



**EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER**  
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**ELARC Board of Directors Meeting  
 Minutes of February 11, 2014**

*Approved March 11, 2014*

**Present:**

Terry Munoz, President  
 Felicitas Navera, Secretary  
 Lida Chavez  
 Jiang Guo  
 Anthony De La Rosa  
 Roman Castro, CAC  
 Armando Villegas, VAC  
 Theresa Chen, Treasurer  
 Robert Hazard, Vice Chairperson  
 Deborah Gallardo

**Staff Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Tony Borrego  
 Elias Fonseca (Excused)

**Guests:**

Refer to Sign-In Sheet

**I. Welcome & Roll Call**

The ELARC Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:10 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 Community Input**

Norman Fulco, parent, reminded everyone that at the last Board Meeting he reported on a staffing issue in the home where his daughter resides. Since the last board meeting Mr. Fulco reported meetings were held with the Regional Center and the provider. The provider is developing a proposal to the Regional Center. He reported his Service Coordinator at ELARC is very positive it will be approved and he also knows the Department of Developmental Services will also approve the proposal. Mr. Fulco shared he is a little leery of the system because of what he has experienced in the past.

Gloria Wong reported ELARC received the information from Elywn (residential services provider) on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. The next step will be to determine how DDS wants to handle this request. Contact has been made with Nancy Bargmann and Jeff Grier of DDS to determine next step.

#### **IV Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

##### **A. Minutes of January 14, 2014 (General Session)**

Minor typographical errors were noted and corrected.

**M/S/C (Lida Chavez/Theresa Chen) To approve the General Board Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2014 as corrected. Unanimous.**

##### **B. Minutes of Executive Session of January 14, 2014**

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

#### **V. Executive Director's Report**

##### **A. Budget Status**

###### **1. Fiscal Year 2013-14**

✓ Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR): There have been no further allocations, ELARC is projecting a deficit in Purchase of Services from a high of \$9,359,647 to a low of \$8,746,027. To date ELARC has only received two allocations for this fiscal year. Regional Centers are waiting for guidance from DDS regarding the Statewide POS deficit.

As reported last month, there is a new Director for the Department of Developmental Services: Santi Rogers effective March 1, 2014. Mr. Rogers is a current Regional Center Director. Additionally Mr. Rogers worked for DDS and more specifically was the director of a developmental center. With this rich background of community services and a state operated system, the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is well positioned to work with a seasoned expert on the plight of the regional center system.

✓ Cash Flow Update: DDS has been adhering to full payments on submitted claims. Regional Centers have been alerted by DDS that there may be cash flow problem due to a delay in federal reimbursement in the coming months.

✓ Operations: The majority of operations money has already been allocated. There is a balance of \$474,834 which will decrease due to some future expenses and retirement costs. Gloria reported negotiations still continue on the Alhambra lease. At the last meeting the Board approved the Letter of Intent. An attempt is being made to avert an increase to the current lease which went into effect on February 1, 2014. The goal is to start a new lease two years before the lease terminates in order to avert the escalation clause. By the March board meeting it is anticipated a signed lease will be in place.

###### **2. Fiscal Year 2014-15**

The Governor released his budget on January 10, 2014. There were very little adjustments to the regional center system budget although there were no further cuts. There is no restoration of the deep cuts regional centers have endured for both operations and purchase of services over numerous fiscal years.

The Position Statement re: Governor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 was reviewed. There is a surplus in California and the Governor is being very conservative about his position on the budget. The position statement outlines the information which will be taken to budget hearings as Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) position to restore lost funds. ARCA also developed a position paper which focuses on Operations. This was distributed to the Board at the November 2013 board meeting. Additionally a position paper, "Inadequate Funding for Service Provision in California" was developed as it relates to Purchase of Services. This was distributed to the Board at the November 2013 meeting.

Grass Roots day is scheduled for March 12 in Sacramento and ELARC will be sending a delegation to meet with Legislators. Contacts have been made with a variety of individuals who will have an opportunity to convey to Legislators, using the aforementioned documents, that it is time to begin to restore the cuts which have been made over the years to illustrate the depth of these cuts over the many fiscal years. To restore operations cuts due to unallocated reductions would require a \$44 million allocation in total to twenty-one regional centers.

Gloria also reported the vendor community is also developing a position statement to be taken to the Legislature as it relates being funded based on actual costs.

The vendors and the regional centers are working with the Lanterman Coalition, which consists of a variety of individuals such as advocacy service providers, regional centers and the union. Gloria reported State employees typically receive a COLA on an annual basis, regional centers and the vendors have not received a COLA in over 20 years. The State employees are budgeted to receive a 4 ½% increase. Vendors and regional centers are taking the position at the very minimum they should also receive 4 ½% increase. Additionally it is being requested that there be a commitment that regional centers and the vendors receive annually what the State employees receive as COLA's.

## **B. Lease Updates**

1. **Alhambra:** Refer to "Operations" report above.
2. **Whittier:** Gloria reported negotiations continue for the Whittier office.

The Whittier lease will expire in June 30, 2014.

## **C. 2012-13 Purchase of Services (POS) Data Report**

### **1. Aggregate POS Data:**

This is the second year all regional centers are required to submit the POS Date Report to the Department of Developmental Center. The report indicates how purchase of services costs are broken down by ethnicity in an effort to determine whether there is an expenditure discrepancy among the various ethnic groups. There is very little change from the previous fiscal year. Refer to Self-Determination Update below.

### **2. Meeting Notice**

A flyer announcing the Public Meeting to review the POS Data is scheduled for February 20, 2014. There will be two sessions, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon in Alhambra, and from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at Palm Park in Whittier.

## **D. The Way Forward: Charting a Course for the Future**

With the effort of the Southern California Regional Center Director's group a conference has been scheduled for April 3 & 4. Attendance will be by invitation only which will include advocacy groups, prominent vendors, and government officials. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the challenges of the current regional center system and possible solutions. Speakers will include other states to gain a perspective in the varying ways services are delivered throughout the nation. A copy of the agenda and the information on the speakers which have been secured was distributed. The meeting will be held in the Manhattan Beach area.

## **E. Self-Determination (SB 468) Update**

Gloria reported the implementation of Self-Determination, an alternative service coordination option is still a work in progress. At the present time Self-Determination is still not an option for regional centers even though the bill went into effect as of January 1, 2014. In order to implement Self-Determination federal funds must be secured by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Regional Centers receive just under 50% of regional center funding from a variety of federal sources. DDS is taking the lead in completing the application. There is a committee working with DDS on the application to be submitted hopefully by June 2014. Gloria reported she is part of this committee. SB 468 stated the application must be approved by December 31, 2014. There will be a capitated number of individuals who will be part of Self-Determination. There will be a cap of 2,500 for the first three years and after the third year Self-Determination will be open to all who are interested.

## **VI Consumer Services Report**

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

✓ Felipe visited two homes in Whittier last week which were developed under the Community Placement Plan (CPP) for consumers being placed out of Lanterman Developmental Center. There are four consumers residing in each home. Felipe stated the homes are quite impressive, and the supervision and care is also impressive.

Gloria reported a housing presentation was provided at the Family Advisory Committee meeting and would also like to do a full housing presentation to the board of directors next fiscal year. Board members expressed an interest in visiting these homes. Gloria stated when arrangements are made to visit the homes the regional center will need to be careful as these are private homes, scheduled visits will need to be made and consents must be obtained from the individuals living in these homes.

✓ Felipe will be attending a conference on Higher Education for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities on March 10<sup>th</sup> at the California Endowment Center. Speakers will address new policy directions implementation for access and participation in higher education by young adults. Students with intellectual disabilities and autism will speak candidly about their career-related experiences during transition and college. The conference is being coordinated through some funding from UCLA. Several ELARC staff will also be attending.

✓ Felipe announced Martin Cogan, who has been a supervisor in the Community Services Division retired as of last week after 33 years with ELARC.

✓ Felipe announced there are a number of assembly and senate bills which are being reviewed for bullying at residential facilities for the elderly in terms of quality of care, supervision and licensing. The new laws will increase penalties for caretakers in facilities and skilled nursing facilities.

## **VII Committee Reports**

### **A. Vendor Advisory Committee**

Armando Villegas reported the vendors are discussing scheduling a follow-up vendor fair late Summer.

Armando announced Gloria Wong will be making a presentation at the VAC meeting scheduled for February 27, 2014.

### **B. Consumer Advisory Committee**

Roman Castro, Chair of the CAC, reported the next CAC meeting is scheduled on February 18, 2014 from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

### **C. Family Advisory Committee**

Felicitas Navera reported the FAC held their second meeting this year and more parents are attending the meetings. Frances Jacobs presented on housing and there were two interpreters, Spanish and Chinese. There was considerable discussion on affordable housing.

The next FAC is scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 A.M. to Noon and the topic will be mental health and how regional center works with the Department of Mental Health.

### **D. Finance/Personnel Committee**

The final reports on the audit of the Principal Money Accumulation Plan and the Mutual of America Tax Deferred Annuity were distributed and reviewed by the Board of Directors.

## **VIII Miscellaneous Announcements**

Terry Munoz distributed a flyer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Needs Conference sponsored by the So. Pasadena Council PTA Special Needs Committee and the So. Pasadena Unified School District. The conference is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at South Pasadena High School. The event is free and the Board was invited to attend.

## **IX Adjournment of General Session**

There being no further business to discuss the General Board Meeting was adjourned.

**M/S/C (Felicitas Navera/Theresa Chen) To adjourn the General Board Meeting at 7:02 P.M. Unanimous.**

### **X. Executive Session**

The Executive Session was called to order at 7:05 P.M. to discuss a personnel matter.

**XI Adjournment of Executive Session**

There being no further business to discuss the Executive Session was adjourned.

**M/S/C (Jiang Guo/Anthony De La Rosa) To adjourn the Executive Session of the Board at 7:30P.M. Unanimous.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

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**Felicitas Navera, Secretary, ELARC Board of Directors**

**Recorded by: Rosalie M. Estrada, Executive Secretary**