



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER

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ELARC Board of Directors Meeting

October 11, 2016

Approved As Corrected November 8, 2016

Present:

Anthony De La Rosa
Robert Hazard
Terry Munoz
Felicitas Navera
Diane Lasell
Lida Chavez
Nestor Nieves
Virgilio Orlina
Elias Fonseca
Joe Utar

Staff Present:

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

Absent:

Yue Li
Anthony Borrego

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 6:05 P.M. by Anthony De La Rosa, President. A quorum was present to conduct necessary business.

Anthony De La Rosa, Board President, shared with the Board a situation which brought sadness to the community of Pico Rivera. The daughter of an ELARC staff, who was also a friend of his daughters and grew up together, unfortunately lost her life as a result of an automobile accident. It is always sad for a parent to experience the loss of a child. He invited all present to take a moment of silence to honor her loss.

II. Introduction/Opening Round

Introductions of the board members and of the audience were conducted.

III. Community Input

Josefina Nieves, parent reported she attended a conference in Sacramento and it was mentioned that the regional centers have \$10,000 for paid internships for consumers. Consumers would need to apply for the internships. It was mentioned at the workshops that the consumers would be eligible for minimum wage or more and could work up to 500 hours for the \$10,000. The process would be the service coordinator would assist the family/consumer look for a job as an intern so that the consumer could get the experience. Josefina requested additional information on the internship program.

Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services reported ELARC is looking at providers who are interested in working with consumers and who can develop models for employment/internship. The goal would be to have the internship lead to full time employment. Payment would be made directly to the consumer. It will be the service coordinators responsibility to identify individuals on their caseload who may be interested in an internship. Family members can also play a part in finding a potential job placement.

Julie Eby-McKenzie, State Council on Developmental Disabilities reported they are half way though the Get Educated series. There are five more topics left which includes Person-Centered Planning, Bullying, Why Work is Better/ABLE ACT, Special Education Evaluations and Writing Special Ed State Compliance Complaints. The seminars are free and are held at the office in Glendale.

Julie reported the School Bus Safety Bill was recently signed by Governor Brown. She reported the State Council on Developmental Disabilities is very proud that the State Council was a big part in pushing the bill through based on a horrible tragedy that resulted in the death of a consumer.

IV. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes of September 13, 2016

Corrections were noted and corrected.

M/S/C (Terry Munoz/Robert Hazard) To approve the Minutes of September 13, 2016 General Board Meeting as amended. Unanimous.

B. Minutes of September 13, 2016 – Executive Session

M/S/C (Terry Munoz/Felicitas Navera) To approve the Minutes of September 13, 2016 Executive Session as recorded. Unanimous.

V. Executive Director's Report

A. 2017 Performance Contract (PC) Review

The 2017 PC was last presented to the Board at the September Board Meeting. There was one written comment submitted on employment opportunities for consumers. No changes were made from the PC presented at the September meeting.

M/S/C (Diane Lasell/Felicitas Navera) To approve the 2017 Performance Contract as presented. Unanimous.

B. Self-Determination (SD) Update

1. Waiver Application Update

The approval of the Self-Determination project must be approved by the Federal Government (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) in order to ensure that California can receive federal funds for the project. CMS has been working with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Originally there were 181 questions which required updates on the application. Progress has been made, there are only 30 plus outstanding issues regarding the proposed services. DDS has opted to work with CMS on an on-going basis to answer questions and obtain feedback prior to formal submission of the application.

2. Revised Timelines

DDS expects to submit the application to the Department of Health Services by the end of October. Once approved by the Department of Health Services it must be posted for 30 days on their website giving the public an opportunity to comment on the application. It is anticipated the application will be submitted to CMS in January 2017. CMS will then have 90 days to respond.

3. Training Modules

The stakeholder meetings which have been held by DDS continue to meet on certain elements of Self-Determination, particularly on the training modules. DDS is eager to begin training regional center staff. The training modules have been presented to the stakeholder meeting and there were some comments but it is anticipated there will be minor changes to the training modules.

The seven training modules were presented to the Board so that they can become acquainted with the elements of self-determination. The stakeholder meeting has designated subgroups which includes a training committee of which Elizabeth Harrell is a participant. Liz provided a summary of the training modules. Modules not included are the Person-Centered Approach as well as the fiscal management service which are still under development. These modules will become the foundation from which all training will be developed. The first training will be with regional center staff.

Robert Hazard, Vice-Chair, referenced the "Background Check" and the cost. The cost of a background check is generally \$50.00 for the Department of Justice to complete a background check and \$75.00 to complete an FBI history. Liz indicated this matter has not yet been resolved.

Currently ELARC has a list of seventy-five individuals who are interested in being part of the SD program and they will receive information on the pre-enrollment sessions. Others may also contact their SC and ask to receive information on the SD mandatory sessions. All individuals wanting to be part of the SD program must attend a pre-enrollment session. The enrollment session will give an overview of the SD program so that individuals can decide whether or not they want to sign up. The material to be used at these sessions will be developed by DDS. Once a list is developed the information will be sent to DDS who will conduct a random selection for all regional centers.

ELARC will have 110 individuals selected. Attending a pre-enrollment is a requirement. The stakeholder group is discussing what the pre-enrollment process will be. DDS will provide training to the regional centers on conducting pre-enrollment meetings. These sessions will include the definition of what Self-Determination is, comparing it to the current service delivery, roles and responsibilities and how individuals will be selected.

For the first three years only 2,500 individuals statewide will be selected to take part in the SD program. There is a designated amount for each regional center. Upon completion of the third year the SD program will be open to all who would like to join the Self-Determination program.

4. Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Update

The local advisory committee continues to meet every other month. The agenda for the November 1st LAC meeting and the minutes of the September 6th meeting was included in the Board meeting packet. The LAC meeting opened with a training on the role of the independent facilitator. The November training will be on Fiscal Management Services. Meetings are open to the public in general.

Virgilio Orlina, Chair of CAC will further on the LAC meeting.

C. ELARC POS Disparity Proposal Update

Gloria Wong reported ABX2-1 requires regional centers to implement strategies to reduce POS disparities. ABX2-1 allocated \$11 million towards the development of statewide proposals to reduce POS disparities and promote POS equity. DDS announced the process for submitting a request for proposal within 45 days from the notice issued on July 25, 2016. Ms. Wong reported a proposal was submitted by ELARC to DDS on September 8, 2016. Of the twenty-one regional centers sixteen applied the other five did not apply for the \$11 million.

The full proposal as submitted to DDS and a summary version was included in the board packet. DDS has initiated contact with regional centers to review submitted proposals. ELARC's proposed review was conducted on October 3rd. Gloria reported both her and Liz Harrell were on the call from DDS. The development of the ELARC proposals was a team effort which included Elizabeth Harrell, Felipe Hernandez, Frances Jacobs and Ms. Wong.

Ms. Wong reported the call with DDS was very positive. They were very complimentary of ELARC's innovative approach to promote POS equity to its two lowest per capita ethnic groups: Hispanic and Asian. Much of the discussion centered on the creation of a specialized bilingual unit that would cover 200 of the lower per capita average cases for the Hispanic and Asian population. A key element of this new unit would focus on a

reduced caseload ratio at 1:40 which would allow the necessary time to assess current services, potential gaps in services and consider appropriate remedies to promote POS equity.

A public forum to review the proposals was held on August 30, 2016. Twenty-five individuals were in attendance, including parent representatives from Fiesta Educativa and the Chinese Parents Association for the Disabled, the Family Resource Center, Office of Clients Rights Advocates and the State Council. The proposals were reviewed and the comments from attendees were supportive of the proposed ideas

Liz Harrell presented on the five ELARC Proposals submitted to DDS.

D. Fiesta Educativa (FE): Lanterman 50th Anniversary Recognition Award

Ms. Wong shared with the Board a plaque presented by Fiesta Educativa to the 21 regional centers in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Lanterman Act. Ms. Wong was presented the plaque, to share with her colleagues, at the recent Fiesta Educativa conference at CSULA.

Fiesta Educativa was conceived by Ms. Wong's predecessor, Herman Fogata, and then ELARC staff, Irene Martinez. The concept was to outreach and unify the Hispanic community by educating them on the service delivery system and to maximize their participation in the regional center. The first conference was held at East Los Angeles Community College. As FE expanded over the many years it broke-off from ELARC to create its independent organization which still flourishes today.

Additionally, in honor of the Lanterman 50th Anniversary a publication honoring the landmark anniversary was distributed which highlights the many achievements over a 50 year span.

Ms. Wong thanked Josefina Nieves who continues to work with FE and stated it is a great honor to be recognized and to partner with FE.

Josefina Nieves, parent, reported on September 30th FE held their annual conference at Cal State Los Angeles. There were 340 parents in attendance and 27 exhibitors. There are now seven chapters in the State of California.

Ms. Wong also reported on ELARC's application and recent hosting of a meeting with the "China Disabled Persons Federation ." A delegation visited ELARC to learn more about the regional center system and its services. Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services, Elizabeth Harrell, Supervisor, Information and Training were among key staff that met with delegation members. ELARC was presented with two Chinese opera masks in gratitude of ELARC's invitation which were shared with the Board.

E. Budget Update 2016-'17

1. C-1 Contract Amendment

The executed copy of the C-1 Contract Amendment was received for FY 2016-'17.

2. Purchase of Services (POS)

The first report will be available for the November 8th Board Meeting.

3. Operations (OPS)

The Budget Performance Report which reflects actual operation expenses through August 16, 2016 was distributed and reviewed. The \$2.5 million balance does not take into account the motions taken at the September Executive Session as it relates to wages and benefits authorized by ABX2-1.

VII Consumer Services Report

As October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month the focus of Mr. Hernandez's report was on three ELARC consumers who are currently employed.

Andrew lives in Whittier and works at the La Pescador, a seafood restaurant. He works as a busboy and a dishwasher and works 25 hrs. per week and earns minimum wage. Andrew has been working at La Pescador since November of 2014. He does have support with In2Vision (a job coach) and also receives DOR support. Andrew's cousin also works at the restaurant and was able to get him into the restaurant. He is doing great and will be promoted to a line cook. He uses public transportation and hopes to get his license very soon.

Noelle lives in South Pasadena and is working at Home Depot in El Monte. She started working at Home Depot in Bakersfield and Kern Regional Center was able to transfer her employment to the Home Depot in El Monte. She works 29 hrs. per week and is making \$12 per hour. She also receives ILS from Cal Peds. She is working at getting her license.

Jesus lives in Montebello and is working at Knott's Berry Farm, and found the job on his own three years ago when he saw an ad in the newspaper for janitorial work. He is making \$9.00 hr., lives with an aunt and uses Access Services for his transportation. He still received \$100.00 from SSI. He states he really enjoys his job.

Additionally, Mr. Hernandez shared information he received from the daughter of Terry Munoz, Board member. She received information regarding the Extraordinary Ventures group which is based in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. They have a lot of opportunities for

individuals with disabilities as they create a business model around the individual's potential. They are working in a lot of other metropolitan areas and in Los Angeles its partner is Ability First. Ability First, ELARC service provider, has a lot of activities in the Pasadena area.

Ms. Wong read an excerpt from the Presidential Proclamation declaring October Employment Awareness Month.

Americans with disabilities are entitled to the same rights and freedoms as any other citizen -- including the right to dignity and respect in the workplace. Too often in our Nation's history, individuals with disabilities have been eager to work but could not find a job, facing red tape, discrimination, or employers who assumed that disabled meant unable and refused to hire them. This month, October, we recognize the significant progress our country has made for those living with disabilities, and we honor the lasting contributions and diverse skills they bring to our workforce.

Ms. Wong indicated there is a lot of work which lies ahead and it hoped that with the hiring of the Employment Specialist it will expand our capacity to be able to offer more consumers employment opportunities. She indicated the program, Extraordinary Ventures, is a program which hopefully can be expanded by many other service providers.

VIII Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee

Virgilio Orlina reported on the following:

Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting Update: The next in person meeting of the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee will be held on October 27, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Sacramento from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The meeting will cover the status of the waiver, the approval, and what can the Local Self-Determination Advisory Committee do in the meantime.

Consumer Advisory Committee:

The last meeting of the CAC was on September 20th, 2016 at ELARC's Boardroom from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. There was no video conference in the Whittier Office.

The main topic was Voting Accessibility. The guest speakers were Roxy Ortiz, Information and Training Specialist and Jesse Padilla, Consumer Advocate. Ms. Ortiz conducted a Power-Point presentation which was very informative and lead to an interesting discussion on what is voting and why it is important to vote, who is eligible to voice in California, how to register, how to vote in person and by mail.

Mr. Padilla discussed and thoroughly explained the rights when it comes to election materials, what are the rights if a voter makes a mistake or error on the ballot, and assistance in voting specifically for people who need help in voting because of a disability.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for November 1st, 2016 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm at the ELARC Boardroom and via video conference at the Whittier Office. The topic will be *Understanding the Self-Determination Program for Adult Self-Advocates* and the guest speaker will be Elizabeth Harrell, Supervisor, Information & Training.

The Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting will follow the CAC meeting at 6:00 pm. CAC attendees in Alhambra are encouraged to stay for the meeting.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee

Yue Li was not present, no report was provided.

C. Finance/Personnel Committee

Gloria Wong stated ELARC is in the midst of the independent audit and will be preparing for the 2017 audit which will start sometime in June of 2017. As discussed previously, regional centers are required to not utilize the same firm for more than five years. Ms. Wong reported we are on the 5th year, with the current firm Lautze & Lautze, which recently merged with MARCUM. A request for proposal has been issued and the Board will be updated at the November meeting on the results.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By:

Felicitas Navera, Secretary
ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Rosalie M. Estrada, Executive/Board Secretary

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