



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
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**ELARC Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2025
Approved as recorded on September 10, 2025**

Board Members Present:

Terry Munoz, President
Pat Gomez, Treasurer
Dalia Mendoza, Secretary
Joel Moreno, Vendor Representative
Fely Navera
Marisol Guerrero, CAC Chair
Joshua Tjahjadi
Theresa Chen

Staff Present:

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of
Consumer Services
Veronica Valenzuela, Associate Chief of
Consumer Services
Johnny Trombley, IT Supervisor
Brendali Maldonado, Community
Communications Officer
Angie Salas, Executive Secretary

Absent:

Dr. Linda Lopez, Vice-President
Dr. Terry Baruch
Alex Wu

Guests: Refer to Sign-In Sheet

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I. Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mrs. Terry Munoz, ELARC's Board President. The meeting arrangement consisted of a Zoom Conference/Teleconference line and material was displayed on agency website and available to all visitor participants with a link from the agency website.

Mrs. Munoz welcomed all to the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center Zoom Board of Directors Meeting.

Roll call was conducted. A quorum was established in order to conduct necessary business.

Brendali Maldonado, Community Communications Officer, provided information on how to access interpreter services to community guests/visitors.

II. Community Introductions/Opening Round:

The Board members and guests were asked to introduce themselves, the latter are noted in the "Sign-In" sheet.

III. Community Input:

- ❖ Chala Jitpatima, parent, wished everyone a happy summer. Mrs. Jitpatima recognized ELARC's website has been newly updated and suggested for ELARC to consider changing the websites background image to reflect an image that represents the community it serves.
 - Gloria Wong, Executive Director, noted the website is a work in progress. Professional photographer has been engaged to update photo stock of ELARC's management, staff, community locations and individuals served by ELARC. The website will once again be updated from the stock of photos taken.
 - Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Consumer Services, shared locations of interest for the photos are Lincoln Park and The Alhambra.
- ❖ Elsa Flores, parent, expressed her gratitude to the Regional Center and ELARC staff for the work they conduct. Mrs. Flores shared her daughter's proud achievements which includes receiving a General Educational Development (GED) and three (3) Associates in Art (AA's) degrees.
 - Ms. Wong, thanked Mrs. Flores for sharing her daughter's success.

IV.

Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Motion Required - ATT #1

M/S/C (Dalia Mendoza/Joshua Tjahjadi) To approve the general session of BOD Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2025. Unanimous.

V. Executive Director's Report - Gloria Wong

1. Community Presentation: March 2025 Caseload Ratio Survey Results ATT #2 and #3

ATT #2

Gloria Wong, Executive Director, provided background information on the caseload ratio survey requirements which are submitted to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on annual basis by March 10th. Ms. Wong reviewed the six (6) categories that are assessed on the survey and reported ELARC is the sole Regional Center that met all of the required ratios in the six (6) categories.

Ms. Wong discussed the Caseload Survey Results of March 10, 2025 graph as follows:

Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC)

Meeting to Review ELARC's Caseload Ratios

July 8, 2025

6:00 P.M.

Join by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81796625071?pwd=WYqya3vsiDbuFdo3qbQMWMbA3jdbwH.1>

Meeting ID: 817 9662 5071 Passcode: 262135

Presenter: Gloria Wong, Executive Director

As of March 10, 2025, ELARC met all the required caseload ratios as mandated by Welfare and Institution (W&I) Code 4640.6(c). There are a total of six (6) categories each requiring specific ratios.

CASELOAD SURVEY RESULTS

March 10, 2025

Category Requirements	Medicaid Waiver	Age 0-5	Moved From DC Within Last 12 Months	Consumers With Complex Needs	Low or No POS Enhanced Caseload	All Others
W&I Code Required Ratios	1:62	1:40	1:45	1:25	1:40	1:66
ELARC Ratios	1:58.1	1:36	1:36	1:22.3	1:40	1:60.1
Number of Service Coordinators (SC) + above/(below) Ratio Requirement	+4.58	+10.67	+0.01	+0.32	+0.0	+10.65

ATT #3

Ms. Wong discussed the DDS Caseload Ratio Survey correspondence dated May 23, 2025.

2. Master Plan (MP) for Developmental Services: A Community Driven Vision ATT #4, #5, and #6

Ms. Wong provided detailed background information on the “Master Plan for Developmental Services” (MP) which was launched on March of 2024. Ms. Wong shared the MP is about looking at the future of the developmental disability system. Ms. Wong shared a video presentation summarized the concept on the MP:

Video presentation: Overview of the MP

- Victor Duron,
Project Manager for the MP
- Pete Cervinka,
Director, Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

Going forward the MP Stakeholder Groups will meet two (2) times a year, presently scheduled for August and December. The first report to the legislature is due March of 2026.

ATT #4

An overview discussion of the MP Community Driven Vision was conducted.

ATT #5

Overall mission and core values that drive the MP was reviewed.

ATT #6

The MP “Vision for Success” outlines the six (6) focus areas:

- 1) Individuals and families experience person-centered service systems they trust
- 2) Individuals’ and their families basic needs are met so they can live in the community of their choice
- 3) Individuals receive timely, inclusive, and seamless services across all service systems
- 4) Individuals and their families receive services from a high-quality, stable and person-centered workforce
- 5) Service systems are transparent, accountable and data driven
- 6) Individuals are entitled to life-long services with adequate resources

The vision outline was reviewed and discussed. For additional reference Ms. Wong provided the following links to MP:

DSMasterPlan@chhs.ca.gov

OR

www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services

Access to:

- 1) Master Plan for Developmental Services: A community Driven Vision (195 pages)
- 2) MP Recommendation Background & Technical Information Addendum (101 pages)
- 3) Summary of the Plan
- 4) “YouTube” video access:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66KZPBwyYs>

Comments from the community:

- ❖ Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC), Executive Director, parent, shared her positive experience being part of the MP Workgroups.
- ❖ Fely Navera, Board Member, Parent, asked if there are statistics to show how many families have been helped? If not, when is it expected for DDS to have statistics available?
 - Ms. Wong stated this is a work in progress and the recommendations are in the process of being implemented. The report to the Legislative, which is due in March 2026, will offer more details on implementation efforts.

No comments from the community.

3. DDS: Access to Client Information ATT #7, #8, #9, and #10

Ms. Wong addressed recent actions by the federal government and its potential implications to our community.

Ms. Wong shared the following notices from DDS ensuring families of the regional centers responsibility and extent of assistance.

ATT #7

DDS correspondence dated May 14, 2025.

ATT #8

DDS Required Client Privacy Protection

ATT #9

DDS Fact Sheet on Privacy Protection

ATT #10

DDS Notice of Privacy Practices

It was shared that family visits to the ELARC office have declined, including the cancelation of appointments for eligibility determination. As a result DDS has issued public notices to reduce the fear and concerns expressed by families. The notices focus on:

- Ensuring families what Regional Centers responsibilities are to protect client and family information.
- There is privacy protection that limits the accessing of client and family information.
- Notices are thorough in order to help the community to understand Regional Center requirements.

HANDOUT #1

DDS' message to the community of recent events taking place.

HANDOUT #2

ELARC Community Engagement Team "Empower Hour" flyer, ongoing monthly community outreach effort with topical presentations.

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels highlighted efforts being taken to reduce family concerns by having wellness calls and continuing to schedule meetings with families with various options; an in person meeting at their home, by telephone or Zoom.

As the community is uneasy additional support being provided:

- Groceries being delivered
- Resources to pantries provided
- Rental assistance provided, based on existing policy & procedures

- Transportation support
- Remote eligibility assessments offered
- Flexibility with conservatorship status and services/support

Comments from the community:

- ❖ Karina Andrade, EL ARCA Day Program provider, noted that their daily attendance has dropped and parents are not answering telephone calls. Currently community outings are not being scheduled to keep clients and families at ease.
 - Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels responded guidance from the Department has been received noting that services can be modified and be provided remotely for day programs, independent living, and behavioral services.
- ❖ Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC), Executive Director, parent, shared that charge cards available for purchasing items online.

4. Budget Update Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 – '25 HANDOUT #6 and #7

Purchase of Services (POS) Expenditure Projection (PEP) Report

HANDOUT #7

Ms. Wong reported the PEP report is indicating a deficit of **\$46,777,267.**

Budget Performance Report: Operations

HANDOUT #6

Ms. Wong reported on the Operations Budget Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2024 - '25, indicating a zero (\$0) balance.

Ms. Wong provided information on the approved rolling line of credit from City National Bank.

Ms. Wong reported the first payment run for FY '24-'25 is on July 10, 2025 and there are sufficient funds to cover this initial payment without having to tap the line of credit.

Ms. Wong shared the budget cuts made to the regional center system were miniscule in comparison to other entities. The regional center system is highly dependent on federal funding and concern remain high that the federal budget cuts to California will be severe.

Comments from the community:

- ❖ Chala Jitpatima, parent, asked will the budget of the client and family who are participating in the Self-Determination Program (SDP) be affected?
 - Ms. Wong noted that the passage of the State Budget includes Trailer Bill Language (TBL) to address changes to the Self-Determination Program (SDP). DDS will be issuing details of these changes in the release of future directives. It was shared that the Department of Finance has expressed deep concerns on the expenditure levels on SDP budgets and questions whether the program is sustainable in light of the anticipated budget cuts from the feds in Fiscal Year 2025-'26. DDS will provide guidance and directives to regional centers on the specific changes to SDP.
 - Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC), Executive Director, parent, shared the Eastern Los Angeles Local Volunteer Advisory Committee for SDP funded a community of practice project. Next meeting scheduled in August will offer a platform for the community to speak about concerns of the SDP.

VI.

Consumer Services Report
Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Consumer Services

Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Consumer Services, shared information on the role of Jose Pastrana, Health and Safety Specialist. Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels explained when a service provider cannot meet the needs of an individual being served i.e.:

- Individuals needs may be complex
- Individual may have challenging behaviors
- Unable to locate a matching service provider to the individual requires
- 2:1 service provider may be required
- Higher rate may be required

Mr. Pastrana collaborates with the service coordinator and the vendor/service provider through the Health and Safety Waiver process. A waiver would need to be submitted to the Department to increase the rate to a higher request.

The Department provided funding for a Health and Safety Waiver Specialist to assist families through the process and better understand the process. The community who may not understand the complexities of the Health and Safety Waiver would benefit from this service. It's important for the families to know that this service is available to receive a higher rate. The Health and Safety Waiver requests are individualized and based on medical records review and individual needs.

Mr. Pastrana's role also includes but is not limited to:

- Outreach in the communities
- Offers trainings in the communities
- Development of forms and required material for non-English speaking community and the deaf and hard of hearing community
- Coordinated Family Support Services
 - Implemented the Outreach Plan
 - Program set-up for adults with developmental disabilities who reside at home and who would like remain residing at home. Intended to facilitate equitable access to services and supports.
- Conducts housing support
 - Part of the Housing Vision Team
 - Work on developing innovative housing options
 - Gather resources and share with service coordinators
 - Developing resources
 - Serves as the point of contact with Teague Terrace and T. Bailey. Apartment complex developed in Eagle Rock in which Mr. Pastrana provides support, advocacy and information to service coordinators and the individuals who reside in the apartment complex. Acts as mitigator between the individuals who reside at the complex.
- Delegated Conservatorship Role
 - When an individual has no family or next of kin or individual that can serve as their conservator the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is appointed as the individual's conservator by the court system. The conservator role is delegated to the Regional Center Executive Director.
 - Mr. Pastrana serves as the delegated conservator
 - Ensures the conservatees are appointed by the department
 - Meets quarterly with the conservatees
 - Supports in decision making

- Monitoring health, safety and well being
- Approximately forty four (44) visits per year to ensure needs of the individuals are being met
- Keeps Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Consumer Services updated on all aspects

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels reported funding for the Health and Safety Waiver Specialist ended June 30, 2025. Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels expressed the importance of role that Mr. Pastrana has.

Comments from the Community:

- ❖ Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC), Executive Director, parent, expressed her appreciation and wanted to share with the Board Members how important the role of the Health and Safety Waiver Specialist.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) - (Marisol Guerrero)

The Consumer Advocates Congress (CAC) will meet July 15th, 2025. The Topic will be on Employment, George de la Loza, ELARC's Career Pathways Officer, will be presenting. CAC Officer Elections will be held during the meeting. The new CAC bylaws will also be voted on by the members.

Consumer Advocates Desk:

1. CAC meeting, Bylaws & Elections July 15th (Hybrid)
2. Where to live in the Community OCRA July 7th (Zoom)
3. Caffeinate and Advocate July 18th Whittier Office

B. Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) - (Joel Moreno)

Joel Moreno, VAC Representative, reported on the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC).

- Last VAC meeting was held on Thursday, June 26, 2025
 - Presentation for vendors provided by California Mentor.
- Currently vendors working through rate implementation process
- End of fiscal year and focus is on renewing authorizations with ELARC
- Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 24th. Meeting being held hybrid via "zoom" and in person

No comments from the community.

C. Finance/Personnel Committee (Terry Munoz/Fely Navera)

Mrs. Terry Munoz, Board President, reported there was no Finance/Personnel Committee meeting.

No comments from the community.

VIII. Miscellaneous Announcements

Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC), Executive Director, parent, shared an inspiring story written by Heluna Health, on Dulce Flores, parent of twins with a diagnosis of autism one who will be attending Long Beach State University and the other the University of Berkley. Mrs. Flores, proud parent, is employed at the Family Resource Center (FRC) who has been promoted to Program Manager.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the motion was made to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting at 7:55pm.

M/S/C (Pat Gomez/Dalia Mendoza). Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Dalia Mendoza,
Secretary,
ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Angie Salas,
Executive Secretary