

# Board of Governors

## Executive Community Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes – July 8, 2020

1055 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017



**L.A. Care**  
HEALTH PLAN

ECAC Members	RCAC Members/Public	L.A. Care Board of Governors/Senior Staff
<p>Russell Mahler, <i>RCAC 1 Chair</i> ***                      Estela Lara, <i>RCAC 2 Chair</i> ***                      Cynthia Contreas-Wood, <i>RCAC 3 Chair, ECAC Vice-Chair</i> ***                      Silvia Poz, <i>RCAC 4 Chair</i> ***                      Maria Sanchez, <i>RCAC 5 Chair</i> ***                      Andria McFerson, <i>RCAC 6 Chair</i> ***                      Fátima Vázquez, <i>RCAC 7 Chair, ECAC Chair</i> ***                      Ana Romo, <i>RCAC 8 Chair</i> ***                      Tonya Byrd, <i>RCAC 9 Chair</i> ***                      Damares O Hernández de Cordero, <i>RCAC 10 Chair</i> ***                      Maria Angel Refugio, <i>RCAC 11 Chair</i> ***                      Lluvia Salazar, <i>At-Large Member</i> ***                      Deaka McClain, <i>At Large Member</i> ***</p> <p>* <i>Excused Absent</i>    ** <i>Absent</i>                      *** <i>Via teleconference</i></p>	<p>Eduardo Kogan, <i>Interpreter</i>                      Ruth Nuno, <i>Interpreter</i></p>	<p>Hilda Pérez, <i>Member, Board of Governors</i> ***                      Layla Delgado, <i>Advocate, Board of Governors</i> ***                      John Baackes, <i>Chief Executive Office, L.A. Care</i>                      Richard Seidman, MD, MPH, <i>Chief Medical Officer, L.A. Care</i>                      Shavonne Caldwell, <i>Community Outreach Liaison, CO&amp;E</i>                      Idalia De La Torre, <i>Field Specialist Supervisor, CO&amp;E</i>                      Auleria Eakins, <i>Manager, CO&amp;E</i>                      Hilda Herrera, <i>Community Outreach Liaison CO&amp;E</i>                      Dania Jacob, <i>Department Assistant, CO&amp;E</i>                      Candace Nafissi, <i>Communications and Community Relations Specialist III, Communications Department</i>                      Francisco Oaxaca, <i>Senior Director, Communications and Community Relations</i>                      Cindy Pozos, <i>Community Outreach Liaison, CO&amp;E</i>                      Jose Ricardo Rivas, <i>Community Outreach Field Specialist, CO&amp;E Center</i>                      Victor Rodriquez, <i>Board Specialist, Board Services</i>                      Prity Thanki, <i>Local Government Advisor II, Government Affairs</i></p>

California Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-29-20, which among other provisions amends the Ralph M. Brown Act. Members of the public can hear and observe this meeting via teleconference and videoconference, and can share their comments via voicemail, email, or text.

AGENDA ITEM/PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
CALL TO ORDER	Fatima Vazquez, <i>ECAC Chair</i> , called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. She welcomed all ECAC members. She advised that if members have any issues obtaining L.A. Care services they can call member services at 888-839-9909.	

	<p>She announced that it will take time with interpretation in English and Spanish. Committee Members will speak and vote by roll call. Everyone may not be able to speak on every agenda item. Members were asked to submit questions and comments to their Specialist.</p>	
<b>APPROVE MEETING AGENDA</b>	<p>Ms. Vazquez stated that the Board Seat Election was removed from the agenda. John Baackes, <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>, will be giving a report.</p> <p>Andria McFerson, <i>RCAC 6 Chair</i>, stated that as far as the ECAC agenda, she thinks this is the best time to make her statement. She would like to thank ECAC and everyone who will be presenting. She stressed the need to get this information to everyone. She stated that Chairs need more time to speak on topics such as the Executive Orders.</p> <p>Ms. Vazquez thanked Ms. McFerson for her suggestions and advised the agenda for today is very condensed.</p> <p>The Agenda for today's meeting was approved as amended.</p>	<p><b>Approved unanimously by roll call.</b>  <b>13 AYES (Byrd, Contreas-Wood, Hernandez de Cordero, Lara, Mahler, McFerson, McClain, Nunez, Poz, Refugio, Salazar, Sanchez, and Vazquez)</b></p>
<b>APPROVE MEETING MINUTES</b>	<p>Ms. McFerson stated that on page 3 it is written, "Ms. McFerson noted that she made a comment about more physical interaction", she stated that she also said that members can make phone calls directly to members and other activities that can help inform other members of available resources. She didn't mean only person to person activities.</p> <p>Tanya Byrd, <i>RCAC 9 Chair</i>, stated that on page 8 it should read RCAC 9 Chair. She noted that page 9, under public comment, second paragraph, "Black Lives Matter" is spelled incorrectly. She stated that she has the mission statement available to share with any ECAC member or staff so they know the correct way to spell Black Lives Matter.</p> <p>The March 11, 2020 meeting minutes were approved with the corrections noted above.</p>	<p><b>Approved by roll call.</b>  <b>11 AYES (Byrd, Contreas-Wood, Hernandez de Cordero, Lara, Mahler, McFerson, McClain, Nunez, Poz, Refugio, Salazar, Sanchez, and Vazquez)</b>  <b>2 ABSTENTIONS (Byrd, McFerson)</b></p>
<b>STANDING ITEMS</b>		
<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>	<p>Hilda Pérez, <i>Member, Board of Governors</i> stated that this is not an update on the Board meeting and motions passed. She noted that this is the first time she has been able to speak to ECAC for 4 months. She will provide her phone number so members can reach her. She stated that she has been communicating with staff about the need for members to be informed, and RCAC members want to stay connected with L.A. Care. She noted that everyone is adapting to new technologies so that people can communicate, but not everyone has access to a computer or a smart phone. Many have one but may not know how to use it for meetings. At the Executive Committee</p>	

	<p>meeting she sent an email to senior staff to let them know that RCAC members from the African American community have reached out to her and stressed that L.A. Care should not fall behind other organizations and needs to submit and post a Social Justice statement as soon as possible. She noted that the community needs assistance and events to provide resources to the community can be held outdoors.</p> <p>Layla Delgado, <i>Advocate, Board of Governors</i>, offered her condolences to anyone who lost a loved one or is suffering due to the pandemic. She stated that during times of social injustice they should check on each other. She will share her email so that members can reach her when necessary. The Board is concerned about the overwhelming number of COVID-19 cases in L.A. County. She hears the concerns that people of color are disproportionately affected by the disease. She stated that staff will inform the committee how the organization is addressing disparities.</p> <p>Ms. McFerson noted that Ms. Perez made a very important statement about having more time on the agenda so that members can speak more. She would like more time on the agenda to get feedback from ECAC.</p> <p>Lluvia Salazar, <i>Member At-Large</i>, stated that there was a food bank at the Family Resource Center in the Antelope Valley. She would like to know when there will be a food bank in Pomona, as her community needs help. She is waiting to see when L.A. Care is going to step in and provide resources to the community. She received information about resources from Ms. McFerson, but not from L.A. Care.</p>	
<p><b>UPDATE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER</b></p>	<p>Mr. Baackes agreed that more time needs to be allocated to allow ECAC members to speak. He reported:</p> <p>The State Budget adopted last month eliminated most of the cuts that were proposed in May. He noted that the cuts may be brought back later. The budget that Governor and legislature agreed to assumes that there will be additional federal assistance that has not yet been proposed. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi introduced the HEROES Act that proposes \$3 trillion in funding, but that bill has not been voted on. If Congress does not act before the August recess and there is no additional federal aid, all the California State Budget cuts will be brought back and could go into effect on January 1, 2021. L.A. Care believes there will be further reductions in state programs and resources. Members should brace themselves for more cuts.</p> <p>There are news reports about an increase in Medi-Cal membership due to increased unemployment, but L.A. Care has not seen an increase in enrollment attributable to unemployment. In 2018, a UCLA survey of Medi-Cal beneficiaries in L.A. County showed 1/3 of them had some income. It may be that those who became unemployed due to the pandemic were already enrolled in Medi-Cal. There has been about a 200%</p>	

increase in CalFresh applications in Los Angeles County. He will ask Mr. Oaxaca to speak on the food banks that took place in the Antelope Valley. He stated that Richard Seidman, MD, MPH, *Chief Medical Officer*, will go over statistics of the COVID-19 pandemic. Numbers show that people of color are suffering more. The State has suspended Medi-Cal redeterminations until the end of September.

The statement of principle on social injustice will be presented to the Board at the July 30 Board of Governors meeting, and will include feedback from staff and advisory committee members. L.A. Care would like to hear from members to make it stronger and more action orientated.

Russel Mahler, *RCAC 1 Chair*, asked if there are any updates about doctors and COVID-19 cases at Antelope Valley hospitals. Mr. Baackes responded that the Antelope Valley and Los Angeles County are coping as best as possible, no hospital in Los Angeles County is at capacity.

Estela Lara, *RCAC 2 Chair*, asked if budget cuts will be delayed until January 2021. Mr. Baackes responded that the only cuts that were approved is a 1.5% reduction in the rate L.A. Care will be paid for members. If additional federal aid is approved, the cuts will be smaller.

Cynthia Contreas-Wood, *RCAC 3 Chair*, recommended that people follow the science in protecting against the pandemic, even if it hurts the economy in the short term.

Ms. McFerson noted that the survey from L.A. Care should use the word underprivileged instead of vulnerable. She noted that the platform called Survey Monkey is offensive and it was poor judgment. Mr. Baackes stated that the survey tool has been in use for years and apologized for that she was offended. He asked that she provide her feedback on the statement by email, and he would like to read it.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Email submitted July 8, 2020, 12:00 a.m. by Ismael Maldonado, RCAC 2 member**  
*John Baackes, Chief Executive Officer. Comment I Like to thank Mr. Baackes For all his hard work. I like to ask could we have an ad made just for the Jorge Floyd matter I think LA Care should have an ad with a slogan that*

*says LA CARE WE ARE CARE FOR LA AND ALL! With a Fist*



*That has all color of LA CARE Colors this will help are center form mayhem happening to are center were we have them and headquarter that would be nice. Question the letter for the Jorge Floyd matter the letter written is well written but there is a problem no one is going to take the time to read it but still put it up if will make someone think that we do care so we need to make it large print and colorful and like I said picture said a million-word picture speak for them self.*

Mr. Baackes thanked Mr. Maldonado for the suggestion. He noted that once the statement of principles is adopted it will be deployed on the L.A. Care website.

**UPDATE FROM CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**

Dr. Seidman reported on the COVID-19 pandemic:

He noted that there has been a dramatic change in cases in the last 7-10 days, perhaps due to the relaxation of stay at home orders. Orders began relaxing on May 8 and there was an increase in infection. The increase may be because of the relaxations of stay at home orders, gradual reopening of businesses, and participation in the demonstrations. L.A. Care is seeing a significant increase in cases and hospitalizations, and a decline in overall deaths. In March, 18-40 years olds made up 10% of the hospitalizations, and that has increased to 25%. Some hospitals are at full capacity, and are able to manage the caseload. There is capacity for beds, ventilators, and hospitalizations among the other hospitals.

	<p>He asked members to do their part in reducing the number of cases and the spread of the disease. The county has adopted the 3 C's: Avoid crowds, closed spaces, and close contact with others. He stressed the need to wear mask when in public. There is clear evidence that it helps stop the spread of the infection to others and it helps protect the person wearing the mask.</p> <p>He explained that telehealth services are virtual visits with their doctors. Most L.A. Care providers can provide services by telephone.</p> <p>Ms. Lara asked when L.A. Care will have a Latino summit. Dr. Seidman responded that Dr. Kyle organized a Disparity summit that was not exclusively for African Americans, but was for all people of color. L.A. Care is addressing all communities that are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.</p> <p><b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>  <b>Email submitted July 8, 2020, 12:00 a.m. by Ismael Maldonado, RCAC 2 member Richard Seidman, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, Comment I like the Idea of getting project Angle food and getting to get medical dollar from the state to pay for that service I love this I see the YouTube la care videos let start a letter campaign to state legislator senator and Assembly.</b></p> <p><i>Problem to Report LA CARE Threw Medical Anthem Blue cross if Your IPA is East land Medical Group which was part of Regal Lakeside plane is not accepting any one with this card at all Walgreen please look in to this matter because a lot of LA Care member will start to pay for their medication that they won't be able to afford so please look in to this they will get sick and be in the hospital more.</i></p>	
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>		
<p><b>GOVERNEMNT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>Prity Thanki</p>	<p>Prity Thanki, <i>Local Government Advisor II, Government Affairs</i>, provided a Government Affairs update (<i>A copy of the presentation can be obtained by contacting CO&amp;E staff.</i>):</p> <p><u>State Budget</u></p> <p>Governor Newsom and the State Legislature reached agreement to close a \$54 billion deficit in the state budget. On June 29, Governor Newsom signed into law a \$202.1 billion State Budget Bill and related trailer bills. Trailer bills are bills that are passed after the main budget bill is passed. The trailer bills make changes in state law necessary to implement the budget.</p> <p>The budget took effect on July 1 and preserves critical programs that will help low-income individuals access the health care serves they need. No cuts will be made to Medi-Cal or other social services this year. The budget avoids, for at least a year, the</p>	

\$14 billion “trigger cuts” that the Governor proposed in his May Revise, but makes cuts to other public services and state worker pay unless California receives additional federal funding by October 15. The budget does not expand Medi-Cal eligibility to undocumented immigrant seniors, but it does promise to do so at an unspecified point when funding is available. As economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic become more evident, it is likely that the Legislature may amend the budget. This could happen as soon as August, when the Legislature comes back from summer recess with a more accurate sense of tax revenue. The deadline for filing state taxes was delayed by three months to July 15.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Update

On June 18, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court blocked the federal administration attempt to end the DACA program. The court ruled that the federal government didn’t provide an adequate reason for ending the program. The program was established in 2012, and it protects nearly 700,000 young undocumented immigrants. In California, there are about 200,000 young undocumented immigrants enrolled in the program. The DACA program offers them temporary protection from deportation and provides the ability to apply for work authorization. Since 2017, the federal administration has attempted to end this program. Lower courts have blocked those attempts in the past. The Supreme Court has put an end to the administration’s efforts for now. The ruling took issue with how the administration was trying to phase out DACA but it didn’t weigh in on the legality of the program. There’s no guarantee that future legal challenges would have the same result. For now, the Supreme Court’s decision means that the DACA program is in effect as it existed when it was first implemented in 2012. Individuals who presently have DACA protection may continue to file renewal of their benefits. Those who did not apply for DACA by September 2017 will be able to apply for DACA for the first time.

Ms. McFerson asked for a copy of the Government Affairs report. She asked if she is able to speak about Black Lives Matter during this agenda item. She would like to know what L.A. Care is doing to participate. Ms. Thanki responded that Mr. Baackes is working with the Board in regard to this, and she is not able to give any details.

Ms. Vazquez thanked Ms. Thanki for keeping the committee up to date with policies that affect L.A. Care and its members.

**COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS UPDATE**

Francisco Oaxaca

Francisco Oaxaca, *Chief Communications and Community Relations Officer*, reported (*a copy of his presentation can be obtained by contacting CO&E staff*):

RCAC Update

Staff has been working hard on how to best restart RCAC meetings in August and determining which method would be best for the meetings. They will be held virtually. He noted that this ECAC meeting went much more smoothly than the previous meeting. He will make sure that all ECAC reports and agendas are sent to RCAC members.

Family Resource Center and Community Resource Center Update

Resource centers are closed, but L.A. Care is moving forward in preparing new locations and updating current sites. The East L.A., Lynwood, and Palmdale centers are being remodeled through the partnership with Blue Shield Promise. Progress is being made on the Metro L.A. site, and it is expected to be completed by the end of September. Work continues on the Norwalk, Wilmington, and El Monte sites. The Inglewood location is being moved to South L.A. L.A. Care is looking for sites in Inglewood to continue the presence in that community.

Virtual Programing

Efforts have continued to grow, and L.A. Care has recently switched to offering community classes online with over 5,000 subscribers. L.A. Care is working to start interactive classes.

Board Seat Election

He noted that the Board Seat Election was scheduled in July, but due to public health orders it has been postponed. It will be rescheduled once it is safe to hold in person meetings and events.

Ms. Lara asked if members are able to participate at L.A. Care's back to school events. Mr. Oaxaca responded that L.A. Care is currently not planning large scale volunteer opportunities due to the public health orders and requirements for social distancing. There also may be liability issues. The risk of infection makes it difficult to have RCAC members volunteer. He noted that RCAC members can attend the events.

Ms. McFerson asked if the food banks can distribute masks and hand sanitizers. She suggested a larger site in Inglewood with sufficient parking. She would like to be able to interact with other RCAC members to provide information. She suggested that L.A. Care give out gift cards for groceries. Mr. Oaxaca thanked Ms. McFerson for her comments, and he will look into her suggestions. He stated that the original Inglewood site is too small and the new site will be bigger to accommodate more visitors.

	<p>Deaka McClain, <i>Member At-Large</i>, asked if there is progress at the Long Beach FRC. Mr. Oaxaca responded that the owner of the site that was originally selected is not cooperating. L.A. Care will select a new site.</p> <p>Ms. Salazar thanked Mr. Oaxaca for taking her comments into consideration. She agrees with Ms. McFerson on providing hand sanitizers at the food bank events.</p> <p><b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>  <b>Email submitted July 8, 2020, 12:10 p.m. by Rachael Rose Luckey, RCAC 4 member</b>  <i>There are a number of ways using WebEx to live stream the video of the meeting including this one and the BOG meetings. Mr. Oaxaca referred to slides during his presentation but the public cannot see them. Why has LA Care not taken advantage of this feature so that the public can see what is being visually presented?</i></p> <p><b>Email submitted by Johnny Chua, RCAC 11 member</b>  <i>I wish to make a suggestion if the ECAC group can take this up. Can they discuss the COVID issue of how everyone feels? It could be the best means of prevention that could be promoted and spearheaded by L.A. Care. Not just the cure and the care after one is infected. Also prevention is much better than a cure after being infected.</i></p>	
<p><b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b></p>	<p><b>Email submitted July 8, 2020, 12:00 a.m. by Ismael Maldonado, RCAC 2 member</b>  <i>Linda Merkens, Board Services, I would like to Nominate myself Ismael Maldonado I am a great spoke person I am on the local mental health board served on the regional center board of The North Los Angeles County Regional center I am currently served CCI than transition into RACA 2 I am also on the California Youth Leadership form planning committee once a year and I am a Peer counselor in Sacramento the program is part of the Governor of California committee on employment for people with disabilities. Here is my resume</i></p>	
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.</p>	

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:**

Victor Rodriguez, *Board Specialist II, Board Services*  
Malou Balones, *Board Specialist III, Board Services*

**APPROVED BY**

Fatima Vasquez (due to public health orders the document will be signed when it is possible)

APPROVED