

**Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
Service Provider Advisory Committee
Hosted by Easter Seals
February 7, 2018
Minutes**

SPAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Kimberly West-Isaac
Dee Prescott
Sandy Moreno
Traci Jones-Martinez
Keri Castaneda
Nicole Hajjar
Jim Storck
Israel Ibanez
Yvonne Nakamoto

GUESTS

Janet Upjohn – Cheerful Helpers
Beatriz Diaz – In2Vision
Lisa Peterson – Shield Healthcare
Angela Cooper – The Campbell Center
Yvette Torres – Premier Healthcare
Brian Nguyen – Easter Seals
Erema Ferguson – Easter Seals
Peter Goodwill – Maxim Healthcare

Gregorio Sanchez – Home Instead Service Care
Stephanie Jimenez – Total Programs
Ashley Sanchez – Maxim Healthcare
Arpi Gulgulyan – The Campbell Center
Maura Henriquez – Easter Seals
Kelly White – Villa Esperanza Services
Suad Bisogno – Integrated Resources

STAFF

Karen Ingram
Sonia Garibay
Shannon Rains

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

The committee welcomed Ms. Yvonne Nakamoto as the new SPAC member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 6, 2017 were accepted as submitted.

REPORTS

Board Meeting

Ms. Isaac shared the following:

- LRC sent a “satisfaction survey” to clients and families. The response was very positive; 90% and above in all categories was received. Families and clients seemed to be happy with their service coordinators and all services and resources that are available to them.
- LRC Board voted to support Assemblyman Chris Holden’s budget proposal for bridge funding to adjust provider rates.

- Budget highlights were discussed.
- Disparity meetings are scheduled as follows:
 - March 2 (Korean) at LRC,
 - March 13 (Spanish) at CHLA and
 - March 28 (English) at LRC.
- Respite Policy – DDS will be addressing a new respite Policy.

CMS Final Rule

Ms. Garibay gave updates on the 2017/18 budget. She informed that several clients are already participating in activities that will lead them to employment such as referrals to Department of Rehab, paid internships and participation in assessments.

Twelve requests were received for the 2018/19 transition funds, compared to 26 concepts that were received on the last grant cycle. Six residential providers and six work activity/day programs requested transition funding. The requests range from \$16,000 to \$565,000. Requests included automobiles, training funds and new positions to help with the transition. DDS will be announcing the recipients of the grants in March.

Ms. Garibay continues to meet on a quarterly basis with the provider group. The next children's program meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, residential providers will meet in March and day programs will meet on April 17.

OLD BUSINESS

SPAC Breakfast

The next SP breakfast is scheduled for November 7, 2018. Free or low cost speaker recommendations are needed; please contact Ms. Moreno at sandy@thecampbell.org with details.

SPAC Meeting Sites

Ms. Prescott reported on potential meeting sites she inquired about, unfortunately both sites required a fee; therefore, that suggestion was dismissed.

For consistency purposes and convenience to all, the committee agreed to have 3 meetings at one site; Ms. Prescott offered the Easter Seals/Glendale site to hold the first 3 meetings of the year (February, March, April). All committee members and some guests agreed taking turns providing the refreshments each month. Schedule is as follows:

- March 7 – Easter Seals, Glendale – hosted by Jim/Autumn Cottage
- April 4 – Easter Seals, Glendale– hosted by Kim/CalWes Homes
- May 2 – Easter Seals, Glendale – hosted by Lisa/Shield Healthcare
- June 6 – TBD – hosted by Nicole/Smile + Wonder
- **July 4 – No meeting**
- August 1 – TBD – hosted by Israel/Inclusion Services
- **September – LRC – no refreshments needed**
- October 3 – TBD – hosted by Greg/Home Instead
- **November 7 – SPAC Breakfast**
- December 5 – TBD – hosted by Keri/AbilityFirst

Vendor Fair Subgroup

Ms. Castaneda informed that the vendor fair will be held at LRC with the focus on children's services. The committee suggested having it on a Thursday since most of the units have team meetings and it will be easier for service coordinators to attend. Ms. Castaneda will bring more information to the next meeting.

Minimum Wage Update

Ms. Ingram reported that State Minimum Wage was increased effective January 1, 2018. Postcards were mailed to providers directing them to go to the LRC website for information and the workbook that must be completed to request the adjustment. For providers that have programs with a rate set by DDS, the request for an adjustment goes to DDS with a copy to the regional center. All other requests should be sent to the vendoring regional center. Ms. Ingram is waiting to hear from DDS regarding the wage reporting period as Pasadena and Los Angeles providers have a higher minimum wage. Providers will be notified if they can use a wage period prior to July 1, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

Grassroots Day

Grassroots for ARCA is scheduled for March 20. Ms. Ingram shared that LRC's team includes two clients, a sibling, a parent, a regional center staff and Ms. Isaac, who is the provider representative.

Assemblymember Chris Holden's Letter

Ms. Ingram reported that Assemblymember Chris Holden sent a letter to the Chairs of the four Budget Committees asking for \$25 million dollars in bridge funding, which will allow the regional centers and DDS to consider requests for rate adjustments from providers to help them absorb the high cost of doing business in certain communities. Providers are highly encouraged to complete the survey from Mr. Holden's office as this data will provide him with information to share at the various budget hearings.

The survey is posted with the e-billing notice so providers will have easy access to complete it. Providers were reminded that this is time sensitive and is due February 10, 2018. Providers in the Pasadena area were asked to call Assemblymember Chris Holden's office to thank him for his efforts and advocating for them.

The letter from Mr. Holden to the Budget Committee Chairs as well as a sample letter for providers was included in the SPAC packet. Providers were encouraged to send letters to the committee chairs and their legislators.

2018/19 Budget

Ms. Ingram reported that the proposed budget doesn't have much for the regional center system this year, just for caseload growth. Providers and regional centers are disappointed to see that the Uniform Holiday Closures have been reinstated; ARCA has taken an oppose position, as this was introduced as a temporary cost saving measure. Providers were advised to contact their elected officials and oppose to this.

Ms. Ingram also reported:

- There is money in the budget for adjustments due to the Statewide minimum wage increase.

- Effective January 1, 2018 the Respite rules have changed. As a cost saving measure, the number of hours of respite was capped; the cap has been removed. LRC recently revised the in-home respite policy and submitted to DDS for approval. The budget includes funds for requests for increased respite hours.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS

- Easter Seals is holding their Annual Legislative Awards Ceremony on March 13. One of the honorees is Assemblymember Chris Holden.
- The State Council has a grant of \$20,000 for self-advocacy, employment, housing early intervention support, health and safety and community support.
- Shannon Rains was introduced as the new Housing Specialist in the Community Services Unit. She will build relationships with multi-family housing developers to help increase the availability of affordable housing for our clients and their families. She will also develop resource lists to help clients, families and providers search for housing.
- Easter Seals is hosting their new campaign “Celebrate, Don’t Separate”, to help the public see people with disabilities on a new light. A video is available on You Tube.
- Tom Pomeranz training is scheduled for February 23 at the La Canada Country Club. Breakfast & lunch will be provided. Spaces are still available, register on-line.
- Smile + Wonder is having a fund raising event in Beverly Hills. There will be an online auction too.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM

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Service Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
ATTENDANCE

2017-2018	N O V 17	D E C 17	J A N 18	F E B 18	M A R 18	A P R 18	M A Y 18	J U N 18	J U L 18	A U G 18	S E P 18	O C T 18	T O T A L
K. WEST-ISAAC - Chair	SP	X	N	X					N				
T. JONES MARTINEZ	B	X	O	X					O				
S. MORENO	R	X		X									
I. IBANEZ	E	E	M	X					M				
K. CASTANEDA	A	X	E	X					E				
N. HAJJAR	K	X	E	X					E				
D. PRESCOTT	F	X	T	X					T				
J. STORCK	A	X	I	X					I				
Y. NAKAMOTO	S	E	N	X					N				
VACANT	T		G						G				