

**Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
Service Provider Advisory Committee
October 6, 2021
Minutes**

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

SPAC MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Excused:

Nicole Hajar
Michaelann Gabriele

Guests:

Chaghig Koulajian/ACT	Cynthia Barron/ECF	Cindi Raimondi/ABLE
Kimberly Yrigoyen/SVS	Jackie Brown/A-1 Home Care	Bijan Beizai/In2Vision
Rachel Saucedo/Easterseals	Beatriz Diaz/In2Vision	Kimberly Bermudez/24 Hour
Nita Davis/Almansor Center	Sam Sousa/in2Vision	Kimberly Avila/Inclusion
Cynthia Cordon/In2Vision	Kevin Shields/BuildAbility	Janet Amador/In2Vision
Brian Nguyen/Easterseals	Bryan Chacon/Maxim	Traci Martinez/Adventist Health
Lateisha Getter/Inclusion	D L Cook/Quantum Housing	Regina Bahena/In2Vision
Christian De Paz/ACT	Celia Montes ECF	Marina Margaryan/Westview
Anna Polin/BuildAbility	Andrea Devers/PCS Lanterman	Nanette Cruz/ ECF
Allan Baca/Inclusion	Yancy Chavez/Easterseals	Maura Enriquez/Easterseals
Krishna Tabor/Butterfli	Azniv Tonoyan/In2Vision	Erema Ferguson/Easterseals

Staff

Pablo Ibañez
Sonia Garibay

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the October 6, 2021 meeting were accepted as submitted.

REPORTS

Board

Ms. Isaac reported the following:

- The Alternative Staffing Model was discussed.
- The Operations Budget for FY 2021/22 was also discussed.
- A Performance Contract report from Programs & Services was presented.

HCBS Update

Ms. Garibay informed that requests for the HCBS compliance funding are due to her by November 12. They can be emailed to sgaribay@lanterman.org.

Since some providers have questions regarding the virtual assessments that were completed throughout the summer, Ms. Garibay shared that DDS is working on a portal to provide access to providers to the virtual assessment reports. To date, regional center and providers have not received any reports from DDS, more information to follow.

Self Determination Update

Mr. Ibañez shared that there are no updates at the moment. He also shared that updates will continue at the SPAC meetings. He asked providers to share if Self-Determination families/clients are requesting tailored services or negotiated rates because; some providers gave feedback.

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Advocacy

Mr. Sanchez shared that he is advocating to make changes to Guardian, the agency that does the background checks for potential direct care staff applicants, to make it to work as providers are having issues regarding the hiring and the on-boarding of direct care staff.

Mr. Sanchez informed that he and his group met with the director of the Department of Social Services, which oversees Guardian, and asked to bring this situation to the attention of ARCA to see some changes. There will be a follow up meeting with the director of DSS on an action plan around the first week of December. Mr. Sanchez asked the provider community for their support and suggested to do a provider survey through SPAC to determine how many providers are having issues with the Guardian background system.

Ms. White suggested to also include ARC, ARCA as well as the Lanterman Coalition. She will bring it up to the L.A. Coalition too.

Mr. Sanchez mentioned that all organizations that have to do background checks in the State of California are having the same issues with Guardian as well.

Mr. Ibañez shared that this afternoon he will be attending a meeting with DDS and all the Community Services Directors regarding the implementation of the Burns & Associates rate study. He asked providers if they have questions/thoughts/suggestions regarding rates so he can bring them up at the meeting. There will be more meetings scheduled to discuss implementation.

Ms. White shared concerns regarding residential providers having the same rates for 20 plus years. She stated that residential providers “are drowning” and that it’s very hard for providers to continue functioning with low rates; all providers agreed. It was also shared that day program providers

have not seen a rate increase in 30 plus years. Ms. White informed that cost statements for ICFs are being reinstated.

Ms. Niebrugge stated that residential providers are being “squeezed” because when the rates for residential homes were set many years ago they were based on shared rooms. Now providers have to survive with low rates and having to shift to single occupancy for the same rate. She asked if there’s a stipend increase to help providers with the transition to single occupancy.

DDS Updates

Ms. Ibañez shared the following:

Annual Capitol Tree Lighting Program – all clients are invited to create tree ornaments and send them to the State so they can be showcased on the tree. Ornaments should be sent to DDS by November 12.

Supplemental Staffing – Individual POSs for supplemental staffing ended at the end of August. DDS has taken back the rate setting authority for service code 109 from regional centers. A billing worksheet was developed for September moving forward and October rates still need to be determined. An email with this information was sent to providers recently.

Participant Direct Services – respite, transportation, nursing services, community based training and day care are part of the traditional service delivery system that are meant to offer clients increase choice in terms of who provide the services. Due to the pandemic, ILS, supported employment and personal assistance were added to the list as temporary participant direct services. DDS is proposing that these 3 services will become permanent participant directed services.

LRC Updates

Mr. Ibañez shared that the mandatory one day a week back at the office for all staff was implemented and that it was done in a staggered fashion to keep everybody safe. Active conversations are taking place about the future. The plan for implementing the 2 mandatory days a week has been put on hold for now.

Vaccination

Mr. Ibañez reported that the Department of Health has issued a public health order that indicates that all regional center providers and employees fall under the vaccination mandate. All service providers and employees must be vaccinated by November 30, unless they have valid waiver.

DDS Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)

Mr. Ibañez encouraged providers that are impacted by EVV to register/enroll at the DDS website to receive all updates, opportunities for trainings and webinars. Past agendas and recordings are also available at the DDS website. The EVV mandate process will be implemented January 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ibañez highlighted some of the new positions that are currently available at LRC.

- Deaf Access Specialist – will work with resources for the deaf and hard of hearing population; this position was funded by DDS for each regional center. This will not be a case carrying position but a resource development position and it will be housed in Community Services.
- Emergency Services Manager – the role of this position is to focus on disaster preparedness issues.
- Enhanced Caseload Supervisor – a caseload will be created to work specifically with clients that have low or no POS
- Participant Choice Specialist – will work with the traditional services delivery system and SDP, making sure that service coordinators and families are aware of all the choices available that already exist.
- In addition, there are 7 new positions for service coordinators.

As part of the alternative staffing model, Mr. Ibañez informed that LRC will be requesting from DDS to continue the specific funding for 2 QA specialists housed in Community Services and 2 Family Support Specialists at the KYRC. These positions help service coordination with the monitoring and selection of service providers so service coordinators can focus on the client's needs side.

Mr. Ibañez asked providers to support this plan and encouraged them to comment on the chat, to contact ED Ms. Sullivan directly or email KYRC at kyrc@lanterman.org. Mr. Ibañez will share with Ms. Sullivan any comments left on the chat. Providers that are not in support of the plan were encouraged to share their comments as well.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS

Easter Seals – Alternative Services & Beyond: Self-determination on November 10 @ 3:00 pm.

Easter Seals – Disability Thrive Initiative Lunch – November 12 @ noon

Ms. Garibay – RSPO for new administrator, licensee and FHAs

ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 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												
K. CASTANEDA	X												
N. HAJJAR	E												
D. PRESCOTT	X												
G. SANCHEZ	X												
K. GRIFFITH	X												
K. WHITE	X												
N. NIEBRUGGE*	X												
M. GABRIELE*	E												
A. DAY*	X												

New Membership 2021