

**BYLAWS (Rules)**  
**Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center**  
**Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC)**

**Article I - Our Name**

This committee (group) is named the Consumer Advisory Committee **(CAC)**.

**Article II - Purpose**

OUR purpose is that people with developmental disabilities will be empowered to make choices in all areas of their life, will be included and integrated in their communities, and participate in decisions affecting their lives. The CAC is by adults with developmental disabilities. The CAC will encourage people with developmental disabilities to become active decision makers in their communities, as well as representatives of change about their rights and wishes. The CAC will provide the Board of Directors important information about the lives of people with disabilities in the community and become a “group” voice for those receiving services from the Regional Center. The CAC also takes directions from the Board of Directors.

**Article III - Membership**

The CAC consists of adults with developmental disabilities who are consumers of any Regional Center. Any adult with a developmental disability who directly receives services from the regional center, attends meetings consistently (more than 3 meetings per year,) and participates actively can become an active member. In order to run for future office, the CAC Members must attend at least 4 consecutive (in a row) meetings in order to be well informed about the CAC.

**Article IV - Officers and Elections**

The officers of the CAC will be the Chairperson and Vice Chair person. The CAC members will nominate and vote for their officers. The nominated person receiving the most votes will be the officer who keeps the office for 2 years. After 2 years, members will vote again for new officers. An officer can be voted into the same office only 2 times. Four years is the longest a member can hold the same office. If an officer cannot complete their term, another person will be elected by the CAC members to finish the term. After that, a consumer can run for any office and be elected to that office 2 times.

### **Duties of the Chair:**

1. Run the meeting
2. Represent the CAC in the community.
3. Plan the meetings with the ELARC Consumer Advocate.
4. Attend all ELARC Board Meetings and give CAC updates.
5. Follow up on burning issues that consumers have.

### **Duties of the Vice Chair:**

1. Run the meeting when the chair is absent.
2. Assist the Chair on events, related projects, and/or presentations.

### **Article V - Meetings**

The CAC will meet every other month, except December. The day of the week and time of the meeting will be decided by the Consumer Advocate and the Chair person.

### **Article VI - Voting and Quorum**

Each active member of the CAC has one (1) vote and gets to vote on all issues. There must be at least 8 CAC Active Members in order to have elections. The Consumer Advocate employed by the regional center is a liaison to the committee, not a member of the committee, and cannot vote on any issues.

### **Article VII –Qualifications and Requirements of Membership**

1. All members of the CAC must be adult clients of a Regional Center.
2. A CAC Member is defined as an adult with a developmental disability who directly receives services from any Regional Center who is 17 years of age or older.
3. Any Member of the CAC who attends meetings consistently (more than 3 meetings per year,) and participates actively is defined as an Active Member.
4. Attendance of the Officers, the Chair and vice Chair can only miss no more than two -meetings otherwise members may ask them to step down.

### **Article VIII- Consumer Representation on the Board of Directors**

The CAC Chairperson serves on the Board of Directors and reports on CAC meetings and issues of interest and concern to adult consumers. If there is an opening on the Board of Directors, or a member of the CAC has an interest in becoming a member, they can apply by completing a “Board Application Form” available from the regional center office. The consumer member can provide the board with CAC issues and consumer concerns as directed by the CAC Chairperson and the members.