



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
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**ELARC Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2024
Approved as Recorded on February 13, 2024**

Board Members Present:

Dr. Linda Lopez, President
Yougeng Sun, Vice-Chair

Richard Helgeson, Treasurer

Marisol Guerrero, CAC Chair Consumer

Joel Moreno, VAC Representative
Devora Navera-Reed, Secretary
Pat Gomez, Parent
Terry Munoz, Parent
Dalia Mendoza, Consumer
Alex Wu, Consumer
Theresa Chen, Parent

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
Edith Hernandez-Daniels,
Chief of Consumer Services

Roxy Ortiz, Community Development &
Training Supervisor

Elizabeth Harrell, Community Services
Manager

Johnny Trombley, IT Supervisor
Angie Salas, Executive Secretary

Absent:

Guests: Refer to Sign in Sheet

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I. Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by Dr. Lopez. The meeting 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.

Dr. Lopez 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:

Comments from the community were addressed.

**IV. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting
Motion Required - ATT #1**

M/S/C (Richard Helgeson/Terry Munoz) To approve the BOD Meeting Minutes of November 11, 2023 as recorded. Unanimous.

v. Executive Director’s Report

**1. Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule
ATT - #2 - (Motion Required)**

ATT #2

Gloria Wong, Executive Director, provided background information on HCBS Final Rule. Ms. Wong discussed DDS correspondence dated November 17, 2023 regarding the “Funding to Support Compliance with the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule. Ms. Wong reported that proposals need to be submitted to the Department of Developmental Services by January 31, 2024

Elizabeth Harrell, Community Services Manager, shared there are 10 requirements that need to be met and guided by the values of person-centered planning: choice and dignity. Karen Sibrian, HCBS Specialist provides support in gathering the vendors policies and programs designs to ensure they're in alignment with HCBS requirements. Ms. Sibrian conducts monitoring visits to day services in order to ensure compliance.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-'24 budget includes \$15 million to be divided amongst the 21 Regional Centers to assist providers in complying with the HCBS Final Rule and to support the broader work in each community which promotes and sustains ongoing compliance.

M/S/C (Terry Munoz/Richard Helgeson) To approve Funding to Support Compliance with the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule as recorded. Unanimous.

**2. Assembly Bill (AB) 637 Denial Letter
ATT - #3**

ATT #3

Ms. Wong discussed correspondence by DDS dated December 12, 2023. Ms. Wong provided background information on AB 637. The request ELARC made to adjust the rate for transportation providers through the AB637 proposal was denied.

Mrs. Harrell noted the specific direction from DDS stating that, "If ELARC determines a need to mitigate risk to individuals' health and safety, ELARC may submit a Health and Safety (H & S) Waiver exemption." Per DDS' correspondence dated September 13, 2023, ELARC must thoroughly examine each individuals' needs, prior to submitting a H & S Waiver request, which declares that risks to the individual's health and safety exist and cannot be mitigated in any other way.

Mrs. Harrell reported on transportation and ELARC's effort to address the transportation shortage.

- ❖ Tri-Counties Regional Center has a pilot project in place with Lyft specifically designed for individuals served by the Regional Center and it is an option ELARC is exploring as a possible pilot in the Southern California area.
- ❖ DCFS van transportation service called "Hop Skip and Drive" transports vulnerable individuals whom they serve. This will be explored as a possible project.
- ❖ Researching for organizations that have licenses and available vehicles.

- ❖ School districts will be approached.
- ❖ Existing and prospective Transportation vendors will be approached.

Comments from the community were addressed.

3. Trailer Bill Changes for Restored Services and New Participants – Direct Services – ATT #5, #6 and #7

Ms. Wong discussed correspondence from DDS dated November 3, 2023. Ms. Wong provided brief background information on Trailer Bill Language. The directive requested that the Regional Centers to submit a revised policy and procedure on restored services. The following steps were taken to comply with the DDS directive:

- 1) ELARC to posted draft policy and procedure for 30 days allowing for community input.
- 2) ELARC to present draft policy and procedure to the Board of Directors for the approval and to share feedback from the community.
- 3) ELARC to submit to DDS the Board approved policy as the final step of the process.

DDS contacted ELARC prior to the Board presentation and based on their review of the community posting of the draft policy requested the following modifications to be made prior to formally submitting to DDS.

Recommendations included the following:

- 1) Clarification on generics services
- 2) Add a section on the appeal process
- 3) Clarify the section on duplication of services
- 4) Address and clarify references to camping and fire clearance

Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Consumer Services, shared that the recommendations by DDS are intended to simplify the policy and procedure for the community and to serve as a concise and transparent process.

It was noted that the absence of a revised policy and procedure did not impede ELARC's effort to create recreational resources for the community. As an example, Elizabeth Harrell, Community Services Manager, spoke to the article "Alhambra YMCA pool program, for the deaf and hard of hearing: Kids learn to succeed in and out of water". YMCA of Alhambra operates a program focused on swimming and swim safety for individuals served by the Regional Center that are deaf and hard of hearing. This is an inclusive program. This program is funded by the State and is open to the community.

In summary, the recommended changes by DDS will be incorporated into the revised policy. The result is that the Board approval will need to be deferred until the revisions are completed and a new 30 day posting will be required. This will defer bringing back the revised policy to the Board until March 2024.

**4. Mission Statement and Vision & Core Values Document Draft
Revisions – ATT #9 and ATT #10
Motion Required**

As a result of the many system changes brought about by the pandemic, which resulted in many various changes to the Lanterman Act and the overall operation of the Regional Center system it was necessary and extremely important that the agency "Mission & Vision" statement be in alignment with these changes. The draft proposal is a revision to the current "Mission & Vision" statement. The work was undertaken by all the Management staff in an agency retreat and further it was taken to direct staff for comments and input on the draft documents. The result is a revised "Mission & Vision" statement that is central to the operation of ELARC.

Ms. Wong reviewed the revisions by offering background on the inspiration for the proposed changes.

M/S/C (Yougeng Sun/Dalia Mendoza) To approve Revised Mission Statement and Vision and Core Values as recorded. Unanimous.

**5. Grassroots Day Event: Fiscal Year 2024 - '25
HANDOUT #1 and HANDOUT #2**

Ms. Wong provided background information on the upcoming Grassroots Day event scheduled for April 1 & 2, 2024. This year Grassroots Day Event will be held in person, versus virtual as in the past. Ms. Wong encouraged those interested in being part of the ELARC delegation to contact Roxy Ortiz, Information and Training Supervisor. Ms. Ortiz, shared that the ELARC delegation includes consumers, parents, and service providers.

ELARC will be hosting numerous Legislative Workshops for the community. The purpose is to prepare the ELARC delegation for Grassroots Day and anyone else interested in becoming informed about the budgetary process and its impact on the Regional Center System.

The following flyer is being circulated to encourage community participation:

EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER HANDOUT #2

**ELARC U: A Learning Community
The Learning Marketplace**
Presents:

Legislative Workshops

State policy and budget choices should reflect collective values, priorities, and ideals. This workshop will provide a basic understanding of critical key points to become involved in the process.

Areas covered will include:

- *Strategies to make a difference*
- *Basic overview of the legislative process*
- *Effective meeting approaches*
- *How to develop personal stories*
- *Etiquettes of legislative visits*
- *Taking Action*

2024 Dates:

January 23	2pm-4pm
February 27	9am-11am
March 26	2pm-4pm
April 23	9am-11am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81592719086?pwd=Z2xpRkUxTUJFOFJ2ODIwaFJZSmMvZz09>

Meeting ID: 815 9271 9086
Passcode: 975237

Dial by your location

- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)



If you would like to attend RSVP with Roxy Ortiz at rortiz@elarc.org or (626) 299-4817 one week prior to the workshop or you can also register by scanning the QR code.

You only need to rsvp for one session.

This workshop will be held in English only. If you wish to participate in a language other than English, please make your request with Laiza Valdovinos at lvaldovinos@elarc.org or (626) 299-4817 two weeks prior to the training to allow sufficient time for ELARC to make every attempt to meet your request.

Good Training * Strong Partnerships * Better Service

  www.elarc.org * info@elarc.org  

6. Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 – '23 Purchase of Services Data Report Update

Ms. Wong reported the FY 2022-'23 POS Data Report has been completed by DDS and has been posted on ELARC's website by the required deadline of 12/31/23.

Ms. Wong provided background information on the Purchase of Services (POS) Data Report. A community meeting is being planned for March 2024 to present the results.

7. Self-Determination Program (SDP) Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (LVAC) ATT #11 and ATT #12

ATT #11

Rhoda Tong, Associate Chief of Consumer Services, reported on the SDP "Progress Report" and the current number of consumers in the SDP and the various stages of progress:

- 55 Individuals that are currently active in the Self-Determination Program
- 52 Successfully transitioned over to SDP
- 27 Completed Person Center Plan
- 52 Obtained Fiscal Management Service (FMS)
- 52 Completed and signed IPP's
- 52 Spending plans completed
- 53 Individual budgets certified
- 55 SD Participants completed orientation for SDP

Mrs. Tong reported that as of December 2023 there are 183 SD participants in the SDP since the open enrollment phase began in July 2021.

ATT #12

Roxy Ortiz, Community Development and Training Supervisor, went over the DDS Self-Determination Program (SDP) Participant Focus Group flyer.

No Comments from the community.

**8. Budget Update
HANDOUTS #3, #4 #5 AND #6**

Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 – '24

HANDOUT #4

Ms. Wong made reference to the Purchase of Services Expenditure (PEP) Report which is due to DDS on the 10th of each month. Ms. Wong reported there is a projected deficit of \$10,887,720.

HANDOUT #5

Ms. Wong made reference to the December 10, 2023 Purchase of Services Expenditure (PEP) Report which reported a surplus of \$18,101,083. The two (2) reports serve as a contrast on the POS expenditure pattern changes from the December 2023 to the January 2024 report.

Budget Performance Report: Operations

HANDOUT #3

Ms. Wong, reviewed the Operations Budget Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2023 - '24 and provided background. Ms. Wong, made referenced to the difficulties in continuing to hire new staff to reduce the caseload ratio for service coordinators. A major challenge is the simultaneous competition to recruit staff by the seven (7) L.A. County Regional Centers.

HANDOUT #6

Ms. Wong went over the “California’s State Budget Process” offered highlights on the preliminary budget.

Comments from the community were addressed.

VI.

**Consumer Services Report
Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Consumer Services**

Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Consumer Services, spoke of the Joy of Giving (JOG) event an ELARC tradition to where 70 families and individuals are identified to receive a holiday gift and goodie bag. This event was led by Lizette Villa, ELARC Supervisor and a volunteered group of service coordinators. This was a successful event for the 2023 holiday season.

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels spoke to the growth of the agency and the hiring of new staff, with the creation/expansion of the following positions:

- A third Complex Need Service Coordinator. This service coordinator will specialize with individuals who have complex needs (ie.: are duly diagnosed, forensically involved, addiction issues, homelessness etc.)

- Trauma Informed and Foster Youth Support Coordinator. This service coordinator will specialized in systems of care, interagency collaboration with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), probation, tribal community, Department of Mental Health (DMH), etc.

- A new specialized unit will be created to centralize the individuals who are 55 years of age and older. This will allow the service coordinator to focus on resources if there’s a need for information on dementia and Alzheimer’s or an advance directive. The service coordinator can focus on how to support the family if there’s a hospitalization setting or a discharge planning.

No comments from the community.

VII. Committee Reports

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

Last CAC meeting was held on December 10, 2023.

Presenters were Patrick Schattilly, ELARC Consumer Advocate, Karen Sibrian, ELARC HCBS Specialist and Liz Rodgers, Autism Specialist/Certified PCT Mentor Trainer. Topics of discussion were as follows:

- How ELARC supports the individuals it serves as they strive for diversity, equity and Inclusion in the community
- The meaning of diversity, equity and inclusion
- How Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule empowers individuals served by ELARC

There was a Q&A session about HCBS requirements specifically the right to make food choices, schedules and employment.

On the Consumer Advocates desk:

1. CAC outreach efforts to grown membership
2. Working with L.A. County for a voting machine presentation/demonstration in August before the November elections
3. Working with CAC speakers on their presentations

For the time being the CAC meetings will remain on “Zoom”. Next CAC meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2024 from 4pm to 6pm. The Office of Clients Rights Advocacy (OCRA) will present on Voting Rights.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) - (Joel Moreno)

Joel Moreno, VAC Representative, reported the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC). Mr. Moreno reported elections have been completed and are as follows:

- Elections were completed:

✓ Joel Moreno, Chair

✓ Maria Moberg, Vice Chair

✓ Melissa Carrillo, Secretary

➤ The VAC will begin to hold hybrid (in-person and by Zoom) meetings.

The next hybrid VAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday ~ January 25, 2024 from 10am to 11:30am.

C. Finance/Personnel Committee (Richard Helgeson/Terry Munoz)

There was no meeting of the Board Finance/Personnel Committee.

VIII. Miscellaneous Announcements

Comments from the community were addressed.

Next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00pm.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the motion was made to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting at 8:02pm - Unanimous.

M/S/C (Richard Helgeson/Devora Reed). Unanimous.

Reference to Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Devora Reed,
Secretary, ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Angie Salas,
Executive Secretary