



EASTER LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
 1000 S. Fremont Ave. • P.O. Box 7916 • Alhambra, CA 91802-7916
 (626) 299-4700 • FAX (626) 281-0730

ELARC Board of Directors Meeting
October 10, 2017
Approved As Recorded November 14, 2017

Present:

Tony Borrego
 Joe Utar
 Lida Chavez
 Nestor Nieves
 Virgilio Orlina
 Mr. Richard Helgeson
 Devora Reed
 Yougeng Sun
 Brian Chacon, VAC Vice-Chair
 (for Jose Reyes)

Staff Present:

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

Absent:

Jose Reyes
 Anthony De La Rosa (excused)
 Diane Lasell (excused)
 Elias Fonseca (excused)

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I Welcome & Roll Call

Mr. Anthony De La Rosa was unable to attend meeting due to health issues. Mr. Richard Helgeson called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. for Mr. Tony Borrego, Vice-Chair who was running late.

II Introductions/Opening Round: Board of Directors and Audience

Introductions of the Board of Directors and of the audience were conducted.

III Community Input

Ms. Chala Jitpatima, parent, addressed the Board of Directors to thank them and staff: Gloria Wong, Executive Director, Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services, Belinda Salinas, Supervisor, Freddy Cupen, Service Coordinator for meeting with her regarding services for her son. She indicated she is looking forward to meeting with Mr. Cupen, her son's service coordinator, to continue working on the details.

Ms. Wong thanked Chala for her email which was shared with the Board of Directors.

Mr. Helgeson also thanked her for her comments.

IV. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting

A. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of September 12, 2017

M/S/C (Richard Helgeson/Lida Chavez) To approve the Minutes of September 12, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting as recorded. Unanimous.

V. Executive Director's Report – Gloria Wong

A. Draft 2018 Performance Contract (PC)

Ms. Wong reminded the Board of the September meeting and the lengthy discussion regarding August 2017 PC community meetings and input received on the employment measures/activities. Both Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services and Frances Jacobs, Manager, Community Services, presented on substantial amendments to the activities which will be undertaken under the employment measures.

There was one minor amendment to the PC document from that presented in September. The last activity indicated *the **Manager of Community Services** and selected service providers will participate in a DOR and Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance, etc.* It was changed to read *“**ELARC Employment Specialist** and selected service providers will participate in a DOR and Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance....”*. As was discussed at the last meeting the Draft PC must be submitted to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for final approval in December to begin implementation by January 2018.

M/S/C (Richard Helgeson/Lida Chavez) To approve the Draft 2018 Performance Contract as presented. Unanimous.

B. Trailer Bill Language (TBL) FY 2017-'18

Correspondence from DDS dated September 15, 2017 references the June 2017 Trailer Bill Language (TBL) affecting Regional Centers which is in effect as of July 2017. Typically TBL has been used by the legislature as a means of passing the state budget on time and simultaneously passing bill language which will not be heard in the normal public debate process. The TBL language was passed as Assembly Bill (AB) 107 which directly impacts regional centers and developmental centers.

Ms. Wong highlighted some of the items in AB 107:

(1) Repeals statute that restricts the amount of respite and limits the circumstances in which a regional center may purchase respite for a consumer, to become effective as of January 1, 2018. The board reviewed and

approved the revised respite policy and procedure at the September Board meeting. The policy has been submitted to DDS for final approval. The target date for implementation is January 1, 2018.

(2) Provides an exemption to allow consumers who are 18 to 22 years of age to participate in paid internships resulting in competitive integrated employment while eligible for educational services. Currently the law restricts regional centers from funding day programs, vocational education and work activity services if someone is between the ages of 18 and 22 years because generic services are provided by the school system.

(3) Authorizes community-based organizations to submit requests to DDS for grant funding to implement plans to promote equity and reduce disparities in POS. This item is on the agenda and Ms. Wong indicated she will be sharing the guidelines.

For approximately six years the regional centers have been required to conduct a comprehensive analysis of purchase of services expenditures by ethnic groups served. Ms. Wong reported at the start of the fiscal year (2016/2017) funds were made available to regional centers to enact proposals which would reduce disparity and promote equity to lower per capita ethnic groups. Recently, DDS announced the opening of the second funding cycle for POS disparity projects. In this application process the applicant criteria has been expanded to include Community Based Organizations (CBO's) and regional centers.

C. DDS: Disparity Funds Program

1. Call for Applications

Correspondence from DDS dated September 22, 2017 re: Call for Applications, Notice to Prospective Proposer(s) was shared with the Board.

In 2017 Trailer Bill language amended WIC section 4519 to allow community-based organizations (CBOs) to apply for and receive funding to address disparities and/or equitable access to services. A total of \$11 million has been allocated once again. DDS is accepting proposals from regional centers and CBO's for funds available in FY 2017/18. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p, on November 6, 2017. DDS will review proposals and respond to each applicant by December 21, 2017.

A list of frequently asked questions will be posted on the Department's webpage by September 30, 2017. DDS will hold two conference calls to address questions regarding the funds available for disparity program. The conference calls are scheduled for October 6th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and on October 11th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m..

2. Application Guidelines

Attachment #5 references the guidelines in applying for the Disparity Funds program. CBO's must submit their proposals to DDS directly. Regional Centers will be asked to respond to specific questions regarding prospective applicants. Ms. Wong reported she has been approached by several interested parties who are applying independently,

Chinese Parent Organization and Fiesta Educativa are in the process of developing their joint proposal. ELARC has met with both organizations to discuss elements of the proposal and how to streamline the partnership between the two CBO's and regional center. Another applicant, Ms. Josefina Nieves is applying under the Institute for Maximum Human Potential (IMHP). IMHP will serve as the lead applicant for a number of independent applicants and assume fiscal management of the projects.

Additionally, ELARC will be applying for proposals to promote equity and reduce purchase of services disparities. ELARC will focus on two of the projects which were funded in the first funding cycle which are:

(a) Caseloads reduced to a 1:40 ratio for Hispanic and Asian families. Currently there are 5 services coordinators assigned 200 low per capita cases including cases with no purchase of services. Focus is on 200 cases. Currently there are 196 cases identified for the Reduced Caseload project. Recruiting families to participate in this project has been more difficult than anticipated as families do not want to change service coordinators due to long-standing positive relationships.

(b) ELARC will be reapplying to extend the project for at least two years as well as continuing the funding for Person-Centered Coordinators of which there are two, one serves Asian families and the other for Hispanic families. Focus will continue on new intake cases to help families navigate through the through the complex system.

3. ELARC Community Meeting

The public meeting for Disparity Funding is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the boardroom.

4. Update on ELARC's Current Projects

Reduced Caseload Ratio: Hope to transition the 200 cases and bring in new families on the reduced caseload ratio. There are some families that have no need to increase services they are happy with the services they are currently receiving. Some indicated they were satisfied with the service coordinator going out for a home visit only once a year.

(a) Person Centered Coordinators: The focus continues on intake cases. Training is done on an individual basis and for all age groups.

D. Self-Determination (SD)

1. Local Advisory Committee

Ms. Wong briefly reviewed power-point presentation "Your Life Your Way" used at the last Local Advisory Committee Meeting in September. The presentation was developed by consumers and local advisory committee members of Westside Regional Center.

2. Federal Application Status

Ms. Wong reported it has been approximately 2 ½ years since the Bill was passed on authorizing California to establish a Self-Determination project. The delay has been in acquiring federal approval. The application must be approved by the federal government before proceeding with implementation. DDS has been working with the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and it is hoped that by the end of the calendar year approval will be granted.

There are five statewide trainings to be held. Each of the five training will offer two different training, each focusing on a different audience. Day one of the training focuses on regional center staff. The second day is designed as a Train-the-Trainer presentation for community based organizations that will be providing informational training sessions to families/consumers on self-determination. Ms. Elizabeth Harrell, Supervisor, Information and Training will be part of the panel of presenters at the five trainings.

Once approved there will be a total of 2,500 consumers participating in the first three years. Regional Centers will submit the names to DDS of individuals who have expressed an interest in being part of the Self-Determination project. The informational sessions will be open to all who are interested in self-determination.

E. Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 Budget Update

1. D-1 Contract Amendment

The D-1 allocation for FY 2017-'18 was received and signed by Tony Borrego, Vice-Chairperson for Anthony De La Rosa who was not available. The total contract after the D-1 amendment is \$219,820,060. Of this amount \$192,572,150 is for Purchase of Services, \$26 million is for operations.

2. POS Expenditure Projections Summary

2016-17 Fiscal Year:

The POS expenditure report was discussed. There is approximately a \$6 million dollar surplus remaining from the 2016-17 Fiscal Year.

2017-18 Fiscal Year:

The Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) is a DDS required comprehensive POS expenditure analysis. This report is due by December 10, 2017 to DDS. Reporting in December allows regional centers to have sufficient actual costs to use in projecting

future expense trends. December allows for four months of actual expenses to be posted thereby yielding an improved projection of a surplus/deficit status.

Budget Performance Report:

There is currently a \$342,299 deficit in the operations budget. There is approximately \$170,000 to be allocated under the Community Placement Plan (CPP). The allocation will not be received until end of current fiscal year, May or June. The allocation is delayed in order to ensure that projected placements from developmental centers to the community are achieved.

F. Caseload Ratio Correspondence from DDS

Ms. Wong reported this fiscal year ELARC received a special allocation for hiring service coordinators to reduce caseload ratios in the five categories under the Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4640.6.

Correspondence from DDS dated August 3, 2017 was discussed. The correspondence stated ELARC's caseload ratio plan of correction received on June 19, 2017 was approved. The Consumer Caseload ratio results were reviewed. As of October 2017 ELARC caseload ratio for Medicaid Waiver is 61.4, statutory requirement is 62.1. The one category which ELARC did not meet is the "All Others" category which is at 71.2, but should be at 1:66.

The allocation for the hiring of additional service coordinators was \$619,000, which was used exclusively for the hiring of service coordinators which resulted in ELARC meeting the Medicaid Waiver caseload ratio (1:62). The hiring of staff last fiscal year was staggered throughout the fiscal year. In current fiscal year the cost of these service coordinators has been annualized and the cost far exceeds the original allocation of \$619,000. The end-result is a much tighter operations budget in current fiscal years.

**VI Consumer Services Report – Felipe Hernandez,
Chief of Consumer Services**

Mr. Hernandez reported the following:

✓ A Benefits and Employment Workshop is scheduled at San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center on November 7, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Both Inland Regional Center and ELARC is co-sponsoring the event with San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center. Additional information is available on the ELARC website. Registration can also be done on-line. The speaker will be Mike Walling, M.Ed..

✓ Fiesta Educativa will be hosting their 39th annual Statewide Conference on Monday, November 6th at the California Endowment Center. George De La Loza, ELARC Employment Specialist will be presenting on employment. Additional information is available on the website. Registration is also available on-line.

✓ Law Enforcement Workgroup: ELARC under the direction of the Forensic Liaison, is attempting to create liaisons with the various police departments in the ELARC catchment area. Looking to the possibility of attending some of their daily briefings.

VII Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC): Virgilio Orlina, Chairperson

Mr. Orlina reported the last CAC meeting was held on September 19, 2017 in the ELARC Board room in Alhambra and via video conference in the Whittier District office.

The System Update Report was provided by Gloria Wong, Executive Director. She provided an update on the status of Self-Determination and the Performance Contract.

During the CAC meeting, two nominees for the CAC Vice-Chairperson Marisol Guerrero and Anthony Reyes presented their statements on why they want to run for Vice-Chair in preparation for the November election.

The main topic at the last CAC meeting was “*Your Voice, Your Vote.*” The guest speaker was Ms. Roxy Ortiz, ELARC Information and Training Specialist. Ms. Ortiz conducted a PowerPoint presentation entitled “*To Vote: A Civic Responsibility, Get Registered, Get Ready, Go Vote.*” She discussed what is voting, why it is so important to vote and who is eligible to vote in California. Ms. Ortiz explained how to complete the Voter Registration Card, when to register to vote, the requirements to register and how to get ready to vote.

On October 5th, 2017, the CAC held their Debriefing and Planning meeting on what worked, what didn't work and what can be done to increase consistent attendance. Also discussed how to outreach more to the consumers. Such tools for outreach activities includes sending emails and calling them to remind and encourage them to attend future CAC meetings. Jesse Padilla, Consumer Advocate, also presented a CAC Improvement Proposal which includes to start a meeting with the speakers at least three weeks before the CAC meeting in hopes that the speakers become more efficient and the flow of the presentations become more effective, create consumer friendly speaker evaluations, request name tags for the CAC meeting attendees, and create suggestion box and research of different community events.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for November 21st, 2017 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in the ELARC Boardroom and video conference at the Whittier Office. The main topic will be “Emergency Preparedness” and the presenter will be Jesse Padilla, ELARC Consumer Advocate.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC)

Jose Reyes, VAC representative was unable to attend Board Meeting. Mr. Brian Chacon, Vice-Chair of the VAC was in attendance and provided the following report.

Mr. Chacon reported the VAC meets on the third Thursday of every month. The last VAC meeting was held on September 28th in the Boardroom and a video conference with the Whittier office. The meeting opened with Doris Weis, ELARC Community Resource Specialist sharing information on the Housing Authority who is opening a Section 8 waiting list. The individuals will be selected via lottery and the winners will be placed on a waiting list.

The Networking Committee, with chair Ron Rosen, encouraged all VAC members to attend the next networking meeting which will be held directly after the October 26th VAC meeting. He requested that VAC members in attendance come up with some ideas for possible municipalities that have a community center or can sponsor the Community Resource Fair in 2019. It is hoped to expand the VAC partnership and visibility with local governments within the ELARC catchment area. Individuals must be 18 years or older in order to provide input on what would be a good time and date for the next Community Resource Fair. The Networking Committee is exploring the possibility of attracting more individuals in transition along with coming up with a date and time to accommodate them and their families and the regional center staff.

Frances Jacobs, Manager, Community Services Division, provided information about a training which will be hosted at San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center by "Armadillo".

Ms. Jacobs also provided information on the ABX2-1 Service Provider Survey and ELARC's results.

Also present at the VAC meeting was Mr. Michael Martinez from the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR). Michael was a vendor for the DOR and has a lot of information. He discussed the CIE Blueprint and also some changes related to the law that was passed, WIOA. There will now be a trial work experience before a consumer, 16 years or older, becomes eligible for DOR service. Mr. Martinez also provided information on the Resource Specialists for DOR and indicated they are available throughout the State of California.

The next VAC meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2017 in the Boardroom.

C. Personnel/Finance Committee

There were no Personnel/Finance Committee Meetings.

VIII Miscellaneous Announcements

Ms. Wong announced there will not be an Executive Committee Meeting this evening.

IX Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

M/S/C (Virgilio Orlina/Lida Chavez) To adjourn the ELARC Board of Directors Meeting. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by:

Original Signed By:

Diane Lasell, Secretary
ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Rosalie M. Estrada, Executive Secretary