

**Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center  
Service Provider Advisory Committee  
February 3, 2021  
Minutes**

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

**SPAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**Guests:**

Beatriz Diaz/In2Vision	Christian De Paz – ACT	Dennis Moreno/Laverna GH
Andrea Davis/Greenshouse	Andrew Day – PCS Lanterman	Traci Jones Martinez/Adventist Glendale
Allan Baca/Inclusion Svs	Kimberly Bermudez – 24Hr Care	Brian Nguyen/Easterseals
Janet Upjohn/Cheerful Help	Adrian Estrada/In2Vision	Andrea Devers/PCS Lanterman
Bryan Chacon - Maxim	Krishna Tabor/Butterfli	Bijan Beizai/In2Vision
Veronica Aleman/SVS	Harry Bruell - Pathpoint	Cynthia Cordon/In2Vision
Chaghig Koulajian/ACT	Cindi Raimondi/ABLE	Maura Henriquez - Easterseals
Azniv Tonoyan/In2Vision	Ashly Dominguez/In2Vision	Nanette Cruz/ECF
Anna Polin – Build Rehab	Lisa Peterson/Shield HC	Israel Ibanez/Inclusion Svs
Kendra Espinoza - TTHC	Rachel Saucedo/Easterseals	Shelly Fernandez/Inclusion Svs
Cynthia Martinez/Easterseals		

**Staff**

Pablo Ibañez  
Sonia Garibay

**Public Comments**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from January 6, 2021 were accepted as submitted.

**REPORTS**

**Board**

Ms. Isaac reported the following:

- Leighanne Christian from DDS gave a presentation on the contract between DDS and the 21 regional centers; she also gave an overview on what the Board responsibilities are and what the trailer bill language in the Legislature means to the Board. She also discussed the LRC 5 year contract and the core indicators for regional centers.

- DDS approved the Alternative Staffing Model.
- An overview of the PPE supplies distribution at Lanterman was given.
- POS spending will be significantly higher (64% increase) due to providers paying for additional staffing and an increase for respite services between July/November 2020.
- LRC, with the support of HOPE, purchased some apartments; some clients have already moved in with more to follow vacancies allowing.
- Budget overview, caseload projection is down but cost was up due to COVID. It's expected that caseload projection for next year go up as high as 28,000 system-wide.

### **HCBS Self-Assessment Status**

Ms. Garibay reported that HCBS forms/applications were emailed to residential, day services and work program providers. She clarified that the funding is only for providers that are not in compliance with HCBS so they can meet the requirements. The due date for the concepts is February 10. Any questions should be sent to Ms. Garibay at 213-252-4904 or [sgaribay@lanterman.org](mailto:sgaribay@lanterman.org)

### **Staff Training/Vendor Fair Committee**

No updates at this time.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Legislative Advocacy**

Ms. White shared that there are concerns about the minimum wage and how that will affect providers.

Ms. Prescott shared that Easterseals has been advocating and started a letter writing campaign to the Governor and local and State assembly people to move people with disabilities up on the timeline to get vaccinated. She shared that there's a concern regarding middle age people in general who are not tech savvy and don't know how to navigate the system needing ways to make system navigation easier.

LRC is also advocating for clients to be moved up the list for vaccinations.

#### **DDS Updates**

Mr. Ibañez reported the following:

The LRC provider e-bulletin will be send out shortly. This bulletin has instructions and links regarding the minimum wage changes.

There was just a percentage rate increase applied for service codes 520, 805 and 116 which are not usual and customary rates. The minimum wage for providers with 26 or more employees went up to \$13.00-14.00 per hour and for providers with 25 or less employees went up to \$12.00-13.00 per hour. It was mentioned that some providers are already paying the higher local minimum wage.

Letters with set rates by DDS have been received at the regional center for most of the L.A area regional centers. Most of those rates have been entered into the system already.

Providers that are not or have not been paying the current minimum wage are eligible to request a rate increase from DDS; once approved, DDS will notify the regional center. Rate increase requests should be submitted to DDS by March 1, 2021. Mr. Ibañez clarified that this rate increase will solely be related to the actual increase in the minimum wage and the associated costs of paying a higher rate.

Providers that have negotiated rate with regional centers and have seen a cost increase because of the minimum wage increase should submit a rate increase request directly to the regional center no later than March 1, 2021.

In-Home respite workers and non-supplemental services will have rate changes as well. Out of area providers should make sure to notify LRC of their new rate.

DDS is encouraging providers to continue with the monthly reporting. From January and moving forward, monthly reports will be required.

Ms. Ibañez advised providers to send their alternative services certifications to all the regional centers they do business with so they can receive their rate letters.

### **LRC Updates**

Vaccinations - Mr. Ibañez shared that the LRC in collaboration with the City of Pasadena and LA County Dept. of Public Health (DPH) are working to help all health care workers (regional center providers meet that definition) getting vaccinated. As the vaccine supply increases the City of Pasadena will issue more appointments, dates and times.

Mr. Ibañez also shared that there have been discussions with the County and the Dept. of Public Health to set regional centers as vaccination sites and be linked up with pharmacies to help with vaccinations. Nothing has been decided yet, conversations will continue.

For the purpose of vaccinations, family care givers of clients have already been designated as health care workers. They had been provided with instructions by the regional center on how to start the process however many family members were turned away because DPH was concerned that regional center and DDS issued letter were too generic and could lead to improper general use. The Department of Public Health has recognized that family member caregivers are considered health care workers and are currently working with regional centers to get family member caregivers vaccinated.

LRC has 2 N95 fit testing kits to lend to providers as the N95 masks need to be used properly. They are available on a “first come, first served” basis. There are also training links and videos available to providers.

### **2020/21 Committee Goals**

Ms. Isaac reported that only 2 goals were met last year due to the pandemic. The goals for 2021 are:

- SP Breakfast
- One Vendor Fair
- One Provider Training

Sub Committee members for the SP Breakfast are:

- Kim Isaac
- Krishna Tabor
- Jim Storck

Sub Committee members for the Vendor Fair are:

- Nicole Hajjar
- Kelly White
- Kyra Griffith
- Greg Sanchez

Sub Committee members for the Provider Training are:

- Kelly White
- Dee Prescott
- Kerry Castaneda

Ms. Prescott suggested bringing someone from outside to do the provider training as she would like to encourage people to utilize the Disability Thrive Initiative which is paid by DDS and supported by regional centers. This initiative is specifically for alternative, remote services and virtual services; she would like to continue promoting this initiative.

Ms. Prescott also suggested continuing having residential and day services meetings as a goal every other month as the months ahead will be crucial for how services will be provided moving forward.

#### **SPAC Vacancies**

Mr. Ibañez informed that several applications from potential candidates were received and they will be reviewed this month. Interested parties should contact Mr. Ibañez or Ms. Isaac.

#### **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS**

None.

#### **ADJOURNEMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 AM.

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*Service Provider Advisory Committee Meeting*  
**ATTENDANCE**

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