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
July 14, 2026
Approved as Recorded on September 8, 2026

Board Members Present:
Pat Gomez, President
Terry Muñoz, Vice-President
Theresa Chen, Treasurer
Joshua Tjahjadi, Secretary
Marisol Guerrero, CAC Chair
Joel Moreno, Vendor Rep.
Dalia Mendoza
Alex Wu
Fely Navera

Staff Present:
Gloria Wong, Executive Director
Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Client Services
Lonetta Johns-Yarleque, Associate Chief of Client Services
Rhoda Tong, Associate Chief of Client Services
Liz Harrell, Community Services Manager
Brendali Maldonado, Communications Officer
Johnny Trombley, IT Supervisor
Angie Salas, Executive Secretary

Absent:
Dr. Linda Lopez
Dr. Terrence Baruch

Guests: Refer to Sign-In Sheet

I. Welcome & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by Mrs. Pat Gomez, 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. Gomez 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:

- Chala Jitpatima, community member, greeted everyone and looking forward to hearing good news on the Governor's Budget.

- Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC) and The Partnership of Family Empowerment Center, Executive Director, shared that East Los Angeles Family Resource Center (East LA FRC) receives funding through a contract with the California Department of Education to provide support to families of children ages 3 to 22 as a Family Empowerment Center. As a result, the organization serves families through both its Early Start Family Resource Center and Family Empowerment Center programs.

  Mrs. Baptiste also announced a new program funded by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) through the Family Resource Center Network of California, of which East LA FRC is a member. The program, called VALOR, is designed to partner with Family Resource Centers across the state to elevate the voices of the Latino community and support policy development and stakeholder feedback. She noted that Joe Perales may be invited to a future meeting to provide more information about the program. As part of the VALOR initiative, an event is being planned for September to engage families, individuals, and professionals interested in participating in this work. Additional information and event details will be shared once materials become available.

  Mrs. Baptiste also expressed appreciation to the Regional Center, Early Start staff, and transition program supervisors for their efforts in helping families understand the Early Start transition process. She highlighted the recent "Great Beginnings" annual conference, which supports families transitioning out of Early Start as well as those preparing for future transitions. She recognized Brenda Salazar and Candi Sandoval, ELARC Supervisors, for presenting at the conference and commended their collaborative efforts in educating families about available services and what they can expect if their child qualifies for Regional Center services. The presentations also addressed important transition-related topics. Mrs. Baptiste concluded by noting that additional upcoming events and opportunities would be shared in the meeting chat and invited participants to reach out with any questions.

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

M/S/C (Joshua Tjahjadi/Terry Muñoz) To approve the general session BOD Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2026. Unanimous.

M/S/C (Fely Navera/Theresa Chen) To approve the executive session BOD Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2026. Unanimous.

No comments from the community.

V. **Board Nominating Committee - (Motion Required)**

The Board Nominating Committee, Pat Gomez, President, and Terry Munoz, Vice-Chair, interviewed Irene Martinez on June 26, 2026. Following the interview, the committee determined that Irene is highly qualified and meets all the requirements for becoming a Board Member. Ms. Martinez has extensive experience within California's developmental disabilities system. Irene brings decades of professional experience, including her work with Fiesta Educativa as both a service provider and director. Mrs. Martinez's background also includes involvement in special education, the developmental disabilities service system, financial administration, consumer advocacy, and public relations. Earlier in her career, she was employed by ELARC, giving her a longstanding familiarity with the organization and the unique community served by ELARC. Her qualifications, expertise, and commitment to the community makes Mrs. Martinez a commanding and dynamic Board candidate. Mrs. Martinez's long-standing commitment to the developmental disabilities community extends over many decades. Since retiring from Fiesta Educativa, she has expressed a desire to remain connected to the regional center system and volunteering her services to the ELARC community. The committee expressed appreciation for Irene's willingness to serve and emphasized that her extensive knowledge, experience, and dedication would be valuable assets to the ELARC Board or Directors. Based on these qualifications, the Nominating Committee formally recommended Irene Martinez for appointment to the ELARC Board of Directors and requested a motion from the Board to approve her appointment. The recommendation from Mrs. Gomez and Mrs. Muñoz was to place in nomination Irene Martinez whose term will begin on this day July 14, 2026.

M/S/C (Joshua Tjahjadi/Theresa Chen) To approve the one (1) new Board Member to begin her term July 14, 2026 as recorded. Unanimous.

Comments from the community were addressed.

VI. Executive Director's Report - Gloria Wong

1) LANTERMAN 60th Anniversary: Senate Resolution #174
ATT #2

ATT #2

Gloria Wong, Executive Director, share this year marks the 60th anniversary of the Lanterman Act, the legislation that serves as the foundation of California's developmental disabilities service system and continues to guide the work of regional centers today. Reflecting on this milestone offers an opportunity to appreciate both the history of the system and the significant growth that has occurred over the many decades. Ms. Wong reflected on the 60 year evolution of the "Lanterman Act" booklet which in the most current edition released in 2023 contains 373 pages of continuously expanding requirements and responsibilities. Despite these changes, the core principles established by the parents who founded the regional center system remains unchanged. A Senate Concurrent Resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary highlights the history and milestones that led to the creation of the regional center system. The resolution emphasizes the critical role parents played in advocating for a better future for their children. That legacy continues today, as parents and individuals receiving services remain actively involved in regional center governance and leadership. The origins of the system date back to 1965, when groups of parents from Northern and Southern California came together to advocate for alternatives to the state's developmental centers. Recognizing the limited options available to their children, they envisioned a community-based service system that would provide support while allowing individuals to live and participate within their communities. Through persistent advocacy in Sacramento, they pushed for meaningful change. Their efforts led to the passage of Assembly Bill 691 in 1966, which established two pilot regional centers. In Southern California, the pilot regional center was the Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center, while in Northern California, the contract was awarded to the Arc of San Francisco, which later became Golden Gate Regional Center. These two (2) pilot regional centers are the organizations commemorating the 60th anniversary because they were the first regional centers created under the pilot program. The success of these pilot centers demonstrated the effectiveness of community-based services. As a result, Assemblyman Frank D. Lanterman introduced Assembly Bill 225 in 1969, which expanded the regional center model throughout California. This legislation laid the groundwork for the statewide system that exists today. Sixty years later, the regional center system continues to serve individuals and families across California, reflecting the vision and determination of the parents who fought for services that promoted inclusion, choice, and community living. Their advocacy transformed a system based largely on institutional placement into one centered on community support and individual rights. The anniversary serves as a reminder of the importance of recognizing the system's origins and expressing gratitude to the parents, advocates, and families whose efforts created the foundation for today's services. Their work continues to inspire new generations of families and advocates who carry forward the mission of improving opportunities and support for individuals with developmental disabilities. In recognition of this milestone, Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center has developed a series of storytelling projects featuring individuals served by the regional center. Among these is a special animated video that recounts the history of the regional center system and the development of the Lanterman Act, which was shared with the Board and audience participants.

Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Client Services, stated the video is narrated by an individual who receives services through the regional center system, highlighting both the history of the movement and the voices of those it serves today. A service coordinator helped connect an ELARC client with an opportunity to audition for a voiceover role in the video commemorating the history of the regional center system. He was selected to participate in the animated video series and is one of the featured voices in the video. ELARC is proud of his accomplishment and excited to see him advancing his career goals.

Ms. Wong shared a link to the video that was shared for board members and attendees to view at their convenience. The video credits all of the voiceover participants, including the ELARC individual who served as one of the narrators. His involvement has been a source of pride for both him and the organization, and the opportunity has helped launch his pursuit of a career in the voiceover and entertainment industry.

LANTERMAN 60th Anniversary **: Senate Resolution #174**

Link: https://lanterman.org/60for60/

Ms. Wong concluded by recognizing the 60th anniversary of the regional center system and reflecting on its significance. She noted that California's regional center system is unique in its commitment to providing services through an entitlement model, ensuring that eligible individuals receive services and supports, unlike many other states, where services may be limited by available funding, California maintains a broad commitment to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through its regional centers and being the only state that offers an "entitlement" to services. She emphasized that the success and growth of the system can be traced back to the two (2) original pilot regional centers established 60 years ago. Their vision and advocacy laid the foundation for the statewide network of services that exists today. The anniversary celebration and accompanying storytelling projects, including the animated video, serve as a reminder of the history, progress, and ongoing impact of the regional center system and the individuals it serves.

No comments from the community.

2) Fiscal Year 2026-'27 Final Performance Measures Proposal
ATT #3A and #3B

Ms. Wong shared a community meeting was held regarding the performance measures being introduced for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Ms. Wong provided background information sharing that ELARC is required to seek community input, which was accomplished through both the community session and the board meeting. The information was included in the June Board of Directors

meeting. Ms. Wong shared the submitted materials with the audience which was submitted on June 29, 2026.

ATT #3A

Ms. Wong shared Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center 2026-2027 Performance Contract correspondence dated June 29, 2026.

ATT #3B

Ms. Wong shared the final version of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 performance measures. She provided highlights during the June 9, 2026 Board of Directors meeting. The Performance Measures 2026-2027 includes all of the policy performance measures previously discussed. The document is organized into categories and clearly outlines each performance measure, along with the activities that will be taken to meet the commitments associated with each objective.

No comments from the community.

3) Caseload Ratio Results 2026
ATT #4 and #5

Ms. Wong presented on the "Caseload Ratio Survey Results". She shared that this is an informational report, as the survey process has already been completed.

ATT #4

Ms. Wong shared Department of Developmental Services (DDS) correspondence dated April 21, 2026 acknowledging receipt of ELARC's annual caseload ratio analysis, which is submitted every March. The survey reviews the number of cases carried by individual service coordinators and measures those caseloads against the required ratios established for six (6) service categories. The table in Attachment 4, shows the different categories that are evaluated.

- The "Waiver" category refers to federally funded services and requires a caseload ratio of 1 to 62
- The under-age-six category includes children served through our Early Start program as well as other specialized divisions serving children between ages three and six, and that category requires a ratio of 1 to 40

- Another category includes individuals who have transitioned within the last 12 months from developmental centers. While most developmental centers have closed, there are still a few exceptions, such as Canyon Springs and Porterville, which is why this category remains in the survey

- The complex-needs category has one of the lowest caseload ratios, at 1 to 25, because it involves forensic cases or individuals with significant behavioral challenges

- The low or no POS category reflects our ongoing efforts to address POS equity with a caseload ratio of 1:40

Ms. Wong reported that ELARC met or exceeded the required caseload ratios in every category and the DDS correspondence formally acknowledges that achievement.

ATT #5

Ms. Wong shared "Caseload Ratio Survey Results: 2024-2025-2026" graph as a point of reference. All 21 Regional Centers submit survey results annually, and the attachment provides a comparison across multiple years for ELARC. It includes the March 2024 and March 2025 survey results, while the letter in attachment #4 reflects the March 2026 results.

- 2024 - ELARC fell short of the required ratio in one (1) category.

- 2025 - ELARC met all required caseload ratios.

- 2026 – ELARC met all required caseload ratios. Only two (2) regional centers achieved this milestone: ELARC and Kern Regional Center.

Ms. Wong reiterated ELARC remains extremely proud of this accomplishment because it reflects a significant investment in staffing to better serve the ELARC community. Meeting these ratios is important not only because it is a contractual requirement, but because it directly benefits the individuals we serve. Lower caseloads allow service coordinators to spend more time assisting individuals and families by providing more personalized support, and to respond more effectively to their needs. ELARC is very pleased that this is the second consecutive year we have met all required caseload ratios, and we remain committed to maintaining that standard.

Comments from the community:

- Fely Navera, Board Member, extended her compliments on this achievement. Given everything that's happened this year, the budget uncertainty, financial challenges, and immigration-related concerns, this is a significant accomplishment. She congratulated ELARC on this major achievement.

- Ms. Wong thanked Fely for recognizing ELARC's efforts and shared that the accomplishment reflects a tremendous amount of work across the organization, from recruitment and retention efforts to training and staff development. Service coordination is a complex role, particularly given the ever increasing requirements associated with our contract. The learning curve is extensive, and new service coordinators undergo intensive training, especially during their first year, although the training continues over the lifetime of their employment with ELARC. Staff turnover rate is currently approximately 7%. As our workforce grows, the overall turnover percentage naturally changes, but even so, a 7% turnover rate places us among the regional centers with the lowest staff turnover rate. Many regional centers are still experiencing the staffing challenges that became particularly acute during and following the COVID-19 pandemic, when recruiting and staff retention was extremely difficult and the turnover ratios often remained in the double digits. Maintaining a skilled workforce and minimizing turnover is critically important in order to ensure consistency and continuity of services for our families.

4) National Core Indicators (NCI)
ATT #6 and #6A

Ms. Wong provided brief background information on the National Core Indicators (NCI).
The National Core Indicators, serves as a satisfaction survey of the individuals and families we support. It provides valuable feedback about the experiences of those receiving services through the regional center system and guides us on future improvement goals.

Ms. Wong expects to present the results of the 2024-2025 Adult In-Person Survey at the October 13, 2026 Board of Directors meeting. However, while some survey results are being finalized, other surveys are still actively being conducted. One of the important aspects of the National Core Indicators process is that it is administered independently by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, in order to ensure objectivity. Because the survey focuses on satisfaction and service experiences, it's important that families can respond freely without feeling influenced in any way by the regional centers. Ms. Wong shared each regional center is expected to have approximately four-hundred (400) families participate. The challenge this cycle has been the low participation. Statewide, many regions have struggled to reach that four-hundred (400) response target, and as a result, the survey deadline was extended to July 15, 2026.

ATT #6 and #6A

Ms. Wong shared the "Let Your Voice be Heard" and "Did You See This in the Mail" flyers that have been distributed through ELARC's website and other outreach efforts.

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels reported ELARC has been doing everything possible to raise awareness.

- Service coordinators have been discussing the survey during IPP meetings

- ELARC has been promoting it on social media and website
- Patrick Schattilly, ELARC Client Advocate, created a short video encouraging participation
    - Video is posted on ELARC's website for all to view

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels shared the video created by Mr. Schattilly that has been shared through ELARC's social media channels and website to help spread the word.

5) Master Plan for Developmental Services: March 2026 Report to the Legislature - ATT #7

Ms. Wong provided background information on the Master Plan for Developmental Services. The "Master Plan for Developmental Services: A community-Driven Vision" relates to a long-term planning effort which has been discussed at previous Board of Directors meetings. The Master Plan was initiated by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and developed through a stakeholder-driven process that met for more than a year and a half. The purpose of this effort was to evaluate how our developmental services system can continue to evolve and improve. In many ways, it goes back to the very foundation of our system and the parents who helped establish it more than sixty (60) years ago. Since then, the focus has always been on one central question: How do we continue to improve services and supports for individuals and families? The system that existed in the early 1960's was much smaller and far less complex than the one we operate today. As services expanded and needs became more diverse, it became increasingly important to take a comprehensive look at how the system functions and identify opportunities for improvement. The Master Plan represents a formal, community-driven approach to that process. Mrs. Wong shared the stakeholder group ultimately developed a series of recommendations that were incorporated into a final report submitted to the Legislature by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). While the most intensive phase of the work occurred during the initial year-and-a-half planning process, the effort continues. The plan produced 167 recommendations, and the focus now is on implementing and monitoring those recommendations over time. It has been approximately one (1) year since the full plan was submitted. "Master Plan for Developmental Services: A community-Driven Vision" contains the March 2026 report provided to the Legislature, which serves as the Department's first annual progress update. Going forward, DDS will continue to provide annual briefings and reports to the Legislature, documenting progress on the implementation efforts. The stakeholder group is expected to continue meeting twice each year. These meetings provide an opportunity to assess progress on the 167 recommendations, identify areas that require additional attention, and determine next steps. The stakeholder group itself is expected to remain in place for the next ten years, ensuring ongoing oversight and accountability. As a result, there will be a public report issued each March that updates stakeholders on the work being undertaken and the progress being made. One of the most significant themes or discussion "standardization" has been with 21 independent regional centers serving diverse communities across California, in order to attain greater consistency in specific core processes.

Topics of discussions are as follows:

- Standardizing intake procedures so that families have a consistent experience regardless of which regional center serves them. While each regional center takes pride in responding to the unique needs of its community, families often benefit from greater consistency in how key processes are administered

- Standardization of vendorization practices and respite services. In example, regional centers may have slightly different interpretations or policies regarding respite, and the goal is to establish more consistent statewide definitions and practices wherever appropriate.

- Clarification of generic services, which has been a source of confusion for many families. Under the Lanterman Act, regional centers are considered to be the payer of last resort, meaning individuals are expected to access available generic resources before regional center funding is utilized.

    - Examples of generic resources include:

        - Public education

        - In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

        - Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)

        - While this framework is well established, families often find it difficult to navigate the various systems and understand where responsibilities begin and end.

- The concept of cost-effectiveness

    - The Lanterman Act requires regional centers to ensure that services are delivered in a cost-effective manner, but there is a need for greater clarity and consistency regarding how that standard is interpreted. The Master Plan recommends developing a more uniform definition so that all 21 regional centers apply the concept consistently and families have a better understanding of what it means in practice.

As a result, the Master Plan includes efforts to create more consistent statewide definitions and guidance regarding generic services. It also seeks to strengthen collaboration between regional centers and partner agencies. Too often, families are referred to another agency only to encounter delays, confusion, or barriers to accessing services. Improving coordination among these systems is an important component of the ongoing work. The goal is to develop stronger partnerships and a clearer understanding among all participating agencies so that families experience a smoother and more coordinated service system.

Ms. Wong shared a link to the Department of Developmental Services' Master Plan webpage to view the full report.

- Master Plan for Developmental Services: March 2026 Report to the Legislature

  Link: https://share.google/LbGh4s4K3gVGRF6HF

Comments from the community:

- Irene Martinez, new Board Member, thanked everyone and stated she is looking forward to working with everyone. Mrs. Martinez shared during her years with the ELARC she learned so much, and since then has had the opportunity to travel across the country and visit programs in many states. Those experiences have given her a unique perspective, and can validate that no other state has California's Entitlement System. When she reflects on what has been established in California it is truly remarkable and it serves as a reminder on how important it is to protect and strengthen the system.

  - Mrs. Wong referenced the budget report as a validation of California's commitment to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities is unmatched. No other state comes close to the level of financial support and services that California provides. Ms. Wong noted that she and Irene both have a long history with the regional center system, which gives them both an appreciation of the system in California. In retrospect, it's remarkable to see how much the system has grown and how many opportunities and supports are now available to the community. It's important to take time to reflect on that progress and appreciate it.

  - Liz Harrell, Community Services Manager, acknowledge the tremendous impact Mrs. Martinez has had over the years and welcomed her to the leadership role with the Board. Mrs. Harrell shared that she had an older brother, who passed away two (2) years ago and grew up before regional centers existed. There were no services, no opportunities for him to attend an integrated school, and very few options for individuals with developmental disabilities existed. She expressed how it was people like Mrs. Martinez, along with advocates like her mother, who worked tirelessly to change that. Because of their efforts, California now has a system built on the belief that people with disabilities have the right to live fulfilling lives in their communities. That legacy cannot be taken for granted, it must be protected. Mrs. Harrell noted that seeing Mrs. Martinez reminds her of that history and which keeps us grounded in the values that shaped the current system.

    - Mrs. Martinez, thanked Mrs. Harrell for her kind words and stated she's honored and is looking forward to working together.

  - Ms. Wong shared it's worth noting that families often relocate to California from states like New York and New Jersey because they have learned about the unique services and supports available in California. That speaks volumes about the strength and reputation of our system.

- Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC) and The Partnership of Family Empowerment Center, Executive Director, expressed how wonderful it was seeing Mrs. Martinez and shared that it's the right place for her to be at. Mrs. Baptiste shared an important aspect in regards to the Master Plan that is critical for families and the broader system to understand which is that the Master Plan was designed to spark a larger discussion about how individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are supported across California. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are citizens of California first and foremost. They should have access to the same programs, services, and supports available to all Californians. That includes services such as In-Home Supportive Services, employment supports, unemployment benefits when jobs are lost, and many other resources that help people live full and independent lives. The Master Plan takes a broader view by asking what California's Health and Human Services Agency, and all of its departments, can do better to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The responsibility should not rest solely with the Department of Developmental Services or the regional centers. Rather, agencies across the state should be working together to improve outcomes and quality of life for this community. She encouraged all to continue providing feedback to both the Department and the Regional Center and to share experiences not only about the services they provide, but also about other agencies that may not be meeting the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. Those agencies also need to be held accountable and step up their efforts to ensure that everyone receives the support they deserve.

6. Budget Update

A. Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-'26

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

HANDOUT #1

Ms. Wong provided brief background information on the PEP report and reported the PEP report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 indicates a deficit of ($41,436,678).

Budget Performance Report

Ms. Wong shared there is no Operations Budget Performance Report to share for the prior fiscal year because that information was included in the final report that was presented in June.

B. Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-'27 – Update

Mrs. Wong noted the new fiscal year (FY) begins July 1, 2026 and runs through June 31, 2027 and shared background information on FY 2026-'27 Governors Preliminary Budget.
Ms. Wong reported the May Revise was released May 28, 2026 and the regional center system had a $2.8 billion dollar proposed increase for a total budget of $21.6 billion. Although California is facing a statewide deficit, our system did not experience any budget cuts. The allocation for the developmental services system is $21.6 billion and a significant portion of this funding is tied to federal revenue. The system is expected to generate a substantial amount of federal funding, which is a key factor behind this significant budget increase. The Department and the Legislature have seen the success in securing federal dollars by the regional centers and the proposal is to expand those federal revenues. It was noted that federal programs came with increased responsibilities and workload. Statewide, projections indicate that approximately 527,000 individuals will be served in California in FY 26-'27, accompanied by increased federal reimbursements of at least $50 million. While the budget figures are certainly encouraging, it's important to understand and acknowledge the increasing work demands. Many of the funding sources, including Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and other federal programs, generate substantial revenue but also require extensive documentation, tracking, reporting, and compliance activities. There is a significant paperwork component to securing and maintaining these funds. Every dollar must be documented, supported, and audited. Some may view these processes as bureaucratic, but they are necessary to ensure accountability and to preserve access to these critical funding streams to continue to fund supports and services. The additional funding brings a tremendous amount of work, which is why maintaining lower caseload ratios and adequate staffing remains so important to our success.

HANDOUT #3

Ms. Wong went over DDS correspondence dated July 14, 2026 which provides an overview of the 2026 Budget Trailer Bill, Senate Bill 163. The bill can be accessed through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) website. It is a lengthy document, approximately 85 pages long. DDS correspondence specifically highlights key elements of the budget which outlines the major components and priorities. As SB 163 was just released, the details are currently being reviewed. One (1) of the primary areas of focus is early intervention, because federal funding is involved, there will be increased oversight and greater expectations to ensure that standards are met. As a result, a more robust monitoring system for early intervention programs will be implemented.

Ms. Wong reported on the performance measures. She noted that it will serve as a benchmark to assess how effectively regional centers are advancing their objectives. This will be a key component of the enhanced oversight process. Ms. Wong shared the bill also addresses state-operated facilities, direct care services, and purchase exemptions. However, several budget items remain unresolved and will require further discussion in August. Additional hearings are scheduled with the Senate and Assembly budget committees. One (1) of the remaining issues involves state-operated facilities, including Porterville and Canyon Springs. The state plans to continue operating these facilities. They

serve individuals with highly complex needs, including those with forensic involvement or significant behavioral challenges. Ms. Wong shared that ELARC continues working to expand community-based resources, but currently available options remain limited. As a result, we often rely on these facilities to support individuals whose needs currently cannot be met in community settings. Ms. Wong shared the proposal would establish strict limits on how long individuals can remain in these facilities. This remains an open issue and is especially critical for us because some of these individuals cannot safely live in the community and may pose a risk to themselves or others. As a result, this provision is a major point of concern and is expected to be the subject of significant discussion.

HANDOUT #2

Ms. Wong shared background information on performance measures, previously known as performance contracts which, operate on a five-year cycle. Ms. Wong reported ELARC currently in the third year of the cycle, referred to as the "C" allocation. The preliminary budget has been received through the C1 allocation, and we are anticipating the release of the C2 allocation. Expect to receive the C2 figures available by the September board of directors meeting.

Ms. Wong shared the Purchase of Services Expenditure Pattern (PEP) report is not due to DDS until December.

Ms. Wong stated In response to comments about broader funding concerns, it was noted that California is also preparing for potential impacts to IDEA services as responsibilities shift federally to the Department of Health and Human Services. Advocates have expressed concerns about how IDEA policies will be enforced going forward. Additionally, funding for Family Empowerment Centers has been moved to Proposition 98 funds.
California's developmental services system remains heavily reliant on federal funding, making it vulnerable to federal budget decisions. While California has already approved its state budget and remains committed to supporting the system, uncertainty remains because the federal fiscal year begins in October. Additional federal funding reductions could still occur, and the full impact on the system is not yet known.
At this time, there is no expectation that California will reverse its funding commitments, although special budget sessions are always possible. Such action appears highly unlikely. Compared with other state-funded programs, some of which experienced significant reductions, California's developmental services system appears to have been largely safeguarded in this budget cycle.

Comments from the community:

- Yvette Baptiste, Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center (FRC) and The Partnership of Family Empowerment Center, Executive Director, stated California is also preparing for potential impacts to IDEA services as responsibilities are being transferred federally to the Department of Health and Human Services and Advocates have expressed concerns about

how IDEA policies will be enforced under this new structure. Additionally, the California Alliance of Child and Family Services (CAA) has moved funding for Family Empowerment Centers to Proposition 98 funds.

- Ms. Wong shared California's developmental services system relies heavily on federal funding. While the state budget has been approved and includes a commitment to support our system, there are still areas of uncertainty at the federal level. Ms. Wong expressed that it's important to remember that the federal government's fiscal year operates on a different schedule than California's. The state fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30, while the federal fiscal year begins in October**.** Because of that timing, there is still the possibility of additional federal budget decisions or funding reductions that could affect programs and services.

  Budget challenges tend to occur in cycles, and our system has certainly experienced difficult periods in the past. This year, however, we fared relatively well. Nevertheless, as Yvette pointed out, there remains ongoing risk related to federally funded programs, and we will continue to monitor those developments closely.

VI. Consumer Services Report
Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Client Services

Edith Hernandez-Daniels, Chief of Client Services, provided an update regarding the Boyle Heights fire and ELARC's response efforts. On June 17, 2026, a fire broke out in a commercial food storage building in Boyle Heights, which is within ELARC's catchment area. Unfortunately, the fire burned continuously for eight (8) days and significantly impacted both the immediate and surrounding communities by worsening air quality and creating health and safety concerns for residents.

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels reported as part of the emergency response process, ELARC activated the Everbridge emergency notification system**.** Using the Everbridge system, ELARC was able to identify individuals served who lived within several miles of the affected area. Gina Esparza, Emergency Management Officer, coordinated the effort and provided the list of impacted individuals to service coordinators, who then contacted families directly to assess needs and provide support. At the same time, Los Angeles County launched a coordinated emergency response involving multiple agencies, including:

- Department of Public Health
- Department of Social Services
- Animal Care and Control
- Other community partners

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels reported together, these agencies assembled and distributed resources to residents affected by the fire. ELARC service coordinators shared these available resources with the families we serve.

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels gave a special acknowledgment to Sophia from the State Council, who worked closely with Mrs. Esparza to secure air purifiers for affected families. Through these efforts, ELARC received more than Fifty (50) air purifiers, which were distributed to families impacted by the smoke and poor air quality. Also provided were personal protective equipment (PPE) and shared information about hotel voucher programs for families who needed temporary relocation away from the affected area.

In addition, an encouraging outcome came from a community resource fair held on July 4**,** which Mrs. Esparza attended, where she met a parent who expressed appreciation for the support she received from her service coordinator. The parent shared that the coordinator had been extremely helpful in providing information, resources, and guidance throughout the emergency. Mrs. Esparza brought that feedback back to the team, and it was gratifying to hear how meaningful that support had been for the family.

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels discussed an emergency preparedness initiative: the new Regional Center Emergency Preparedness Animated Video Series**.** She shared the progress on working on voice-over projects, and wanted to share the exciting developments. Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels shared a video series that features Mark Hamill, best known for portraying Luke Skywalker in the movie *Star Wars*, as the voice of Lanterman, a superhero character. The series consists of ten (10) episodes, developed collaboratively by emergency management staff from all 21 California regional centers. Five (5) episodes are geared toward individuals and families served by the regional center system, while the other five are specifically designed for service providers.

The videos cover practical emergency preparedness topics, including:

- Earthquakes
- Wildfires
- Home fires
- Evacuation planning
- General emergency preparedness and safety

The videos are available free of charge. They are currently available in English and are being translated into Spanish, American Sign Language (ASL), and additional languages to ensure accessibility for diverse communities.

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels shared the following link:

WATCH: Mark Hamill Voices Lanterman in Animated Regional Center Videos on Emergency Preparedness

A familiar voice brings emergency preparedness to life in the latest from the Lanterman and Friends project. **Hear why Hamill got involved and watch the 10-episode series for emergency safety tips.**



Elizabeth Harrell, Community Services Manager, provided background information. This project was started by Diva Johnson, who was previously a Director of Community Services and part of the ARCA Directors of Community Services group. Diva initially secured HCBS Final Rule funding to create informational videos that helped people better understand the HCBS Final Rule. From there, the project really grew into what is now known as **"Diva and Friends,"** which helped individuals understand a variety of service-related topics, as well as ways to live their best lives in the community. Mrs. Harrell expressed that it has been exciting to see these resources expand, especially the emergency preparedness content. That information is so important, particularly as we continue to experience more earthquakes.

Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels, agreed and shared this began with comic books and have now expanded into videos, which are fantastic resources.

Comments from the community:

- Fely Navera, Board Member, expressed her gratitude for Client Services. Mrs. Navera is proud and thanked Mrs. Hernandez-Daniels for her efforts and commitment.

VII. Committee Reports

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

The CAC will meet again July 21st, 2026. From 1-3pm hybrid by Zoom and in person in the ELARC Boardroom. The topic is employment and will be presented by George de la Loza, Career Pathways and Local Partnerships Officer.

On Consumer Advocates desk:

1. Monthly Social media video scripts

2. Caffeinate Advocate and Network August 27th 10am-4pm (Alhambra) this will be an all-day event for the community.

3. Consumer Advocate on the Road contact Lizette Villa or Consumer Advocate Patrick Schattilly to schedule.

No comments from the community.

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

Joel Moreno, reported at last month's meeting:

- Behaviorum was featured in the Provider Spotlight for the month of June
    - Mr. Moreno reported as part of this initiative, service providers have the opportunity to present their programs and share information about the services they offer, helping other vendors learn more about their work.
- Following the VAC meeting, a forum was held with the DSP Collaborative
    - A platform designed to support job postings and collaboration among service providers throughout Los Angeles County. The website is not live yet, it's a work in progress. Waiting for it to launch to begin posting jobs.
- In the meantime, continuing to work on organizing job fairs and other workforce development efforts.
- Next meeting will be held in person and is scheduled for July 23, 2026 in ELARC's Boardroom

No comments from the community.

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

HANDOUT #4

Mrs. Muñoz reported on the "Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center Financial Statements and Supplementary Information with Independent Auditors' Reports June 30, 2025 and 2024".

Mrs. Muñoz shared the Board of Directors have reviewed and discussed several draft versions of the audit during previous meetings. HANDOUT #4, dated July 9, 2026, represents the final audit report prepared by our independent auditors following a comprehensive review conducted in collaboration with ELARC staff, management, and financial advisors.

The audit included an examination of ELARC's financial statements, internal controls, and compliance with federal funding requirements. She reported the auditors issued a clean audit with no material findings and confirmed that ELARC remains in compliance with all applicable requirements. The results reflect the organization's strong financial management, accountability, and commitment to transparency.

Mrs. Muñoz recognized and thanked ELARC staff for their professionalism, diligence, and responsiveness throughout the audit process. Their attention to detail and dedication to maintaining accurate records contributed significantly to this positive outcome.

Ms. Wong Thanked Mrs. Muñoz and reiterated as the Board has been kept informed throughout the audit process and has reviewed the draft reports as it was developed. The document included in the meeting materials is the finalized audit report for the Board's consideration and record.

No comments from the community.

VIII. Miscellaneous Announcements

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 6:00pm

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the motion was made to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting at 7:38pm.

M/S/C (Terry Muñoz/Fely Navera). Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Joshua F Tjahjadi

Joshua Tjhajadi,
Secretary,
ELARC Board of Directors

Recorded by: Angie Salas,
Executive Secretary