SPAC MEMBERS PRESENT
Kelly White
Traci Jones-Martinez
Kimberly West-Isaac
Bill Murphy
Israel Ibanez
Isis McDonald

NOT PRESENT
Kathleen Kolenda
Sandy Doughty

GUESTS
Wayne Moody – Milestones Behavior, Inc
Lydia Goossens – Easter Seals
Cristina Vega – Seek Education, Inc
Kae Yabuki – Seek Education, Inc
Keri Castaneda – AbilityFirst
Meri Tchourandjian – Glendale Adventist-Play to Learn
Ruth Bernstein – Jewish Family Service
Sarah Blitzstein – Jewish Family Service
Bill Martin – Autumn Cottage

STAFF
Karen Ingram

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. and introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The minutes of February 5, 2014 were accepted as submitted.

REPORTS
Board Meeting
Ms. White reported the following:

- Ms. Judy Enright, LRC Legal Counsel, gave the annual presentation on the responsibilities and duties of the Directors of non-profit corporation, as well as what the responsibilities of the Board members are to the community and to the regional center.
- The executive staff will be presenting their administrative reports over the next few months. Karen Ingram was first with an overview of Community Services.
• The Way Forward – About a year ago thirteen regional centers came together to discuss the sustainability of the system. The result is a forum to be held April 3-4 in Manhattan Beach. This is an invitation only event and will be attended by regional center staff and Board, service providers, State department staff, legislators, community agencies, and families. Presenters from other states will share how services are provided in their locales.

• The organizational audit for LRC was accepted by the Board.

• Ms. Diane Anand is retiring at the end of June. The Executive Director’s position has been posted, deadline to submit an application is March 15.

LDC Closure Update
Ms. Ingram reported that as of March 4, there are only twelve LRC clients at the LDC. We expect the last LRC client to move out of LDC in September. LRC just opened the first home for clients coming out of locked facilities and two clients have moved in.

OLD BUSINESS
Minimum Wage
Ms. Ingram reported that the minimum wage is going up to $9.00 effective July 1, 2014. ARCA is working with DDS to develop a process for the non-DDS rate sets. DDS will adjust the rates for Residential Homes, Independent Living, Infant Development Programs, Respite and the licensed Adult Day Programs. RCs will take care of the rate adjustments for all other providers. RCs will use the same form to gather information from providers to determine the new rates. At this time no decision has been made by DDS with regards to wage compression or supervisory rates that must be twice the minimum wage.

NEW BUSINESS
Community Services Overview
Ms. Ingram gave a detailed presentation on the Community Services Unit duties and the ongoing activities for Resource Development, Vendorization, Quality Assurance and investigations, as well as the Goals for 2014. She shared that the biggest challenge that the Resource Development has is finding services for people with dual diagnosis with cognitive limitations and mental health issues. LRC is reaching out to mental health providers to work together for the benefit of clients with mental health issues.

SPAC Education
Ms. White asked attendees for ideas on how to enlighten/enhance the SPAC meetings in terms of further educational topics or trainings that could be beneficial for providers. Suggestions will be discussed at the next meeting.

Legislation Update & Advocacy Efforts
Ms. Ingram discussed the following bills:
AB1626 – Maienschein – Rate increase of 10% for supported employment providers (back to their 2009 rate)
AB1595 – Chesbro – Corrects some problems with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to bring the program into compliance with federal regulations.
SB579 – (ARCA sponsored) – Would have a task force look at discrepancies between licensing regulations and Title 17. In the Assembly.

Ms. White attended a conference in Sacramento that was sponsored by ARC, UCP, CDFA, CSLN and the Lanterman Coalition. These are some of the topics discussed:

- Closure of all Developmental Centers – When DCs are closing funds should not go to a general fund, they should follow the clients
- Minimum Wage increase and how it’s going to affect providers. The Governor has put aside 114 million dollars to address this issue
- Anybody who works over 40 hours in IHSS gets overtime
- SP577 – Pavley – Creates a new category for pre-vocational services
- Restoration of the four holidays as program days
- 5% increase across the board for all providers
- SP663 – Lara – Adds new procedures and protections to ensure justice for people with disabilities

Providers were encouraged to do local visits to Legislators in the next few weeks to voice their concerns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS
- Jewish Family Services is sponsoring special needs trust seminars.

MEETING SITES FOR 2014
April 2 – FVO Solutions – Pasadena
May 7 – TBD
June 4 – Ability First – Pasadena
July 2 – GAR Services – Glendale
August 6 – No meeting
September 3 – LRC – Community meeting
October 1 – Easter Seals
November 5 – SP Breakfast
December 3 – TBD

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 11: 30 am

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