

**Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
Service Provider Advisory Committee
July 7, 2021
Minutes**

This committee Zoom meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM and roll call was taken.

SPAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Kimberly West-Isaac
Kyra Griffith
Dee Prescott
Kelly White
Greg Sanchez
Keri Castaneda

Excused:

Nicole Hajjar

Guests:

Andrea Devers/PCS Lanterman	Israel Ibañez/InClusion Svs	Celia Montes/ECF
Suad Bisogno/Integrated Res	Traci Martinez/Adv Health	Christian De Paz/ACT
Casandra Luques/SVS	Yvonne Nakamoto/Total Ed	Brian Nguyen/Easterseals
Beatriz Diaz/In2Vision	Chaghig Kouhajian/ACT	Allan Baca/Inclusion Svs
Anna Polin/Build Rehab	Nanette Cruz/ECF	Bijan Beizai/In2Vision
Janet Amandor/In2Vision	Kimberly Yrigoyen/SVS	Veronica A/SVS
Asheley Dominguez/In2V	Kimberly Bermudez/24 Hr	Joanna Iniguez/People's Care
Armine Kim/Avanti	Cindi Raimondi/ABLE	Bryan Chacon/Maxim
Andrew Day/PCS Lanterman	Lateisha Getter/Inclusion Svs	Josie Guiao/Serrano Home Care
Bernadette Manalo/NBC Hm	John Saba/Calif Psychcare	Rosalind Ford/SVS
Michaelann Gabriele/Ctr for Developing Kids		

Staff

Pablo Ibañez

Public Comments

- Mr. Sanchez shared that Home Instead donated \$100 per vaccine to a Pasadena vaccination event on June 24. All proceeds went to Pasadena Meals on Wheels. Eighty five (85) people were vaccinated at this event and \$7,500 was donated. He encouraged other providers to consider doing the same. Mr. Israel Ibañez share information on the chat for providers that would like to host a vaccination clinic.
- Ms. White emphasized the importance of recognizing all direct care staff that showed up to work during the pandemic and encouraged all service providers to acknowledge those that “stepped up to the plate”.
- Mr. Nguyen shared that last month Easter Seals had their first in-person peer support group at Verdugo Park.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from June 2, 2021 were accepted as submitted.

REPORTS

Board

In Ms. Isaac's absence, Mr. Ibañez reported the following:

- Ms. Maureen Wilson, Director of Training & Development, gave a presentation on the Learning Management System (Arcalearn).
- There was a presentation on the 2020 Housing summary that focused on COVID assistance that was available to residential providers and the challenges they faced to keep all clients safe during the pandemic.
- New initiatives have been identified. LRC Housing Specialist, Ms. Shannon Rains, has been very involved getting housing vouchers from local cities and has been networking with different housing developers but because of COVID that had to be put on hold. These activities are now resuming. Mr. Ibañez stated that there is a great need for housing and that the demand greatly outweighs the supply across the state.
- ARCA report – Budget was discussed.
- Nominating Committee –Board membership status was reviewed.

HCBS Update

Mr. Ibañez reported on behalf of Ms. Garibay that the virtual site assessments have continued and it is expected that they will continue through August. 50% of the 1,200 virtual site assessments have been completed statewide. The reports that are generated as well as findings and recommendations will be made available to regional centers and service providers in the fall of 2021.

Mr. Ibañez shared that the providers selected will be interviewed at the same time as the virtual assessment is conducted. The PDF of the self-assessments is available to HCBS program evaluators. Providers that would like to have a copy of the self-assessment can contact Ms. Garibay at sgaribay@lanterman.org.

Contracts have been finalized for providers that were selected to receive HCBS funding for FY 2020/21. They will be sent out shortly.

Self Determination Update

Mr. Ibañez reported that July 1st was the official date of broad Self Determination implementation. There is interest from families and clients however many families are happy with the traditional services they are currently receiving.

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Advocacy

Ms. White shared that many years of advocating has paid off as money has been allocated for the regional center system. She stated that there are various trailer bills out that will benefit the regional centers.

Mr. Sanchez shared that he has been working with legislators Holden and Portantino on creating a work force to promote the hiring of qualified direct care staff as all providers are facing the challenge of identifying qualified individuals that can support the needs of the developmentally disabled population. He encouraged other providers to reach out to their local officials as well and follow his steps. Ms. White shared that Legislator Holden has put out a trailer bill that recognizes direct care staff and honors them for what they do every day for individuals with disabilities.

Providers asked Mr. Ibañez to strategize with other RC CS Directors regarding efforts to help with current provider hiring challenges. Networking and incentive ideas were two ideas offered. Mr. Ibañez will present this concern at their next statewide meeting and is open to meeting with some committee members to discuss this issue further. Ms. White and Mr. Israel Ibañez volunteered to be part of a task force.

DDS Updates

Mr. Ibañez shared the following trailer bill highlights:

- There is money in the budget to hire more service coordination staff but not for this fiscal year. In order to receive those funds the regional center needs to work on performance measures first.
- EI services will continue to be remote through June 30th 2022.
- Remote services for all provider types will also continue until June 30th 2022.
- Specialized homes for children with special health care needs will be developed.
- There are available funds for Implicit Bias Training for regional center staff. RC will prioritize who will receive this training first.
- Suspension for social recreational and camp services for children 3-17 years old will be lifted.
- RC is required to host public meetings.
- Additional funding has been received to increase service coordination and improve caseload ratios.
- Rate Reform - DDS has implemented rate increases for service providers that will be effective from April 1, 2022 through July 1, 2025.
- There will be funds available for training on person center planning and linguistic competency for direct care professionals and corresponding pay differentials.
- Provisional eligibility of Lanterman Act services specifically for clients 3-4 years of age.
- DDS will assign an Ombudsman to the Self Determination Program as a third party oversight entity.
- Rate suspensions that were in place for supported employment programs, community based services, ILS, infant development and early start specialized therapeutic services will be lifted.
- The mandatory holiday schedule will be eliminated.
- There is available funding for competitive integrated employment and for paid internship programs.
- 6 million dollars will be available for planning the replacement of the Uniform Fiscal System (UFS) and for a client management system.

LRC Updates

Mr. Ibañez provided an update on in-person services. For clients that live at home it will be the family's decision if they want to have the planning meetings in person or continue to do them remotely. The quarterly meetings for clients that live in out of home settings are now required to be in person.

Mr. Ibañez also reported that effective mid-August all Lanterman employees will be required to return to the office one day a week and effective mid-September all employees will be required to come to the office twice a week. The lobby of the building will be opened up for in person services as well as the Koch Young Resource Center.

Providers were asked to submit their check lists/mitigation plans to resume in person services to LRC and were reminded that LRC is not approving such plans. These are meant to be shared with clients, families and service coordinators to help with planning.

Providers were reminded that LRC still has PPE supplies available to any provider in need and were advised to contact Ms. Garibay to schedule a pick up.

SP Breakfast

Ms. Prescott suggested having a virtual zoom breakfast instead of an in-person event. Most agreed that for this year it will be the best option. Mr. Ibañez will follow up with LRC Leadership. More discussion to follow.

Vendor Fair

Mr. Sanchez reported that the subcommittee met on June 17 and it was finally decided that the virtual vendor fair will take place on September 9 from 9:30 – 11:00 am; the title is “Reimagining Consumer Centric Services in the COVID Era”. A panel will be discussing how they pivoted during COVID and created new approaches that have demonstrated positive outcomes. This fair will target services across the life span so service coordinators serving all ages will be welcomed. Mr. Ibañez will email committee members sometime this week with information on how to participate on the panel discussion.

Provider Training

Ms. Prescott shared she is still promoting the Disability Thrive initiative trainings. The next training on “Removing Barriers to Disability Services through Assistive Technology” is scheduled for July 14 from 3:00 – 4:15 pm. Ms. Prescott asked for feedback from providers that have attended any Disability Thrive Initiative training.

NEW BUSINESS

None

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS

None

ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 AM.

/ip

Service Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
ATTENDANCE

2020-2021	N O V 20	D E C 20	J A N 21	F E B 21	M A R 21	A P R 21	M A Y 21	J U N 21	J U L 21	A U G 21	S E P 21	O C T 21	T O T A L
K. WEST-ISAAC - Chair	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	E				
K. CASTANEDA	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X				
N. HAJJAR	X	X	E	X	E	X	X	X	E				
D. PRESCOTT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
G. SANCHEZ	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
K. GRIFFITH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
K. WHITE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
VACANT													
VACANT													
VACANT													