SPAC MEMBERS PRESENT
Kelly White
Israel Ibanez
Kathleen Kolenda
Nicole Hajjar
Miriam Whitfield
Bill Murphy
Keri Castaneda
Traci Jones-Martinez

EXCUSED
Sandy Contreras

ABSENT
Kimberly West-Isaac

GUESTS
Lusineh Gharapetian – Panda Learning Serv.
Gloria Leiva – The Jeffrey Foundation
Francis Falcis – Vagthol’s Residential Care
Judith Bean – Pacific Clinics/Early Start
Jim Storck – Autumn Cottage
Dee Prescott – Easter Seals
Esthela Rodriguez – The Speech Language
Kyra Griffith – TLC Speech Therapy
Dr. Mary Jo Bautista – Family Way
Sabrina Godinez – Easter Seals
Elana Schechtman – Jewish Family Services
Lyn Wood Brown – Family Way
Carmen Haley – Family Way

Veronica Solano – The Jeffrey Foundation
Mark Le – Therapeds, Inc
Andrea Seisa – Vagthol’s Residential Care
Beatrice Diaz – In2Vision
Angela Cooper – The Campbell Center
Shakeila Jones – L.A. Early Intervention
Raul Alvarez – California Mentor
Jose Juan Bustamante – Panda Learning Serv.
Miriam Olmedo – Almansor Center
Danny Tapia – Easter Seals
Cindy Raymondi – ABLE
Morgan Behny – Total Education Solutions

STAFF
Karen Ingram

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The minutes of August 5, 2015 were accepted as submitted.
REPORTS

Board Meeting

Ms. White reported the following:

- LRC hosted a Legislative round table on August 5. Southern California Regional Center staff, families, clients and providers discussed the impact of continued budget cuts and rate freezes and lives and services, and representatives from local Legislators responded to these concerns.
- The legislature is holding a special session on September 11 to address permanent and sustainable funding for Medi-Cal and developmental disabilities services.
- Julie Ocheltree, LRC Legal Counsel, reviewed the duties and responsibilities of Board members and the Conflict of Interest Policy.
- The updated Whistle Blower Policy was reviewed and approved by the Board. Ms. White reminded all that providers are also required to have a Whistle Blower Policy.
- Three new members were appointed to the Board of Directors: Anthony Stein, Linda An and Ramona Warfield. Board member Ed Solis submitted his resignation as he has moved out of the Lanterman catchment area.
- The closure of the Sonoma and Fairview Developmental Centers is approaching. Sonoma DC will close by 2018 and Fairview DC by 2020. A town hall meeting was held at Sonoma and families expressed opposition to the closure.
- RCs were informed by DDS that they need to add a goal on Disparity on their 2016 Performance Plan.
- Trailer Bill language requires that ABA services purchased by Regional Centers for clients that are eligible for Medi-Cal be transitioned to Medi-Cal funding. ARCA, DDS and regional centers are working with Health Net and L.A. Care to make this transition possible by February 2016. In the meantime, regional centers will continue to purchase needed ABA services.
- California has posted its draft transition plan for the HCBS Waiver and is currently accepting public comment. DDS continues to develop the assessment tools that service providers and regional centers will use to determine if a program meets the criteria of the CMS Final Rule.

OLD BUSINESS

SP Breakfast

Ms. Kolenda reminded that the SP Breakfast is scheduled for November 4 at the La Canada/Flintridge Country Club. The Speaker is confirmed; the Save the Date postcards were mailed; invitations will be mailed by next week. Easter Seals will donate the centerpieces and SVS will donate the tote bags. Bags will be assembled after next month’s SPAC meeting. Members were reminded to donate items for the raffle. Other providers may also contribute items.

DOL Overtime Rule Update

Ms. White and Ms. Ingram reported on the Department of Labor Overtime Rule. Last year DOL ruled that home care workers are entitled to overtime. There was an appeal of that decision, and a decision is expected soon. Providers impacted by this overtime rule are: supported living agencies, home care providers and personal assistance.
3 Day Sick Update
Requests for a rate adjustment due to the mandatory 3 day sick law were due September 1. LRC received 32 requests for rate changes. It is unknown how many were submitted to DDS. DDS adjusted the rates for residential providers. All rate adjustments are effective July 1, 2015.

Legislative Advocacy
Providers were encouraged to continue writing letters to Legislators, attend rallies and contact the Governor to express concern about the lack of rate increases. Providers are having a rough time retaining employees or hiring new employees because of low salaries.

Zero Tolerance Policy Update
Ms. White reminded committee members that providers and their employees are required to sign this policy upon hire and annually thereafter. A sample policy will be posted on the Provider page of the LRC website.

CMS Final Rule Update
Ms. Ingram gave an update on the preparation for the implementation of the Final Rule requirements for inclusive and integrated services and programs. LRC will begin meeting with providers by service categories (i.e. residential and after school programs) to discuss what is known about the Final Rule at this time. Additional meetings will be held early next year to review the draft tools that will be used to identify where providers are in terms of meeting the new requirements for integrated and inclusive services. Groups will also discuss strategies to help providers change their services to be in compliance by the March 2019 effective date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS
Ms. White shared that the appeals court upheld a lower court’s ruling that DDS could not mandate Uniform Holiday Closures or Half-Day Billing as cost savings measures. Providers should use their old holiday closure schedules and they may end half-day billing.

LRC received a closure notice for a 10 bed home. Programs continue to close because of the inadequate rates, and clients and families have to wait longer to receive some services.

2015 SPAC Meeting Locations
- October 7 – Easter Seals/Glendale Senior Center
- November 4 – SPAC Breakfast
- December 2 – AbilityFirst/Kinneloa

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM

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### Service Provider Advisory Committee Meeting

#### ATTENDANCE

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