



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
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**ELARC Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of October 14, 2014**

Approved November 18, 2014

Present:

Robert Hazard, President
Anthony De La Rosa, Vice-Chair
Deborah Gallardo
Theresa Chen
Felicitas Navera (FAC Representative)
Diane Lasell
Armando Villegas, VAC Representative
Elias Fonseca
Roman Castro

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
Rosalie Estrada, Exec. Secretary

Absent:

Tony Borrego, excused
Terry Munoz, excused
Lida Chavez, excused

Guests:

Please 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 Robert Hazard, President. A quorum was present to conduct necessary business.

II Introductions & Opening Round

The Board and guests were introduced and were asked to share something positive in their life.

III Community Input

There was no other community input.

IV Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes of July 8, 2014

Terry Munoz, treasurer, forwarded the minutes of September 16, 2014 to Rosalie Estrada noting a few minor grammatical errors in the Minutes.

M/S/C (Terry Munoz/Lida Chavez) To approve the Minutes of September 16, 2014 as edited. Unanimous.

V. Executive Director's Report

A. 2015 Performance Contract:

The final version of Performance Contract (PC) for 2015 was distributed to the Board of Directors. There were a few minor grammatical errors which were corrected. Content presented at the September Board Meeting remains the same.

M/S/C (Diane Lasell/Anthony De La Rosa) To approve the 2015 Performance Contract as edited for with the minor format changes. Unanimous.

A copy of the letters dated September 17, 2014 to Roberta Newton, Executive Director, Area Board X and to Chala Jitpatima, Parent, thanking them for their feedback on the draft 2015 PC were shared with the Board.

B. ELARC Employment Forum

An employment forum was held today, Tuesday, October 14th. The Employment Forum has been a standing meeting with supported employment and rehabilitation service providers. The meeting held on October 14th was entitled Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

The opportunity was taken by Ms. Wong to welcome participants and reaffirm our mutual commitment to creating employment opportunities for ELARC consumers. The focus of the presentation by Ms. Wong and Felipe Hernandez was on the new objective in the Performance Contract for 2015. The "*ELARC Partnership Commitment*" was introduced as a reaffirmation of a strategic plan to enhance employment opportunities and provide options to ELARC consumers. The commitment implies a pact between vendor and ELARC to renew our efforts toward the Performance Contract 2015 objective. The voluntary signing by providers will require statistical information to be submitted periodically on the number consumers served and numbers that reach the final goal of employment. Ultimately the list of vendors signing off on the agreement will be posted on the agency website as a reference point for consumers and families who are searching service and supports in the employment area.

A commitment to the partnership means enhancing current employment options but it also offers service providers a forum by which to identify and exchange information with ELARC not only on their progress but also in identifying any barriers that prevent the expansion of employment resources.

It was announced at this meeting by Ms. Wong that ELARC will be developing an internship placement program for consumers at the agency. The internship placement will be time-limited and the focus will be on clerical duties. ELARC will be working in conjunction with service providers to identify potential interested consumers. The program is not currently operational, but the target date for launching this new project is January 2015. The lead contact for ELARC will be Elizabeth Harrell, Supervisor of the Information and Training Unit.

An announcement will be shared in January 2015 with supported employment providers that are serving ELARC consumers. The project will be very small in scope initially with no more than 3 to 4 consumers placed during a four month period.

Chala Jitpatima, parent, has been very instrumental in working with the Alhambra High School program known as "LIFT Transition Program". Planning begins years before a student is ready to graduate which could include an internship, getting them placed and get some exposure, in preparing for after graduation, and moving into competitive employment. At the Employment Forum, the Alhambra LIFT Transition Program Director, Ms. Mahoney was present. ELARC will be collaborating with the LIFT program to do a presentation and hosting a vendor fair on November 15. Service providers will be invited and will have information available for consumers. ELARC will also be doing presentations on the services provided by the regional center at this event. The regional center is also working with the LAUSD to replicate this event.

A copy of the packet distributed at the Employment Forum was distributed to the Board of Directors.

C. Budget Update

1. Fiscal Year 2013-'14

The monthly Purchase of Services (POS) budget report was distributed and reviewed. DDS allocated a total of \$91 million to the fourteen regional centers in deficit, which includes ELARC. Despite this allocation ELARC is still reporting a deficit of \$92,431. DDS has advised the regional centers they have allocated all available funds.

It is difficult to predict if the outstanding deficit of \$92,431 for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 will be reduced by future disencumbrances, which are financial commitments that are cancelled at a future time. The reverse is also feasible that late submittals for financial commitments are received after the fact. Reasons for such instances can include pending approval of generic services which were ultimately denied and the regional center becomes the payor of last resort. Another instance of late authorizations can be tied to appeal decisions that obligate the agency to fund.

2. Fiscal Year 2014-'15

✓POS Update: The first full analysis (Sufficiency of Allocation Report /SOAR) of the budget is due to DDS in October. At this time ELARC is projecting a deficit ranging from \$13,978, 522 to \$11,412,356.

✓Operations: The Operations budget is established by DDS based on staffing requirements and caseload growth. Operations has been under funded for multiple years all of which has been highlighted most recently in the position papers developed on behalf of the 21 regional centers by the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA). As a result of this shortage ELARC has been operating on a reduced work schedule. The result is that each pay period (every two weeks) has been reduced from 80 hours to 78 hours.

It is hoped that ELARC can re-establish the full work schedule sometime in 2015, between February and June. An analysis of the operations budget and projected commitments will dictate the exact start date.

✓Cash Flow Update: There are no current cash flow problems anticipated at this time.

D. Senate Budget Hearing

On October 9th Senator Jim Beall conducted a special Senate hearing entitled “The Lanterman Act: Promises and Challenges”. The hearing focused on how the recent budget cuts affected the regional center system. Before the budget was passed this year, effort was made to get an adjustment to service provider rates and an adjustment to the regional center operations. The request for a 10% adjustment towards the restoration of the deep cuts over the years was rejected by the Governor.

Approximately 100 individuals provided testimony at the hearing. The Guide to Testifying and Funding Summaries were provided to the Board. The Funding Summary, a two page report, is a condensed version of a 40 to 50 page report on the POS and Operations reductions over the years both reports were previously shared with the Board. Also shared with the Board was the “Helpful Hints for Public Speaking”.

Bob Hazard, President, encouraged the Board and the community to meet with their Assemblymembers and State Senators and share with them the “funding summary” which was developed by ARCA.

A copy of the full testimony provided by ARCA on October 9th was also shared with the Board of Directors.

E. Self-Determination Update

Gloria Wong provided an update on Self-Determination. Senate Bill 468 stipulates that in order to proceed with the implementation of Self-Determination (SD) federal funds must be secured. DDS will need to submit an application by December 31, 2014. The application is being developed with DDS along with an advisory committee composed of parents, advocacy, Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) (of which Gloria Wong is part of the committee). The main concern in preparing this application is that the federal government has amended the regulations as of March 2014. New applications submitted after this date must adhere to the new regulations. There have been five other states that submitted applications under the new regulations and none have been approved to date. Applicants are struggling with the interpretation and expectations under these new standards. Efforts are being made to learn from these previous rejections and to avoid these same pitfalls. All other existing federally funded programs will need to come into compliance with the new regulations but will be allowed a five year period to come into adherence. Self-determination is a new waiver application and as such will necessitate full compliance under the new regulations in the initial submittal of the application.

There are three advisory sub-committees undertaking the development of these areas: Training and Background Check which are the critical aspects of the application.

DDS has identified a list of services to be included as part of the application and to be funded under the waiver. The intent is to submit this information early to the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services. They have indicated they are willing to provide a courtesy review, without an official submission of the application, to determine if the services fall within the new regulations. Once the official application is submitted the time frame starts and they have 90 days in which to respond but if they respond to DDS on day 89 it can trigger re-setting the clock for another 90 day review. The courtesy review was going to be done sometime in September, but there has been no word on the findings. Services is the most critical part of the application.

Training: What training will be offered to the 2500 participants in the initial phase? There are 270,000 consumers statewide and only 2500 will be part of the initial phase. The selection process needs to be the same for all 21 regional center.

Background Check: Who should have a background, should it be anyone who has contact with the consumer? Are there any exemptions? All these issues are being addressed by the sub-committee.

Budget: The individual's budget will be based on the last 12 months of expenditures.

Fiscal Management Agency: All participants must hire a fiscal management agency and will also have the option of hiring an independent broker/facilitator. All related costs for these services must be absorbed within the existing budget. No adjustments or increases for these services will be permitted.

Three years following the implementation of SD, the project will be open to all consumers. No cap restrictions will apply after this phase.

Additional information on Self-Determination is available on the DDS website.

VI Consumer Services Report (Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Svcs.)

There was no report as Mr. Hernandez was unable to attend the BOD Meeting.

VII Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee

Roman Castro reported their next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2014.

B. Family Advisory Committee

Felicitas Navera reported there would be no FAC meeting in October. The FAC is preparing for the ELARC U workshops and encouraging parents to attend the 2014

presentations. One of the FAC goals is to encourage parents to be actively involved and to provide input of what subjects they are interested in. The first topic will be the Role of the ELARC Supervisor on an after hours basis.

C. Vendor Advisory Committee

Armando Villegas reported the VAC met on September 25, 2014. The participation by the vendors is dwindling. There was a forensic presentation by Lonetta Yarleque, Forensic Specialist at ELARC. The VAC discussed the possibility of developing a subcommittee with the goal of developing training to local police department about the regional centers and its consumers.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 23rd.

Anthony De La Rosa reported the ASA of Greater Long Beach invited the Whittier Police Department to speak and suggested that Armando Villegas may want to contact the president of the ASA to obtain information on their session with the Whittier PD.

D. Finance/Personnel Committee

Bob Hazard reported both he and Terry Munoz, Treasurer will be meeting on November 6th with the Lautze & Lautze to review the results of the recently conducted independent audit of previous fiscal year financial records. A report will be provided at the November Board Meeting.

VIII Miscellaneous Announcement

✓ A reminder the November 11, 2014 meeting falls on the Veteran's Day Holiday, therefore the meeting has been rescheduled for November 18th. Notices have been posted on the website and various locations.

IX Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

M/S/C (Anthony De La Rosa/Felicitas Navera) To adjourn the general board meeting at 7:30 P.M. Unanimous.

Lida Chavez, Secretary, ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Rosalie M. Estrada, Executive Assistant