



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
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**ELARC Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of January 13, 2015**

Approved February 10, 2015 as Corrected

Present:

Robert Hazard, President
Lida Chavez, Secretary
Anthony De La Rosa, Vice-Chairperson
Tony Borrego
Deborah Gallardo
Terry Munoz, Treasurer
Felicitas Navera
Theresa Chen
Armando Villegas, VAC Representative

Staff Present:

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

Absent:

Diane Lasell (excused)
Roman Castro, CAC Representative (excused)
Elias Fonseca (excused)

Guests:

Refer to sign-in Sheet

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I Welcome & Roll Call

The ELARC Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M. by Robert Hazard, President. A quorum was present to conduct necessary business.

II Introductions & Opening Round

The Board and guests were introduced.

III Community Input

Julie Eby-McKenzie, with Area Board 10 reported Roberta Newton, Executive Director, has assigned her to ELARC to attend board meetings and work with the Self-Determination committee.

IV Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes of November 18, 2014

Correction on Page 6: motion reads Felicitas Munoz, should be Felicitas Navera.

M/S/C (Terry Munoz/Lida Chavez) To approve the Minutes of November 18, 2014 as edited. Unanimous.

V. Executive Director's Report

Gloria Wong, Executive Director, wished all a very happy new year.

A. Grassroots Day: April 15, 2015

Ms. Wong stated at the October 2014 meeting she shared with the board a letter issued on October 27, 2014 and signed by eight legislators directed to Governor Brown. The letter was the result of public meetings held by Senator Beall in both Northern and Southern California. The hearings were held due to the deep cuts to the regional center system and the result from the hearings was the dire need to restore funds to the vendor community and regional center operations. The letter recommended the Governor include in his preliminary budget issued on January 9, 2015 the restoration of funds to the system, unfortunately the Governor's budget did not address this critical issue.

In March budget hearings will begin and in May the Governor will release his May Revision Budget.

The plan of action is to launch an aggressive campaign to educate ELARC legislators. To this end ELARC will be working with our community in recruiting participants willing to meet with their legislators at the local level and the Capitol (Sacramento). The one day event in Sacramento is coordinated by the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA). The event has been scheduled for April 15, 2015. All regional centers are being asked to develop a local delegation to attend the day long event plus also attend a preparation meeting on April 14, 2015. The unified position has two components:

(1) A 10% restoration of past reductions to service providers and to regional center operations.

(2) Every subsequent fiscal year after 2015-16 there is to be a 5% continuous annual adjustment to service providers and regional center operations until such time as there is a completed assessment resulting in needed funding reforms to adequately fund the regional center system.

The intent behind the aggressive campaign at the local level is to extend ongoing support to the eight (8) legislators that undersigned the letter to Governor Brown on October 27, 2014 asking for a restoration of funds. These eight legislators will need the support of their constituency to convince other legislators of the crisis in our system and the necessity to act decisively and vote for action in the upcoming March 2015 budget hearings.

The ELARC draft delegation proposal was distributed and discussed.

Informational material was distributed to the Board: (1) 2015 Grass Roots Delegation proposals; (2) a reminder card to be left with legislators after visit; (3) information regarding the Legislative Workshops; (4) partnering with Your Legislator To Make a Difference; (5) a list of ELARC's State Representatives.

ELARC Community Services Division is organizing and planning all the details surrounding Grass Root Day events. The two primary staff conducting activities for ELARC will be Roxy Ortiz and Liz Harrell. Ms. Ortiz will be the point of contact for scheduling and conducting the legislative workshops. Ms. Harrell will be attending the Sacramento event along with other ELARC staff to assist participants on the activities.

Legislative Workshops:

Workshops are scheduled for 1/29, 2/18, 3/23 and 4/8 in Alhambra. A flyer with the dates and times was distributed. If the four dates are not feasible, contact Roxy and she will make a personal appointment. There will be training on how to write your personal story, one page profile and details of what to expect at the visit. A packet will be provided with ARCA material with information on the talking stories. The other material will be ELARC's Community Report, personal stories, data on ELARC. Legislative workshops are open to the public. All information will be updated as needed.

ELARC staff who have family members served by regional center will also be participating in Grass Roots Day and will be teaming up with parents/consumers. Teams will be developed. Roxy along with the other 20 regional centers will be working with ARCA in setting up the appointments. Regional Center staff will be present to support families/consumers in Sacramento.

Local visits will also be scheduled with state representatives or their aides. These visits are more relaxed, normally will get more time to visit with their aides.

The ELARC Community Report this year will focus on personal stories and will be ready for dissemination the date of the event, April 15, 2015. It will be dedicated to legislative efforts by families and consumers. Additionally thank you cards will be sent with a follow-up letter.

The ELARC webpage will be updated to include an overview of the Governor's proposed budget for 2015-'16. Additionally the legislative "tab" on the website will include information on legislators in the ELARC area and promote the need to meet legislators to influence a positive outcome on the FY 2015-'16 budget.

As the overwhelming majority of Board members have expressed an interest and have committed to being part of the Grass Roots Day in Sacramento, the April 14, 2015 board meeting will be cancelled. Board members have expressed an interest in participating in both local and Sacramento activities. Armando Villegas, Vendor Advisory Committee (VQAC) Chair will announce the various activities at the upcoming VAC meeting and encourage service providers to disseminate information to their families/consumers.

M/S/C (Tony Borrego/Lida Chavez) To cancel the April Board of Directors Meeting in order to allow board members to participate in Grass Roots Day. Unanimous.

Information regarding the cancellation of the April Board Meeting will be posted and placed on the ELARC website and information will be shared at the advisory

committees meetings. The website will speak to the importance of this event where board members will be part of the delegation in Sacramento.

Ms. Wong stated that ARCA is developing another document to be shared with legislators at upcoming visits. The report is still in draft form but should be finalized within the month. The working title is "On the Brink of Collapse".

Ms. Wong thanked the board for their commitment.

B. Purchase of Services (POS) Data Report 2013-'14

1. POS Data Report

Ms. Wong reported that this is the third year regional centers have been required to compile POS data which analyzes expenditures by ethnicity, age, diagnosis, language and residence type. Over the last three years the report has been expanded. Current additions to the report are based on "insurance" related data.

The report was posted on a timely manner by ELARC on December 30, 2014. There were data errors noted after initial posting, which required report revisions and re-posting on January 12, 2015. Reasons for encountering difficulties and late corrections includes: receipt of original raw data from DDS on December 29, 2014, the errors were mainly with the new section "insurance data", the errors required unanticipated software program updates resulting in the second posting on January 12, 2015.

Additionally, there have been some amendments to SB 1093. Such changes prohibit regional centers from conducting POS DATA meetings in conjunction with Board meetings and furthermore it states that meetings are to be scheduled at times and locations designed to increase attendance.

ELARC is holding four public meetings to review the POS data with our community. The first session is scheduled for February 25th, from 10:00 A.M. to Noon at Headquarters and at 5:30 P.M. in Whittier at Palm Park. There is another meeting scheduled in partnership with Fiesta Educativa on March 7th from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at the El Arca Auditorium. For the fourth session ELARC will partner with the Chinese Parents Association on March 21st from 12:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. at the Asian Youth Center in San Gabriel. Case management supervisors will be part of the community meetings.

Dr. Barbara Wheeler, who is affiliated with USC Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, has been used by both Fiesta Educativa and the Chinese Parents Association for trainings and presentations. In preparation for the ELARC meetings Dr. Wheeler will be conducting independent preparatory sessions with parents in advance of ELARC meetings.

The POS Data Report will be reviewed at the February Board Meeting.

C. Budget Update

1. Fiscal Year 2013-'14

ELARC is still reporting a deficit of \$29,000.

Ms. Wong reported the Director of Developmental Services, Santi Rogers, was involved in a skiing accident and broke his collar bone and will be out of the office for at least a month maybe two.

2. Fiscal Year 2014-'15

The A-2 amendment for fiscal year 2014-'15 was distributed to the Board for their information.

POS Update: The POS Projection Summary was distributed and reviewed. After completing the first full analysis (Sufficiency of Allocation Report /SOAR) there is a projected deficit of a low of \$13,968,752 to a high of \$15,499,698.

Statewide all regional centers are reporting a deficit totaling \$344 million. The Summary of Regional Center Expenditure Projection Report as of December 10, 2014 was distributed and reviewed.

OPS Update: The Budget Performance Report was reviewed. The balance in operations is \$590,372. Staff remains on a reduced work schedule due to cuts in operations. Currently staff work 78 hours versus 80 hours in a two week pay-period. Ms. Wong would like to reinstate the full 40 hour weekly schedule, funding permitting, during the last quarter of the fiscal year. To reinstate the additional two hours per pay period would cost approximately \$345,000 per year.

The Caseload Survey is due to DDS by March 1st. No regional center has met the required caseload ratios. A preliminary review of the ELARC caseload has been completed. ELARC is meeting the developmental center ratio which is 1:45. For Medi-Caid Waiver will need to hire four service coordinators. Early Start currently meeting the required ratio. Finally, the general caseload ratio requirement (1:66) is not being met and will necessitate hiring approximately ten (10) service coordinators. Based on OPS balance there are insufficient funds to meet the required ratios in two categories.

D. Self-Determination(SD)

Ms. Wong reported the SD application was submitted by DDS to the Center for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) by the required deadline, December 31, 2014. CMS has 90 days in which to respond. There are three potential outcomes: (1) approval; (2) denial; (3) request modifications to the submitted application which will restart the 90 days countdown.

Despite the submittal of the application the DDS committee on SD will continue to meet and work on outstanding issues such as: training and orientation material, development

of fiscal management agencies, consumer selection criteria and process, and the establishment of the local advisory committees.

The project will be limited to 2,500 SD participants statewide in the first three years. ELARC will have approximately 100 participants. ELARC currently has 26 consumers in the original pilot. Therefore ELARC will add only 74 additional participants. After three years SD will be an available option for all consumers. Regional Centers will be developing a method in identifying interested participants. DDS will ultimately decide on participants based on a random selection process by using the "interest" list developed by regional centers.

E. Centers for Medi-Care and Med-Caid Services

Attachment #12, is a description of the new regulations. The statewide transition plan will assist in complying with the home and community-based non-residential setting regulation requirements. The deadline in modifying services to meet the new rule is March 17, 2019.

The Association of Regional Centers (ARCA) has responded to the Draft Statewide Transition dated December 5, 2014. The letter was reviewed and discussed.

F. Request for Proposal Announcement

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on December 15, 2014, for the development of residential resources under the Community Placement Plan (CPP). There will be interviews conducted and ranking of the proposals. Once a selection is made it will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

G. Performance Contract 2015 Approval Letter from DDS

Correspondence was received from DDS approving the Performance Contract for 2015. A copy of the letter was shared with the Board.

VI Consumer Services Report

Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services reported on the following:

(1) Regulations have changed in order to expand the use of Independent Living Skills ILS. Consumers will now be able to access ILS if living in the family home. Regional Centers have primarily used the service for consumers who are not living in the family home. POS Policy will be updated to reflect the change in the law.

(2) In January Pacific Clinics will be hosting a training on Mental Health First Aid. Regional Centers service coordinators are not trained counselors and do not provide direct services but can be better equipped to deal with mental health services especially as it relates to after hours.

(3) Currently exploring a program in Northern California, Turning Point, which provides crisis teams for evening and weekends. It is an expensive program. They indicated they would be willing to serve as consultants to any other program in Southern California interested in developing a component similar to their program.

VIII Committee Reports

A schedule of all advisory committee meetings and the board meetings was distributed.

A. Consumer Advisory Report

There was no CAC report as Roman Castro was not present.

B. Family Advisory Committee

Liz Harrell reported the FAC met in January and Felipe Hernandez and Gerard Torres were presenters on Mental Health Crisis and the role of the on-call supervisor at ELARC. The turn out for this session was low but there was good dialogue. There was a power point presentation and it can viewed on the ELARC website. The next session in February will be a business meeting; in March there will be an information session on multi-faith and spirituality. The presenters will be Veronica Valenzuela, Supervisor and Lara Linneman, Service Coordinator whop have been working with a small committee on this subject.

The ELARC U closed its final session and certificates of completion were given out. This year the ELARC U will be presented in Spanish along with a "Family Forum" later in the year on a Saturday for those parents who can not come to sessions during the week.

Feli Navera, Board Member, reported the parents who attended the ELARC U are raving about the sessions they attended.

She also indicated she wishes that more parents would have attended the last FAC meeting. There was a lot of information, Gerard Torres reported on mental health issues for children growing into adolescence. Mr. Torres also shared with the FAC the regional centers have a liaison at Twin Towers. The individual represents all Los Angeles County Regional Centers (RC) and is responsible for monitoring cases and determining if there are any existing regional center consumers and notify the appropriate center. Additionally the RC representative identifies potential consumers not registered with regional centers.

Felipe Hernandez provided information on the On-call supervisor which was also very informative. There was discussion regarding crisis calls and calling 911. Mr. Hernandez *reported* a number of the calls which come in after hours are not emergencies but rather consumers/parents wanting to know why they didn't get their check *and* when will they receive it.

Ms. Navera stated she would like to have this session re: Mental Health repeated in the future.

C. Vendor Advisory Committee

Armando Villegas, VAC Representative, reported the vendors had their last meeting late November at which time Self-Determination was discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for January 22nd and will be accepting nominations for Chair and Co-Chair and Secretary. He also reported there has been a very low turn out at meetings.

Armando would like to schedule the presentation done by Felipe Hernandez and Gerard Torres on Mental Health Crisis and the role of the on-call supervisor at ELARC in a future meeting.

D. Finance/Personnel Committee

There was no Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting.

VIII Miscellaneous Announcements

Bob Hazard shared he attended a Self-Determination Meeting at the Fairview Developmental Center.

IX Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

M/S/C (Anthony De La Rosa/Lida Chavez) To adjourn to general board meeting. Unanimous.

X. Executive Session

The executive session was cancelled and will be rescheduled for the February Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Original Signed by Lida Chavez

Lida Chavez, ELARC Board of Directors Secretary

Recorded by: Rosalie Estrada, Executive Assistant

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