May 22, 2024

Ernie Cruz
Assistant Deputy Director
Office of Community Operations
Department of Developmental Services
1215 O Street, MS 8-20
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Purchase of Service Data Meetings

Dear Mr. Cruz,

This letter is a summary of Lanterman Regional Center's activities pursuant to W&I Code 4519.5(e) as well as our contract with DDS. In December, 2022, Lanterman Regional Center posted a report, "Purchase of Services Expenditure and Demographic Data: Fiscal Year 2022 -23 on our website. This report includes the data related to purchase of service authorization, utilization and expenditures, with respect to age, ethnicity, language, living arrangement and disability. Two public meetings were held to share our POS Data with the Lanterman Community. Our first presentation was held in Spanish on March 12, 2024 and our second presentation was held in English on March 29, 2024.

Notification of our meetings was posted on our website on February 12, 2024. The links to all postings are included at the end of this letter for your reference. We publicized these meeting in our E-bulletin on February 22, March 27, March 12, March 28. We initially posted on Facebook and Instagram on February 13, 2024 and then re-shared three more times on March 07, March 12, and March 27. We also shared the meeting announcement at all support group and parent trainings at the Koch-Young Resource Center during this time period.

March 12 Community Meeting

Our first meeting was hosted by our Padres Unidos de Lanterman support group on March 12th. The presentation was presented in Spanish with English interpretation as well as English closed captioning. A total of 25 people attended via ZOOM; 20 community and family members, one service provider, two FDLRC staff, one representative from DDS and one representative from OCRA.

Comments from the participants mostly focused on the new projects and services available for adults living in the family home, specifically about Coordinated Family

Support (CFS) services, Crisis Support Services and START services. A few participants discussed mental health/behavior health treatment options for adolescent youth with developmental disabilities. A representative from OCRA commented on the overall decrease in purchase of service spending for Hispanic clients, although no specific suggestions were made. A discussion followed about how living arrangements and age impacts purchase of services and that the cost of services for those individuals living at home with families is very close among all ethnicities, as is the case with respite expenditures being relatively similar across ethnic groups.

March 29th Community Meeting

The March 29, 2024 was presented in English with Spanish and Korean interpretation, as well as ASL and English closed captioning. A total of 42 people attended via Zoom; 32 were community and family members (including two board members), one representative from Disability Rights California, two representatives from DDS, three service providers and four FDLRC staff members.

Comments from the participants were mostly focused on the Coordinated Family Support (CFS) Services and the types of supports they can offer to families and adults living at home. One individual asked about whether FDLRC has updated their social recreation and camping service standards to meet the Trailer Bill Language changes of 2023 and if there were Financial Management Service (FMS) providers available to support Participant-Directed (PDS) Social Recreational services to reduce barriers for families that may not be able to pay out-of-pocket for these services. FDLRC presenters confirmed that Lanterman's Social Rec POS policy has been revised and approved by the Department, that FMS providers are available for direct/PDS services and that this was the preferred method of providing social recreational services for Lanterman families to eliminate the need for families to pay any costs out-of-pocket. Information about an upcoming Social Recreation and Camping Services training that will be presented by FDLRC was shared with the community to great interest. Lastly, a discussion was held about the fact that overall differences in per capita authorizations and expenditures continue to exist, primarily between Hispanic/Latin ethnic groups and white groups. While no specific suggestions were made, a few community members engaged in chat discussion about the need to be more informed about one's rights and the service system to better advocate for family members, while others felt that service coordinators had the responsibility of better informing clients and families of services and rights. A participant encouraged all family members to attend and participate in any of Lanterman's many support groups as a way to receive more information and peer-support.

Our community meeting presentations are posted on our website. The following observations were made:

- Lanterman Regional Center staff are similar in ethnic and language demographics as the clients we serve.

- 46% of individuals served identify as Hispanic while only 23% of individuals served identify as Spanish Speaking.
- 69% of people served identify English as their primarily language.
- 95% of our Hispanic and 91% of Asian clients live with their families while only 83% of White and 81% of African-American clients live with their families.

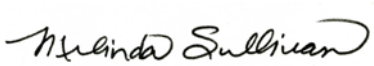
At our meetings we responded to a few questions related to the expenditure data, but most questions were specific to individual service/support needs. In addition, we provided an update on our disparity projects:

1) Our Promotora Project is an ongoing success and while our Korean Health Worker project is smaller than the Promotora Project, it has matured and provided support to our Korean families as well.
2) Lanterman continues to coordinate an automated telephone message system allowing for messages to be in a person's preferred language.
3) We provided information as to the translation of IPP documents.

In addition, the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy submitted written comments which are included as an attachment.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning our community meetings.

Sincerely,



Melinda Sullivan
Executive Director

Website: Posted on 02.12.24: Public Meeting to be Held Regarding Purchase of Service Differences on March 29 | Events | Lanterman.org

E-mail Bulletins:

02.22.24: https://us1.campaign-archive.com/?u=0e1cf6064d5eef3f08692e1bb&id=6c43b8845f

02.27.24: https://us1.campaign-archive.com/?u=0e1cf6064d5eef3f08692e1bb&id=edbcd82702

03.12.24: https://us1.campaign-archive.com/?u=0e1cf6064d5eef3f08692e1bb&id=a0d41273c2

03.28.24: https://us1.campaign-archive.com/?u=0e1cf6064d5eef3f08692e1bb&id=eff9871adb

Facebook: Link to original post: Facebook (posted originally on 02.13.24); Shared 3 additional times: 03.07.24, 03.12.24 and 03.27.24

Instagram: Link to feed post: Frank D Lanterman Regional Ctr on Instagram: "Lanterman Regional Center will be hosting two live video conference public meetings regarding purchase of service differences on: / El Centro Regional Lanterman organizará dos reuniones públicas de videoc (posted in feed once on 02.13.24); Shared in stories 4 times on: 02.13.24, 03.07.24, 03.12.24 and 03.27.24)

Copy of Presentation posted on website (03.29.24): https://lanterman.org/transparency_accountability/documents/2023-disparity-data-on-purchased-services-report

Cc: OCRA March 12, 2024 letter