



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
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ELARC Board of Directors Meeting
October 8, 2013
Approved November 12, 2013

Present:

Terry Munoz, President
Felicitas Navera, Secretary
Theresa Chen, Treasurer
Elias Fonseca
Anthony De La Rosa
Lida Chavez
Deborah Gallardo
Jiang Guo
Robert Hazard, Vice-Chairperson
Roman Castro

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
Felipe Hernandez, Chief of
Consumer Services
Rosalie Estrada, Exec. Assistant
Elizabeth Harrell, Supervisor
Information & Training

Guests:

Refer to Sign-In Sheet

Absent:

Jiang Guo, Excused
Armando Villegas, Excused
Elias Fonseca, Excused

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I. Welcome & Roll Call

The ELARC Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by Terry Munoz, President. A quorum was present to conduct necessary business.

II Introductions & Opening Round

Board members and the audience were asked to introduce themselves and to share a positive experience.

Lida Chavez reported that her son has started a new school with an emphasis on art. He is slowly adapting to his new environment.

Tony Borrego shared a new milestone for his daughter: pretend playing.

Felicitas Navera reported her son is 42 years old and she had the IPP today and continues to move forward.

Terry Munoz shared she has a 19 year old son and started his new school placement in El Monte since the Lincoln School was closed. Students from the Lincoln School were transferred to various schools in the area. She indicated most of his class, 6, were kept together. At this time he seems to be adapting well.

Bob Hazard shared that his sister, Susie, has moved from the Lanterman Developmental Center (LDC) into the community. She resided at the LDC for over 20 years. He indicated last month he participated in the six month review and she is doing things now which she had never been able to do. In the past Susie would not eat vegetables but since her placement in her new home the staff has started putting vegetables in her yogurt and she is now getting her vegetables. She also did not drink enough water, so the staff is adding water to her Ensure. Bob acknowledged Le Hua, service coordinator, and stated she has done an excellent job at coordinating the services for his sister. He also indicated Susie has learned more in the last six months than she did in 20 years while at the LDC and credited the efforts of ELARC staff, Elwyn and Mercedes Diaz.

Anthony De La Rosa shared he is the parent of a 17 year old daughter, Brissa, who was diagnosed with Autism when she was 3 years old.

Roman Castro shared he is the CAC chair and stated that both he and Jesse Padilla and he had a pretty good outreach event at the Almansor Center. The consumers present seemed to be very enthusiastic about attending future CAC meetings.

Theresa Chen reported she is a parent of a son who has been diagnosed with Autism.

III Community Input

Chala Jitpatima, parent, expressed her appreciation to the Board of Directors for their support in her efforts regarding inclusion. She also thanked Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services, Mary Hosokawa, Education Specialist for their presentation at the Back to School Night which was very successful. There were thirty families present at the event.

She reported she met with Assemblyman Chow, District 49, and requesting his support for special education and invited him to visit the LIFT program at Alhambra High School.

Chala indicated she had the opportunity to attend the SELPA group with families from Westside Regional Center.

Elsa Flores stated she feels it is so important for “our kids” to be part of small or large community, as they grow and thrive and realize they are part of the community. Bob’s report reinforces the work done every day with “our kids” and thanked Bob for sharing his sister’s story.

Elsa shared she attended a conference funded by ELARC where Temple Gradin was the guest speaker. She spoke how parents should have their special needs children assist senior citizens by (i.e.) bagging their groceries and taking trash bins in/out.

IV Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes of September 9, 2013

Feli Navera, Secretary, noted typographical errors in the first paragraph on page 7.

M/S/C (Anthony De La Rosa/Felicitas Navera) To approve the Minutes of September 9, 2013 as modified. Unanimous.

V. Executive Directors Report

A. Performance Contract (PC)

1. Approval of PC 2014

The draft Performance Contract 2014 was presented to the Board of Directors at the September 8, 2013 meeting and no changes were made to the document. The document is due to the Department of Developmental Services by November 1, 2013.

Copies of the correspondence/commentaries received were shared with the Board.

M/S/C (Bob Hazard/Deborah Gallardo) To approve the Performance Contract 2014 as presented. Unanimous.

B. Disneyland

Elizabeth Harrell reported starting tomorrow, October 9th, Disneyland will be changing the way it meets the needs of its guests with disabilities. The Disneyland guest assistance card program which helped accommodate guests with special needs will discontinue. Disneyland felt there was misuse of this particular program. They has been a great deal of reaction to the change. Information was included in the latest E-newsletter and where they can get additional information. There is also additional information on the Disneyland website.

Disney's Guest Assistance Card will be replaced with a Disability Access Service (DAS) Card in an effort to accommodate individuals with special needs. Parents of children with autism are very concerned about the change and there were some petitions available on move.org and change.org. This link is available in the E-Newsletter. Disneyland did meet with several autism groups and as of today the Disneyland website does have a new page regarding services for individuals with disabilities along with a specific area on cognitive disabilities with mention to autism spectrum disorder and ways the park can accommodate and work with families.

In order to receive the DAS card families will need to visit Guest Relations. They will explain the DAS card, a photo will be taken and the card issued. The individual will then go to a Kiosk and obtain a fastpass for the attractions they would like to go on and they will be told what time to return to get on the ride so there is no need to wait in line.

C. Draft Proposed Policy Guidelines Discussion

1. Purchase of Services (POS) Revisions
 - a. POS Statement
 - b. 0-3 Health Services
 - c. 0-3 Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy & Physical Therapy
 - d. Occupational Therapy
 - e. Health/Medical/Dental Services
 - f. Speech Therapy
 - g. Prescription Drugs
 - h. Behavioral Intervention Services
 - i. Counseling

The revised policies are broken down into two sections: (1) the nine POS revisions; and (2) an operational policy on Zero Tolerance.

POS Policies: The nine policies have been in effect for ELARC. The changes on the policies are shaded. The policies have been amended as a result of the June 27, 2013 Trailer Bill Language as it relates to co-pay and co-insurance. This resulted in amending the already existing and approved POS policies. All nine of the POS policies contain the same language.

Additionally as required in the 2013/14 contract between the Department of Developmental Services and Regional Centers, ELARC developed a policy on Zero Tolerance regarding Consumer Neglect and Abuse.

The process for approval on changes made to a Purchase of Services policy and procedure is to present a draft to the Board for their review and final approval after the closing of the public comment period. Once there is a motion to approve the revised policy by the Board, it is sent to DDS for their review and final approval.

A 30 day notice has been issued in order to allow for community input and comments to ELARC on the revised policies. The notice has been posted in the lobby of Alhambra and the Whittier office along with posting the policy on the internet. Comments from the public are due by October 27, 2013. All written comments will be considered and shared with the Board of Directors at the November 12, 2013 board meeting.

Felipe Hernandez was asked to briefly share with the Board changes made to the nine policies as a result of Trailer Bill Language.

Felipe focused his report on the Purchase of Services Policy Statement as the language added on page 3 (shaded) was added to the other nine policies. Felipe focused on the new language added to policies.

Suggestion: On page 3, line 10: following Federal Poverty Level and in parenthesis add FPL.

Board discussion focused on exception language to the various draft policies and on what constitutes a catastrophic loss. Felipe explained that the flexibility of the language allows the regional center to base decisions on a case by case basis. Gloria indicated that exceptions to policies are made at the supervisory level based on extenuating circumstances. Gloria suggested that an operational protocol be developed defining the exception practice for co-payments and co-insurance. Draft operational guideline will be presented at the November meeting.

The policies will be placed on the agenda for approval by the Board at the November 12th meeting. Once approved by the board of directors the policies will be forward to the Department of Developmental Services for final approval.

2. Operational Policy

a. Zero Tolerance

The California Legislature adopted various laws to protect all children, dependent adults, and elder adults from various types of abuse and neglect. Policy was developed as a requirement under Trailer Bill Language. The State wanted to ensure the service provider community develop a process for adhering to the "Zero Tolerance" outlined policy and practice.

The Community Services Division of ELARC is working on a presentation to the Vendor Advisory Committee. The training will focus on the details of what the regional center expects as part of the training process to vendor employees.

The Zero Tolerance policy will also be placed on the November 12th agenda for approval by the Board of Directors. The Zero Tolerance policy does not need to go to DDS for final approval as it is an operational policy.

D. Autism Legislative Package on Equity & Diversity

The Autism Legislative Package on Equity & Diversity developed by the Senate Select Committee on Autism and Related Disorders was shared with the Board of Directors and is also posted on the ELARC website. The six bills from the Autism Diversity Package have been approved by the Legislature and are pending the Governor's approval.

Gloria briefly reviewed the six bills: SB 158 (Correa), SB 367 (Block), SB 208 (Lara), AB 1231 (V.M. Perez) and AB 1232 (V.M. Perez).

E. Senate Bill (SB) 468

1. Bill Amendments 9/11/13

A copy of the latest version of SB 468 which incorporates the language amendments of September 11, 2013 was shared with the board.

SB 468 to date has not yet been signed by the Governor. Gloria reported that the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) has expressed significant concerns over the bill as it does not fund operational costs for implementation and its on-going operation.

2. ARCA Letter to Governor dates September 24, 2013

A copy of the letter to the Governor regarding SB 468 was distributed to the board for their information. Correspondence references SB 468 contains insufficient financial support for the service planning, case management, and resource development necessary to ensure the success of the program. The end result is an unfunded operations mandate which will add further financial strains to a currently underfunded operational budget. Ultimately it means diverting resources from other areas already strained with extra workload and limited resources.

F. Budget Status

1. Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14

The first comprehensive Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) is due to the Department of Developmental Services on November 15, 2013. To date ELARC has received the preliminary allocation and the first allocation for a total of \$150 million. The SOAR will project whether there is a surplus or a deficit. On the tenth of every month DDS will be provided with a month to month update.

There has been no need to use the line of credit. The invoices sent to DDS are being processed on a timely basis and are being paid in full.

Operations: The Budget Performance Report projects a deficit of \$790,703. ELARC has received most of the allocation with the exception of the Community Placement Plan (CPP) which is approximately \$1 million. Once the allocation is received an adjustment will be made to operations reflecting a slight surplus.

2. FY 2011-12

a. ELARC received the 11th Amendment for \$17,000 and the 2011-12 budget has been made whole.

3. FY 2012/13

A copy of the Monthly Sufficiency of Allocation (SOAR) for actual expenditures through June 2013 was distributed and reviewed. An allocation (A-6) in the amount of \$3 million was received but what is not funded to date is the Community Placement Plan resulting in a \$1 million deficit.

VI Consumer Services Report – Felipe Hernandez

Felipe Hernandez reported the following:

→ An outreach presentation in Spanish speaking group (UVAS) to was provided on September 6th. The intent of this meeting was to answer the twenty-nine questions which the parents put together and shared them with the regional center. For the most part the response was positive and parents appreciated the information provided. There was an issue regarding quality assurance in terms of having some concerns with providers. Parents proposed that a short satisfaction survey be developed and would be available to parents to complete on their service provider with the intention vendors would be more accountable to the family member/consumer in terms of the service being provided.

The group is also receiving training on the PICI program spearheaded by Mary Hosokawa, ELARC Educational Specialist. The group focuses on self-advocacy and finding ways to network with one another in finding solutions on issues that parents may have in the community or with regional center.

→ There are two mandatory staff trainings on October 15th with the Department of Children and Family Services regarding their system intake process, their case work requirements and child abuse reporting. On the afternoon of October 15th training will be provided by Dr. Ballmaier, a consulting psychologist with ELARC, who will discuss the changes in the DSMV regarding the terminology changes in terms of how assessments will be conducted based on the new terminology.

VII Committee Reports

A. Vendor Advisory Committee (Armando Villegas)

There was no report provided since Armando Villegas was unable to attend the board meeting.

B. Consumer Advisory Committee (Roman Castro)

Roman Castro, CAC representative, reported the next CAC is scheduled for November 19th from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. He also reported the CAC will have a training on "Relationships", part 2 on Thursday, November 10th from 1:00 to 3:30.

Roman also reported the CAC had a very successful outreach at the Almansor Center focusing on self-advocacy and upcoming training.

C. Family Advisory Committee (FAC) (Felicita Navera)

Gloria Wong reported the FAC meetings are held monthly and every other month alternating between AM and PM sessions. The current calendar was modified this fiscal year to alternate between a subject specific training session and a systems update presented by Gloria. This new approach has been a success. Some of the subjects have been addressed by ELARC staff based on the interest of the FAC participants.

The 2014 calendar has been developed. The Proposed 2014 FAC/Information Activities calendar was distributed and reviewed. Elizabeth Harrell reported they would also like to schedule presentations in the families native languages. Every quarter there would be a systems update by Gloria Wong with an opportunity to have a dialog also with Fely Navera, Board Representative. The sessions which have been scheduled are as follows: The first FAC meeting on January 8th will be the board representative, Felicita Navera and Gloria Wong. The presentation will include updates on the budget and ELARC issues and will also allow time for dialogue with both Feli and Gloria on topics identified by the Board or topics of interest by family members. The proposed 2014 Family Advisory/Information Activities were reviewed. There will be no meeting for the month of June. Liz Harrell reported for the last quarter the October 1st session will focus on "Understanding the Regional Center". The session will be presented in both English and Spanish. Time has not yet been determined.

Felicita stated the sessions planned for 2014 are a good opportunity for new parents coming into the system and the sessions are open to all.

Gloria emphasized the February 5th session at 4:00 P.M. will focus on housing since there is a very high interest on one subject. She reported there will an information session on accessing affordable housing on November 26, 2013 at 10:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. There will be a panel presentation. The session is open to consumers and families but particularly would like the vendor community to become more aware of housing.

Gloria also shared ELARC has an arrangement with two non-profit housing corporations who have developed the Community Placement Plan residential homes for the consumers being moved from the Lanterman Developmental Center.

Gloria reported ELARC is currently working with a non-profit housing corporation on a project in Eagle Rock with a blend of senior citizens, mental health consumers and the developmentally disabled. There will be segments of the apartments designated to each particular group. There are 56 units in total and 18 will be dedicated for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Gloria will plan a housing presentation to the board in 2014.

D. Finance/Personnel Committee (Terry Munoz & Bob Hazard)

1. Department of Developmental Services Audit: 9/30/13

The DDS auditors will began their audit on September 30th. The auditors will be at ELARC for approximately six to seven weeks.

2. Current Independent Audit (Lautze & Lautze)

The current independent auditors have completed their audit and will be meeting with the Finance Committee on November 4th to share the findings of their audit and to review the "990" form.

VIII Miscellaneous Announcements

There were no announcements.

IX Adjournment

M/S/C (Roman Castro/Anthony De La Rosa) There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by:

Felicitas Navera, Secretary

ELARC Board of Directors Secretary

Recorded by: Rosalie M. Estrada, Executive Assistant