



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
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Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
February 8, 2011
Approved March 8, 2011 as Corrected

Present:

Theresa Chen
 Marvin Brown
 Pat Gomez
 Terry Munoz
 Felicitas Navera
 Robert Hazard
 Olga Sarabia
 Jiang Guo
 Elton Lui
 Tammy Bachrach (VAC)

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
 Rosalie Estrada, Executive Secretary
 Felipe Hernandez, Chief of
 Consumer Services

Absent:

Deborah Gallardo
 Joe Utar
 Miguel Lugo

Guests:

Refer to Sign-In Sheet

Elton Lui, President, called the meeting to order at 6:08 P.M.

I Welcome and Roll Call

Elton Lui welcomed all present. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present in order to conduct the necessary business at hand.

II Introductions

Guests in the audience were introduced.

III Opening Round - Board of Directors

The board was introduced.

IV Community Input

There was no community input.

V Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2011.

M/S/C (Robert Hazard/Olga Sarabia) To approve the Minutes of January 11, 2011 as recorded. Unanimous.

VI Executive Directors Report

A. AB 1006 Waiver Request

Gloria Wong stated Joyce Miramontes, Community Services Specialist, is present on the same subject she presented at the January meeting. The reason for placing this item, AB 1006 Waiver Request, back on the agenda this that ELARC received a call from a consumer who indicated he did not receive the notice of the community meeting to discuss the AB 1006 Waiver Request within the required ten days. The consumer had no objection but wanted the regional center to know that he did not receive the notice within the 10 days. Thus, the reason for placing the item back on the agenda is to see if there are any comments or objections to this request.

The waiver process requires notice be posted to the community and that it be presented in a public session. The Board of Directors Meeting is being used as the formal "public hearing" forum for this waiver.

Joyce Miramontes, Community Services Specialist, provided background information. The request is for a waiver to AB 1006 to allow mom, a regional center consumer, and her minor child to continue to reside in a certified family home which has been approved and is supervised by California Mentor Family Home agency. The consumer and the Interdisciplinary Team have deemed this to be the most appropriate and preferred placement to live in an adult licensed facility for the consumer and child. The exception request is for the minor child (newborn). This request is for a general waiver versus a case specific case so that when a similar case arises, the process can be expedited. The newborn will most likely be referred to ELARC's Early Start Unit.

Any public input on this request will be forwarded to DDS. As of this date, there has been no public input.

Gloria stated this report is a reiteration of the same report provided at the January 11, 2011 meeting in an effort to see if there would be any input by extending the request for an additional thirty days. To date there has been no input. The Board motion recorded at the January 11, 2011 stands as recorded, which was to approve this request.

M/S/C (Tammy Bachrach/Theresa Chen) To approve the request for an AB 1006 waiver as a permanent waiver for future requests. Unanimous.

B. Budget Status - Fiscal Year 2010-11

1. Purchase of Services (POS) Monthly Projection Report

The POS Expenditure Projections Summary was distributed and reviewed. Currently ELARC is projecting a slightly lower deficit with a low of \$7,102,046 and a high of \$7,646,263. The SOAR is updated on a monthly **basis** and presented to the Board. The report is also provided to DDS. ELARC is awaiting the second allocation, referred to as the B-2. Gloria reported she just received (2:30 P.M.) an allocation for operations but not for POS. It is anticipated the allocation for POS will be received in March.

The New Purchases Comparison graph is an analysis of new purchases, month by month the last five fiscal years. For December 2010-11, ELARC spent \$7.5 million, and in 2009-10 the regional center spent less, \$6.2 million, which is the reason for running the deficit figures. It is anticipated the allocation will be enough to cover the projected deficit.

The in 2009/10 Trailer Bill Language (TBL) provided some savings due to changes in the purchase of service standards, but the savings for the current year has tapered off due to the fact there are new consumers and/or new requests coming in. Appeals continue to come in. Additionally TBL appeals are on calendar through fiscal year 2011-12.

Early Start was slashed heavily and there does not appear to be any changes in the upcoming year. Gloria reported due to the changes all regional centers are reporting a major reduction in new referrals.

2. Budget Performance Report

A copy of the Budget Performance Report was distributed and reviewed. There was a current deficit of \$603,173, but today \$428,000 was received and additionally DDS has not allocated the money for Early Start for which only 25% of the allocation has been received to date.

C. Fiscal Year 2011-12

1. Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Position Statement

A copy of the ARCA Position Statement re: Governor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal

Year 2011-12 was shared with the Board and reviewed.

Originally the Governor started off the year stating that California is dealing with a \$25 billion shortfall for an eighteen-month period, which includes the current fiscal year and the new fiscal year. For the current fiscal year the deficit is approximately \$7 to \$8 billion. As for the current fiscal year period there were cuts to other systems but the regional center budgets were not affected, and therefore continue to operate with the original allocation.

Of the \$25 billion shortfall the Governor's proposal introduces a combination of savings and ways to bring in revenue. The proposal cuts back services by \$12.5 billion, and the balance will be covered by generating additional revenue for California. The expectation is that the voters will approve the extension of tax increases which will sunset at the end of the fiscal year (June 30th) expected to generate \$12.5 billion.

The budget for Developmental Services contains a \$750 million reduction for the system. Last year there was a \$334 million reduction. The ARCA position statement indicates the \$750 million is too deep a cut for the system when taking into consideration all the cuts that have taken place over the past four years and that regional centers cannot continue to have these type of cuts.

A coalition of vendors have taken a full page ad in the Los Angeles Times making reference to the depth of the budget cuts and the effect it will on health and safety of the consumers they serve. The ad was circulated.

2. Budget Letter to Committee Chairs

ARCA's letter to the Chair of the Senate Budget Committee and the Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee was shared with the Board.

Gloria stated there are two budget committees who review the budget, take positions and then take it to the legislature, Assembly Budget Committee 1 and Subcommittee 3 which is the Senate Committee. The Assembly Committee held their hearing on February 3rd and there were more than 200 individuals who attended and provided testimony. Every person was given one minute to convey their point of view.

3. ARCA Grass Roots Day: 3/16/11

ARCA has scheduled March 16th as Grass Roots Day. The purpose is for the twenty-one regional center delegations making visits to their legislators. ELARC's Information and Training Unit will work with other delegates who have participated in previous

Grass Roots Day. These delegates will make visits with their local legislators. Board Members are also encouraged to participate in this event.

ARCA has put together tips for meeting with legislators which was shared with the Board.

D. DDS Plan of Action

1. Overview of Article

A copy of the California Disability Community Action Network email re: the State Budget Crisis, dated January 27th, was shared with the Board. The email references the development of statewide regional center purchase of services standards.

2. POS Statewide Standards Survey

DDS has released an online survey, called a “Survey Monkey” for public input on the Governor’s proposals to develop and implement statewide purchase of services standards for children and adults in the regional center system. DDS is surveying eight different categories of services, which include: (1) behavioral services; (2) day programs, supported employment and work activity program services; (3) Early Start Services; (4) Health Care and Therapeutic Services (5) Independent Living and Supported Living Services; (6) residential services; (7) respite and other family supports; (8) transportation services. Each of the categories will have a work group and will receive the results of the survey. DDS will take the lead in developing the workgroups and its participants. Regional Centers will be asked to participate through the Association of Regional Center Agencies.

The survey is an open-ended format which is difficult to understand if you are not involved in the system. This survey will be discussed at the community meetings scheduled for February 9 in Alhambra and February 10th in Whittier. As of last week there were 4,000 anonymous responses. The deadline for the public to respond is February 15th. Persons attending the community meetings will receive information and will be encouraged to respond to the survey.

E. ELARC Community Meetings - Budget Proposal

1. E-Newsletter; 2. Budget Alert Flyer; 3. Community Meeting

A copy of the E-Newsletter was shared with the Board which is also sent to the emails on file. The sessions will be approximately two hours and will include a power point

presentation from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.. The goal will be to mobilize the interest in getting the community involved in trying to make some changes.

The E-Newsletter has been updated to include information regarding State budget alert, the community meetings and the survey being conducted by DDS. Additionally a flyer has been developed re: budget alert and the Community Meetings.

F. Board Training Session

The Board Training Session has been scheduled for Saturday, February 26th from 9:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. in the Board Room. The focus will be issues of governance and budget updates. There will be light morning refreshments and lunch will be provided.

G. Assembly Bill 171

As referenced in ARCA's Position Statement, one of the proposals is accessing private insurance and regional centers as payers of last resort. By law, as outlined in the Lanterman Developmental Services Act, regional centers are payers of last resort. Assembly Bill 171, introduced by Assemblyman Beall, would hold insurance carriers accountable for providing screening, diagnosis and treatment of individuals with autism. This bill could also cover behavior modification, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, all of which are very costly. A copy of AB 171 was shared with the Board.

VII Consumer Services Report

Felipe Hernandez provided the following information:

CATS Program: The LAUSD, East Los Angeles College (ELAC) and ELARC has been working together to develop a transition program at ELAC. The program is primarily directed to consumers from the age of 19 years through 21 year olds who are currently ELAC students who are receiving prevocational training, classes and are being placed in internship situations in the community. In December four IEP's were held at ELAC and the service coordinator met with the school, parent and teachers in order to develop a joint IEP/IPP. The session allowed for information to be shared regarding the consumer at home and in the school setting. Also, discussed were the consumer's interests and vocational goals. The service coordinators felt the process worked well. Additionally the school district worked with each student to develop a five minute power point presentation on what their interests were and why they wanted to be part of the program. There are about 15 more IEP's outstanding before the end of the school year.

A Christmas party was held at ELARC in December for the students and their family members, approximately 30 to 40 individuals attended. The purpose was to allow the parents to meet and share information and meet the individuals their son/daughter are associating with at school.

Felipe reported he made a presentation at the Greater Long Beach Chapter of the Autism Society. Rita Rubin, ELARC parent, invited both Mary Hosokawa and him to share information on the PICI group. Pat reported she was also in attendance and received a recognition for their fund-raising for "Ride for Autism" event. The money donated paid for the entire conference. Felipe reported he presented with a representative from Harbor on the budget and the proposed service standards, and how the regional centers will be impacted by the proposed budget.

Sibling Group: An intern (MSW) who is working with a supervisor is proposing to establish a sibling support group for ages 10 to 12 years, speak English. There would be four weekly meetings beginning in early March from 4:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Thursdays in the Board Room. The curriculum developed by a previous intern will be used for this new group.

VIII Committee Reports

A. Nominating Committee

1. Slate of Officers

Elton Lui presented the proposed slate of officers for elections in March: They are as follows:

Olga Sarabia, President
Pat Gomez, Vice-Chairperson
Felicitas Navera, Secretary
Terry Munoz, Treasurer

B. Consumer Advisory Committee

Miguel Lugo was not present so there was no report provided.

C. Family Advisory Committee

Gloria reported there was no meeting held in February. At the last meeting Pat Gomez indicated she would no longer be available to attend the FAC meetings, and Felicitas Navera volunteered to attend as the Board representative. The next meeting is scheduled on March 2nd from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room. The meetings were normally held from 10:00 A.M. to Noon and at the meeting on March 2nd it will be proposed to resume the regular schedule from 10 to Noon for the remainder of the meetings through December, since the committee has already put out their dates for the year. The change in time can be considered for the new year.

D. Finance/Personnel Committee

There was no meeting scheduled. Gloria indicated a Finance Meeting will be scheduled for March.

E. Vendor Advisory Committee

Tammy Bachrach reported at the last meeting the vendors discussed how they could assist her in being better prepared for her reports to the Board. For example if a policy is going to be reviewed by the Board, perhaps it could go to the VAC early so that they it an be discussed. Tammy indicated this would allow her to present to the Board the discussion/result of the entire VAC. Frances Jacobs indicated she will assist in seeing that the VAC get the policies in time for review and discussion.

Two work groups have been developed, one is an Ethics workgroup which will begin meeting in February. There has been an on-going Vendor Fair Committee and it was the consensus that they would have one large fair, no date has been scheduled. Additionally a Political/Education Subcommittee has been established that will help the vendors represent themselves to their legislators.

Tammy reported Gloria will be attend their next VAC meeting.

IX Misc. Announcements

Pat Gomez reported a group of parents are putting together a recognition luncheon in Santa Fe Springs for a few service coordinators who have gone over and above their call of duty to help families and consumers. Twelve service coordinators from the Whittier have been invited. Pat hopes that this will be the first of many to come.

Marvin Brown suggested that the monthly Board Meetings start at 6:30 P.M. rather than the current time (6:00 P.M.). Gloria asked the board members to contact Rosalie Estrada with their votes.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

**Jiang Guo, Secretary
ELARC Board of Directors**

Recorded by: Rosalie Estrada, Executive Assistant