



✓ EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
 1000 S. Fremont Ave. • P.O. Box 7916 • Alhambra, CA 91802-7916
 (626) 299-4700 • FAX (626) 281-1163

ELARC Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of March 11, 2014
Approved April 8, 2014

Present:

Terry Munoz, President
 Felicitas Navera, Secretary
 Lida Chavez
 Jiang Guo
 Anthony De La Rosa
 Deborah Gallardo
 Theresa Chen, Treasurer
 Robert Hazard, Vice Chairperson
 Tony Borrego

Staff Present:

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

Absent:

Elias Fonseca (excused)
 Armando Villegas (excused)
 Roman Castro, CAC (excused)

Guests:

Refer to Sign-In Sheet

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 share a positive experience.

III Nominating Committee

A. Slate of Officers

The slate of officers for the Executive Committee was presented.

M/S/C (Theresa Chen/Felicitas Navera) To approve the Slate of Officers as presented: Robert Hazard, President; Anthony De La Rosa, Vice-President; Terry Munoz, Treasurer; Lida Chavez, Secretary. Unanimous.

B. Conflict of Interest Statement

The board was given the Annual Conflict of Interest for completion and were asked to return the document to Rosalie Estrada as soon as possible.

C. Whistleblower Statement

The board was given the Annual Whistleblower Statement for completion and were asked to return the document to Rosalie Estrada as soon as possible.

IV Opening Round (Refer to Introductions above)

V Community Input

Chala Jitpatima, parent, reported she had the opportunity to attend the California Consortium for High Education at UCLA for individuals with intellectual disabilities. She reported the conference was well organized and was very informative. She reported there were representatives from various school districts and there were representatives from regional centers who were part of the speakers. Chala reported she spoke with Larry Landeau from Regional Center of Orange County and a Ms. Miller from San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center regarding “tailored day services” a term she has not heard before. They suggested she contact her service coordinator regarding the tailored day services as every regional center operates differently but should offer “tailored day services.” She was also referred to the Lanterman Act, Section 4688 which references education and employment.

Felipe Hernandez indicated any service request must go through the service coordinator and if he/she is not familiar with the tailored day services they should go to their supervisor and then community services. He reported ELARC does a few cases where “tailored day services” in place or it is being together at the IPP process. This replaces the traditional day program that essentially is directed in getting employment and not just a day program.

Chala also reported there was discussion on higher education, employment and Taft College for students with disabilities and works closely with North L.A. Regional Center.

Chala also stated she would like ELARC to work closely with the Lift Program at Alhambra High School in order to motivate the students to seek job placement.

Debbie Gallardo, Board Member, added she would like additional information on the Lift Program and would like to visit the program.

VI Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes of February 11, 2014

Minor typographical errors were noted and corrected.

M/S/C (Anthony De La Rosa/Robert Hazard) To approve the Board Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2014 as corrected. Unanimous.

B. Minutes of Executive Session of February 11, 2014

M/S/C (Robert Hazard/Anthony De La Rosa) To approve the Minutes of Executive Session of January 14, 2014 as recorded. Unanimous.

VII Executive Director’s Report

A. 2012-13 Purchase of Services (POS) Data

Gloria Wong reported the 2012-'13 Purchase of Services Data report was posted on the ELARC website by the required deadline of December 31, 2014. This is the second year regional centers were required to produce this report. The report reflects how the Purchase of Services (POS) funds are distributed by ethnicity. All twenty-one regional centers report their data using the same format.

The current year report (FY 2012-'13) has been expanded by eleven pages.

1. Community Meeting February 20th Agenda

Regional Centers are required to conduct a community meeting no sooner than 30 days after posting the POS data. Community meetings were held on February 20, 2014 both in Whittier and in Alhambra. The Alhambra morning session was well attended. There were quite a few family members from the Chinese Parent Association. The Alhambra session was a full two hours session. There were good commentaries on the part of families. At the Whittier meeting, held in the evening, there were five participants, two consumers and two vendors, and an individual who is associated with a vendor at the Whittier site. No parents were present at the Whittier meeting..

Gloria shared the agenda for the community meetings and reported she shared background information and the purpose of the report. The mandate was a result of articles in the Los Angeles Times a few years back about the variance on POS expenditures. The legislature conducted hearings resulting in Trailer Bill Language (TBL), one of the actions resulted in the mandated development of the Purchase of Services Data Report.

The philosophy of the Lanterman Act was discussed at the community meetings as it relates to the regional center service system and what the report is attempting to achieve. The regional center services are based on an entitlement concept, there is no other state in the nation which has entitlement to services based on need and not on the distribution of dollars. There are approximately 10,840 consumers receiving services at ELARC at the time of this report (FY 2012-'13).

The Individual Program Plan (IPP) is driven by the needs of consumers. The cost of those services will vary dependent on the specific service needs of the individual. Funds are not the determinant factor for developing IPP objectives. No two IPP's are exactly alike reflecting the emphasis on individuality. The variances on the POS per capita is a reflection of the diverse needs of individual consumers.

Discussion centered on the POS data report page one, "Total Annual Expenditures and Authorized Services by Ethnicity". The three primary ethnic groups for ELARC are:

- (1) Hispanic = 7,665 consumers
- (2) Asian = 1,156 consumers
- (3) White = 1,148 consumers

The per capita, or average cost per consumers breaks down as follows:

- (1) Hispanic = \$10,869. This reflects an increase of 3.2% in expenditures from previous report.
- (2) Asian = \$12,032, a slight decrease from last report of .38%.
- (3) White = \$26,111, an increase of 12.81% from last report.

A significant factor for this wide cost variance is based on the use of residential services as an option by families/consumers. Residential services is a 24/7 form of services,

resulting in the most costly services funded by the regional center. There is a substantial difference in the use of residential services based on ethnicity. Of the 1,148 white ethnic group, there is an out-of-home placement rate of 39%. In contrast of the Hispanic ethnic group, 7,665 consumers which accounts for a placement rate of 5% of the total Hispanic population. This fundamental and critical difference resulting from individualized self-selection of service options, must be taken into account when comparing POS expenditures by ethnicity.

A proposed change that will likely increase the cost differential is the projected placement date of June 30, 2014 for all ELARC consumers moving out of Lanterman Developmental Center (LDC). In addition ELARC has accepted 18 non-ELARC consumers to be placed into ELARC's catchment area. The monthly cost of these highly specialized residential options for LDC consumers are significantly more costly than the currently used residential options.

Potential solutions to minimize the gap in cost variances were discussed:

(1) Restoration of currently "prohibited services" (i.e.) social recreation programs, camps, increasing respite hours. These services were of particular value to the Hispanic and Asian ethnic groups.

(2) Self-Determination: An alternative form of service coordination allowing for greater flexibility in the use of services.

A disadvantage to the Self-Determination program (SB 468) for the purpose of connecting the POS differences is that the budget must be based on the previous twelve months for each individual. Additionally, the use of support services such as a fiscal agent and broker, which will have an associated cost, must be absorbed into the existing twelve month budget.

2. PowerPoint Presentation

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation used at the community meetings was shared with the Board and used for purposes of discussion. .

B. Budget Update

1. Fiscal Year 2013-14

a) Contract Amendment: E-3 Allocation

The E-3 allocation from DDS was received. A copy was shared with the Board.

b) Monthly POS Report

Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) was distributed and reviewed. ELARC is projecting a POS deficit ranging from a high of \$7,129,179 to a low of \$6,383,300, even after receiving the E-3 allocation.

c) Cash Flow Update

Gloria reported DDS has been advising the regional centers of a potential cash flow problem. The last claim submitted to DDS was funded at 100%. The last quarter of the year, April, May and June, DDS will begin to offset the claims based on the 25% advance issued at the start of the fiscal year. If the regional center receives 50% of the claims for April, May and June, June, ELARC is projecting running about \$2 million short by mid-June. ELARC will need to use its line of credit in the amount of \$2 million in mid June.

d) Budget Performance Report: Operations Report

The Budget Performance Report was briefly reviewed. Currently there is a surplus of \$473,808 which includes a projected savings for the renewed Alhambra lease. Legal expenses related to lease negotiations is not reflected in the surplus.

2. Fiscal Year 2014-15

a) Budget Hearing Update

Budget hearings began in March. ARCA has developed two position papers on the inadequate funding for service providers which focuses on the POS budget and secondly funding the work of California regional centers focusing on operations. These two reports are being circulated among the legislators.

b) Grass Roots Day Event

Felicitas Navera reported she will be going to Sacramento with the ELARC delegation. A position paper has been developed to assist the delegation with talking points and how there needs to be a restoration to past cuts. The event participants includes the Association of Regional Center Agencies and the Lanterman Coalition which includes providers such as Easter Seals, The ARC, Disability Rights California, UCP, California Respite Association, Autism Speaks, CAL TASH, SEIU. All have similar points they are trying to advance to the legislature and one of them has to do with the need for a 5% allocation to regional centers and vendors.

C. Community Report

1. 2011-12 Fiscal Year

A copy of the 2011-12 Fiscal Year Community Report was redistributed for new board members. The report highlights consumers and their special interests.

2. 2012-13 Fiscal Year

The new community report for 2012-13 was received and distributed. The report is done on a calendar year basis. This report focuses on six ELARC consumers, three of whom are artists, and two musicians one who wants to be in the entertainment field. The focus is the six individuals and how they are perusing their goals.

D. Lease Updates

1. Alhambra

Lease negotiations continue, ELARC is paying full rent at the Alhambra site until the new lease is signed. It is anticipated that the negotiations will be completed in approximately two weeks.

2. Whittier

Negotiations continue and it has been more difficult than anticipated due to a change in management. The lease expires at the end of June 2014. Goal is to have the contract by May for approval by the Board.

E. 2014 Board & Advisory Meetings

A flyer listing all upcoming Board and Advisory Committees dates and times was distributed.

VIII Consumer Services Report

Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services reported the following:

✓ He also attended the California Consortium on Higher Education for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (as did Chala Jitpatima). The consortium, which is mainly composed of higher level educators, individuals who are part of the provider community and regional center representatives has been meeting for many years to develop ideas for getting individuals with disabilities more involved with higher education such as two and four year colleges with non credit classes. The purpose is to have individuals continue to receive educational opportunities and exposure to different types of training and education which would assist them in finding jobs which are more meaningful.

There was also discussion on Employment First, a law which was recently passed and also AB 86 which provides money for consortiums or groups, colleges and local community members to work together primarily on education to come up with suggestions to get people to maximize educational opportunities.

One program which has been very active in the Whittier area is the Whittier Union High School District. Richard Rosenberg, Executive Director, has been involved in this process for a number of years in terms ideas, symposiums, seminars. Mr. Rosenberg is a well-respected individual and ELARC has had an affiliation with him for many years.

The State and the Federal government is expecting the regional centers to be at the forefront in developing educational opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

✓ DDS Safety.Net

DDS has developed a website which contains information about safety awareness related to health, safety in every day life.

✓ ELARC has recently added two new service coordinators who are Spanish speaking. Due to the high number of caseloads in Whittier cases are being shifted to the Alhambra site.

✓ There is a statewide movement by autism parent groups to develop congregate types of sites (condominiums, or apartments) in their community for their sons/daughters to live. There are already several sites scattered in Orange County. It is an assisted living building which was converted into living arrangements for their sons or daughters. Regional Centers are expressing their concerns and at this point don't know how they are going to deal with these situations in the future.

IX Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee

Roman Castro was not present, therefore there was not report.

B. Family Advisory Committee

Felicitas Navera reported the last meeting was well attended and very interesting. Gerard Torres, Supervisor presented on mental health services . Gerard shared he is the regional center contact with the Department of Mental Services (DMS). ELARC interfaces with DMS to provide information on the types of services they provide. The parents are realizing when their children reach adolescence they see their child experience behavioral issues, explosive outbursts and become out of control so that the parent is unable to control them and feel helpless. Parents are seeking information on the steps to take when a situation arise that their child is out of control. Parents requested that another meeting regarding mental health services be scheduled to continue their discussion on mental health services and use of the PET and PMRT and steps which can be taken to prevent mental health outbursts.

Anthony De La Rosa stated he works at a local hospital and the majority of nurses and physicians are not fully aware of developmental disabilities. Very few of them know regional centers and the hospital has one physician a former board member, Dr. Jonathan Chien, who practices in their facility. Anthony indicated he was surprised when he polled the number physicians and nurses, very few of them had knowledge of developmental disabilities.

Anthony reported last year he had the opportunity to attend a seminar on autism. He asked if anyone has any resources they would like to share that could provide information on the disabilities to please contact him. Since April is Autism Awareness month he will have another session on Autism at the hospital.

C. Vendor Advisory Committee

Armando Villegas was not present, therefore there was no report.

D. Finance/Personnel Committee

There was no meeting of the Finance/Personnel.

X. Miscellaneous

✓ Bob Hazard shared with the BOD a brief report "Plan for the Future of Developmental Centers in California is Submitted to the Legislature". Attention was given to the statement which indicates there is a moratorium and are no longer accepting consumers in the developmental centers. Attention was also given to Recommendation #2 which states for individuals with challenging behavior and support needs, the State

should operate at least two acute crisis facilities (like the program at Fairview Developmental Center) and small transitional facilities. Funding should be made available so that regional centers can expand mobile crisis response teams, crisis hotlines, day programs, short-term crisis homes, new-model behavioral homes, and supported living services for those consumers transitioning to their own home.

Gloria stated unfortunately regional centers have lost the ability to receive start-up funds for new services in the community. The only money received from DDS is for the Community Placement Plan.

Another recommendation is to have a task force convene to address how to make the community system stronger.

✓ ARCA Aggregate POS Data – All Regional Centers

The report focuses on POS data as it related to residence type. The report details how much is spent in the various categories. The data shows that statewide, 8% of all the consumers who live in community care facilities account for 34% of the POS expenditures while 78% of consumers that live in the home of their parent'(s) or guardian(s) and account for only 41% of the POS expenditures.

XI Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

M/S/C (Anthony De La Rosa/Felicitas) To adjourn the ELARC Board of Directors Meeting. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by:

Original Signed by Felicitas Navera

Felicitas Navera, Secretary, Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center Board of Directors

Recorded by: Rosalie M. Estrada, Executive Secretary