

**Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
Service Provider Advisory Committee
March 2, 2022
Minutes**

This SPAC Committee Zoom meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM and roll call was taken.

SPAC MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Guests:

Nanette Cruz/ECF
Patricia Flores/Life Steps
Veronica Solano/Jeffrey Fdn
Cynthia Barron/ECF
Christian De Paz/ACT
Kimberly Yrigoyen/SVS
Darryl Goodus/Villa
Anna Polin/BuildAbility
Joann Lockett/
Rosalind Ford/SVS
Ana Palacios/SVS

Bijan Beizai/In2Vision
Brian Nguyen/Easterseals
Allan Baca/Inclusion Svs
Beatriz Diaz/in2Vision
Cindi Raimondi/ABLE
Priscilla Garcia/SVS
Nita Davis/Almansor
Armine Kim/Avanti
Bernadette Manalo/NBC
Azniv Tonoyan/In2Vision

Kimberly Bermudez/24Hr Care
D L Cook/Quantum Housing
Estherlandia Mercado/Vision Life
Regina Alina/In2Vision
Cynthia Cordon/In2Vision
Cassandra Lukes/SVS
Andrea Devers/PCS Lanterman
Dulce Vallejo/SVS
Rachel Saucedo/Easterseals
Janet Amador/In2Vision

Staff

Pablo Ibañez
Sonia Garibay
Carmen Jimenez-Wynn
Aide Herrera
Melina Orendain

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the February 2, 2022, meeting were accepted as submitted.

REPORTS

Board

Ms. Isaac reported the following:

- KYRC gave a presentation on the resources/services they provide. Providers were encouraged to visit the KYRC.
- Budget Overview
 - Phasing out of the Sub Minimum Wage
 - Community Services budget – 2 new positions
 - DSP Survey – proposal for DSP trainings to try to increase the pay for DSPs
- Annual Family Satisfaction Survey – lower response was received this year compared to previous years.

HCBS Update

Ms. Garibay reported that the virtual site assessments were expected at the end of February; results may be available by the end of this week. Information will be shared with providers when it becomes available.

HCBS funding information is also expected to be available soon as the target date was the end of February as well. Ms. Garibay will notify those providers that applied for HCBS funding of outcomes when that information becomes available.

Ms. Garibay informed that there will be trainings available for families on the HCBS rule. This will be part of a series of trainings that have been provided by DDS in the past few years. There will be trainings for providers on Remediation Plans as well. Providers that are not in compliance will have the opportunity to learn how to develop a Remediation Plan at these trainings so they can be in compliance.

Ms. Garibay shared that twenty-one states have received CMS approval on their State Transition Plans. California has initial approval but to get the final approval California has to report to CMS on how compliance with the HCBS requirements will be verified. Ms. Garibay will be reaching out to providers to inform them on what kind of documents are needed to support their compliance. She shared that 200 plus providers will be asked to submit documentation.

A concern regarding the submission of all compliance documentation was discussed. Because DDS stated that all regional centers will be responsible to collect all documents for their vendored providers, this will create a hardship for large providers that need to submit documentation to multiple regional centers. It was shared that this will be overwhelming and very time consuming for providers. Ms. Prescott suggested that regional centers should develop a subcommittee within the regional center to find a solution and make this a smooth and uncomplicated process for providers.

HCBS compliance will become part of the Medicaid Waiver audit process; residential providers have 10 requirements and non-residential providers have 5 requirements for compliance. Providers were advised to review their self-assessments from August 2020; Ms. Garibay will provide a copy of the assessment if requested.

There was a question regarding providers vendored under service code 055 which will be discontinued and how it will be re-coded. Mr. Ibañez informed that LRC will be hosting a meeting with all 055 providers to make them aware of this change and to discuss options. The meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2022 at 1:00 pm. Registration is required. Link was shared on the chat.

Self Determination Update

Mr. Ibañez shared that the number of families/clients choosing self-determination continues to grow slowly. FMS agencies have shared liability, workload, staffing and rate concerns. These issues are preventing self-determination from being as successful as anticipated.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ibañez introduced and welcomed two new additions to the Community Services staff, Ms. Aide Herrera, Provider Specialist and Ms. Melina Orendain, Deaf Access Specialist. He shared some of the tasks they will be working on.

Ms. Orendain shared that LRC is sponsoring a free of charge, 3-day webinar series on how to engage with the deaf and hard of hearing community. These webinars are scheduled for March 4, March 11 and March 18, 2022 from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Providers were strongly encouraged to attend. Registration is required. A flier was shared on the chat.

PIP/CIE Presentation

Ms. Carmen Jimenez-Wynn, LRC Supported Employment Specialist, gave a detailed power point presentation on the PIP/CIE Programs.

Ms. Jimenez-Wynn shared that LRC is sponsoring an Employment Collaborative meeting on March 22 via zoom. Updates on the CIE payments as well as the Paid Internship program will be shared. GT Independence will attend to discuss their processes in detail. All providers were invited to attend.

The power point presentation was shared on the chat. Any questions should be sent to Ms. Jimenez-Wynn at 213-252-8638 or cwynn@lanterman.org

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Advocacy

Ms. White reiterated that legislative advocacy efforts should continue supporting the fact that providers cannot wait 3 years to have their proposed full rate increase. Ms. White shared that Assemblyman Chris Holden, ARCA, CDSA, the ARC, L.A. Coalition as well as the Lanterman Coalition are rooting to expedite the process. A letter signed by multiple agencies/organizations will go out to Legislators. Some SPAC members will meet with Assemblyman Chris Holden soon.

Ms. Prescott shared that Easter Seals joined UCP and The ARC in Ventura to promote the “Virtual Public Policy” conference. Conference is scheduled for April 26 through April 28, 2022 from 9:30am to 12:30pm daily. Providers are encouraged to attend. Link was shared on the chat.

DDS Updates

Ms. Ibañez shared the following updates:

2022/23 Budget Highlights proposed by the Governor

- Continued funding for the two Community Services new positions
- Continued funding for Emergency Manager position (DDS is funding this positions for all regional centers) with the main focus on disaster preparedness. LRC has not filled in this position yet.
- Continued funding for Participate Choice Specialist – will work with families/clients to make them aware that they have a voice when choosing services and providers.
- Client supported employment is a big focus area.
- Funding for case ratio reduction for Early Intervention 0-3, one service coordinator for every 40 clients. In response:
 - FDLRC will create a new Early Intervention team
 - FDLRC will create a second Early Childhood team
- 2022/23 budget RC incentive proposals shared

Mr. Ibañez also reported on Senate Bill 1092 - possible fair hearing changes. Some proposed highlights if this Bill passes are:

- Require a decision maker to be present as part of the IPP process
- No changes to IPPs without a meeting
- Opportunities for families/clients to attend internal funding committees, and give a 7-day notice of the funding date
- To require mediation, which is currently optional
- Change 30-day appeal window to 90-day appeal window as families need more time to understand their options.
- Families can return to their fair hearing process if RC does not implement a fair hearing decision.

Rate Reform Implementation – A link to the latest ebulletin that was sent out was shared on the chat for rate reform information. CS continues with the worksheet dissemination and retrieval process. Many service codes are being looked at to get updated calculated rates. Providers that still have not received their worksheets were asked to contact Nellia Lippman, Christian Irigoyen and Eduardo Del Rio in Community Services.

Mr. Ibañez informed that the minimum wage worksheets received will be processed accordingly. He clarified that the minimum wage worksheet process is meant for providers that need to pay their staff the State minimum wage and need a rate adjustment because they can't pay their staff the state minimum wage. The Health and Safety waiver process is needed for a provider that needs a rate adjustment to pay a higher local minimum wage. Providers in need of a rate adjustment should contact Mr. Ibañez.

LRC Updates

Mr. Ibañez shared that LRC continues tracking and following State and County COVID guidelines. He informed that, as of this week, all LRC staff have one mandatory day per week at the office. KYRC is open to the public but by appointment only.

DDS Electronic Visit Verification

Mr. Ibañez shared that the Feds have questioned what DDS is doing with the out of compliance providers since January 1, 2022 marked the full compliance date. DDS started dialogue with RCs regarding this issue since RCs have only served a messaging role up until now. Reminders regarding ongoing stakeholder engagement, the DDS EVV website and DDS EVV email were shared..

Service Provider Breakfast

Mr. Ibañez reported that the Luminarias Restaurant has been secured, in case the committee decides that the SP breakfast will be an in-person event. Because this event is mainly to recognize the hard work of direct care staff, the concern shared was that all providers are presently facing a short staffing issue and it will be difficult for all direct care staff to attend an in-person event. The subcommittee will meet and discuss other options if the in-person breakfast is not an option and find the best solution to recognize their staff. Pablo was invited to attend the subcommittee meeting.

2022 Goals

Tabled to next meeting. All new ideas/suggestions should be shared with Ms. Isaac or Mr. Ibañez to be discussed prior to the SPAC meeting and bring to the next meeting.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS

None

ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm

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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
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K. WEST-ISAAC - Chair	X	X	X	X	X								
K. CASTANEDA	X	X	X	X	X								
N. HAJJAR	E	X	X	X	X								
D. PRESCOTT	X	X	X	X	X								
G. SANCHEZ	X	X	X	E	X								
K. GRIFFITH	X	X	X	X	X								
K. WHITE	X	X	X	X	X								
N. NIEBRUGGE*	X	X	X	X	X								
M. GABRIELE*	E	E	E	X	X								
A. DAY*	X	E	X	X	X								

New Membership 2021