

**Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center  
Service Provider Advisory Committee  
January 6, 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

**EXCUSED**

Nicole Hajjar

**Guests:**

Beatriz Diaz/In2Vision	Christian De Paz – ACT	Casey Johnson/Options for Life
Andrea Devers – PCS Lant	Andrew Day – PCS Lanterman	Traci Jones Martinez/Adventist Glendale
Allan Baca/Inclusion Svs	Kimberly Bermunez – 24Hr Care	Brian Nguyen/Easterseals
Lauren Sparrow - Inclusion	Charlotte McKoy/Precise Care	Andrea Devers/PCS Lanterman
Bryan Chacon - Maxim	Lateisha Getter - Inclusion	Bijan Beizai/In2Vision
Veronica Aleman/SVS	Harry Bruell - Pathpoint	Cynthia Cordon/In2Vision
Chaghig Koulajian/ACT	Cindi Raimondi/ABLE	Jacklin Pfaff – TES Therapy
Azniv Tonoyan/In2Vision	Ashly Dominguez/In2Vision	Nanette Cruz/ECF
Anna Polin – Build Rehab	Priscilla Garcia/SVS	Erema Ferguson – Easterseals
Kendra Espinoza - TTHC		

**Staff**

Pablo Ibañez

**Public Comments**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from December 2, 2020 were accepted as submitted.

**REPORTS**

**Board**

No Board report. Ms. Isaac informed that Board didn't meet in December.

**HCBS Self-Assessment Status**

No HCBS updates at this time.

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

No updates at this time.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Legislative Advocacy**

Ms. White acknowledged Assembly member Chris Holden from the 41<sup>st</sup> District for sending a letter to the Governor asking him to consider removing the December 31, 2021 rate sunset date from the proposed budget. He also asked the Governor for additional provider salary funds. More information will be available after the Governor's budget is signed.

Ms. Prescott shared that Erica Reimer Snell was appointed to the Governor's Commission for Advocacy and Legislation. It was noted that she is a great advocate for people with disabilities.

Ms. Isaac asked if DDS has communicated if they will assist residential providers that have been providing COVID care for some of their residents. Mr. Ibañez clarified that if residential providers incur extra expenses, such as paying staff more to keep them on board/overtime, regional centers will be able to assist through the health and safety waiver process.

### **DDS Updates**

Mr. Ibañez reported the following:

Alternative rate roll out - a letter indicating the monthly rates was sent to providers that have submitted the self-certifications to provide Alternative Services. A similar letter was sent to providers that have completed the monthly reporting for Alternative Services but have not submitted the self-certification. Per request, LRC will share back-up documentation with providers to help them understand their alternative rates.

In response to various concerns expressed by providers regarding staffing, Mr. Ibanez shared that there's a statewide effort right now to look at staffing, specifically for all service providers. Columbus Staffing Agency may be awarded a contract to help centralize a system for the entire regional center network to address the staffing crisis.

It was suggested that Columbus Staffing Agency could be an intermediary for non-residential providers that have staff available to work with residential providers.

### **LRC Updates**

Mr. Ibañez shared that LRC has received instructions from DDS for December reporting. The survey monkey that was created previously covered September through November for providers that are providing Alternative Services. Deadline to complete the survey monkey for December reporting is January 15, and starting January 2021 the reporting will be done through the monthly e-billing mechanism.

DDS has issued updated guidance regarding alternative service rates for supported employment and transportation. Their goal is to issue the rate by March 1, 2021; in the meantime rates will remain the same.

## **SOE Rates & SOE Service Codes**

Mr. Ibañez reported that new service codes for Alternative Services have been issued.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Participant Directed Services**

Mr. Ibañez gave an overview of Participant Directed Services and clarified that this allows families to have more choices in selecting their own providers but require the use of a Financial Management Services agency (FMS). The participant services are available for Respite, Day Care, Transportation, Nursing Services and Community Based Training Services. He also informed that 3 new services have been added due to the pandemic, (Personal Assistance, Independent Living Skills and Supported Employment). These services will stop when the state of emergency ends.

### **Vaccinations**

Mr. Ibañez shared that the City of Pasadena has contacted LRC to coordinate a vaccination roll out for all service providers especially for providers that provide in-person services.

Mr. Ibañez shared that all providers fall under tier 2 category to get vaccinated and all they need to do is to present proof that they are a provider and an ID. He shared the link to L.A. Public Health. Appointments are available now. Ms. Kim also shared that the Pasadena Health Department is also providing with vouchers and appointments for direct care providers.

These are some concerns shared by providers:

- Who will sign consents for clients that are not able to decide if they want to get vaccinated or not if LRC is not their conservator?
- What to do if some staff do not want to get vaccinated.
- Allow staff to return to work if they refuse to get vaccinated?

Providers agreed that since staff can't be forced to get vaccinated, it was suggested that they should seek legal advice from their attorney.

### **Whistleblower Policy**

Mr. Ibañez gave a brief presentation regarding Lanterman's Whistleblower Policy. This policy is posted on the LRC website under Transparency and Accountability/Policy and Procedures. He also informed that this policy has been in place since 2011 and has not had any changes since.

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

This was tabled for next meeting.

### **SPAC Vacancies**

Mr. Ibañez informed that applications from potential candidates have been received and are being reviewed.

## **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS**

None.

**ADJOURNEMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 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									
<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>													