

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

Excused:

Nicole Hajjar
Greg Sanchez

Guests:

Christian De Paz/ACT	Dennis Moreno/Model Res	Andrew Day/PCS
Chaghig Koulajian/ACT	Nancy Niebrugge/TCC	Michaelann Gabriele/CDK
Kendra Espinoza/TTH	Adela Garcia/TCC	AnjaLi Carrasco/CDK
Maria Peralta/Giant Steps	Beatriz Diaz/In2Vision	Adriana Nunez/Life Steps
Brian Nguyen/Easterseals	Bijan Beizai/In2Vision	Cynthia Barron/ECF
Kimberly Bermudez/24Hr	Cynthia Cordon/In2Vision	Veronica Aleman/SVS
Priscilla Garcia/SVS	Azniv Tonoyan/In2Vision	Nanette Cruz/ECF
Jacklin Pfaff/TES	Triandie World/Littlest Play	Allan Baca/Inclusion
Andrea Devers/PCS	Kimberly Yrigoyen/SVS	Jen Pippard/ARC Cares
Cindi Raimondi/ABLE	Bernadette Manalo/NBC/Ardmore	D L Cook/Quantum HC
Maura Enriquez/Easterseals	Anna Polin/Buildability	Yancy Chavez/Easterseals
Sam Anuakpado/Avanti	Marina Margaryan/Westview	Ashly Dominguez/In2Vision
Erema Ferguson/Easterseals	Rachel Saucedo/Easterseals	Lateisha Getter/Inclusion
Sam Sousaln/In2Vision		

Staff

Pablo Ibañez
Sonia Garibay

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the September 1, 2021 meeting were accepted as submitted.

REPORTS

Board

Ms. Isaac reported the following:

- Anthony Brower, a client representative, was appointed as a new Board member.
- New SPAC members were approved.
- The staffing model was reviewed/discussed.
- State of Emergency Funding was discussed. LRC is one of the 4 highest in terms of spending to support programs during the SOE with 109 funding and retainer payments for day programs.
- LRC staffing vaccination compliance was reviewed. LRC Leadership is coming up with methods to make sure that service coordination is responsive to clients, families and residential programs needs and to ensure that services are still provided at the level that were provided pre pandemic.

HCBS Update

Ms. Garibay reported that the State is making another 15 million dollars available statewide to providers who are required to be in compliance with the HCBS rules by March 2023. Services that are not in compliance will no longer be funded after this date. The applications are available now; providers will have one month to complete the application.

Ms. Garibay clarified that providers that completed the assessment in August 2020 and indicated that their program was not in compliance qualify to apply for this funding. Providers that are not sure if this applies to their programs can contact Ms. Garibay at sgaribay@lanterman.org.

Applications are due to LRC by November 12. After applications are reviewed they will be sent to DDS by December 10. Final selections will be made by DDS by February 25, 2022. To help providers with the application process, DDS is hosting two webinars, one on November 6 from 1:00 – 2:00 PM and the next one on November 8 from 11:00AM – 12:00 PM.

Information on the application process will be included on the next provider e-bulletin. Ms. Garibay posted the link on the chat but this info is also available through the DDS website.

Self Determination Update

Mr. Ibañez reported that new families are joining slowly but surely and the self-determination process is moving along. Regional centers are waiting for additional input from DDS.

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Advocacy

Ms. White shared that the L.A. Coalition partnered with the Lanterman Coalition thanking the Governor for signing off the new budget and looking at rate reform. She stated that the advocacy efforts will need to start again around January 2022 to help with DDS implementation of the Burns & Associates rate study.

Mr. Ibañez shared that the Governor signed SB 639 which ends sub minimum wage. The Senate Bill was signed into law and the next stage will be implementation. He also stated that provider staffing challenges continue to have the Executive Directors' and DDS' attention. Updates will be shared when available.

DDS Updates

Ms. Ibañez shared three updates:

Alternative Services – providers were reminded about the re-engagement process. Any client who is receiving alternative services needs to be re-engaged and providers need to communicate with the client/family if they want to continue with the services. Service coordination will need to re-engage the family as well and will need to get an updated agreement to continue services. Providers should document all re-engagement communication they have with the client/family for their own records. Mr. Ibanez clarified that there’s no need to share such documentation with the regional center.

State of Emergency Expenditures – Residential providers have continued receiving day time funding for supplemental staffing in lieu of day program. Providers were notified that this funding is sun setting, however that was not the case. During the pandemic, Executive Directors were given the authority to make rate adjustments through the health and safety waiver process however, that authority is being taken back by DDS. DDS will be setting 109 rates for COVID related day time assistance effective October 4. DDS will send RCs rate letters with the new set rate.

DDS Vaccination Status – Per DDS all RC employees and residential providers and their staff are mandated to be vaccinated by November 30, 2021.

LRC Updates

Mr. Ibañez shared that LRC continues to operate with an on-site skeleton crew. Support staff are now coming in once a week. The one mandatory day per week for all staff to come into the office will start in mid-October. QA staff and service coordination have resumed in-person monitoring visits. Planning meetings are meant to happen in-person unless a client/family choose otherwise.

SP Breakfast

Ms. Isaac shared that because of the different variants still posing a threat, the subcommittee decided to postpone the annual in-person SP breakfast until next year. This will allow the subcommittee to prepare a much better and brighter event as the direct care staff deserves to be recognized. Planning meetings will start soon.

Vendor Fair

In the absence of Mr. Sanchez, Ms. Griffith reported that the virtual Vendor Fair was a big success. Nine providers participated, services across the continuum were presented and different age groups were represented. Providers were able to present how the service delivery models changed during the era of COVID 19.

Mr. Ibañez gave a big recognition to Mr. Sanchez for organizing, coordinating and doing the “heavy lifting” for this event, Mr. Ibañez also thanked the subcommittee for helping coordinate and all providers that helped in one way or another.

DDS Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)

Mr. Ibañez informed that the EVV mandate process is meant to be executed by January 2022. Home health agencies, in-home supported services and some Medi-Cal funded services have already implemented the EVV system. LRC should have implemented it some time ago but an extension was granted to the State of California.

There are concerns about the privacy and tracking and those concerns have been addressed. Mr. Ibañez shared that the information obtained is stored locally via the state option. Mr. Ibañez clarified that providers are allowed to use their own processes as long as it meets the criteria that is needed. He reminded providers that this applies only to personal assistance, respite, home maker and SLS service providers. Family members that are live-in caregivers are exempt from this process.

Mr. Ibañez informed that the process of uploading LRC provider's information into the DDS database has already started. LRC is waiting for instructions from DDS regarding providers that didn't elect to have their information uploaded during the initial process.

Ms. Garibay added that Sandata was awarded the EVV contract. Trainings will be hosted soon. Information will be shared with providers when available. Providers were encouraged to sign up with DDS to receive updates directly.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ibañez shared that LRC was awarded funds to develop its own START Program. This program is a mental health service that is meant to assist individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities and mental health diagnoses from ages 6 and up. This is also a crisis prevention/crisis intervention service and was developed at the University of New Hampshire. The State of California selected START to be used in California for this particular service. Six regional centers were previously awarded funds. A total of nine regional centers received funds in this most recent round.

LRC will be looking for providers who are interested in being selected as our START provider. They will receive training and certification from the University of New Hampshire. Mental health providers will be approached but other providers are welcome to apply.

There will be two open houses on October 18 from 1:00 – 2:30 PM and November 1st from 1:00 – 2:30. These are hosted by the Start Program for providers interested in learning more about the program.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS

Mr. Ibañez announced that the Board/Nominating Committee approved another 2 years of SPAC membership to Ms. Dee Prescott, Ms. Kelly White, Ms. Nicole Hajjar and Mr. Greg Sanchez.

He also announced the three new member appointments to the committee to fill in the vacancies. They are Ms. Nancy Niebrugge from The Campbell Center, Ms. Michaelann Gabriele from Center for Developing Kids and Mr. Andrew Day from PCS Services.

All current committee members gave a warm welcome to the new committee members.

Ms. Prescott shared that the Los Angeles libraries and City of L.A. are offering free Wi-Fi for 5 years to students with disabilities from K through 12 grade. A link was added to the chat; information was also shared with other groups.

ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 AM.

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Service Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
ATTENDANCE

2020-2021	N O V 20	D E C 20	J A N 21	F E B 21	M A R 21	A P R 21	M A Y 21	J U N 21	J U L 21	A U G 21	S E P 21	O C T 21	T O T A L
K. WEST-ISAAC - Chair	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	E	X	X	X	10
K. CASTANEDA	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	10
N. HAJJAR	X	X	E	X	E	X	X	X	E	E	X	E	7
D. PRESCOTT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	12
G. SANCHEZ	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	10
K. GRIFFITH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	11
K. WHITE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	12