



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER

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ELARC Board of Directors Meeting
November 8, 2016
Approved January 10, 2017

Present:

Anthony De La Rosa
Robert Hazard
Terry Munoz
Felicitas Navera
Diane Lasell
Nestor Nieves
Tony Borrego
Virgilio Orlina
Joe Utar
Yue Li

Staff Present:

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

Absent:

Elias Fonseca
Lida Chavez

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 6:00 p.m. by Anthony De La Rosa, President. A quorum was present to conduct necessary business. It was noted that some board members still needed to cast their vote this evening. Request made to end meeting with sufficient time for individuals to get to their polling station.

II. Introduction/Opening Round

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

III. Community Input

There was no community input.

IV. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes of October 11, 2016

Corrections were noted and corrected.

M/S/C (Diane Lasell/Virgilio Orlina) To approve the Minutes of October 11, 2016 as amended. Unanimous.

V. Executive Director's Report

A. POS Disparity Proposals

1. ELARC's Proposals Summary

ABX2-1 allocates \$11 million toward the development of statewide proposals to reduce POS disparities and promote POS equity. ELARC submitted proposals to DDS in September. A synopsis of the various proposals was once again reviewed with the Board.

2. DDS Approval Correspondence

ELARC received a letter of approval from DDS dated October 25, 2016. The difference of \$42,366.60 which was not funded, was for a statewide research study on the causes for the Purchase of Services (POS) variances amongst the various ethnic groups. All other proposals submitted by ELARC were approved and funded at the levels requested.

A key proposal discussed at the board meeting was the approval of the development of a specialized unit that would carry a reduced caseload of 1:40. This demonstration project would have a total of five service coordinators, 4 Spanish-speaking and one Chinese-speaking service coordinator. Additionally, there will be two new positions entitled "Person Centered Planning Coordinators", one Spanish-speaking and the second able to speak Chinese. There will be 200 cases identified that fall within the lowest POS per capita to be assigned to this new unit. The lower caseload ratio will allow for a more intense approach to case management which will result in better understanding the barriers and challenges that contribute to the lower POS expenditures, on average, for the two ethnic groups, Hispanic and Asian.

B. DDS: Caseload Ratio Plan Approval

DDS has approved the caseload ratio plan of correction for ELARC which was presented at the May 10, 2016 public meeting. Correspondence was shared with the Board. Every March 1st the regional centers are required to submit a caseload ratio

analysis. ELARC did not meet the caseload ratio in three of the five categories. It was noted that this is despite the fact that by the end of February 2016 ELARC had hired twelve new service coordinators.

C. California State Auditor's Report

The California State Auditor's selected five regional centers to visit, ELARC was one of the R/C's selected.

1. Summary Fact Sheet

A Fact Sheet from the California State Auditor's office was received noting the results of their review.

2. DDS Response

A copy of the response to the California State Auditor's Draft Report from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) was reviewed. There were four recommendations being addressed by DDS. The audit was of DDS and not of the regional center system. The main issue is regarding vendor rates for in-home respite services and concerns about the rate setting policies and expenditures for in-home respite services. There is concern the hours are not verifiable and that administrative costs are too high and concerns over the inconsistency of an administrative charge from provider to provider. Further concern was that cost statements by providers was not a requirement.

DDS noted in their response that funding has been approved for a rate study of all service categories, which is to be completed by March 1, 2019. The California State Auditor's feel a study to be completed in 2019 is not a satisfactory response to the noted concern.

Attached to the DDS letter is the California State Auditor's response to DDS's proposed action.

D. Budget Update FY 2016-'17

1. Executed C-1 Contract Amendment

The executed copy of the C-1 Contract Amendment for fiscal year 20216-'17 was received and distributed.

2. Cash Flow Update

As a result of the C-1 Contract amendment there are no cash flow problems to report.

3. POS Update

Gloria Wong reported the first Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) is due to DDS on December 10th. A preliminary analysis of the POS budget reports a deficit ranging from a low of \$1.3 million to a high of \$2.7 million.

For Fiscal Year 2015-'16 there is a surplus of \$77,000.

4. Operations Budget Performance Report

In operations there is a balance of \$676,785 which is in part targeted for the following positions yet to be filled: ABX2-1 funding for POS disparity projects, additional service coordinators to reduce caseload ratios, and the addition of an "Employment Specialist" and a "Cultural Specialist".

It was noted that \$167,150 has not been allocated for the "Community Placement Plan" (CPP) as the full funding is not issued until closer to the end of the fiscal year to ensure placement numbers are met.

5. Grassroots Day: April 4 & 5, 2017

Grassroots Day event for 2017 is scheduled for April 4th & 5th in Sacramento. An appeal was made to have board members participate in this event if possible. Interested parties to contact Rosalie Estrada. Information will be shared as received.

E. Self-Determination Update

1. Federal Application Status

There is no new information on the waiver application. DDS continues to work with CMS (federal office) on the revision of the current application. Anticipated date of official submittal is early 2017.

2. Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Update

The agenda for November 1st and the minutes of the September 6, 2016 were provided as part of the Board Meeting packet. November 1st will be last meeting of 2016. The first meeting for 2017 is February 7th.

VI. Consumer Services Report

Felipe Hernandez reported ELARC is an intern student site. The service providers have been notified of the Internship Program for individuals with developmental disabilities and is currently seeking interns. Vendors have been asked if they are

interested in the development and implementation of an Internship Program for Individuals with developmental disabilities to contact their Community Services Specialist for assistance.

VII Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC)

Virgilio Orlina, Chair, CAC, reported the last CAC meeting was held on November 1st, 2016 in the ELARC Boardroom and via video conference at the Whittier Office from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The main topic was “Understanding the Self-Determination Program for Adult Self-Advocates”. The guest speaker was Elizabeth Harrell, ELARC Supervisor of Information and Training. Ms. Harrell conducted a power-point presentation which was very informative and included the five principles of Self-Determination, who is eligible and not eligible and important facts about Self-Determination. The consumers and support groups participated actively in asking questions about the program.

Jesse Padilla, ELARC Consumer Advocate, updated the consumers about the creative ornaments which have been sent to Sacramento for the 85th Annual State Capitol Tree Lighting Ceremony. Mr. Padilla also shared information about the Pathway to Employment, a 2 day orientation on Employment and Benefits which is scheduled for *November 9 & 10, 2016* at ELARC.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2017.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC)

Yue Li thanked Gloria Wong for visiting the VAC group and stated she provided a systems update. The Resource Fair is scheduled for April 27, 2017. The fair will be held in Santa Fe Springs Community Center from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Yue also reported elections will be held on November 17th for the Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Also at this meeting, Liz Rodgers, Autism Specialist, will be presenting on “Overview of Evidence-Based Practices”.

C. Financial/Personnel Committee

1. Independent Auditor: FY 2016-‘17

The Finance Committee will be meeting with the representatives from MARCUM to review a draft report of the independent financial audit conducted for FY 2015-’16. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 28, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

As discussed previously, regional centers are required to not utilize the same auditing firm for more than five years. Ms. Wong reported ELARC is in its 5th year with the current firm Lautze & Lautze which recently merged with MARCUM. The audit for FY 2016-'17 will begin around July 2017. Ms. Wong has been working with Pat Alvarez, ELARC's Chief Administrator, to recruit accounting firm applicants to be selected for the next five year cycle of financial audits.

After lengthy and prolonged discussions with the Board it was recommended that ELARC pursue contracting with a new firm. The current provider, Lautze & Lautze, was recently taken over by MARCUM, which retained all Lautze & Lautze staff. Despite the ownership transfer it was felt continuing to use MARCUM, which is an extension of Lautze & Lautze, would not be keeping with the spirit of the law which requires the complete transition to a new firm after five years. A decision of the selected firm will be presented at the January 2017 board meeting.

VIII Miscellaneous Announcements

Felipe Hernandez thanked Yue Li for sending one of her staff to a presentation he did at the LIFT program covering social skills, the importance of SLS staff. He indicated it was a very enjoyable presentation.

Nestor Nieves reported he was invited to attend the USC Youth Advisory Committee. He is excited and looks forward to attending the meetings.

Anthony De La Rosa, President, indicated one of the hats he wears at the Monterey Park Hospital is the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. On Thursday, November 17th the State is conducting a statewide medical and health drill. The scenario for the hospital is a chlorine spill. The hospitals plan their response for this incident with a drill that will include patients and first responders. Mr. De La Rosa offered interested parties an opportunity to observe this drill.

Ms. Wong requested Mr. De La Rosa send an email to Rosalie Estrada on the specifics of the drill and she will see if the ELARC Emergency Committee might be interested and able to attend.

There is no Board Meeting in December.

Mr. De La Rosa on behalf of his family wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays!

IX Adjournment

M/S/C (Terry Munoz/Felicitas Navera) To adjourn the meeting. Unanimous.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Felicitas Navera

Felicitas Navera, Secretary
Board of Directors

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