



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER

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**ELARC Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of March 10, 2015
Approved as Corrected May 12, 2015**

Present:

Robert Hazard, President
Lida Chavez, Secretary
Terry Munoz, Treasurer
Theresa Chen
Diane Lasell
Felicitas Navera
Elias Fonseca
Armando Villegas, VAC Representative
Anthony De La Rosa, Vice-Chair
Tony Borrego

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
Felipe Hernandez, Chief of
Consumer Services
Eleanor Johns, HR, Recruitment &
Benefits Coordinator

Absent:

Deborah Gallardo (excused)
Roman Castro, CAC Representative (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 6:09 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 Nomination Committee

The slate of officers was presented in February and there are no changes.

*Robert Hazard, President
Anthony De La Rosa, Vice-Chairperson
Terry Munoz, Treasurer
Lida Chavez, Secretary*

**M/S/C (Diane Lasell/Tony Borrego) To approve the slate of officers as presented.
Unanimous.**

IV Community Input

Julie Eby-McKenzie, Liaison from the State Council on Disabilities shared a flyer which describes how the State Council Regional Offices have changed, their new names and addresses.

V Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes of the BOD Meeting on February 10, 2015

Terry Munoz noted some minor changes.

M/S/C (Terry Munoz/Felicitas Navera) To approve the Minutes of February 10, 2015 with the minor amendments. Unanimous.

B. Minutes of Executive Session of February 10, 2015

M/S/C (Terry Munoz/Lida Chavez) To approve the Minutes of the Executive Session of February 10, 2015 as recorded. Unanimous.

VI. Executive Director's Report

A. Legislative Activity Update

As was discussed and approved information regarding the cancellation of the April Board of Directors Meeting has been posted and placed on the ELARC website and information has been shared with the committees. The website will speak to the importance of this event and that the various board members will be part of the delegation in Sacramento.

Ms. Wong reported in February ARCA began meeting with the legislators, sharing with them the various historical reports which have been shared with the Board. During the week of March 9th Senate Hearings will be conducted. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) testified at the Assembly Hearings. ARCA has also being asked to testify at additional panel presentations of the Assembly. There are a total of seven panels, one in particular is on the purchase of services equity issue and Ms. Wong has been asked to testify on this issue in Sacramento.

At the local level, visits have been made with assembly and senate representatives. On February 26th, Armando Villegas met with district representative Yahairs Ortiz for Senator Tony Mendoza. There was also a visit with Senator Calderon's district director Jordan Brandman. Ms. Wong reported both Senator Mendoza and Senator Calderon have agreed to sign off on the letter to Senator Beall.

On March 11th, Terry Munoz and Diane Lasell are scheduled to meet with the field representative Darla Dyson for Assemblyman Cris Holden. On March 13th Felicitas Navera will meet with the senior field Deputy Medrano for Senator Kevin de Leon.

The report "On the Brink of Collapse" was shared with the Board and will be distributed to all legislators.

The report speaks to the billion dollar reduction to the system over a five year period and the devastating consequences to service providers and regional center operations.

It emphasizes the criticality of restoring these funds. The proposal calls for a 10% restoration of the cuts in Fiscal Year 2015-'16. Furthermore there needs to be a comprehensive analysis of how the regional center is funded and the implementation of needed corrections to sustain the community services system. It is expected that completion of this task will take several years and as such the position calls for a 5% restoration of funds in subsequent years, beyond 2015-'16, until study is completed.

The testimonies provided by ARCA to the Assembly Committee on the budget was shared with the Board.

Ms. Wong thanked those board members who have already made their local visits and knows their efforts will continue at the ARCA Grassroots Day on April 15th.

B. Budget Update

1. Fiscal Year 2014-'15

POS Update: ELARC received the A-3 budget allocation in the amount of approximately \$4 million, lowering the POS deficit to a high of \$9.5 million to a low of \$8.6 million.

Statewide there remains a \$9 million deficit. DDS has notified the legislature of the statewide deficit.

OPS Update: The Budget Performance Report was reviewed. The balance in Operations is \$551,321. Staff remains on a reduced work schedule due to cuts in operations. Staff currently work 78 hours versus 80 hours in a two week pay-period. Ms. Wong stated she would like to reinstate the full 40 hour weekly schedule and was looking toward the last quarter of the fiscal year but will wait until the first quarter of the new fiscal year to ensure continuation of funding.

Caseload Ratio: The caseload survey was submitted on March 1st. Ms. Wong reviewed the report. There are five categories: Medi-Caid Waiver Caseload, should be at a 1:62 ratio; for age 36 months and under the required ratio is 1:62 for the Early Start caseload; Consumers who have moved out of the developmental centers for more than a year should be at 1:62; Consumers who have moved out of the developmental centers under a one year the caseload must be at 1:45; Any caseload which does not fall into any of the above referenced should be a 1:66 caseload ratio.

ELARC does not meet the required caseload ratios:

	<i>Required Caseload Ratio</i>	<i>ELARC Current</i>
Medi-Caid Waiver cases	1:62	1:73
Age 36 months and under	1:62	1:59
Moved from DC for more than 12 months	1:62	1:45
Moved from DC within last 12 months	1:45	1:24
All Others	1:66	1:79

Based on the current OPS balance there are insufficient funds to hire service coordinators to meet the required caseloads in two categories.

2. Governor’s Proposed Budget 2015-‘16

The ARCA correspondence to Honorable Tony Thurmond, Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget, Subcommittee “1” regarding the Governor’s 2015-16 proposed budget was shared with the Board. The May Revise should be issued the second week in May. At this time there is expectation of changes in the Governor’s position on the regional center system.

3. Purchase of Services Data Report FY 2013-‘14

Three community meetings have been conducted to date. The first two meetings were held on the same day, one daytime and one evening session. Attendance was low. At Alhambra there were approximately 5 in attendance in the morning and in the evening 5 were present. Bob Hazard attended the evening session.

Attendance at the Whittier session was also low, 3 or 4 were in attendance.

Ms. Wong reported even though the attendance was low, there was a good exchange of information. A different approach was used for the meetings. The purpose of the meeting was discussed along with an introduction and discussion on the different drivers that affects expenditure patterns. A new approach was added this year, which posed six different questions to the audience in an effort to engage audiences participation and to derive their perspective on why disparity exists.

At the Saturday Fiesta Educativa meeting there was good discussion and good input. There were approximately 47 parents at this meeting. There was a high level of interest on the part of the parents. The questions for ELARC were developed by Fiesta Educativa parents and were addressed by a panel. There were three supervisors from consumer services and Felipe Hernandez answered the questions. The session was scheduled to end at 12 Noon but the meeting ended at 1:30P.M. It was an outstanding success.

The general comments from the parents were that they would like more training and were very impressed with the meeting.

The community meeting with the Chinese Parents Association on Saturday, March 21st in San Gabriel. The same format will be used, to date ELARC has not received their questions.

A copy of the power point presented at the community meetings was shared with the Board.

C. DDS Audit Review

DDS monitoring review will begin on April 13, 2015. The team from DDS along with representatives from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will conduct a review of the Home and Community-Based services (HCBS)S Waiver, Targeted Case Management and Nursing Home Reform programs. The audit will take approximately two weeks.

Ms. Wong reported ELARC has been notified that on March 23rd the Bureau of State Audits (BSA) will be conducting an audit of ELARC cases. BSA audits the Department of Developmental Services and part of the current audit calls for random local visits to regional centers to assess how regional centers are implementing “the least costly” services as outlined in statute. Five regional centers have been selected, including ELARC. There will be a random case review and the audit process is expected to last for approximately one week.

D. Self-Determination (SD)

The application was submitted to the Center for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) on December 31, 2014. They have 90 days from the date submitted in which to respond. There are three potential outcomes: (1) approval; (2) denial; (3) request modifications to the submitted application which could restart the 90 day clock. There was a delay according to CMS due to DDS not posting the information for the community on this proposal. Therefore the 90 days has started again.

DDS committee on SD continues to meet and work on outstanding issues such as training and orientation material, the development of fiscal management agencies, consumer selection criteria and process. The selection process of 2,500 will be done by regional centers who will be conducting community outreach sessions. From these outreach sessions there will be an interest list developed by each regional center. The list will be sent to DDS who ultimately decide on participants based on a random selection process.

DDS is developing a video approximately four minutes long about self-determination services and will be presented to consumers and families. Once the video is completed it will be posted on the website of all twenty-one regional centers.

Additionally within the next three months a local advisory committee will be established. Area Board has selected four candidates and ELARC will select another four individuals for the local advisory committee. Roberta Newton, Executive Director of Area Board 10 will be retiring in June. Once the local advisory committee is established meetings will be scheduled to plan the outreach meetings.

D. Board Training

Ms. Wong indicated she would like to defer the discussion on planning for a board training until the May meeting. Training will be for all members of the board.

VI Consumer Services Report

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

Outreach/Montebello High School: A meeting was scheduled for parents at Montebello High School. Mr. Hernandez reported he noticed the process for obtaining information by the transition classroom appeared limited. The regional center will make an effort to ensure information is available for future events when ELARC is invited.

Risk Management Committee: There has been discussion among the regional centers regarding the variances in the winter and summer. On occasion there have been homes with out of order air-conditioning and regional center will intervene to ensure the problem is corrected quickly to keep consumers safe. Staff and interns from local community colleges will be assigned to visit and check homes before serious issues occur during heat waves or cold weather.

Resources: Both Community Services and Consumers Services have been working on developing resources for the under 3 year child for therapeutic services. ELARC is looking into finding community sites where individual licensed providers may set up an office to work with children, making it more convenient for parents and safer for the therapists.

VII Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee

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

B. Family Advisory Committee

Felicitas Navera reported Veronica Valenzuela, Supervisor and Laura Linnenman presented at the last FAC meeting on the topic of Multi-Faith and Spirituality. The Multi-Faith Committee is reaching out to parents and is reaching out to leaders of the churches to be more open to children with disabilities.

C. Vendor Advisory Committee

Armando Villegas, VAC Representative, reported Roxy Ortiz, Community Services Specialist, provided a brief presentation on Grass Roots Day scheduled for April 15, 2015.

VAC elections will close on Thursday, April 12th. Armando indicated he will complete his term as Vendor Representative on March 26, 2015. He indicated there are two great candidates for the VAC representative.

An adult career and resource fair is scheduled for next month.

The VAC meets on the 4th Thursday of the month; there is no meeting in August or December.

D. Finance/Personnel Committee

There was no Finance/Personnel Committee meeting

VIII Miscellaneous Announcements

March of Dimes Walk is scheduled for April 25th.

IX Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the general board meeting was adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

M/S/C (Diane Lasell/Felicitas Navera) To adjourn the General Board Meeting at 8:05 p.m. Unanimous.

Original signed by Lida Chavez, Secretary

Lida Chavez, ELARC Board of Directors Secretary

Recorded by: Eleanor Johns, HR Recruitment & Benefits Coordinator

Transcribed by: Rosalie Estrada, Executive Assistant

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