Ron shared the Save the Date flyer with the Board.

The next VAC meeting is scheduled for March 26th and Elizabeth Harrell will present on the COVID-19. Ron indicated from the vendors he works with they are all working together and are trying to simplify it and how to navigate the community, facilities and other settings and then to bring back questions to the regional center so that they can work in collaboration.

C. Finance/Personnel Report

There was no meeting of the Finance/Personnel Committee.

VIII Miscellaneous Announcements

Gloria Wong recognized the liaison team from DDS who was present. Ms. Wong reported they had the opportunity to meet with the full team (6) and welcomed Jacqueline Gaytan who will be the liaison for ELARC and who will be attending all future Board Meetings. Teams have been created for all the regional centers and are housed at the Fairview Developmental Center.

There being no further business to discuss the General Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

IX. Executive Session

An executive Session was called to order at 8:05 to discuss a personnel matter.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Original Signed by:

Joe Utar, Secretary
ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Rosalie M. Estrada, Executive Secretary