



EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
1000 S. Fremont Ave. • P.O. Box 7916 • Alhambra, CA 91802-7916
(626) 299-4700 • FAX (626) 281-0730

**ELARC Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026
Approved as Recorded on February 10, 2026**

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

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

Absent:

Dr. Linda Lopez, Vice-President

Guests: Refer to Sign-In Sheet

I. Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 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, 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:

- ❖ Nancy Mendoza, Foothill Family Services, Early Head Start and Early Steps, provided the following information:

- New DDS program currently recruiting:
 - ✓ Children
 - ✓ Pregnant mothers
 - Early Head Start Child Care
 - Home Visits
 - Parents who would like to explore options

- ❖ Chala Jitpatima, parent, wishing all a “Happy New Year” and best wishes for a great new year and expressed her gratitude to the Regional Center staff for years of support.

- Gloria Wong, Executive Director, thanked Ms. Jitpatima for her kind words.

- ❖ Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC), Executive Director, parent, shared the following information that the FRC is currently offering:

- Three (3) support groups offered for families in the following languages:
 - English
 - Chinese/Mandarin/Cantonese
 - Spanish
- Self-Determination (SD) Community Meetings continue to be held monthly
 - Next in-person SD meeting will be held on January 21st, 2026 from 9:30am to 12:00pm

➤ If interested please contact, Yvette Renteria, FRC, (626) 300-9171

- 6 Month Parenting Series: Evidence Based Practices called “Incredible Years”
 - Focuses on young children with challenging behaviors
 - Families with children between the ages of 1-3 years old
 - Parenting Series are held in person on Saturdays
- Partnership with Family Empowerment Center offering two (2) trainings
 - School Age Individualized Education Plan (IEP) scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026
 - Person Centered Training (PCT) scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2026
 - Presenter: Liz Rodgers, ELARC Autism Specialist/Certified PCT Mentor Trainer
 - Training: “Do You Know Who I Am”
- Early Intervention Inter-Agency Coordinated Council Virtual Meeting for the State of California
 - February 5th, 2026 and February 6th, 2026
- Pictures were shared of a toys collected for a Christmas toy drive
 - Donations of toys were provided by Autism Spectrum and ELARC Staff
 - Lunch was served and pictures with Santa as well for the families
- ❖ Josie Mora, parent, expressed her gratitude to the Regional Center and staff for their support.
 - Gloria Wong, Executive Director, thanked Ms. Mora for her kind words.

IV.

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

M/S/C (Dalia Mendoza/Theresa Chen) To approve the general session of BOD Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2025. Unanimous.

v. Executive Director's Report - Gloria Wong

**I. Public Records Act (PRA):
Jorge Morales, Privacy Records Act (PRA) Officer
ATT #2, #3 and #4**

A) Draft Policy Revisions

Gloria, Wong, Executive Director, provided background information on the California Public Records Act (CPRA) also referred as Public Records Act (PRA).

Ms. Wong shared information on draft policy revisions for Board consideration and approval of the following revised policies.

- 1) California Public Records Act (PRA) Policy - **ATT #2**
- 2) Transparency and Access to Public Information Policy - **ATT #3**
- 3) Electronic Communications Policy - **ATT #4**

Ms. Wong noted the PRA transition is an exhaustive and rigorous process and will continue to be a work-in-progress into the foreseeable future. The ELARC PRA team consists of:

- Jorge Morales, PRA Officer, taking the lead
- Johnny Trombley, IT Supervisor
- Felipe Hernandez, PRA Consultant

Jorge Morales, PRA Officer, reviewed the proposed revisions to the three (3) policies. Mr. Morales noted the policy amendments are shown with a red strikethrough, reflecting the deletion and the updated changes are highlighted in yellow.

- ❖ Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC), Executive Director, parent, asked the following questions:
 - ❖ Are the amendments highlighted specific to ELARC or are they a generalization on how the Regional Centers approach data collection?
 - ❖ Are there restrictions on the type of data requested from the Regional Centers?

- Mr. Morales shared that it would apply to all the Regional Centers. He noted that all of the Regional Centers reached a consensus to align our policies and replicate practices of other government agencies impacted by the CPRA.
 - Mr. Morales explained that there are restrictions on the type of data which can be released to the requesting party, which includes the following but not limited to:
 - Consumer records due to HIPAA violations or PHI concerns
 - Personal employee identifier
 - Ms. Wong reiterated any personal and private information will not be released or be available to the public. However, an individual served by the Regional Center, under existing practices has the right to receive the requested information within three (3) days.
- ❖ Fely Navera, Board Member, asked who should be contacted initially, i.e. service coordinator, for a request of consumer records?
- Mr. Morales explained a request can be made
 - In person
 - Online through the portal
 - With the assigned service coordinator
 - By a phone call or
 - An email

Mr. Morales provided his contact information for any further questions or concerns he is available to guide through the process

➤ Jorge E. Morales, Public Records Act (PRA) Officer

- Phone Number: (626) 248-3067
- Email: jmorales1@elarc.org

Comments from the community:

- ❖ Alex Wu, Board Member, expressed his appreciation for the explanation on ATT #2, #3 and #4.
- ❖ Michael Young, visitor participant, had a question regarding 3.2 of the CPRA Procedure Section. Would the fourteen (14) day extension request be communicated to the person who has placed a request? How would that be done and what is the criteria for the extension?
 - Mr. Morales explained that if a response requires fourteen (14) day extension the information will be provided to the requester as to why the extension is being made. Extensions may happen when there's difficulty locating documents and/or multiple Departments may have the information requiring an extensive search.
- ❖ Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC), Executive Director, parent, expressed concern regarding not printing emails as it may be an issue for those with vision limitations or those with ADA needs.
 - Mr. Morales noted considerations for special accommodation will be honored.

M/S/C (Fely Navera/Joshua Tjahjahdi) To approve Draft Policy Revisions of:

- 1. California Public Records Act (PRA) Policy***
- 2. Transparency and Access to Public Information Policy***
- 3. Electronic Communications Policy***

Unanimous.

B) Data Management Program: CIVIC PLUS/Next Request

Ms. Wong provided background information on CIVIC PLUS/Next Request data management program.

Mr. Morales provided brief background information and provided a step-by-step presentation on how to access CIVIC PLUS/Next Request on ELARC's website in making a request for information.

Mr. Morales reviewed the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) located on ELARC's website. He continued to navigate through ELARC's website and provided guidance on how to access information and complete a request.

❖ Nancy Mendoza, Foothill Family Services, Early Head Start and Early Steps, inquired if statistical data would need to be requested through this process?

- Mr. Morales stated it is best to begin the request by going through this process in the initial request.
- Elizabeth Harrell, Community Services Manager, also added that as a vendor, Ms. Mendoza may continue to make requests with her assigned point of contact in “Community Services”. Using the portal for information, it’s important to indicate in the request your point of contact with Community Services.

Mr. Morales commented that ELARC receptionists have been trained on how to process any requests that are dropped off in-person. The goal of the Regional Center is to make this process as smooth as possible for anyone making a request.

No comments from the community.

C) Staff Training Update

Mr. Morales shared that all ELARC staff, contractors and temporary staff employed by ELARC have gone through extensive training. Monthly PRA Trainings will be held for anyone needing a refresher and for all new staff. Currently, ELARC is working with ARCA and BBK with ongoing trainings and updates.

No comments from the community.

II. Proposed Policy Amendment Motion Required - ATT #5

Ms. Wong provided brief background information on proposed policy amendment “Vendored Service Provider Insurance Policy”. She noted that due to exorbitant insurance premium increases for service providers, the minimum policy average coverage would be changed from \$5 million, the current requirement, to \$3 million.

Elizabeth Harrell, Community Services Manager, reviewed the amended policy sections of the “Vendored Service Provider Insurance Policy”. In addition to the \$3 million limit of liability, a \$1 million primary with a \$2 million aggregate and a \$2 million excess will be required depending on service categories. Additionally, ELARC must be named as a certificate holder on these policies.

No comments from the community.

M/S/C (Dalia Mendoza/Joshua Tjahjahdi) To approve the amended “Vendored Service Provider Insurance Policy” policy and procedure. Initially approved on September 10, 2026. Unanimous.

III. Rate Reform Process Update ATT #6 and #7

Ms. Wong provided background information on the various activities being undertaken to complete the Rate Reform process.

Mrs. Harrell provided detailed information of Rate Reform, which continues to be a work-in-progress that must be completed by December 31, 2025.

Comments from the community:

- ❖ Chala Jitpatima, parent, thanked Mrs. Harrell for all the hard work of her Department to complete the complicated process.

IV. Master Plan for Developmental Services: A Community Driven Vision ATT #6, #7 and #8

Ms. Wong provided background information on the Master Plan. The Master Plan is led by a stakeholder group of about thirty two (32) individuals who were appointed by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

ATT #6

Ms. Wong reviewed the Mission Statement of the Master Plan “Our Vision for the Plan”.

ATT #7

The “Master Plan for Developmental Services a Community Driven Vision” was shared as foundation to guide the work of the committee.

ATT #8

Master Plan “Vision for Success” outlines the six (6) elements of the plan.

Ms. Wong shared that the stakeholder group will continue to meet two (2) times per year for the next ten (10) years. DDS will take the lead at these meeting and will produce an annual report to the legislature on the status of the recommendations. First report is scheduled to be submitted to the Legislature by March of 2026.

Ms. Wong noted that reports are available to view at the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) website as follows:

Visiting: www.dd.ca.gov

“Master Plan”

V. Budget Update

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-’26 Budget Performance Report

HANDOUT #1

Ms. Wong reviewed the Operations Budget Performance Report for Fiscal Year 2025-’26.

She reported the current balance indicates a surplus of \$631,105. The next contract amendment is pending, it will be issued in the “B-3” allocation.

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

HANDOUT #2

Ms. Wong reported the PEP report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 will be completed by January 10, 2026. Ms. Wong shared the June report for Fiscal Year 2024-’25 indicated a deficit of **(\$36,406,161)**.

HANDOUT #3

Ms. Wong presented the 2026-27 highlights of the Governor’s Preliminary Budget, which was released January 9, 2026.

No comments from the community.

HANDOUT #4

Ms. Wong shared a CBS News article, “Trump administration halting \$10 billion in social services funding to 5 Democratic states”. The proposal is being challenged by California and four (4) other blue states. A federal judge has blocked this proposal attempting to freeze the \$10 billion dollars as reported in this article.

Efforts are being made to ensure we remain pro-active by advocating for no cuts to the Regional Center System. The partnership of the following agencies are coordinating their advocacy efforts:

- Association of Regional Center Agency (ARCA)
- Disability Voices United (DVU)
- Fight for our Health Coalition (FFOH)
- Unions
- Health Access and Equity Group
- Labor Unions
- Lanterman Coalition

ATT #9

Ms. Wong shared the Grassroots Day flyer. The event is scheduled for March 2 and 3, 2026 in Sacramento. Each Regional Center will identify a delegation to be present in Sacramento with a unified position and specific talking points to convey to the Legislature.

Comment from the community:

- ❖ Josie Mora, parent, asked what individuals can do to advocate against the cuts.
- ❖ Ms. Wong shared that first and foremost would be for our community to become informed in the budget process. Community advocacy for the Regional Center system is critical throughout the budget process. Concerns over specific budget issues should be addressed by visiting and remaining in contact with your local state representative in the legislature. The community must follow the budget process, particularly in the next phase of the process when “Budget Hearings” are conducted by the Assembly and Senate Budget-Sub-Committees, typically in March and April.
- ❖ Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC), Executive Director, parent, shared the Family Resource Center Facebook webpage tries to keep everyone informed search ELAFRC on Facebook.

VI.

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

Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Consumer Services, introduced Judy Perez, Associate Chief of Consumer Services, who provided an update on Self-Determination Program (SDP).

Mrs. Perez provided an update on SDP:

- 332 fully transitioned participants in SDP
 - Participants tracked by Language
 - 3 Cantonese speaking participants
 - 4 Korean speaking participants
 - 22 Mandarin speaking participants
 - 22 Spanish speaking participants
 - 281 English speaking participants
 - Participants tracked by Age group
 - 174 between the age of 3 to 17
 - 110 between the age of 18 to 30
 - 43 between the age of 31 to 49
 - 5 over the age of 50
- 165 potential SDP participants
 - 3 of the 165 potential SDP participants currently have a certified budget
 - 30 of the 165 potential SDP participants are in the process of receiving the certified budget
 - 132 of the 165 potential SDP participants are in between the orientation and the initial budget meeting or in the middle of deciding if SDP is the right program for them

Comments from the community:

- ❖ Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC), Executive Director, parent, recalled when SDP first started it had less than one hundred (100) participants. Shared concerns over increasing SDP budgets. Ms. Baptiste asked if a future report on SDP could address how the annual budgets compare statewide.
- ❖ Ms. Wong replied the requested analysis will be conducted and results will be shared in a future meeting.

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels provided brief background information on the 94th California tree lighting ceremony held at the State Capitol. The Governor of the State of California holds an event in

Sacramento for the State holiday Christmas tree decorating and there will be twenty-one (21) Christmas trees representing each center.

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels shared Patrick Schattilly, Consumer Advocate, hosted six (6) community events to decorate ornaments that were submitted to decorate ELARC's tree. Details of community events:

- Three (3) decorating events were held in Alhambra
- Three (3) decorating events were held in Whittier
 - They were both a big success
 - Five-hundred and seventy-eight (578) ornaments made
 - Ornaments were sent to Sacramento.
 - 180 were placed on the large communal tree
 - 398 were placed on ELARC's tree

The event took place on December 10, 2025. This year's Regional Center representatives were 5 year old twins Jude and Rebecca Kessler from Altadena with the San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center. Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels shared their homes were destroyed in the Eaton fires.

Pete Cervinka, Director of Department of Developmental Services (DDS), quoted "Jude and Rebecca embodied the heart of hope of the holiday season despite facing challenges that no child should ever encounter. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and resilience shine through".

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels shared a touching YouTube video:

"Meet Jude and Rebecca Kessler: 94th Annual Capitol Tree Lighting":
<https://youtu.be/vlvLbgAFClw?si=Esn277YiMjg3ibfW>

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels commented that this is a lovely annual tradition. For more information on the tree lighting ceremony please visit the DDS website at www.dds.ca.gov.

- ❖ Ms. Wong thanked Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels for sharing the heartwarming video.

No comments from the community.

VII. Committee Reports

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

The CAC will meet on January 20th, 2026, Alexander Scarlis of OCRA will present "*Where to Live in the Community*".

The Congress will elect its Speaker of the House.

The CAC will also begin discussion of a Roadmap for the future “*Congress, Community and Beyond*”.

On the Consumer Advocates Desk:

1. Caffeinate Advocate Network (CAN) February 5th and May 28th
2. Understanding Regional Center (URC) April 2nd and October 15th from 2:30-4:30pm. Flyer pending.
3. CAC Individual meeting flyers - January meeting.

No comments from the community.

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

Joel Moreno, VAC Representative, reported the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) met in October.

- Dark month in December 2026
- First meeting of 2026 scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2026
- Job Fair scheduled for March 5th, 2026 in Pasadena.
 - Collaborating with the local seven (7) L.A. County Regional Centers

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.

VIII. Miscellaneous Announcements

- ❖ Chala Jitpatima, parent, asked if ELARC has a form or template for the individual being served to sign for supportive decision making?

- Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels shared there are no formal documents used, however there are trainings provided by DRC. Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels offered her availability to speak with Ms. Jitapatima to go over specifics.
- ❖ Chala Jitpatima, parent, asked about Felipe Hernandez, former Chief of Consumer Services, and his current role with ELARC.
- Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels stated Felipe Hernandez, is providing support to ELARC as part of the PRA team, he is working with Jorge Morales and Johnny Trombley.
- ❖ Alex Wu, Board Member, asked does SDP have the service of Independent Living Services (ILS) training.
- Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels noted that it is available. Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels offered her availability to Alex to further discuss.

ATT #10

Mrs. Muñoz shared the “2026 Board Meeting Calendar” announcement outlining all Board meetings for 2026.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the motion was made to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting at 7:54pm.

M/S/C (Dalia Mendoza/Theresa Chen). Unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board conducted an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

M/S/C (Dalia Mendoza/Fely Navera) To approve the personnel matter. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dalia Mendoza".

Dalia Mendoza,
Secretary,
ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Angie Salas,
Executive Secretary