

**Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
Service Provider Advisory Committee
May 5, 2021
Minutes**

This committee Zoom meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM and roll call was taken.

SPAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Storck
Kyra Griffith
Dee Prescott
Kelly White
Greg Sanchez
Nicole Hajjar
Keri Castaneda
Kimberly West-Isaac

Guests:

Beatriz Diaz/In2Vision	Robert Turner/Life Steps	Cynthia Martinez/Easterseals
Chaghig Koulajian/ACT	Celia Montes/ECF	Andrea Devers/PCS Lanterman
Traci Martinez/Adv Health	Kimberly Bermudez – 24Hr Care	Bijan Beizai/In2Vision
Kimberly Bermudez/24hr	Michaelann Gabriele/Ctr for Dev Kids	Janet Amador/In2Vision
Bryan Nguyen/Easterseals	D L Cook/Quantum Housing	Nanette Cruz/ECF
Christian De Paz/ACT	Dennis Moreno/Model Res	Yvonne Nakamoto/Total Programs
Armine Kim/Avanti	Cindi Raimondi/ABLE	Krishna Tabor/ButterFli
Azniv Tonoyan/In2Vision	Ashly Dominguez/In2Vision	Nancy Niebrugge/The Campbell Center
Allan Baca/Inclusion Services	Veronica Aleman/SVS	Cynthia Barron/Easterseals
Adriane Mota/ECF	Joann Ahn/ECF	

Staff

Pablo Ibañez
Sonia Garibay

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from April 7, 2021 were accepted as submitted.

REPORTS

Board

Ms. Isaac shared that the Board meeting was brief, the following topics were discussed:

- The last ARCA meeting
- Grassroots
- LRC budget for the upcoming year
- LRC budget for last/current fiscal year had considerable increased due to the SOE funding

- LRC intake incoming referrals are down by 78 clients due to the pandemic and also due to families moving out of LRC catchment area.
- Performance Evaluation - a 360 evaluation will be completed this year with input from service providers, families and LRC staff for the Performance Evaluation. Survey is due May 7 and it should be submitted to Frank Lara. Survey is anonymous.

HCBS Update

Ms. Garibay reported that LRC is still waiting for a response from DDS regarding funding for FY 2020/21 however a response is expected soon. She shared DDS is aware of issues with scheduling certified trainers to conduct Person Centered Thinking trainings and Train the Trainer certification, so providers that receive funding for training, will have more flexibility in terms of the type of training that can be provided to staff as long as it helps the provider meet their goals to transition services into compliance.

LRC providers have not been contacted yet by PCG to start the virtual site assessments. DDS shared that LRC staff will participate in the virtual assessments as silent observers only. If issues come up during the process providers will have the opportunity, once the report is issued, to correct the findings and submit a plan with all corrections.

Ms. Garibay informed providers that when they receive the schedule for the virtual visits to let their QA liaison know if they would like them to participate. PCG will request that providers let them know at the time the visit is scheduled if any type of accommodations will be needed. After the visit PCG will generate a report. Providers will have 60 days after receiving the report to develop a plan to transition their program into compliance. Providers will have until 2023 to complete the full transition. Both regional center and provider will receive a copy of the report.

Ms. Garibay also reported that the in person CCL visits for licensed homes will resume as of May 15, 2021; the focus on these visits will be “Infection Control”.

Self Determination Update

Mr. Ibañez informed that LRC hosted an info session which included an overview on the self-determination program. He reminded participants of new service opportunities. It is anticipated that many clients will continue receiving services from existing service providers and they will continue to receive the same services for the same rate. However, in self-determination providers will get paid through an FMS agency and not through the regional center. Providers will have to set up the funding/billing mechanism with the FMS agency.

Families and clients in the self-determination program will have the opportunity to negotiate and customize services with the provider, which gives providers more flexibility on how to provide services.

On June 8, 2021, Self-Determination will go live for all eligible clients statewide. Most clients will be eligible to be participants of the self-determination program but clients in long term care and early start clients younger than 3 years old are not eligible to participate in this program. Clients that live in CCL homes can request to move into self-determination.

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Advocacy

Ms. Isaac shared that she virtually attended Grassroots day on April 21st as the service provider group representative; Ms. Prescott, some parents, and some service coordinators also participated. Ms. Isaac and Ms. Prescott shared that they met with several legislators and discussed the following main issues:

- Minimum Wage
- Uniform Holiday Schedule
- Eliminate the requirement that families have to provide a SS# to be able to receive regional center services
- Eliminate the family share of cost
- Allocating additional \$55 million dollars to the budget to increase the number of service coordinators to reduce caseloads

All agreed that it was a successful day.

DDS Updates

Mr. Ibañez shared the following:

- DDS retracted from implementing the attestation requirement for now. DDS is issuing an official directive regarding this.
- Providers that received PPP loans and also billed for absences need to repay the regional center if funds from both sources were used for the same purpose. Providers would know if this is the case. Providers were advised to contact their accounting associate to discuss repayment mechanisms.

LRC Updates

Mr. Ibañez reminded participants that DDS issued a list of services codes eligible for alternative services. Service providers with service codes that are not on the DDS list can make a request to their vendoring regional center to be considered for alternative services so a rate can be set up for them.

Alternative Transportation Services – DDS issued a corrected list of rates. Community Services has started the process of updating the rates. Providers providing transportation services under the 880 service code are eligible for alternative services.

Group Supported Employment providers were informed that if they are providing 100% alternative services or a blend of alternative and traditional services to let Mr. Ibañez or the Supported Employment Specialist, Ms. Carmen Jimenez-Wynn know so the Accounting Dept. will be able to set up billing correctly. Effective date for rates for Transportation Services and Group Supported Employment is April 1, 2021.

DDS issued a Directive informing regional centers that all service coordinators need to resume in-person monitoring of residential homes, supported living, independent living and FHAs. Regional center has 30 days to develop a plan of implementation.

Reopening Sites – Providers that previously submitted an in-person plan were reminded to review updated guidance, update their plans and submit them to Community Services. Providers which not created a plan need to do so. Residential services providers have been asked to submit “mitigation plans” from CCL which can be submitted to regional center to fulfill this requirement. Mr. Ibañez clarified that the RC will not approve these plans since the decision to resume in-person services is ultimately up to families, clients and providers. Plans will be filed in the provider’s record.

SP Breakfast

Mr. Storck gave some updates about speakers for the breakfast. Subcommittee will meet to discuss further details.

Vendor Fair

Mr. Sanchez reported that the subcommittee met and that they finalized the frame work. The theme for the fair will be “re-imagining services in the new era of Covid 19”. The program will be about 40-60 minutes long. This fair will be scheduled during the last quarter of the year and will be done virtually. Subcommittee will meet again and will share more details at the next SPAC meeting.

Provider Training

Ms. Prescott share that she’s still promoting the Disability Thrive Initiative trainings. A training is scheduled for May 12, 2021 and will be on “planning for community re-engagement and the next phase of disability services”. She asked for feedback from providers that have attended similar trainings.

NEW BUSINESS

RFPs

Ms. Ibañez shared that 3 RFPs have been posted on the LRC website as of last Friday, they are:

- Early Start therapists that will help with recruiting to expand the language capacity,
- Behavioral Respite for existing respite providers, and
- 4 bed specialized residential facility for adult clients ages 18-35.

More information can be found in the LRC website.

Mr. Ibañez shared that a joint technology RFP involving all 7 LA regional centers is being developed. WRC is RC spearheading this process.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS

- Mr. Ibañez - David Romer is the new LRC Controller.
- Mr. Ibañez – The Programs & Services Committee requested having a joint meeting with the SPAC group.
- Mr. Storck announced that he’s retiring as of May 15. The committee acknowledged him for his contributions to the group and for many years of service. The group wished him a farewell.

ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM.

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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						
K. CASTANEDA	X	X	X	X	E	X	X						
N. HAJJAR	X	X	E	X	E	X	X						
D. PRESCOTT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
J. STORCK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
G. SANCHEZ	E	X	X	X	X	X	X						
K. GRIFFITH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
K. WHITE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
VACANT													
VACANT													