



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER

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**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
March 13, 2012
Approved as Corrected 4/10/12**

Present:

Olga Sarabia, President
Terry Munoz, Treasurer
Jiang Guo
Theresa Chen
Robert Hazard
Deborah Gallardo
Marvin Brown
Armando Villegas, VAC

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
Felipe Hernandez, Chief of
Consumer Services
Rosalie Estrada, Executive Assistant
Darlene Chapa, Service Coordinator
Cruz Garcia, Placement Coordinator

Absent:

Elton Lui (excused)
Felicitas Navera (excused)
Pat Gomez (excused)
Miguel Lugo

Guests:

Refer to Sign-In Sheet

Olga Sarabia, President, called the meeting to order at 6:15 P.M.

I Welcome and Roll Call

Olga Sarabia, President, welcomed all present. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present in order to conduct business.

II Election of Officers

Olga Sarabia presented the new slate of officers. They are as follows: Terry Munoz, President; Pat Gomez, Vice-Chairperson, Robert Hazard, Treasurer, Felicitas Navera, Secretary.

**M/S/C (Olga Sarabia/Jiang Guo) To approve the slate of officers as presented.
Unanimous.**

- A. The Conflict of Interest was sent to the Board as part of their Board meeting packet and must be signed annually. The Board was asked to sign the last page and return to Rosalie Estrada before the end of the meeting.
- B. The Whistleblower Statement was also sent to the Board as part of the Board meeting packet and must also be signed on an annual basis. The Board was asked to sign return it to Rosalie Estrada before the end of the meeting.

III Opening Round

Olga Sarabia asked the Board of Directors to introduce themselves and share a positive experience.

IV Community Input

There was no community input.

A copy of the 2011 Performance Contract Report approved by DDS was received and copies were distributed.

V Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2012

M/S/C (Marvin Brown/Robert Hazard) To approve the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2012 as recorded. Unanimous.

VI Executive Director's Report

→Gloria Wong provided an update regarding board meetings and video-conferencing to the Whittier area. The difficulties encountered are two-fold. First is the incompatibility between ELARC equipment and a number of off-site locations that have been explored thus far. Secondly, there are limited locations that meet ELARC equipment requirements by both locations are booked for the balance of the year for various other community activities (i.e. classes, group meetings). The locations under consideration are the YMCA and Parnell Park in Whittier. Staff will pursue securing needed time-slots as soon as their calendar is made available for 2013 reservations.

→Performance Contract (PC): Gloria reported the Performance Contract Report was approved by DDS and received today. The PC report is based on calendar year information, versus fiscal year. The PC report provides information on the consumers served by ELARC and breaks down the consumers served by primary diagnosis, ethnicity, age and where consumers live (parent/guardian, family/foster homes, CCF/ICF, ILS/SLS).

The report also provides information on areas pre-established by the Department of Developmental Services; goals based on the Lanterman Act as compared to the individual regional center and the Statewide average and numerous compliance standards. The Regional Center results were reviewed.

Some of the highlights reviewed included children living with families, in December 2010 the percentage was 97.95% and in December 2011 it was 97.71%, reinforcing the fact the majority of ELARC minors are able to remain with their families with the needed services and supports. The same holds true for the adult population, in December 2010 the percentage of adults living in the home (either with their families or living independently) was 83.09% and in December 2011, the percentage was 83.54%.

Less children living in large facilities (more than 6 consumers), in December 2010 it was 1.54% and at the end of December 2011 it was 1.01%. Gloria reported typically children in large facilities are medically fragile and require medical care. The same is for adults living in large facilities, In December 2010 it was 1.54% and at the end of the year, December 2011 there was 1.01%.

Developmental Center population reduction for ELARC is steadily diminishing: 2010→ .83% →2011 .71%. The reduction will continue into 2013 as the Lanterman Developmental Center closure plan enters into its final phase.

The PC report also indicates results on compliance standards on fiscal reviews, intake and case management statistics. Results were reviewed.

Gloria acknowledged Felipe Hernandez and his case management staff for the 100% rating in the area of Individual Program Plan requirements met. ELARC currently has 9500 consumers.

The Performance Report will be posted on the ELARC website.

→The ELARC Community Report for 2011, "Getting Prepared Together" was distributed. The report focuses on the importance of emergency preparedness and the role each must play.

Corrections to be made: Theresa Chen and Deborah Gallardo were omitted and will be added to the on-line version.

A. Budget Status

1. Fiscal Year 2010-11 Purchase of Services

The 2010-11 fiscal year ended on June 30, 2011 with a deficit of \$1.7 million and to date has dropped to approximately \$1.4 million. Gloria reported the contract amendment for B-5 was received today and was signed by Olga Sarabia this evening. ELARC received an allocation of \$1.5 million leaving a deficit of approximately \$80,000.

2. Current Fiscal Year 2011-12

(a) POS

The POS Expenditure Projection Summary was shared with the Board and was reviewed. The current deficit is in the range of \$21.6 million to \$20.3 million. There are 3 ½ months left in the current fiscal year and there is no word or action taken from DDS on how the deficit will be addressed.

(b) Stakeholder Meetings

The stakeholder meetings planned by DDS have been completed. The intent was to obtain public input on the proposed 2012/13 fiscal year reductions. The Governor made it clear when he activated the Trigger Bill that the \$100 million reduction will be annualized in the 2012-2013 budget, thereby doubling the regional center reduction to \$200 million.

Some of the suggestions received from the stakeholder meetings to reduce expenses: (1) increase federal financial participation (waiver dollars); (2) implement statewide self-determination; (3) lift the 4/25% reduction to the regional center system (regional centers and vendors).

(c) Operations

No allocation has been received and ELARC is still awaiting some rent adjustments. The Budget Performance Report was distributed and reviewed. Currently there is a deficit in operations of \$167,151 which is less than what was reported last month. The savings has been obtained by freezing nine positions. The result of this action is a workload burden an already demanding and increasing requirements under Trailer Bill Language (TBL).

3. Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget

(a) A copy of the Legislative Analysis Report was distributed.

(b) Governor's Budget Proposal Analysis

The LAO (Legislative Analyst's Office) is an independent body who works for the legislators and acts as a neutral party. They are charged with preparing figures and analyzing the budget. The LAO will usually differ from the Governor's budget in their projections.

The LAO is supporting the \$200 million reduction to the regional center system and are also recommending not restoring the 4.25% payment reduction. The report supports an adjustment to regional centers for caseload growth, an endorsement for continuing the Lanterman Developmental Center closure, and it recommends that regional centers adopt a means test for consumers served. Currently services are based on individualized program planning and is never based on what can the family afford. The only exception to this is when there is a minor child and the parents income is evaluated for a potential contribution. Approximately five years ago the Family Cost Participation Program was established which is also for minor children. Service coordinators began doing assessments to determine if the family fell within a given range of income; and if so, they must be assessed to pay a share of cost. This affects children receiving three services; respite, day care and transportation. The recommendation from LAO is that a means test be done across the board, to all families registered and for new families entering the system.

The "annual fee" was created by the last Trailer Bill and requires that every year on the consumer's birth month that there be an assessment for families with minor children to determine if they would have an annual fee which would be due to the Department of Developmental Services. Regional centers do not collect but rather report the information to DDS. Few families are required to pay the annual fee.

B. Grassroots Day Update

Gloria reported Grassroots Day is scheduled for April. ELARC is forming delegations and they are attending a legislative training session hosted by ELARC. Visits will be made to local legislators once the training is completed and the visits will take place throughout the week rather than on a single day.

C. Department of Developmental Services Regional Center Audit Update

The Department of Developmental Services audited ELARC in December and January. The audit was completed and we are now awaiting the final report. Once it is received the Finance Committee will meet to discuss the results.

D. Adaptive Skills Training (AST) Update on “Follow-Up” Plan

Gloria reported both she and Felipe met with CAPC. She reported it was a long but productive session. Follow-up is needed from CAPC and as soon as the information is received a second meeting will be rescheduled. There will be no further action on the proposed draft policy until the various reviews are completed. Upon completion the Board will be presented with results and proposed action.

E. Southern California Regional Center Directors & Board Presidents Meeting: “Way Forward”

Gloria reported both she and Olga Sarabia have attended three meetings, with the last one held on March 7th at Harbor Regional Center. Ten Southern California regional centers along with two Northern California regional centers are participating in these meetings. An ARCA meeting is scheduled later this week, it is anticipated there will be other regional centers who will join the group.

The intent is to seek input on the future direction of regional centers in light of the financial challenges faced by our current system. In less than five years the Lanterman Act, which created the regional center system, will be fifty years old. The survey is designed to create a way forward that ensures the system will be sustained for another fifty years.

The final draft is being work on with a target date for dissemination on May 1, 2012. The survey will be conducted on-line utilizing “survey monkey”. Participation will be by invite only and will be anonymous. A focus group for interviewing consumers will be conducted,

VII Consumer Services Report

Felipe Hernandez reported the following:

→Approximately 5 service coordinators have left the agency, and positions have been frozen. As a result the service coordinators in the units are picking up the cases. Currently service coordinators are carrying approximately 85 on average.

→Regional Center received notification from the Department of Developmental Services regarding the issues of potential abuse of consumers at Developmental Centers. DDS announced new measures that will improve safety and strengthen protections for residents of developmental centers. The measures include independent oversight by a nationally recognized law enforcement specialist, new protocols for first responders to

the scenes of possible abuse, new rules for investigations and additional training requirements for DDS peace officers.

→ELARC is currently working on its emergency plan and is close to finalizing it. The plan will be shared with staff, consumers and vendors. Selected regional center staff recently received training on satellite phones to be used should electrical service not be available. Additionally backpacks were distributed to adult consumers a couple years ago. There will be follow-up to determine if they still have the back packs, how are they using them, how to replenish, etc.

→Four Fiscal Management Agencies (FMA) will be presenting in April their services to parents and family members who have individuals receiving day care, respite services, and transportation with the intention of getting them to sign up. The FMA will be responsible for completing all paperwork along with taxes.

VIII Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee

Miguel Lugo was not present therefore there was no report.

B. Family Advisory Committee

Felicitas Navera was unable to attend due to illness. Gloria shared with the Board a report provided by Fely.

Feli reported she is the new chair of the FAC. She indicated it was too fast, too soon but decided to take the plunge.

There were three parents present in Whittier and one in Alhambra.

There will be a minor revision on the way the FAC conducts its meeting, along with a new agenda format. She reported there is a growing need for her to try and get more group discussion in an effort to motivate them at meetings. Feli indicated she will need to be more pro-active.

A June 6th date has been set for first in-service for parents by Fran Goldfarb, University of Southern California University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. The in-service will be held at three different sites in order to get as many parents as possible to attend. The time for the in-service has not yet been determined and will be discussed at the April meeting.

C. Vendor Advisory Committee

Armando Villegas, Vice-Chairperson of the VAC reported a survey of vendors was done by Tammy Bachrach regarding the 4.25% sunseting. Vendors were asked whether they were for it sunseting or a portion of it continuing. A good portion of the vendors were willing to continue with some of the rate reduction.

Additionally the VAC is working with ELARC on the development of an Ethics policy to be endorsed by both parties.

D. Finance Committee

There was no Finance Committee Meeting scheduled, therefore there was no report.

IX Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the General Board Meeting Session was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

X Executive Session

An Executive session was called to order at 7:30 P.M. in order to discuss a legal matter. The session adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Felicitas Navera, Secretary
ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Rosalie M. Estrada, Executive Assistant

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