

**Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
Service Provider Advisory Committee
Hosted by Easterseals/Total Education Solutions
April 3, 2019
Minutes**

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM and introductions were made.

SPAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Kimberly West-Isaac
Sandy Moreno
Dee Prescott
Jim Storck
Greg Sanchez
Yvonne Nakamoto
Kyra Griffith

EXCUSED

Traci Jones-Martinez
Keri Castaneda
Nicole Hajjar

GUESTS

Chaghig Koulajian – ACT	Phillip West – AbilityFirst
Brian Nguyen – Easter Seals	Shanna Hart – AbilityFirst
Bijan Beizai – In2Vision	Azniv Tonoyan – In2Vision
Guadalupe Hernandez – Maxim Healthcare	Janet Upjohn – Cheerful Helpers
Lisa Peterson – Shield Healthcare	

STAFF

Karen Ingram
Sonia Garibay

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 6, 2019 were accepted as submitted.

REPORTS

Board Meeting

Ms. Ingram reported the following:

- The Alternative Staffing Model that was submitted to DDS was partially approved. Four of the five positions proposed (two QA in Community Services and two KYRC specialists) were approved.

- Regional Centers are required to have an annual audit and change audit companies every five years. The Board voted to contract with the current firm for the fourth year.
- Financial reports were reviewed. Both OPS and POS spending are on target.

The Board meeting was followed by a community Disparity meeting.

Legislative Advocacy

Mr. Sanchez reported that HomeInstead Seniors participated on a visit to Sacramento on March 12. Their main focus was to educate newly elected Assembly people and Senators on the needs of service providers and the disabled population, and also to highlight the significance of getting the 8% rate increase for regional center providers. Mr. Sanchez also attended a Special Needs Forum at St. Philomena’s Catholic Church on April 3.

Ms. Prescott attended the Policy Conference in Sacramento. This conference was about the “10 things to look for in a Governor’s budget”. There is a 20 billion dollar surplus in the California Budget for the next FY. Providers were encouraged to attend this conference in the future. Ms. Prescott shared that the rally “Keep the Promise” is scheduled for April 5 in Van Nuys from 12:00 – 3:00 PM. The focus is to promote the 8% rate increase.

Ms. Prescott will meet with Legislator Mike Dickson, member of the Budget Committee, on April 5. Easterseals staff will also visit Mr. Portantino’s office.

Ms. Isaac attended a meeting in Sacramento as a SOCCO representative. The group was asked by Assemblyman Chris Holden to support the hearings for the 8% rate increase request.

Ms. Moreno met with Legislators in Sacramento and reported that she received a very positive response from them. She noted that several Assemblymen and Senators were willing to sign the letter that Chris Holden has put together requesting the 8% rate increase for providers.

Ms. Ingram informed that Ms. Martinez is in Sacramento doing advocacy as part of the Lanterman Grassroots Team. They have appointments with six LRC elected officials. Ms. Ingram encouraged providers to call their officials and ask them to support AB311, which will eliminate half day billing, and AB438, which will eliminate the Uniform Holiday Closures, and to call Mr. Frazier’s office and thank him for authoring these two bills and supporting service providers.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Transition

Ms. Garibay informed that the next meeting for Day Programs is scheduled for June 14 at BCR from 10:00 – 11:30 AM. The children’s group will meet on April 26 at Holding Hands from 10:00 – 11:30 AM. Both locations are in Burbank.

She reported that contract amendments for FY 2017/18 will be going out shortly and that there are 15 million dollars available in transition funding for FY 2019/20. Applications will be available in the fall. Providers that need funding for their programs to come into compliance were advised to apply. Three programs applied for the 2018-19 transition funding; LRC is still waiting to hear from DDS in terms of who has been selected to receive those funds.

OLD BUSINESS

Rate Study Update

Ms. Ingram informed that the Rate Study comments are due to DDS and Burns & Associates on Friday, April 5. The Early Intervention providers have submitted the most comments as it has been proposed to eliminate service code 116 and put those therapists back into the Medi-Cal rates. The regional center would be allowed to do a rate augmentation of 39.7%, but that will still be much lower than the current median rate for 116 services. Ms. Ingram stated that it will be even more difficult to attract therapists, thereby increasing disparity in services for families that do not have insurance.

Final Rate Study presentation will be tomorrow at the regional center from 10:00 – 11:30 AM. Providers were strongly advised to participate in subsequent meetings and hearings regarding the rate proposals to have their voices heard.

Self-Directed Services

Ms. Ingram shared that the Self Directed Services Program is moving forward. Lanterman is receiving calls from agencies interested in being vendored as an SDP FMS. FMS for SDP has its own set of requirements so agencies that are currently vendored as FMS for other services will have to be vendored separately for SDP FMS. LRC has developed a program design for SDP FMS and is considering doing a Request for Proposals since LRC has only 74 clients in SDP. Ms. Ingram clarified that “Independent Facilitator” is not a service that can be vendored as the money for that position comes out from the client’s budget.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS

- LRC has received 60 day closure notifications from two Work Activity Programs, they will moving into different models of service which is more inclusive and individualized.
- Tom Pomeranz training “Strategies for Managing Challenging Employees” will be held on July 12, from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM at the Courtyard Marriott in Pasadena. Early Bird registration is \$20.00 and closes at noon on July 11, after July 11 the cost is \$35.00. Walk-ins will not be allowed.
- Ms. Moreno announced The Campbell Center Activity Program is one of the two WAPs closing. Their date is July 31, 2019. She also announced that she has resigned from her Executive Director position at The Campbell Center effective Friday. The group wished her well on her new ventures.
- The next meeting is May 1 at Easterseals, Glendale.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM

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Service Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
ATTENDANCE

2018-2019	N O V 18	D E C 18	J A N 19	F E B 19	M A R 19	A P R 19	M A Y 19	J U N 19	J U L 19	A U G 19	S E P 19	O C T 19	T O T A L
K. WEST-ISAAC - Chair	SP	E	N	X	E	X			N				
T. JONES MARTINEZ	B	X	O	E	E	E			O				
S. MORENO	R	X		X	E	X							
K. CASTANEDA	E	X	M	X	E	E			M				
N. HAJJAR	A	E	E	X	X	E			E				
D. PRESCOTT	K	X	E	X	X	X			E				
J. STORCK	F	X	T	X	X	X			T				
Y. NAKAMOTO	A	X	I	X	X	X			I				
G. SANCHEZ	S	X	N	X	X	X			N				
K. GRIFFITH	T	X	G	X	X	X			G				