



**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  
March 11, 2025  
Approved as Recorded on April 8, 2025**

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Staff Present:**

Gloria Wong, Executive Director  
Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of  
Consumer Services  
Veronica Valenzuela, Associate Chief of  
Consumer Services  
Elizabeth Harrell, Community Services  
Manager  
Johnny Trombley, IT Supervisor  
Adriana Roman, Supervisor  
Ernesto Jauregui, LMS & Training  
Specialist  
George de la Loza, Career Pathways &  
Local Partnerships, Officer  
Angie Salas, Executive Secretary

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Refer to Sign-In Sheet

.....  
**I. Welcome & Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 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.

## **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:**

- ❖ Fely Navera, Board Member, Parent, shared that her son was sixteen (16) years old when the case was transferred to ELARC, he is now fifty-six (56) years old and is currently transitioning to a new unit, “Aging with Purpose”. Ms. Navera stated that it’s now been a forty (40) year journey for her son to be part of ELARC. She expressed her gratitude to all the staff that have been part of this journey with her son over these many years.

- Gloria Wong, Executive Director, thanked Mrs. Navera for her kind words.
- Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Consumer Services, expressed her appreciation for her recognition of ELARC staff and their contribution over these many years.

- ❖ Chala Jitpatima, parent, expressed her gratitude for the circle of support provided by ELARC over the many years of service.

- Gloria Wong, Executive Director, thanked Ms. Jitpatima for the acknowledgement and accolades.
- Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Consumer Services, expressed her appreciation for Ms. Jitpatima’s kind remarks.

- ❖ Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC), Executive Director, parent, shared that she is proud of her partnership with ELARC. Ms. Baptiste commended ELARC’s leadership. She also noted some concerns over the intake process and shared the following:

Ms. Baptiste shared comments by families to the FRC:

- Experiencing difficulties for families who are three (3) and above
  - Families experiencing issues going to the Regional Center, such as initial intake referrals not being followed through.

- Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels, thanked Ms. Baptiste for the feedback. She will connect with Ms. Baptiste to discuss strategies for supporting families transitioning from Early Start to Lanterman services.
- ❖ Suzanne Gallegos, parent, thanked ELARC and staff for their ongoing support, and is thankful to be part of ELARC.
- ❖ Charles Jitpatima, Consumer, thanked ELARC for their ongoing support. Mr. Jitpatima expressed his gratitude to all.
  - Ms. Wong thanked Mr. Jitpatima for his caring remarks and for joining the meeting.

IV.

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

***M/S/C (Fely Navera/Theresa Chen) To approve the general session of BOD Meeting Minutes and the Executive Session meeting minutes of February 11, 2025 as recorded. Unanimous.***

V. Executive Director's Report - Gloria Wong

**1. Fiscal Year 2023-'24 Year-End Performance Contract Report  
Community Public Meeting Presentation  
ATT #2, #3 and #4**

**ATT #2**

Ms. Wong, noted and shared the announcement shared with the community regarding the presentation.

**ATT #3**

As required by the meeting guidelines, Ms. Wong, presented highlights of which included a review of four (4) key elements of the "Governor's Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-'26":

**I. Budget Assumptions**

- 1) Population Growth  
8.5% Grown from Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-'25 to 2025-'26
- 2) Budget Growth  
2025-'26 \$19 billion      20.2%
- 3) Funding Source  
64% State General Fund  
36% Federal Funds

## II. **Budget Key Elements**

- \$151.2 Million caseload growth allocation
  - ✓ Purchase of Services (POS)
    - Additional = \$2.6 billion
    - Total = \$14.7 billion
- Public Records Act (PRA) Requirements \$11.5 million
  - ✓ \$1.8 Million DDS
  - ✓ \$9.7 Million Regional Centers
  - ✓ PRA in effect January 2026
- Consumer Electronic Records Management System (CERMS) & Uniform Fiscal System Modernization (UFSM)
  - ✓ \$2.7 Million to support transition
- Sample of On-going Projects = \$42 Million
  - ✓ Best Buddies International = \$2 Million
  - ✓ Home & Community Bases Services (HCBS) = \$15 Million
  - ✓ Direct Service Professionals (DSP's) Bilingual Support Pay = \$7.2 Million
  - ✓ DSP University = \$17.9 Million

### **III. Federal Funding: Potential Impact to Developmental Services**

#### **Services Sample**

- Regional Center Services = \$2 billion
- Other Services
  - ✓ Special Education Schools & Disabled Student Services (Colleges)
  - ✓ Job Training through Department of Education and Department of Rehabilitation
  - ✓ Social Security's SSI Programs
  - ✓ Medi-Cal
  - ✓ Dental Services
  - ✓ In-Home Support Services

### **IV. Federal Budget Potential Reductions and Consequences**

- Shifting funding to: "Block Grants" or "Per-Capita Limits"
  - Reduce Federal funding so States become responsible for larger share of funding
  - Negative Impact: will affect the ability of individuals to live more independently in their communities
  - Federal funding is critically important to providing individualized services and supports that allow over 300,000 Californians with developmental disabilities to live in the community. Any changes to federal funding should neither reduce actual funding levels nor increase funding burdens on the State.
- Ms. Wong reviewed a chart outlining the six (6) steps of "California's State Budget Process". Ms. Wong indicated that we are on the second step of the budget process with the Legislature conducting budget hearings from now until early May by proposing changes to the Governor's Preliminary Budget released on January 10, 2025. By May 14<sup>th</sup> the Governor will issue a revised budget, referred to as the "May Revise" which will be updated with the

latest revenue projections, and budget revisions related to the costs of the wildfires and a projection of potential federal cuts that will impact the California budget.

Ms. Wong shared the State Tax Filing deadline was extended to October 2025 due to wildfires. The result is that revenue projections for California will be delayed by this postponement.

#### ATT #4

Ms. Wong, opened the PowerPoint presentation on the “Year-End Performance Contract Report” for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-’24. The presentation was conducted by a panel of five (5) Regional Center staff.

Panel presenters included:

- Gloria Wong, Executive Director
- Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Consumer Services
- Veronica Valenzuela, Associate Chief of Consumer Services (presented for Brendali Maldonado, Community Communications Officer, who was unable to participate)
- George de la Loza, Local Partnership Agreement Employment Officer
- Adriana Roman, Enhanced Service Community Engagement Supervisor

Veronica Valenzuela, Associate Chief of Consumer Services, offered a Performance Contract (PC) overview and background. She noted the PC consists of two (2) major elements:


- 1) Public Meeting
- 2) Compliance Performance Measures

The balance of the presentation by the panel focused on:

- ❖ ELARC’s Demographics
- ❖ ELARC’s Performance Contract
- ❖ ELARC’s Performance: Compliance Standards
- ❖ ELARC’s Employment Performance
- ❖ ELARC’s Efforts in Reducing Disparities and Improving Equity

The following stats were reviewed ELARC's targeted goals and compliance measures:



<b>Regional Center Goals</b> (based on Lanterman Act)	<b>State Average</b>	<b>ELARC</b>
Fewer individuals live in developmental centers	0.05%	0.05%
More children live with families	99.69%	<b>99.74%</b>
More adults live in home settings	83.86%	<b>89.28%</b>
Fewer children live in large facilities (more than 6 people)	0.02%	<b>0.00%</b>
Fewer adults live in large facilities (more than 6 people)	1.46%	<b>0.49%</b>



## ELARC's Compliance with State Measures

*(Did ELARC meet DDS standards?)*

<b>Department of Developmental Center Services</b> (Compliance Standards)	<b>ELARC</b>
Passes independent audit	Yes
Passes DDS audit	Yes
Audits vendors as required	Met
Didn't overspend operations budget	Yes
Participates in the federal Waiver	Yes
CDERs and ESRs are updated as required	99.51%
Intake/Assessment timelines for individuals age 3 and older met	98.96%
IPP requirements met	100%
IFSP requirements met	88.00%

- ELARC improved on three of the four numeric measures over the past fiscal year.
- ELARC continues to maintain State compliance and strives to maintain accountability to people served, our staff, service providers, community and all Californians.

10

The presentation focused on ELARC's performance on increasing individual employment performance compared to past performance and statewide averages.

George de la Loza, Local Partnership Agreement Employment Officer, presented on the "Paid Internship Program". Mr. De La Loza shared a YouTube video of an "Employment Initiative" event held at Catalina Islands. Mr. de la Loza provided background information and continued to present on the "Paid Internship Program" and highlighted ELARC's success in placing over five-hundred (500) individuals in jobs that led to careers. Mr. De La Loza emphasized the program's focus on helping

individuals find jobs that align with their passions and skills, such as DJ'ing and makeup artistry. Mr. De La Loza discussed the programs expansion to other Regional Centers and its integration with the

Department of Rehabilitation. He reported an increase in the number of individuals earning income and wages, with the average annual wage for individuals with disabilities at \$16,000, compared to \$30,000 for other with disabilities. He also mentioned the programs collaboration with local education agencies and workforce development boards. Mr. De La Loza presented detail information as part of his PowerPoint which focused on:

- 1) Employment Metrics & ELARC's plan
- 2) Career & Micro-Enterprise and Coordinated Pathways
- 3) Activities on Increasing Employment
- 4) Earned Income: 2019 - 2021
- 5) ELARC Individual Annual Earnings
- 6) Competitive Integrated Employment

Comments from the community were addressed:

- ❖ Yvette Baptiste, FRC Executive Director, inquired about the wage discrepancy and it's causes.
  - Mr. De La Loza responded that it is due to the lack of full-time job opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The final portion of the presentation focused on the PC analysis on how well ELARC is doing at providing services equally to consumers. Additionally, the percent of total annual purchase of service expenditures by individual's ethnicity and age was reviewed.

Adriana Roman, Enhanced Services & Community Engagement Supervisor, presented the data on "ELARC's Purchase of Services (POS)" in reducing disparities and improving equity in purchase of services across different ethnicities and age groups. Ms. Roman explained that for individuals aged 0-21, the percentage of people served closely mirrors the percentage of spending for each ethnicity. For adults 22 and older, there are some differences, mainly due to choices in living arrangements. Ms. Roman highlighted a few outliers in spending for certain ethnicities and residential type, noting that most spending remains fairly consistent. The PowerPoint presentation focused on the following:

- 1) POS spending by Primary Ethnicity broken-down by age groups



- ✓ 0 – 2
- ✓ 3 – 21
- ✓ 22 and older

## 2) POS spending by Primary Ethnicity by residence

- ✓ Home
- ✓ Independent Living Services (ILS)
- ✓ Supported Living Services (SLS)
- ✓ Group Home & Other
- ✓ Institutions & Medical/Rehabilitation

Comments from the community were addressed:

- ❖ Yvette Baptiste, FRC Executive Director, concerned with the low population of African Americans that are identified as an outlier in institutions. Ms. Baptiste shared she is collaborating with a Community Practice for the African American community, and it's been noted that there is a bias in institutions with black males with autism and the tendency of being misdiagnosed.
  - Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Consumer Services, stated she will review the data and share her findings.

Ms. Roman discussed the Community Access Coordinator (CAC) project, which is part of ELARC's language access and cultural competency plan. The CAC's work to connect with people served by ELARC and those in the community who might need their support. They make connections with Community-Based Organizations (CBO's), conduct outreach to individuals served, hold listening sessions and focus topic groups to gather community feedback, and host trainings and surveys. The CAC project has hosted and attended over one hundred seventy-five (175) events or trainings, connected with over eight thousand (8,000) people, and invested over five-hundred (500) hours supporting communities. Ms. Roman also mentioned that they are working on providing a warm handoff to families going through intake.

The role and purpose of the Community Access Coordinators (CAC):

- Created to connect with the families served

- To inform and educate the community about ELARC and services offered
- Connect with:
  - Community who may need support
  - Community-Based Organizations (CBO's)
  - Libraries
  - Health Clinics
  - Churches
  - School Districts within ELARC's catchment area
- Outreach to individuals served who are receiving low to no ELARC funded services
- Holding listening sessions and focus topic groups to gather community feedback
- In order to be a resource to the community the CAC's are visiting:
  - Schools
  - Libraries
  - Health Clinics
- Hosting trainings and gathering feedback from the community through surveys
- Focus groups are conducted in various languages
- Targeted telephone outreach efforts
- Representation in the community:
  - Desk days
  - Public libraries
  - Eastern L.A. Family Resource Center (FRC)
  - Roybal Mental Health Clinic
- Attendance and representation at community celebrations

- Alhambra New Year Event
- Autism Speaks Walk

➤ CAC holds monthly listening and informational sessions through “Empower Hour”

The CAC’s have formed countless relationships with diverse groups and community collaborators in their intense outreach effort.

Comments from the community were addressed:

- ❖ Yvette Baptiste, FRC Executive Director, expressed her appreciation for the CAC’s work and suggested that they need more resources to effectively engage with their community. Ms. Baptiste also expressed her pride in the team’s performance.
- ❖ Michael Young, audience participant, asked “Is it possible for individuals in the community to access the CAC’s to provide a presentation to a college class about what supports the Regional Center can provide?”.
- Ms. Roman eagerly responded that she will to connect with Mr. Young to discuss his request.

Veronica Valenzuela, Associate Chief of Consumer Services, reported “Performance Contract” and the PowerPoint presentation will be available on ELARC’s website. Additionally, ELARC is preparing a revision to the “2025-’26 Performance Contract (PC)”. The draft report will be shared with the community in two (2) upcoming meetings:

- 1) April 2, 2025  
10am – 12pm  
Community Meeting
- 2) April 8, 2025  
6:30pm to 7:15pm  
Abbreviated presentation included as part of the Board of Directors meeting

All of the above information can be found on ELARC’s website and was included in this packet as “Attachment #6”.

## 2. Upcoming Meetings ATT #5 and #6

### ATT #5

Ms. Wong reviewed the flyer for the in person upcoming event of the “Annual Purchase of Service Public Meeting” scheduled for March 24, 2025 from 10am to 12pm. This hybrid meeting will be conducted in-person and also offered by “Zoom”, interpreter services will be available. Additionally, four (4) separate sessions will be presented two (2) in Spanish and two (2) Chinese to our community. An updated report will be provided at the May Board of Directors meeting to share the outcome of these various meetings.

The final “2025/2026 Draft Performance Contract” is due to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) by June 2025.

## VI. Committee Reports

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

The Consumer Advisory Committee will meet March 25, 2025. The topic will be the Governor’s Preliminary Budget, presented by Gloria Wong, ELARC Executive Director. The meeting will be an in person (in ELARC’s Board Room) or “Zoom” option. She extended an invitation for all to attend.

In Collaboration with the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) Karina Andrade will be presenting on El ARCA and how it impacts the lives of individuals it serves.

#### On the Consumer Advocates Desk:

1. Understanding Regional Center (URC) is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and September 16, 2025
2. Coffee with the Consumer Advocate scheduled for:
  - March 20, 2025
  - June 12, 2025
  - August 6, 2025
  - November 6, 2025
3. Consumer Advocate on the Road March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Various Service Providers).

No comments from the community.

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

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

VAC met on February 27, 2025:

- Implementation Rate Reform was discussed
  - Due March 31, 2025
- New initiative “Vendor Spotlight” where vendors will be presenting
  - Karina Andrade, El ARCA was a presenter
- Next meeting scheduled for March 27, 2025.

No comments from the community.

**C. Finance/Personnel Committee (Terry Munoz/Fely Navera) - (Motion Required)**

Mrs. Terry Munoz, Board President, reported there was a meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2025 regarding the financial audit results for FY 2023-'24.

Ms. Munoz referenced the results of the two (2) ELARC employee pension plans. The audit was conducted by Miller Kaplan, accounting firm.

**ATT #7**

Ms. Munoz provided background information and briefly went over the “Draft Financial Statements and Supplementary Information” auditor’s reports from June 30, 2024 and 2023”.

Ms. Munoz reported the audit reports in layman’s term “all is in order” with this review. Ms. Munoz emphasized the final result is a “clean bill of health”.

Ms. Munoz provided an update on the filing of ELARC’s 990 Federal Return Filing.

Ms. Navera shared ELARC is in full compliance with all required accounting principles.

***M/S/C (Theresa Chen/Dalia Mendoza) To approve the “Draft Financial Statements and Supplementary Information with Independent Auditor’s Reports June 30,2024 and 2023”. Unanimous.***

No comments from the community.

**VII. Miscellaneous Announcements**

Next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on April 8, 2025 at 6:00pm.

No comments from the community.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss the motion was made to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting at 7:49pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

Dalia Mendoza,



Secretary, ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Angie Salas,  
Executive Secretary