



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER

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**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
February 14, 2012
Approved 3/13/2012**

Present:

Olga Sarabia, President
Terry Munoz, Treasurer
Felicitas Navera, Secretary
Theresa Chen
Robert Hazard
Deborah Gallardo
Marvin Brown
Pat Gomez

Staff Present:

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

Absent:

Elton Luis (excused)
Joe Utar (excused)
Jiang Guo (excused)
Miguel Lugo
Tammy Bachrach (excused)

Guests:

Refer to Sign-In Sheet

Olga Sarabia, President, called the meeting to order at 6:15 P.M.

I Welcome and Roll Call

Olga Sarabia, President, welcomed all present. Roll call was taken and a quorum was not present in order to conduct business.

II Introductions

The Board members and the audience were introduced.

III Community Input

Dr. Jonathan Chien, parent, reported SEEK, a nonprofit agency, plans a conference every year in China and reported a large conference is planned in March in Shanghai. This will be the 3rd year the conference has been held in China.

SEEK will assist large hospitals in Shanghai develop ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) centers and will assist universities set-up ABA programs.

More information on SEEK can be located on their website, www.seekeducation.org.

ELARC Board practice has been to limit public comments 5 minutes per person; although that practice has been loosely applied and is rarely adhered to. Most recently the number of parties wanting to address the Board during public commentary has increased sufficiently that the Board must reconsider its current practice in order to be able to complete the business of the Board at each session. Time limits on public comments is a common practice and Olga Sarabia, President, referenced item #7 on the Alhambra City Arts & Cultural Events Committee agenda, which “limits all oral communication to five (5) minutes.” Similarly, Olga suggested using a start/end time for the public comment session in order to ensure that all Board business can be completed at each Board session. A suggestion was made to institute this modification at the upcoming Board meeting in March 2012. Olga emphasized that the minutes of the board meetings are public documents which are posted on the ELARC website, www.elarc.org.

Gloria Wong, Executive Director, stated that she will work with Felipe Hernandez, Chief of Consumer Services, to ensure that Board action items, such as changes to policy and procedures, are added to the agendas for Board Advisory Committees with sufficient lead time prior to the scheduled Board action. This will allow for a more relaxed schedule that can be used for open discussion on issues/concerns which can then be presented to the full Board by the Board liaison of the various advisory committees to the Board of Directors. The public comment period at the Board meetings will remain an option for the public, but with stricter adherence to the allowable time for public comment.

A quorum was established at 6:35 P.M.

IV Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes of January 10, 2012 Board of Director Minutes

M/S/C (Felicitas Navera/Terry Munoz) To approve the Minutes of January 10, 2012 Board of Directors Meeting as presented. Unanimous.

B. Minutes of Executive Session of January 10, 2012

M/S/C (Pat Gomez/Felicitas Navera) To approve the Minutes of Executive Session of January 10, 2012 as recorded. Unanimous.

V. Executive Director's Report

A. Budget Status

I. Fiscal Year 2010-11 Purchase of Services

Gloria Wong reported ELARC is reporting a POS deficit of \$1.5 million as of December 2011. There has been no action taken by the Department of Developmental Services regarding the deficit.

2. FY 2011-12

(a) POS

The POS Expenditure Projection Summary for expenditures through December 2011, was shared with the Board. Regional Centers received their first allocation from DDS. Based on this allocation ELARC is projecting a POS deficit ranging from \$20,733,732 to \$22,483,324. Nearly eight months into the current fiscal year and there is no word or action taken on how the deficit will be addressed. DDS is holding in reserve approximately \$140 million for POS, yet to be allocated to the regional centers. The projected deficit by 21 regional centers is \$300 million, which exceeds the reserve funds of \$140 million.

The expenditure trends for ELARC are indicating a substantial increase in POS costs when compared to previous fiscal year. Such a comparison was noted in December 2011 encumbrances of \$8.7 million versus December 2010 with an encumbrance of \$7.5 million. This increase in cost is also reflected in the "Rollover" expenditures which in 2010 was \$88 million and for the current fiscal year it increased to \$95 million, a difference of \$7 million. "Rollover" represents on-going services that typically run for the entire year (i.e. residential day program, transportation). Typically a high rollover amounts would indicate a drop-off of new encumbrances in future months, but that is not occurring.

(b) Budget Performance Report (Operations)

In Operations (OPS) there was a deficit of \$302,176 as of October 26, 2011, and as of January 25, 2012 the total deficit has decreased to \$218,626. There is some additional money to be allocated but when and the amount is uncertain. Positions have been frozen in an effort to try and balance the OPS budget.

(c) Trigger Bill Update

The Trigger Bill was enacted on January 1, 2012 which cut \$100 million from the regional center system for the period from January through June 2012. As of July 1st the cut will be annualized, resulting in a \$200 million reduction in Fiscal Year 2012-13. Gloria reported DDS has indicated there will be no additional reductions to the regional centers in the current fiscal year as they are looking at other alternatives to make up the \$100 million reduction.

(d) Stakeholder Meetings

There are six stakeholder meetings planned by the Department of Developmental Services during the month of February and one additional meeting in March in order to obtain public input. DDS is seeking input from the public, vendors, regional centers, parents and consumers on suggestions for cutting back \$200 million in Fiscal Year 2012-13. The Governor is suggesting reinstating the 4 ¼% cut which impacted the vendors and the regional centers.

Suggestions thus far from the stakeholder meetings are around increasing federal financial participation for the regional center system, tapping private insurance to cover behavioral services, and to make available self-determination as an alternative to the present service coordination system.

(e) Overview of Cumulative Cuts

A chart, "Shredding Services & Supports to People with Developmental Disabilities Cumulative Impact of Budget Cuts Through 2011", was shared with the Board for their information. Gloria provided an overview. The chart was developed by Area Board 5 which provides information on a total of 22 separate actions that have been enacted resulting in cuts and additional workload to staff.

B. Governor's Preliminary Budget for FY 2012-13

The ARCA Position Statement re: Governor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 was shared with the Board.

The position paper supports the 4.25% reinstatement for regional centers and vendors which sunsets June 30, 2012. ARCA supports the adjustments to the budget due to

consumer growth and also states its position on Prevention. ARCA continues to support full restoration of serving at-risk infants and toddlers through the regional center Early Start Program.

C. Lanterman Developmental Center

1. Update on Closure Report

The “Update on the Plan for the Closure of Lanterman Developmental Center” was shared with the Board.

Gloria Wong reported DDS identified the need for the closure of Lanterman Developmental Center in January 2010. The plan was subsequently approved in October 2010 through the enactment of the Budget Act of 2010. On July 1, 2012 the proposal will begin its 2nd year. Licensing and the development of resources has been slower than anticipated. ELARC will be one of the first regional centers in Southern California area to open a “962” home, for medically fragile consumers. The home is slated to open in late March 2012.

Robert Hazard, Board Member, reported he visited two of the “962” homes in San Jose and stated the homes are incredible. There are tracks on the ceiling to assist in moving the consumers from the bedroom, to the bathroom, to the kitchen and the living room. Hallways are sufficiently wide to accommodate consumers in wheelchairs.

Robert made reference to Page 4, Trailer Bill Language (TBL). He indicated the statutes authorize use of staff working at Lanterman to provide services in the community to former residents of Lanterman. When consumers were being moved from Agnews, a statement was made several times that the key to have the community accept developmentally disabled consumers is to have State staff hired for the community home. The issue is that State staff have a higher salary range with benefits which makes this arrangement difficult. Robert stated this is one of the issues he plans to discuss on his next visit to Sacramento, a provision in the budget for special funds allocated for the State employees to be employed in the homes being developed.

2. Disability Rights California: Position Paper

The Disability Rights California developed a position paper regarding a residential home at 610 De Sales in San Gabriel. It was presented at the San Gabriel Council Meeting of January 17, 2012. The home is for 5 adult consumers which was purchased in August 2011. There has been opposition by residents on its development. The comments by the Disability Rights California (DRC) focuses on the law and speaks to the fact that anyone with a developmental disability can move into a residential home and will have a service provider or a vendor provide care and support without it being considered a

business. Consumers have the right to move in, approval by the neighbors is not required. Residents feel it is a business in a residential area and have been vocal and bold on their objection. Residents have picketed in front of the homes of Key Board members. ELARC and Elwyn have attempted several times to mediate but the opposition remains.

At the meeting on January 17th at the Council Meeting, Gloria reported Bob Hazard and Deborah Gallardo provided testimony as part of a much larger group. Due to the large crowd the Council limited comments to a one hour period. They alternated between those in favor and those opposed. Gloria reported that the speakers in favor were articulate and impactful. DRC opened the comment period beginning with an interpretation of what the law protects. They also distributed a packet, which was shared with the Board. Deborah Gallardo spoke as a resident of San Gabriel, along with another family member who lives in San Gabriel whose testimony was quite heart wrenching. This family member is a single parent who has always been a resident of San Gabriel as well as her son. She stated it has been offensive and hurtful that when she no longer can take care of her son that he would not be welcomed into the community, where he was raised into a residential home.

Gloria stated overall the presentation at the City Council Meeting on January 17th went very well. The next step will be to apply for permits for renovation.

D. Board Training Update Presentation

Mark Starford, Consultant, shared with the Board two of the five board training videos and the material developed which will be on the ELARC new website. It will be in English, Spanish and Mandarin. The narration will have text in all three languages which can be easily read. The board training video is the first of its kind. The ELARC Board and the California Council on Developmental Disabilities State Council came together in putting together webcast training videos and material. There is a "Plain Language" version has fewer words, larger fonts and will be available in all three languages. When President Obama signed the Plain Writing Act in 2010 he sent a message about clear government communication that the public can understand use. This affects state agencies accepting federal dollars.

The training includes five short videos with worksheets on the following topics: (1) Board of Directors; (2) Role of Board Members; (3) Purpose of Committees; (4) Board Development; (5) Facilitation and Mentoring; After each video, viewers will be asked to complete worksheets and to develop their own mission statements. Mark also reported The website will also contain additional links to obtain additional information. The ELARC Board of Directors Meeting dates, agendas, and Minutes will also be available on the site. FYI, the Board Meeting in October will be held on the first Tuesday,

October 2nd rather than October 9th. The change was approved at the Board January 10th meeting.

Mark also reported the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities is funding a very significant statewide self-advocacy network. The council is setting up regions across the state and each will develop its own strategic plans and outcomes. Some of their priorities include reaching out to diverse communities, senior communities and the young adults ranging in ages from 18 to 30 year olds. Additional information may be obtained on the State Council's website, scddadvocacy.org. The site will contain a variety of information and will be in simple form. SCDD meetings are held every two months. The next statewide State Council Meeting is scheduled for April 12 and 13, 2012.

Olga Sarabia suggested a date be used on the training material. Mark suggested that a copyright be included on the videos and training material.

Gloria Wong and Olga Sarabia thanked the board members who participated in the development of training series and also thanked Mark for his assistance.

Olga Sarabia suggested a board retreat to review the completed project.

VI Consumer Services Report

There was no report.

VII Committee Reports

A. Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC)

Tammy Bachrach was unable to attend the Board Meeting therefore there was no VAC report.

B. Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC)

Miguel Lugo was unable to attend the Board Meeting therefore there was no report.

C. Family Advisory Committee (FAC)

Felicitas Navera, Board Member, reported on the January 4, 2012 FAC meeting. She stated attendance was good in Whittier and Alhambra. Felicitas reported Fran Goldfard, from USC, received a grant to provide training to parents. The FAC was asked to come up with subject matters for the 5 or 6 sessions.

Gloria reported she will work on how to better structure the comment portion of the meeting to make it more streamlined. Some of the parents at the FAC meeting indicated they were present at the last board meeting and felt they were not given the opportunity to make comments.

Felicitas indicated the challenge is to motivate parents to attend Board Meetings not only when there is a burning issue but to attend and become acquainted with the governance of the Regional Center through Board activities.

VIII Miscellaneous Announcements

There were no announcements.

IX Adjournment

M/S/C (Terry Munoz/Olga Sarabia) There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Felicitas Navera, Secretary
ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Rosalie M. Estrada, Executive Assistant