



**EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER**  
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**ELARC Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2022  
Approved as Recorded on March 8, 2022**

**Board Members Present:**

Richard Helgeson, President  
Devora Reed, Vice-Chair  
Joe Utar, Treasurer  
Pat Gomez, Parent  
Linda Lopez, Parent  
Marisol Guerrero, CAC Representative  
Virgilio Orlina, Consumer  
Youngeng Sun, Secretary  
Nestor Nieves, Consumer  
Kimberly Bermudez, VAC Representative

**Staff Present:**

Gloria Wong, Executive Director  
Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of  
Consumer Services  
Lonetta Johns-Yarleque, Associate Chief of  
Consumer Services  
Elizabeth Harrell, Manager Community  
Services Division  
Roxy Ortiz, Information & Training Supervisor  
Johnny Trombley, IT Supervisor  
Angie Salas, Executive Secretary

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Refer to Sign In Sheet



**DUE TO THE CURRENT HEALTH CRISIS THE BOARD MEETING WAS HELD BY REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY**

**I. Welcome & Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by Richard Helgeson, President. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Board meeting was held remotely. The arrangement consisted of a Zoom Conference/Teleconference line and material was displayed on agency website and available to all visitor participants with a link from the agency website. Mr. Helgeson welcomed all to the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center Zoom Board of Directors Meeting.

Roll call was conducted. A quorum was established in order to conduct necessary business.

## II. Community Introductions/Opening Round:

The Board members and guests were asked to introduce themselves and were noted on the “Sign-In” sheet.

## III. Community Input:

Chala Jitpatima, parent, shared that she attended ELARC’s zoom Self-Determination Program “Conversations”. Ms. Jitpatima stated she found it to be a valuable resource for families who are interested in the Self-Determination Program. Ms. Jitpatima encouraged ELARC to continue its outreach efforts to educate the community about this available resource.

Ms. Jitpatima inquired as to the eligible age group for “social recreational services”. Mrs. Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Consumer Services, confirmed that “social recreational services” are available for consumers ages 3 and up.

Inquiry made by a member of the community as to when the social recreational guidelines will be approved.

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels reported the POS Policy Guideline for social recreation was submitted to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) in January 2022. ELARC is awaiting approval. Gloria Wong, Executive Director, stated that despite the pending approval ELARC is approving social recreational services according to statute. Mrs. Hernandez Daniels encouraged families that feel this is a needed service to contact their service coordinator with their request.

Sofia Cervantes, State Council L.A. Office, reported they have launched a “virtual training” that is held every Monday at 10:00 am. The trainings alternate with presentations in English and Spanish. Ms. Cervantes can be reached by phone at (818) 543-4636 or email at [sofia.cervantes@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:sofia.cervantes@scdd.ca.gov) for more information.

Nancy Mendoza, Foothill Family Services, expressed appreciation and gratitude for the support and guidance received by Carmen Vasquez, Early Intervention Manager, in swiftly transitioning a child and securing the much needed services and supports.

Ms. Wong expressed appreciation for the acknowledgement and compliment by Ms. Mendoza. Ms. Wong reiterated the Early Start Division has undergone a major reorganizational plan over the last two (2) years in order to accommodate the growth demands in this division.

An inquiry was made by Mary Hosokawa, parent, as to available family trust trainings. Roxy Ortiz, Information and Training Supervisor, stated there is a series on financial security conducted in collaboration with generic resource partners such as CalAble and Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI). Information on the training is available on ELARC’s website.

Nestor Nieves, Board Member, commented that there is limited attendance allowed for meetings. Typically meetings are held during the day Monday through Friday when people are at work and unable to attend. Mr. Nieves suggested that meetings be held in the evenings or weekends to improve attendance.

IV.

**Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Motion Required  
Attachment #1**

*M/S/C (Pat Gomez/Joe Utar) To approve the BOD Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2022 as corrected. Unanimous.*

V. **Executive Director's Report**

**1. Annual Purchase of Service (POS) Reports Approval  
Attachments #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6**

**Attachment #2**

Gloria Wong, Executive Director, reported on the Annual Purchase of Service (POS) Report. Correspondence provided by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) approving the Annual Purchase of Services (POS) was shared. Ms. Wong provided background information on the Annual Purchase of Service (POS) Report.

Ms. Wong reported DDS has approved the required summary report ELARC submitted for fiscal years (FY) 2018-'19 and 2019-'20. ELARC has met all of the requirements for the final approval.

**Attachment #3**

**2. 2022 Performance Contract Approval (PC)**

Ms. Wong shared the approval letter from DDS on the 2022 Performance Contract (PC) which was adopted by the Board of Directors on October 12, 2021. The PC is in compliance with statutory provisions and the DDS performance contract language.

#### **Attachment #4**

### **3. Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Directive Extension of Waivers & Modifications due to COVID-19**

Mrs. Wong reviewed DDS directive issued January 21, 2022, which extends previously issued waivers by another 30 days.

#### **Attachment #5**

### **4. Self-Determination Program (SDP) Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (LVAC) Update - Handout #1**

Ms. Wong reported the Self-Determination Program (SDP) Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (LVAC) had Katie Hornberger, Ombudsman Representative, present at the January meeting. Ms. Wong shared the role of the Ombudsperson representative includes:

- ✓ Providing information
- ✓ Assisting consumers and families in facilitating solutions to disagreements
- ✓ Investigating complaints
- ✓ Reporting to the Legislature
- ✓ Recommending changes to DDS and the Legislature

Ms. Wong noted the current challenges in SD is the retention of existing fiscal management services (FMS) providers and the recruitment of new providers. This was a lengthy topic of discussion at the January LVAC meeting. Ms. Hornberger noted that this is a statewide problem that will require DDS intervention to seek a solution to this pressing dilemma. A workgroup is being established for this purpose. Elizabeth Harrell, Community Services Manager, stated she'd be attending the workgroup scheduled to meet on February 14, 2022.

## Handout #1

Elizabeth Ornelas, ELARC Supervisor, gave a brief background on the Self-Determination Program (SDP). Ms. Ornelas reported on the current number of consumers in the Self-Determination Program throughout the various phases:

- 79 Individuals that are currently active in the Self-Determination Program
- 48 Successfully transitioned over to SDP
- 31 Completed Person Center Plan
- 50 Obtained FMS
- 52 Completed and signed IPP's
- 49 Spending plans completed
- 51 Individual budgets certified
- 76 SD Participants completed orientation for SDP
- February 2022 there will be updated data available on additional transitions

Mrs. Ornelas reported on ELARC's effort in working with new SD applicants. She noted that orientation began January 1, 2021 and close to two-hundred (200) families attended the orientation. There is a definite growing interest to ELARC's outreach efforts on the SDP.

Additionally, Mrs. Ornelas stated that the 2022 schedule for orientations, person centered planning workshops and Information sessions are all posted on ELARC's website.

Mrs. Ornelas reported that DDS has issued a directive on Self-Determination Goods and Services which highlights five (5) steps:

- 1) What to look for
- 2) What's allowable
- 3) What is not allowable
- 4) Focus on generic resources
- 5) Natural supports

Mrs. Ornelas added that DDS has provided information on:

- Budget Development
- Certified Tools
- Spending Plan FAQ's

All of this information can be found on the DDS and ELARC websites under Self-Determination.

Ms. Wong shared the next open session for the SDP LVAC Meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Mary Hosokawa, parent, commented on the complexities of the Self-Determination which could possibly create a new dimension of disparity. Mrs. Harrell stated the Office of Ombudsman for Self-Determination is reviewing this issue at the State level. Locally the ELARC LVAC recognizes this potential shortcoming and has thus funded a parent based outreach project for monolingual Spanish speaking families with low to no POS. This is an area of focus that has been identified by the LVAC with ways to outreach families who are not familiar with Self-Determination and how it can potentially be of benefit in their individual case.

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels reported on the discussions on the complexities of Self-Determination and concerns and how ELARC is addressing them.

- ELARC provides information on the Self-Determination Program in the families primary language
- Person Centered Practices service coordinators go out to community based organizations speaking of Self-Determination
- Information is provided in English, Spanish, and Cantonese
- Self-Determination information sheet has been revised
- SD supervisors and coordinators are bilingual in Spanish and Chinese
- Service coordinator fluent in American Sign Language (ASL)

Dr. Linda Lopez, Board Member and parent, inquired if there is translation available for the indigenous people and how many of these families, relatives and care givers have access to broadband so that they may participate at greater rates.

Mrs. Harrell shared the Family Resource Center (FRC) has a support group and there are Community Based Organizations (CBO's) for indigenous people in our community.



Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels stated that all Regional Center's are in collaboration with a lending library that allows families the access of being able to connect through broadband or internet. This allows families to have access to attending the sessions that ELARC offers like the community sessions and training sessions.

Additionally, Mrs. Harrell reported Regional Centers were awarded funds as part of a project in Los Angeles County called "technology lending program". This program goes to families homes and lends them laptops and iPads that includes the set-up of broadband/internet connection with the intent for the families who are in need be able to keep the laptops or iPads loaned to them. Diana Gudiño, supervisor, is working in partnership with the community services department in identifying families in need of the laptops, iPads, broadband/internet connection and technical support.

## **5. Budget Update Fiscal Year 2021-'22 - Attachment #6**

### **Handout #4**

#### **Purchase of Services Expenditure Report (PEP)**

Ms. Wong reported the first Purchase of Services Expenditure Report (PEP) which is due February 10, 2022 to DDS which indicates a surplus of \$35,000,000.

### **Handout #3**

#### **Budget Performance Report: Operations**

Ms. Wong reviewed the Budget Performance Report - Fiscal Year 2021-'22. It reflects a surplus of \$315,000 based on actual expenditures through December 2021.

### **Handout #2**

The Governor's Preliminary Budget proposal for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 – '23 was released on January 10, 2022. The Governor's Budget highlights was shared and reviewed.

Ms. Wong reviewed the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) correspondence dated February 1, 2022 which outlines the special areas of focus on promoting the FY 2022 – '23 budget.

The areas of focus include:

- Supporting specialty population
- Investing in service stability with a concentration on “Direct Support Professional Training” (DSPT) and the Rate Implementation Model
- Advancing service coordination as direct service with an emphasis on Regional center Performance Incentive Program, reduced caseload ratio for young children and stabilizing funding for Regional Center operations

## **VI. Committee Reports**

### **A. Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) - (Marisol Guerrero)**

Marisol Guerrero, CAC Vice-Chair Representative, reported the next Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 from 4pm - 6pm. The meeting will be conducted as a “Go To Meeting”. The topics will be on “Supported/Integrated Employment” to be presented by George De La Loza, ELARC Employment Specialist. Additionally, Gloria Wong, ELARC Executive Director will provide a system update.

### **B. Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) - (Kimberly Bermudez)**

Kimberly Bermudez, Board Member, reported the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) meeting was held on January 27, 2022.

Updates noted from the meeting and discussions included:

- Service providers discussing Rate Study Implementation
- Addressing missing service codes and other priorities they would like to see addressed
- MDH, provider, will present at the next VAC meeting on the networking workgroup and how to voice concerns and advocate their position
- DDS will be hosting a presentation on February 14, 2022 for SLS providers
- DDS offered training on Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) which offered the opportunity for Vendors to ask questions



- Lizette Villa, ELARC Community Services Specialist, presented on HCBS Self-Determination Assessments
- Discussion on Social Recreational Resource Developments: Camps and the need for consumer inclusivity in these programs
- Upcoming VAC meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2022

**C. Finance/Personnel Committee (Joe Utar/Richard Helgeson) - Attachment #7**

Mr. Helgeson reported that the Finance/Personnel Committee met with the Independent Auditors, WINDES Inc., January 2021. It was a very positive meeting, the final outcome being an “unmodified opinion”, which indicates no negative findings. Mr. Helgeson, Board President, noted that such results must be credited to the competency of ELARC administrative staff.

**Attachment #7**

Mr. Helgeson announced this is the last year WINDES, Inc. will be contracted to conduct the annual independent audit of ELARC’s financial statements. This is based on a contract requirement that Regional Centers change the auditing firm every five (5) years.

Ms. Wong noted the bidding process is currently underway.

**VII. Miscellaneous Announcements**

Mr. Helgeson, Board President, shared that ARCA training programs are very good, educational and informative. Some of topics covered include:

- DDS Regulations
- Adult Daycare
- Community Facilities
- Employment

Mr. Helgeson recommends and encourages for all to attend. Mr. Helgeson shared the next ARCA training is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2022 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm on “Zoom” with a replay on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. This webinar requires registration in advance.

Next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:00pm.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss the general board meeting was adjourned at 7:37 P.M. - Unanimous

*M/S/C (Yougeng Sun/Dr. Linda Lopez). Unanimous.*

Respectfully Submitted by:



Yougeng Sun,  
Secretary, ELARC Board of Directors



Recorded by: Angie Salas,  
Executive Secretary