



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
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**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
 March 8, 2011
 Approved April 12, 2011 as Corrected**

Present:

Olga Sarabia
 Marvin Brown
 Pat Gomez
 Terry Munoz
 Felicitas Navera
 Robert Hazard
 Miguel Lugo
 Tammy Bachrach (VAC)

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
 Jesse Valdez, Manager
 Eleanor Johns, Recruitment &
 Benefits Coordinator
 Jesse Padilla, Consumer Advocate
 Lonetta J. Yarleque, Forensic Specialist

Absent:

Deborah Gallardo
 Joe Utar
 Jiang Guo
 Elton Lui
 Theresa Chen

Guests:

Refer to Sign-In Sheet

 Olga Sarabia called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

I Welcome and Roll Call

Olga Sarabia welcomed all present. Roll call was taken and since a quorum was not present, items not requiring action were taken out of sequence. A quorum was established at 6:30 P.M.

II Nominating Committee

A. Election of Officers

Olga Sarabia presented the slate of officers for nomination. They are as follows:

*Olga Sarabia, President
 Pat Gomez, Vice-President
 Felicitas Navera, Secretary
 Terry Munoz, Treasurer*

M/S/C (Robert Hazard/Miguel) To approve the slate of officers as presented. Unanimous.

Olga stated the mission statements were distributed and requested that the board members review and they be prepared to discuss.

B. Conflict of Interest Statement

The Conflict of Interest Statement (COI) was sent as part of the Board meeting packet and must be signed on an annual basis. Since March is the BOD Annual Meeting, the COI must be read, signed and returned to Eleanor Johns this evening.

C. Whistleblower Policy

The Whistleblower Policy was also sent as part of the Board meeting packet and must be signed on an annual basis. Since March is the BOD Annual Meeting, the Whistleblower Statement must be read, signed and returned to Eleanor Johns this evening.

III Introductions & Opening Round - Board of Directors

The board was introduced. The board was asked to share a positive experience from the board training held on February 26, 2011. All reported it was a very informative experience and provided a venue to get to know each other.

IV Community Input

Dr. Chen shared with the Board that SEEK a vendored program, that a group of individuals received their MBA last year and will be starting employment with SEEK in the ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) program. Another group is attending the University of Nevada for their MBA. Olga thanked Dr. Chien for attending the board meetings on a regular basis.

V Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2011

Corrections: Page 3: POS Monthly Projection Report: 3rd line, add after monthly "basis"; Page 5: 2. POS Statewide Standards Survey, move "As of last week there were 4,000 responses. Responses are anonymous" to paragraph above, line 3, following "February 10th in Whittier."

M/S/C (Marvin Brown/Pat Gomez) To approve the Minutes of February 8, 2011 as corrected. Unanimous.

VI Executive Directors Report

D. Budget Status - FY 2010-11

1. Contract Update

The 2010-11 B-2 Contract Amendment was received for Purchase of Services in February. As of this date the regional center should have received 91% of its entire budget, which is a requirement under the contract which is not being done. There will be a B-3 contract amendment issued over the next two weeks.

2. Purchase of Services Monthly Projection Report

The POS Expenditure Projections Summary for actual expenditures through January 2011 was distributed and reviewed. There is a deficit reported from a high of \$3,651,993 to a low of \$3,189,560. This takes into account the B-2 allocation of \$3.6 million which reduced the deficit but did not clear the entire deficit.

The B-3 is expected within two weeks, although a delay is expected. Currently there are funds available for making the June payments, so ELARC will not need to draw on the line of credit. ELARC processes approximately \$10 million every month for purchase of services and \$1 million for operations. City National Bank has given ELARC and four other regional centers an open line of credit throughout the fiscal year in the event of a State cash-flow problem. ELARC's open-line of credit throughout the fiscal year is \$11 million. At the start of a new fiscal year, July, ELARC has a \$31 million dollar line of credit. The amount is adjusted based on historical monthly expenditures each fiscal year. The line of credit at the start of the fiscal year is based on three months of needed funding, an assumption based on the lengthy delays of the budget passage.

3. Budget Performance Report - Operations

The Budget Performance Report for Operations was distributed and reviewed. There is a deficit of \$98,000, last month the deficit was at \$600,000 deficit. ELARC is currently operating on a reduced pay-period, every two weeks employees work 76 hours versus 80 hours.

4. Community Report

The 2010 Community Report was distributed. This report is tied into the annual board meeting. The community report provides a brief overview of what the regional center funds are used for and how regional center services impacts a consumers life. Of the total budget 87.3% is spent on purchase of services and 13% on operations.

B. Fiscal Year 2011-12 Update

1. Update on Community Meetings: 2/9/11 & 2/10/11

Community meetings were held on February 9th and 10th. The meetings went well and the audience was very engaged on the budget discussions and the potential consequences to the regional center system. There were approximately 140 persons in attendance at the Whittier site. Participants were encouraged to get together with an advisory committee as a way to keep current on system changes and events.

2. Legislature: Minimizes Cuts to Regional Centers

A copy of the March 3rd Revised Budget, Outline for Developmental Services Proposal was shared with the Board. Governor's proposal was to cut \$750 million, the Legislature reduced the cut to \$576.9 million, this represents \$173.1 million reduction from the original Governor's proposal of \$750 million reduction to the regional centers. As this point it is unknown whether the budget will pass by March 15th. The Governor has expressed disappointment that he does not think he will have the necessary votes for the passage of the budget. It is not only the dollar amount which is important but equally crucial is the revenue. Unless the Governor is able to secure the two votes he needs there will not be a special ballot in June. If there is no special ballot in June, the Budget Committees will go back and attempt to balance the budget, which could mean an additional cut of \$12.5 billion.

The Budget Conference Committee continues to meet.

3. DDS: Stakeholder Group Invitation

A copy of the correspondence dated February 25, 2011 from Terri Delgadillo, Director of DDS to Bob Baldo, Executive Director of ARCA was shared with the Board.

Workgroups have been initiated and dates for meetings have been set. There will be two meeting for each workgroup. The composition for the workgroup will be thirty to thirty-five individuals per group. DDS at the conclusion will have the final responsibility of putting together the draft ideas from the meetings. DDS will then conduct community

forums to educate the public at large sometime in May. In June DDS will go back to the Legislature for approval of the recommendations from the stakeholders regarding the Uniform purchase of service standards.

A packet of information regarding the stakeholder process was distributed to the Board.

4. Grassroots Day Activities

An information packet for the 2011 Grassroots Event was distributed to the Board. Every year the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) has hosted a statewide single day event for the twenty-one regional centers to send a delegation to Sacramento. Due to the budget cuts, ELARC will be participating at the local level. Visits will be done during the week of March 14th - 18th. A legislative workshop will be scheduled for individuals who would like to participate in Grassroots Day.

5. Assembly Bill 1244 - Assemblyman Chesbro

A copy of AB 1244 was shared with the Board. This bill states the intention of the Legislature to support the implementation of Individual Choice Budgets for regional center consumers as an alternative to uniform standards.

C. Board Retreat February 26, 2011: Follow-up

1. A Consumer's Guide to the Lanterman Act

A copy of the Consumer's Guide to the Lanterman Act was shared with the Board. This guide was developed in 2001 for consumers.

2. ELARC Mission Statement

The Mission Statement was shared with the Board.

3. Board Advisory Committees Mission

The Mission Statements were shared with the Board.

4. Board/Committees: Next Steps

This item was discussed at the board retreat and was placed on the agenda to begin planning the following: (1) proactive board meetings; (2) board training series; (3) committee participation; (4) community engagement.

Mark Starford suggested he meet with the Executive Committee to develop and send it out with the board packet. Gloria suggested that for the next meeting in April 12th a 30 minute period be set aside to discuss.

An Executive Committee Meeting will be scheduled prior to the April 12th board meeting.

VII Consumer Services Report

Felipe Hernandez was not available to attend the BOD meeting this evening. Jesse Valdez, Manager of the Residential Services/Federal Programs and also oversees the transportation component was present and will be providing information Medi-Caid Waiver.

Gloria reported at the retreat last month there were questions raised on Medi-Caid Waiver or federal programs, and how consumers are identified for the program and how vendors can identify consumers for the program.

Jesse Valdez reported there are approximately 2500 consumers in the Medicaid Waiver program and are currently on Medi-Cal they can initially qualify for the Medicaid Waiver program through the institutional deeming process which can assist them in receiving Medi-Cal then add to the Medicaid Waiver Program. If the regional center spends over \$1,000 a year in purchase of services for a consumer they can be eligible for Medi-Caid Waiver. Consumers who are coming out of a developmental center automatically qualify for Medi-Caid waiver.

Services Coordinators use internal forms which help them make a quick determination as to whether or not an individual would qualify for the Medi-Caid Waiver program. The final determination is made by the ELARC nurse as to whether or not the consumer has a qualifying condition. A consumer's participation in the program is strictly voluntary and to date ELARC has not reached their cap. Every year as part of the contract with DDS they indicate how many more consumers can be added.

The State of California bills the federal government for the consumers receiving services and this helps offset the State funds. There is a cap on the contract that the federal government has with the State of California. This year regional center can add 85,000 which is the cap, anything over the amount will not be reimbursed. It is a struggle to bring on individuals who meet the qualifications.

A packet of information re: Medi-Caid Waiver will be shared with the Board at the April Meeting.

A. Correspondence from DDS re: Policies

1. Letter Dated January 31, 2011

Gloria Wong reported once the revised policies are approved by the Board of Directors they are submitted to DDS for final approval. Once again DDS approves the POS submitted contingent upon the regional center's assurance that the policies are implemented so as to comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Edith Hernandez reported the policies listed on both letters from DDS will be changed in order to comply with applicable laws and regulations. The policies regarding Early Start/Early Intervention have been corrected and will be forwarded to DDS. The Mobility Training

Services required a responsibility fact sheet that was not included but will be forwarded to DDS. DDS is also requesting a copy of the Policy and Procedure re: Referral for Residential Placement since the Out of Home Respite Policy makes reference to this policy. This will also be forwarded to DDS.

2. Letter Dated February 9, 2011

Edith Hernandez reported this letter is in response to the policies revised on January 10, 2011. DDS is approving these policies contingent upon the regional center's assurance that the policies are implemented so as to comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

B. Review of Revised Policies

1. Supported Living (deferred to the April BOD Meeting)
2. Day Care (deferred to the April BOD Meeting)

Tammy Bachrach indicated the VAC would like to receive the policies with enough time in order to allow them to discuss and review prior to the next Board meeting. Edith Hernandez stated the Supported Living and Day Care policies were posted 10 days prior to the Board meeting on the ELARC website and at the front desk. Gloria reported Frances Jacobs is working with Elizabeth Harrell re: the posting and allowing enough time for the VAC to review. At this time the Day Care policy has not been posted as it is still being worked on and should be ready within the next few days.

VIII Committee Reports

A. Vendor Advisory Committee

Tammy reported the last meeting primarily dealt with discussion and planning for the vendor fair. Gloria provided budget information. Also discussed was the stakeholder group and whether there was representation from vendors in Southern California and that the Vendor Advisory Committee is not being utilized as a resource for the workgroups. A letter was developed and sent to DDS from Tammy Bachrach. She also contacted seven other vendors in Southern California, and of the seven, five responded. The information received was that three of the VAC chairs had been nominated by their regional center, and one indicated a form had been completed. This provided an opportunity to get to know the vendor chairs and started conversation about collaboration, which was a positive result.

Gloria reported the regional centers were allowed to identify three individuals, one regional center staff, a director or a board member, an ARCA representative. There are also twenty-four advocacy spaces through the Area Board X or the State Council.

B. Consumer Advisory Committee

1. Revised CAC Bylaws (Deferred)

Miguel Lugo reported the CAC meeting held in February was well attended. The title of “consumer” was discussed and he will bring the CAC recommendation to the Board for their approval. Gloria indicated this can start at the local level with discussion, and taken to the statewide Consumer Advisory Committee, which is currently taking up this same topic. This would also affect the Lanterman Act which is written in reference to “consumer”. Years back the consumer was referred to as a “Client” and eventually this term was objected to by consumers and parents and was eventually changed to “consumer”. Additionally service coordinators were referred to as “case managers”.

Mark Starford reported some of the regional centers have made a change internally and suggested that other regional centers be contacted so see if they have made a change. At the State level this has come up and part of the conversation is to mobilize consumers to meet with legislators to see if there is support for such a change.

Jesse Padilla, Consumer Advocate reported the CAC decided to develop a web page for the CAC members and ELARC consumers in general. Jesse will be inputting the information. This will be presented to the Board in April for Board approval. Jesse announced a focus group will be meeting on Wednesday re: the development of the web page.

Miguel reported the By Laws will be presented to the Board at the April meeting.

C. Family Advisory Committee

Felicitas reported she attended for the first time the Family Advisory Committee and indicated she was “blown away” and was very moved by the Whittier group who was a very dynamic group, very passionate. The parents know what they want and know how to identify their needs, and they assist other parents. Many activities are planned which includes on April 16th an Autism Awareness Walk on the Greenway in Whittier ending at Palm Park. Felicitas also indicated the parents are very appreciative of their service coordinators and they held a recognition luncheon for their services coordinators who have touched their lives and their children’s lives.

The last part of the FAC meeting was a budget presentation by Gloria.

D. Finance Committee

A meeting will be scheduled with the Finance/Personnel Committee to review the pension plan in April.

IX Announcements

None

X Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

**Felicitas Navera, Secretary
ELARC Board of Directors**

**Recorded by: Eleanor Johns, Recruitment & Benefits Coordinator for
Rosalie Estrada, Executive Assistant**

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