

**Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
Service Provider Advisory Committee
December 1, 2021
Minutes**

This SPAC Committee Zoom meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM and roll call was taken.

SPAC MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Excused:

Michaelann Gabriele
Andrew Day

Guests:

Kevin Shields/Build Ability	Andrea Devers/PCS Lanterman	Beatriz Diaz/In2Vision
Celia Montes/ECF	Anna Polin/	Joann Lockett/
Priscilla Garcia/	Regina A Ybarra/	Jen Pippard/ARC Care
Jackie Brown/A-1 Home	Maura Enriquez/Easterseals	Marina Margaryan/Westview
Kendra Espinoza/Tender Touch	Bernadette Manalo/ABC GH	Yancy Chavez/Easterseals
Rachel Saucedo/Easterseals	Janet Amador/In2Vision	Adela Garcia/TCC
Lateisha Getter/Inclusion	Cynthia Cordon/In2Vision	Jacklin Pfaff/TES
Azniv Tonoyanin/In2Vision	Christian De Paz/ACT	

Staff

Pablo Ibañez

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the November 3, 2021 meeting were accepted as submitted with one correction.

REPORTS

Board

Ms. Isaac reported the following:

- The Board approved the contract with Esperanza Community Housing to continue the Promotora and the Korean Youth Community Center programs.
- The Board developed their training plan for next year.

- ARCA has open an academy that offers trainings to help the community understand the developmental services system. Their first training is scheduled for Dec 9. Registration is available at the ARCA website.

HCBS Update

Mr. Ibañez shared that another round of funding has been allocated to help providers that need to become HCBS compliant.

Self Determination Update

Mr. Ibañez informed that the slow trend of families moving into Self-Determination continues. He also shared that there is funding for Participant Choice Specialist positions at all regional centers; the size of the regional center will determine if they hire one or more individuals. LRC will hire for one position only since we already had a Self Determination Specialist.

Mr. Ibañez mentioned that ELARC is hosting a regular provider check-in as it relates to self-determination and FDLRC can host trainings/meetings if a local need exists.

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Advocacy

Mr. Ibañez reported that when he met with the CS Directors at their last statewide meeting the Guardian issue was discussed but it seems like this is not a shared statewide issue at this point. He recommended to follow up locally with the EDs in the L.A County.

Ms. White shared that the rate study shows that the State of California is projecting a 31-billion-dollar surplus. There is a concern among providers because it will take 3 years for them to receive a substantial rate increase. Ms. White will bring this up to the Coalition again. Mr. Ibañez shared a graph that shows how the increases will be applied starting in March 31, 2022 with full completion by July 1, 2025.

Another concern brought up by Ms. White was the \$15 minimum wage. Providers are unable to hire, let alone to keep competent staff for \$15 an hour when other companies are already paying \$18 and \$21 an hour, including benefits; that's a challenge all providers are facing, especially residential providers.

Mr. Ibañez informed that LRC has not received information from Burns & Associates on the rate study but he advised providers to take a look at their organization's rate calculations when they become available to them and to bring this up to DDS before April 1, 2022 which is when the first rate increase will take effect.

Mr. Ibañez will share all these concerns with ED Melinda Sullivan.

DDS Updates

Ms. Ibañez shared that the provider COVID related health and safety rate that was negotiated by the regional center will be valid until the end of 2021, therefore, all providers that want to continue with the same or similar rate after January 1, 2022 should start a health and safety waiver process with DDS ASAP as LRC does not have the authority to negotiate COVID related rates anymore.

For more information, check the DDS/Health & Safety Waiver page for basic instructions on how to fill the health and safety form. More information to follow.

LRC Updates

Mr. Ibañez clarified that the effective date for the DDS Health and Safety waiver supplemental staffing rate is November 3, not November 4. Providers that did not get a DDS Health and Safety waiver rate still have the option to bill for day time supplemental funding via their regular SC 109 rate.

LRC still has PPE supplies available to providers. To request PPE supplies contact Ms. Garibay at sgaribay@lanterman.org

LRC is still closed to the public except for the KYRC that is available via appointment only. Presence has increased in the building. Due to operational needs, support staff and other vital units have increased their office days to twice per week. COVID protocols continue in place.

Jocelyn Doucette, Client and Family Services Assistant Director, will retire in February 2022. As a result, a recent decision was made to hire a second Associate Director of Client and Family Services. Announcement has been posted on the LRC website. Ms. Doucette's position will not be refilled.

DDS Electronic Visit Verification

Mr. Ibañez reminded providers that are impacted by the EVV that by January 2022 they need to be up and running and need to self-register.

NEW BUSINESS

None

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS

- Ms. Ibañez – Disability Thrive next session on Alternative Services and Beyond is scheduled for 12/8 at 12:00. Registration link was shared on the chat.
- Ms. Nguyen – Disability Thrive luncheon is scheduled for 12/9 at 12:00
- Ms. Prescott – DDS wants the 2 lead agencies to possibly continue the Disability Thrive initiative for 6 months to a year. Ms. Prescott will appreciate any feedback.

ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

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Service Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
ATTENDANCE

2021-2022	N O V 21	D E C 21	J A N 22	F E B 22	M A R 22	A P R 22	M A Y 22	J U N 22	J U L 22	A U G 22	S E P 22	O C T 22	T O T A L
K. WEST-ISAAC - Chair	X	X											
K. CASTANEDA	X	X											
N. HAJJAR	E	X											
D. PRESCOTT	X	X											
G. SANCHEZ	X	X											
K. GRIFFITH	X	X											
K. WHITE	X	X											
N. NIEBRUGGE*	X	X											
M. GABRIELE*	E	E											
A. DAY*	X	E											

New Membership 2021