



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER

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**ELARC Board of Directors Meeting
June 13, 2017
Approved July 11, 2017 as Corrected**

Present:

Anthony De La Rosa
Terry Munoz
Diane Lasell
Nestor Nieves
Tony Borrego
Felicitas Navera
Elias Fonseca
Joe Utar
Robert Hazard
Virgilio Orlina
Jose Reyes

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
Edith Hernandez, Contractor,
ELARC
Rosalie Estrada,
Executive Secretary

Absent:

Lida Chavez (excused)

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I Welcome & Roll Call

The ELARC Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Anthony De La Rosa, President. A quorum was present to conduct necessary business.

II. Introduction/Opening Round

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

III. Community Input

Mr. Ron Rozen, was in attendance and provided an update on the Community Resource Fair which the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center and the Vendor Advisory Committee coordinated. Mr. Rozen expressed his appreciation to Gloria Wong, Executive Director, the Board of Directors and the regional center staff who participated in the event and made it a great success.

Mr. Rozen reported there were approximately 550 participants in attendance with a lot of positive interaction and dialogue amongst the vendors. There were 25 vendors representing an array of services. The theme was "Something for Everyone". Additionally there were 16 information booths which included non-profit liaisons, such as the Office of Emergency Management, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Red Cross.

Mr. Rozen indicated the last Community Resource Fair was in 2010 and hopes to make this a yearly event. The new leadership, Jose Reyes and Bryan Chacon have made the commitment to keep the Community Resource Fair as an annual event.

Gloria Wong and the Board of Directors were presented with a plaque in appreciation of their support.

Mrs. Ann Brazil, parent, addressed the Board of Directors (BOD) regarding her serious concerns with the service delivery of Supported Living Services (SLS) a service which is provided to adult consumers living on their own in the community. Her son graduated from high school and received a received the senior class award for Character and Community Service. As a result of his parents intervention he works at Von's as a bagger 20 hours per week. She stated over the last nine years ELARC has spent approximately \$1 million on six different agencies that have provided SLS services to her son. She stated it is a babysitting sitting service with no oversight by ELARC. She also stated there has been no monitoring by ELARC, service coordinator has never visited him at home for the purpose of monitoring.

Ms. Brazil requested the BOD investigate how ELARC is authorizing SLS services. She also indicated her son has regressed since SLS services began.

Anthony De La Rosa, Board President, stated he appreciated her comments which will be noted.

IV Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of May 9, 2017.

There were minor corrections noted.

M/S/C (Terry Munoz/Robert Hazard) To approve the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2017 as corrected. Unanimous.

V Executive Director's Report

A. ARCA Correspondence: Senator Scott Wiener

Gloria Wong shared the ARCA response to Senator Scott Wiener, Chair of the Senate Human Services Committee. On March 14, 2017 the Senate Human Services Committee conducted a hearing on the differences in purchase of services (POS) expenditures, with the focus on "Moving Toward Equity: Addressing Disparities in Services Provided by the Regional Center System". There was testimony provided to the Chair of the Committee as to the differences, by ethnicity, in purchase of services. Senator Wiener, Chair of the Committee, asked that the Department of Developmental Services along with the Association of Regional Centers prepare a response identifying solutions to issues raised at the hearing, including timelines for implementation that would "move the needle" towards equitable POS spending.

The formal response to Senator Wiener, Chair of the Human Services Committee, was submitted on May 15, 2017. There were four items identified for the Senator to consider as a way of addressing the POS gap.:

- **Uniform Caseload Ratio:** Establish a 1:62 ratio across the board. The proposal would maintain the current waiver caseload of 1:62 but change the "All Other" category from 1:66 to 1:62 in order to achieve consistency within the two categories.
- **Community Placement Plan Start-Up funds:** Shift Community Placement Funds towards new services for non-developmental center consumers.
- **Reinstatement of Suspended Services:** Recent collected data indicates that individuals more likely to stay at home have historically used respite, social and recreational programs.
- **A Comprehensive Independent Study:** A study is needed to identify the underlying reasons for variances in utilization of regional center-funded services and the development of solutions that will directly affect delivery of support services that will reduce disparity. .

B. Public Counsel

An independent entity, the Public Counsel, also has taken a position on how to address changes that will bring about POS equity. The Counsel has developed a detail report entitled "Assuring Equitable Funding of Services for Children with Developmental Disabilities". The Public Counsel is the nation's largest pro bono law firm with the power of more than 5,000 attorneys, law students and other professionals working for people

in need. They operate under endowments and private charities. The Counsel's goals are to protect the rights of children dually served by the developmental services and child welfare system.

C. ARCA: Response to Public Counsel Report

ARCA developed a summary and an official response to the report. Both documents were shared and discussed with the BOD. Some highlights discussed included the Counsel's commentary on Regional Center's performance contracts and the need to have more aggressive plans to reduce disparities along with measurable objectives. Moreover, the report does not endorse conducting additional research as it's their opinion that numerous past studies have outlined the issues and therefore it is unnecessary to conduct additional studies.

D. Article: Stark Disparities Persist at Centers Serving Children with Special Needs

A copy of an article appearing in the California Health Report on May 26, 2017 was shared with the board. The article focused on the issues raised in the Public Counsel report and concurred with the findings.

E. Assembly Bill (AB) 1610

AB 1610 did not pass. The bill would of required extensive material to be produced at the initial Individual Program Plan (IPP) meeting. The bill would have required a substantial budget appropriation which exceeded the current Legislative threshold.

F. Report on Purchase of Services (POS) Community Meetings Report

Ms. Gloria Wong shared with the Board a partial draft copy of the Purchase of Services (POS) Report. The report was due to DDS on May 31, 2017, but Ms. Wong Indicated she received an extension from DDS. Ms. Wong reviewed some highlights from the draft report such as ELARC's demographics and the per capita expenditure trends for the various ethnic groups. More extensive discussion of the full report will be conducted at the July Board Meeting.

G. Budget Update

1. Fiscal Year 2016-17
 - (a) Contract Amendment

The A-6 Amendment was received and was signed by Anthony De La Rosa, President, Board of Directors on March 29, 2017.

(b) Purchase of Services (POS: Sufficiency of Allocation Report)

The POS Expenditure Projections Summary was distributed and reviewed. Currently ELARC is projecting a POS surplus ranging from \$6,848,129 to \$7,176,564. There is a deficit in the CPP allocation as the full allocation is not issued by DDS until close to the end of the Fiscal Year in order to ensure that projected placements out of the developmental centers are met.

Statewide regional centers are projecting a surplus of \$32 million.

(c) Operations: Budget Performance Report

A copy of the Budget Performance Report was distributed and reviewed. The report is projecting a surplus of \$768,000. Ms. Wong reported that the surplus includes an allocation for POS Disparity projects which will continue into Fiscal Year 2017-'18, as implementation of projects did not start until February 2017. The most prominent ABX2-1 project for ELARC is the specialized caseload which allows caseloads to be reduced to a 1:40 ratio. The roll-over funding for this project is approximately \$233,000.

2. Fiscal Year 2017-'18

(a) Budget Hearings

ELARC has been actively working with its community to promote their involvement in notifying the legislature and the Governor to restore funding of social recreational services and camps, and also to lift the current policy cap on respite hours (90 hours per quarter). Senate and Assembly Budget Hearings are scheduled for June 15th. There is an aggressive statewide campaign by regional centers and advocates to influence the restoration of these critical services in Fiscal Year 2017-'18. It is anticipated that the budget will pass on time, thereby meeting all constitutional deadlines.

H. Self-Determination Update

1. Federal Funding Update

Ms. Wong reported that there has been no change to the status of the Federal application. Negotiations and discussions on specific elements of the application continue between the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS).

2. Local Advisory Committee

The agenda for the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting held on June 6th was distributed. There were approximately 20 persons in attendance. DDS is

looking to move ahead on the training with the community despite the fact that federal approval has not been granted.. Additionally, a training module has been developed for regional center staff. DDS would also like to start a “pre-enrollment” training in the near future.

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

Mr. Hernandez was unable to attend meeting due to an unexpected family matter.

VII Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC)

Virgilio Orlina, CAC Chair reported the last CAC meeting was held on May 16, 2017. The main topic of the meeting was Healthy Relationships and the guest speaker was Erin Wurtemberg, a social worker with Los Angeles County and a former ELARC information and Training Specialist. Ms. Wurtemberg conducted a very interactive PowerPoint presentation on how to develop healthy family relationships. The consumers listened with the examples and situations given by Ms. Wurtemberg.

During the CAC meeting, Jesse Padilla, Consumer Advocate provided an update on the ARCA CAC meeting he attended. He reported the budget looks favorable for new consumers eligible for regional center services. Mr. Padilla also provided an update on the ACCESS meeting he attended and reported there will be no changes in the interviewing process for those who want to apply for ACCESS Services, but there will be a new online feature.

Additionally, Gloria Wong, Executive Director updated the consumers on the budget process and the self-determination project.

Mr. Orlina also announced at the meeting that the position of Vice-Chair of the CAC is available and candidates should attend the meeting consistently, be knowledgeable of the CAC Bylaws and Mission Statement.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for July 18th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the ELARC Boardroom in Alhambra and via video conference at the Whittier Office. The main topic will be Travel/Mobility Training, the guest speaker will be Stephen Wrenn, Senior Mobility Management Counselor for ACCESS Services. The session will provide consumers with essential travel skills such as reading a bus/training schedule, how to pay the fare, boarding and exiting a bus/train, making a transfer.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC)

The VAC is currently focused on emergency planning activities for the service provider

community. VAC is urging all service providers to establish individual emergency plans and share best practices with colleagues. Anthony De La Rosa, Board President, suggested the VAC take a look at Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Emergency Medical Services for website. They have various templates on business continuity plans which may be useful in developing their emergency plans.

C. Finance/Personnel Committee

There was no report.

VIII Miscellaneous Announcements

✓ Ms. Wong reported that Antony De La Rosa signed the letter of engagement with accounting firm Windes. They will be conducting the required independent audit of the regional center over the next five years.

✓ Bob Hazard reported he recently returned from Washington D.C. and indicated he attended a VOR conference on Sunday and then met Monday through Wednesday met with the congressional representative and the senate on different issues. One of the issues was the reforming the Developmental Disabilities Act. It was last reauthorized in 2007. California is one of the ten states which has an entitlement act for services available for consumers, where other states do not have this provision or there are waiting lists for services.

✓ Bob shared he had been invited to participate at stakeholders meeting last Fall to be sponsored by the Department of Developmental Services and Fairview Developmental Center. Nancy Bargmann, Director, DDS, had invited consumers, family members and stakeholders, vendors, providers, and state employees. The workshop discussed issues of concern and addressed questions

✓ Dental Care: There was interest in being able to locate qualified dentists who are willing to accept individuals with developmental disabilities. Two board members, Tony Borrego and Terry Munoz, indicated they have dentists who have treated their children and would share the information. Tony and Terry were asked to send Rosalie Estrada the information to be shared with the Board.

✓ Gloria Wong indicated the SCDD is sponsoring a documentary entitled "Bottom Dollar" on July 31st the California Endowment Center in Los Angeles. The first part will be a presentation of the documentary from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, there is no charge for this event. Part 2 is a meeting of the Southern California Association of People Supporting Employment First with guest speaker Debbie Ball. Cost is \$35.00 and includes lunch. Flyers were made available for distribution.

IX Adjournment

***M/S/C (Terry Munoz/Virgio Orlina) To adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.
Unanimous.***

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Lasell, Secretary
ELARC Board of Directors