# Board of Governors
## Executive Community Advisory Committee
### Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2021

1055 W. 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECAC Members</th>
<th>RCAC Members/Public</th>
<th>L.A. Care Board of Governors/Senior Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Russell Mahler, RCAC 1 Chair ***</td>
<td>Pablo De La Puente, Interpreter ***</td>
<td>Hilda Pérez, Member, Board of Governors ***</td>
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<td>Estela Lara, RCAC 2 Chair ***</td>
<td>Isaac Ibarlucea, Interpreter ***</td>
<td>Layla Delgado, Advocate, Board of Governors ***</td>
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<td>Cynthia Conteas-Wood, RCAC 3 Chair, ECAC Vice-Chair ***</td>
<td>Luis Jule, Interpreter ***</td>
<td>John Baackes, Chief Executive Office, L.A. Care ***</td>
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<td>Silvia Poz, RCAC 4 Chair ***</td>
<td>Eduardo Kogan, Interpreter ***</td>
<td>Richard Seidman, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, L.A. Care ***</td>
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<td>Maria Sanchez, RCAC 5 Chair ***</td>
<td>Alex Mendez, Interpreter ***</td>
<td>Shavonne Caldwell, Community Outreach Liaison, CO&amp;E ***</td>
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<td>Andria McFerson, RCAC 6 Chair ***</td>
<td>Ruth Nuno, Interpreter ***</td>
<td>Kristina Chung, Community Outreach Field Specialist, CO&amp;E ***</td>
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<td>Fátima Vázquez, RCAC 7 Chair, ECAC Chair ***</td>
<td>Carmen Rangel, Smile California, Presenter</td>
<td>Idalia De La Torre, Field Specialist Supervisor, CO&amp;E ***</td>
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<td>Ana Romo, RCAC 8 Chair ***</td>
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<td>Auleria Eakins, Manager, CO&amp;E ***</td>
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<td>Tonya Byrd, RCAC 9 Chair ***</td>
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<td>Joseph Gonzales, Unified Communication Mobility Engineer I, IT Operations &amp; Infrastructure ***</td>
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<td>Damares O Hernández de Cordero, RCAC 10 Chair ***</td>
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<td>Hilda Herrera, Community Outreach Liaison CO&amp;E ***</td>
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<td>Maria Angel Refugio, RCAC 11 Chair ***</td>
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<td>Nicole Justo, Community Outreach Liaison CO&amp;E ***</td>
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<td>Lluvia Salazar, At-Large Member ***</td>
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<td>Linda Merkens, Senior Manager, Board Services ***</td>
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<td>Deaka McClain, At-Large Member ***</td>
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<td>Frank Meza, Community Outreach Field Specialist, CO&amp;E ***</td>
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* Excused Absent ** Absent *** Via teleconference

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*Excused Absent ** Absent *** Via teleconference
### Executive Community Advisory Committee
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<tr>
<th>AGENDA ITEM/ PRESENTER</th>
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| CALL TO ORDER          | Fatima Vazquez, *ECAC Chair*, called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m. She read the instructions on today’s meeting agenda. California Governor issued Executive Order N-25-20 and N-29-20, which among other provisions amend the Ralph M. Brown Act. Accordingly, members of the public should now listen to this meeting via teleconference as follows: **Teleconference Call – In information/Site**
  - Call-in number: 1-415-655-0002 Participants Access Code: 187 553 7421 (English)
  - Call-in number: 1-415-655-0002 Participants Access Code: 187 859 4507 (Spanish)
  - Members of the Executive Community Advisory Committee or staff may also participate in this meeting via teleconference. The public is encouraged to submit public comments or comments on Agenda items in writing by email to COEpubliccomments@lacare.org or by sending a text or voicemail to (213) 798-0148.
  - The text, voicemail, or email must indicate if you wish to be identified or remain anonymous, and must also include the name of the item to which your comment relates. If you do not indicate an Agenda item for your comment, your comment(s) will be read for up to 3 minutes at item VII Public Comment on the Agenda.
  - Comments received by voicemail, email, or text by 10:00 a.m. on March 10, 2021 will be provided in writing to the members of the Executive Community Advisory Committee at the meeting. Once the meeting has started, emails and texts for public comments should be submitted before the item is called by the meeting Chair. If you wish to submit public comment on an item, you must submit it at any time prior to the time the Chair starts consideration of the item. The Chair will ask for public comment and will announce the item. The Chair will announce when public comment period is over. Public Comments will be read for up to 3 minutes at the meeting. All votes in a teleconference meeting shall be conducted by roll call.
  - If you are an individual with a disability and need a reasonable modification or accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act please contact the Community Outreach & Engagement staff prior to the meeting for assistance by text (213) 798-0148 or by email to COEpubliccomments@lacare.org. | }
| APPROVE MEETING AGENDA | Ms. Vazquez asked any members having issues obtaining health care services to please reach out to L.A. Care Health Plan Member Services at 888-839-9909. She informed the committee of the changes to the order of agenda items. Standing items, section A, John Baackes, Chief Executive Officer, will be giving his report and Dr. Seidman will provide his report after Mr. Baackes. The Government Affairs report will be given under agenda item C. The Board of Governors report will be given during agenda item D. The committee will then take a 5 minute recess if there is time on the agenda. A recess will be implemented at all meetings beginning at the April ECAC meeting. The Agenda for today’s meeting was approved. | Approved by roll call. 12 AYES (Byrd, Conteas-Wood, Hernandez de Cordero, Lara, McClain, McFerson, Poz, Refugio, Romo, Salazar, Sanchez, and Vazquez) |
| APPROVE MEETING MINUTES | Andria McFerson, RCAC 6 Chair, stated that where it reads “to have better interaction it would be best to have the public comment before the agenda item is discussed…” it should read, “to have proper interaction the public comment should be after the agenda item.” She noted that one of the chairs agreed with her. “On page 7, you know the order of the actual meeting in itself was different. The board report was first, of course, Dr. Kyle, Dr. Eakins, John Baackes, and then the L.A. Healthy Moms report. My comment after Dr. Kyle spoke, he actually stated that I actually made the suggestion for the Taskforce and he gave ECAC props. And I think that’s important for them to be in the meeting minutes. On page 18, they spelled my name incorrectly and Tonya Byrd’s name is spelled wrong on page 5.” Tonya Byrd, RCAC 9 Chair, stated that her name was not spelled correctly. It should read “Tonya” not “Tanya.” The February 10, 2021 meeting minutes were approved as submitted. | Approved by roll call. 11 AYES (Byrd, Conteas-Wood, Hernandez de Cordero, Lara, McClain, McFerson, Poz, Refugio, Romo, Salazar, Sanchez, and Vazquez) 1 Abstention (McFerson) |
| UPDATE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | Ms. McFerson asked if she can record the meeting. Cindy Pozos, Liaison, CO&E, responded that the meeting is already being recorded. John Baackes, Chief Executive Officer, gave the following report: He noted that the county is doing better now in regards to COVID-19 and more people are being vaccinated even though it is very confusing. He stated that the prescription drug carve out that he has been talking about for 2 years has been postponed again. The state announced on April 1 that it has been suspended indefinitely. He is delighted with the news, because it would be difficult for people to get a vaccine and tell them that their prescriptions drug plan was going to change. He stated that internally it has caused much distress. L.A. Care was prepared to cut off its internal program. Members will continue to get services using their L.A. Care cards. | Unreadable |
During the pandemic emergency, members that did not complete their redeterminations did not have any disruption in service. When people fail to fill out the redetermination form it has not been great for continuity of care. He noted that when the pandemic is over they will have to get processed. The State will have gone a year with no one filling out their redeterminations. Some people may forget to do it. L.A. care has learned that the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services expects the states to go back and do redeterminations from last year. L.A. Care is working with Antonia Jimenez, who is a Member of the L.A. Care Board of Governors and Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), to advocate in Washington, D.C. to have no redeterminations for the year that has passed. He sees no point in reversal of claims. When the public emergency is over, he hopes that members will help alert other members about what is going to happen. DPSS has access to income records. He stated that pushing to have two redeterminations due at the same time would be an administrative burden. It is an unnecessary burden that would need to be incorporated in the business structure.

Mr. Baackes stated that the last couple of ECAC meetings, L.A. Care was asked to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to members. L.A. Care did some research and will take action. One hundred and fifty thousand reusable cloth masks will be distributed. Twenty thousand of those masks will be mailed to members. Ten thousand masks will be set aside for Community Resource Center (CRC) events when the CRCs reopen, probably by May. One hundred and twenty mask will be distributed to high risk members. This is a more expensive venture than it should be. Just to distribute the masks will cost approximately $270,000. He noted that gloves are very difficult to get. Hand sanitizer is also a possibility, but washing hands is a better option for members. The need to wear a mask is still very important. It appears you can carry the virus and be protected from getting sick, but can still pass the virus to someone else. He appreciates the input from members for this request.

Ms. McFerson thanked Mr. Baackes for the approval of the masks. She noted that it will save lives especially for people that live in vulnerable communities. She noted that some people don’t have the income to purchase PPE. She knows someone that was not able to go into a store after they walked seven blocks to get there, because they couldn’t afford to buy a mask. As far as hand sanitizers, she thinks that it will be very beneficial. She asked why would it not be available, was it lack of necessity, or lack of budget. Mr. Baackes responded that it would add to the budget demand. Secondly, the main thing that L.A. Care is trying to stop is airborne transmission, because the virus spreads primarily through airborne transfer, as opposed to surface transfer. He asked Richard Seidman, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, to provide input. Dr. Seidman stated that what Mr. Baackes stated about relative importance is true, however, both are necessary. He does not want members to reach a false conclusion that washing hands and using hand sanitizer is not helpful. He
encouraged member to use both. Good hand hygiene and using hand sanitizer is helpful, but noted the respiratory route is the primary route of infection. Ms. McFerson thanked Dr. Seidman for his comments. She stated that gloves and hand sanitizer are very important and hopefully L.A. Care can work on it in the future. Mr. Baackes thanked Ms. McFerson for advancing this idea.

Lluvia Salazar, Member At-Large, stated that she thinks the hand sanitizers is very a good idea and does not know why it was not included in the budget. She noted that ECAC requested both masks and hand sanitizers. Dr. Seidman stated that it is very important to have this protective equipment. When members go to the bank or to the store, it is important that they have hand sanitizer. She noted that L.A. Care already has the hand sanitizers in its possession and they are handed out at community events. She asked that Mr. Backes help obtain these PPE items for members. Mr. Baackes responded that expense is the reason why the focus on masks was first. L.A. Care will definitely revisit the possibility of handing out the hand sanitizer in the future. He noted that hand sanitizer pales in comparison to what the masks will do for members. If L.A. Care finds more funds in its budget it will focus on the hand sanitizer issue.

Ms. Byrd complimented L.A. Care. She agrees with Ms. McFerson and Ms. Salazar and has also seen the small hand sanitizers distributed at events. She even received a small bag to distribute. She has seen them attached to people’s purses. She asked that L.A. Care does not discount itself and asked that it be reconsidered.

Hilda Perez, Member Representative, Board of Governors, noted that Mr. Baackes mentioned the prescription drug carve out proposed by Governor Gavin Newsom has been delayed until November. Mr. Baackes responded that it has been delayed indefinitely and he does not know when it will be implemented. Ms. Perez noted that it will be confusing for members to get a vaccine. She would like to know what will be the change that will make it difficult. Mr. Baackes responded that members will receive a 60-day notice and then a 30-day notice advising that the prescription plan will change, then members will be receiving a new ID card. It is a big endeavor. Members will have two different ID cards. If members have issues with prescriptions there will be a new call center. Ms. Perez noted that Layla Gonzalez, Member Advocate, Board of Governors, gave a wonderful report to the committee. She asked about the Supreme Court case Texas vs Azar effect on the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Mr. Baackes responded that in December 2017 Congress removed the tax that anyone who didn’t have health insurance had to pay. The tax would be used to fund subsidies for people who buy insurance on the exchange. When the tax was eliminated, the Texas Attorney General filed a lawsuit claiming that if you remove the tax the whole law is invalid. He feels it’s a farfetched argument. The Court found in favor of the Texas Attorney General. It was kicked back, because it needed further review. The case is in
front of the Supreme Court and oral arguments were heard in November 2020. No one was buying the idea that the entire law was unconstitutional. He does not understand why any would try to get rid of something that has helped so many people.

Ms. McFerson asked if the committee has spoken about LANES, because she has something to say about it. Ms. McFerson will speak about it when they get to that part of the agenda.

Ms. Pozos advised everyone that the ECAC meeting can be recorded by the public.

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<th>UPDATE FROM CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER</th>
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<td>Richard Seidman, MD, MPH</td>
<td>Public Comment by Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2:</td>
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<td>Thank you Dr. Seidman for your previous presentation your information is always helpful, I appreciate what L.A. care is doing for people with disabilities. I am still concerned about the equity council and the transparency about the RCAC members and those who would like to participate.</td>
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Dr. Seidman asked that staff respond to Ms. Cooper’s comment. He is not fully aware of the details of the committee.

Dr. Seidman gave the following COVID-19 update:

Half of all countries in the world have increasing COVID-19 cases and the other half is going down. The increase is about 2%. There have been 2.7 million new cases in the past week, down from 5 million a week last year. The risk of another surge still remains. In the U.S. there are about 29 million infections. The overall rate of infection is going down. There has been a decline since January, but the decline is leveling off. He noted that there is a lot to celebrate, however, there are still very high levels of disease activity. Hospitalization rates are far down from where they were, however, people continue to be hospitalized and continue to die. Overall things are getting better. He asked everyone to keep their hands as clean as possible.

In L.A. County, 13,000 new cases were reported last week. Overall over 1.2 million cases and 22,000 deaths have been reported in the County. At least 70 people died from COVID-19 yesterday. Hospital numbers are far lower. He noted that the statewide level in the Blueprint for Safer Economy is the road map for thresholds the county needs to meet in terms of case rates, to be able to move from purple tier, which is the most restrictive tier. The good news is that there has been enough progress made to almost go into the red tier.

VACCINE
Dr. Seidman informed the committee there has been great news since the committee last met. Another cohort of people are now eligible for the vaccine. Food and agriculture workers as well as restaurant, food delivery, education and childcare, firemen and police are
eligible starting on March 1. On March 15, people who are 16-64 with chronic conditions and comorbidities will be allowed to get vaccinated. Only the most severe cases such as people with cancer, chronic kidney disease, pulmonary disease, and oxygen dependent people will be eligible. The County is still trying to figure out what type of documentation they will require from people in these categories. The County does not want to ask for a letter, because it will put a burden on doctors and people. He noted that self-attestation is being considered. The call center will be kept up to date for members who call in for more information.

Ms. Byrd asked, what does attestation mean. Dr. Seidman responded that it means you declare yourself eligible. Ms. Byrd stated that she is concerned about the large number of homeless people. She asked how is that large population being handled. She is very concerned, because if they are not vaccinated they can continue to spread the virus. Dr. Seidman responded that there are mobile vaccine teams that vaccinate people who are otherwise eligible to receive the vaccine. He believes it would be best to vaccinate everyone in an encampment opposed to only people who are eligible.

Ms. Salazar asked how safe is the vaccine for pregnant women. She said that there are pregnant women in her family and can’t answer the question for them. She would also like to know if the vaccine will be free and available to people who are undocumented. She questioned whether or not it will be covered under emergency Medi-Cal. Dr. Seidman responded that the federal government has purchased over 100 million doses. Since they last met, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has also received approval for emergency use. It will be available for anyone in the U.S. as long as they are eligible. There is a fee for the administration of the vaccine, but there’s no cost to person getting vaccinated. For people without insurance it will be free and for people with insurance there will be an attempt to bill their insurance. It differs state by state and county by county. He stated that he does not know the potential harm that would happen to the fetus, however, what he does know is that the risk of not getting vaccinated outweighs the risk of getting vaccinated.

Mr. Baackes asked Dr. Seidman to speak about the efficacy of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Dr. Seidman responded that it is safe and efficacious. He saw the L.A. times article that the Johnson & Johnson makes it appear as if it is a less effective vaccine. It is also 100% effective in preventing hospitalization and death. The Johnson & Johnson avoids hospital deaths completely. He advised everyone to get whatever vaccine is available. In L.A. County, there is no plan directed towards low income communities to use this vaccine. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be made available more widely and throughout the County. Approximately 55,000 doses are already being administered. Don’t worry about which vaccine you get. All three vaccines are highly effective and all prevent hospitalizations and deaths.
Ms. McFerson noted that Dr. Seidman stated that in order to encourage the colored community they may have someone who is famous advocate for the vaccine, but Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell said they need their own community members to advocate for getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Members of all colors and sexual orientations should advocate to their own kind. As far as homeless people go and how they are receiving the vaccine, she thinks it will be a good idea to make a recorded call to their cell phones. This will be a good way to reach out to people who do not know how to access the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Seidman responded that in terms of addressing people who are hesitating or lack access to the vaccine, he believes influencers are very important. There is no right or wrong way to address this issue. There needs to be different types of ways to reach out to all people. He would like to see all RCAC members participate and spread the word about the safety of the vaccination. He noted that L.A. Care already has implemented a recorded call from the call center.

Ms. McFerson stated that she feels it is a great idea and hopes it is implemented soon for seniors and people with chronic conditions.

Ms. Perez stated that Dr. Seidman is an influencer and a trustworthy person to her. She is only speaking for herself. When he attends ECAC and shares information like this it opens her mind and expands her horizons. She thanked him for taking the time out of his day to inform ECAC members. The information allows members to make better decisions in terms of getting vaccinated. She thanked him for going over the vaccines available and who is eligible. She stated that at the Board meeting she asked Francisco Oaxaca, Chief Communications and Community Relations Officer, to attend ECAC and give an update on L.A. Care’s messaging to members to get vaccinated. This will help them keep the community informed. She hopes that the online forums continue so they can continue to inform members. She noted that even though ECAC members have this forum to ask him questions, sometimes they end up with more questions. She stated that the Lynwood City Hall will be hosting a vaccination event on April 9 for people with appointments. She would like to know when will it be the Health Promoters turn to get vaccinated. She noted that they need to be vaccinated as well so they can advocate to the community. Dr. Seidman thanked Mr. Perez for her comments about him being a trusted source of truth. It is very important role for L.A. Care to play. He hopes Mr. Oaxaca and his team will be able to present the communication plan that L.A. Care has in place for members. He knows it is frustrating to not know when people can get vaccinated. He expects half of the population will be immunized by the end of May and 90% by Labor Day. L.A. Care will continue to advocate for volunteers and community health workers to be moved up in the vaccination tiers.
PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment submitted by Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member:
Please keep informed about what is going on in regards to housing issues and the stimulus check and who it will impact and if it’s mainly L.A. Care members who will be affected. I would like government affairs to encourage members to vote and inform members about their legislators and I thank you for what you’re doing for the L.A. Care members.

Prity Thanki, Local Government Advisor, Government Affairs, gave the Government Affairs Report (A copy of the written report can be obtained from CO&E.).

STATE BUDGET UPDATE

Last month, Governor Gavin Newsom signed a $7.6 billion package of economic "Early Budget" action bills that includes $600 one-time grant payments to people on SSI/SSP (Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment program), CalWORKS, and the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI).

According to the Governor's office, the package of bills will provide $600 in one-time payments and grants to a total of 5.7 million eligible low-income Californians. The $600 payments and grants to Californians would be in addition to whatever payments may be coming from the Biden federal COVID-19 Relief bill that is pending in the US Congress and is in addition to the $600 payments in the previous federal COVID-19 relief bill passed by Congress and signed into law in December. Grant payments for CalWORKS households are expected by mid-April; timing for the delivery of SSI/SSP and CAPI grants is currently under discussion with federal officials.

2021 LEGISLATIVE BILLS

Below are a few bills that could have a direct or indirect impact on L.A. Care members. L.A. Care’s Government Affairs team is monitoring these and other bills during the legislative session. However, since this is the first of a two-year session, if the bill does not pass this year it is still alive for next year.

AB 4 and SB 56 — Medi-Cal Eligibility

Both of these bills aim to expand Medi-Cal to cover those who are income-eligible but currently excluded due to their immigration status. This is the latest step for the #Health4All campaign by health and immigrant rights advocates that has in recent years successfully covered children and young adults up to age 26.

AB 4 would remove the exclusion altogether and SB 56 prioritizes an expansion to seniors, 65 and over, who are most at risk in the current COVID-19 crisis.
Since 2013, the #Health4All coalition, comprised of immigrant rights activists, health care advocates, and community members from across California, has advocated for expansion of health care to all Californians, regardless of immigration status. In 2016 California expanded full-scope Medi-Cal to all low-income children, regardless of their immigration status. In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed a state budget plan that funded a further expansion of Medi-Cal to include income-eligible undocumented young adults ages 19-25, which started in January 2020.

**AB 470 - Medi-Cal Eligibility**
This bill aims to fix the Medi-Cal assets test by eliminating the consideration of assets for the purpose of determining Medi-Cal eligibility. The Medi-Cal assets rule limits the amount of assets an individual can have to $2,000, or $3,000 for a couple. While it does have exceptions (a home and one car), it still limits how much Californians can save to take care of themselves if they need help from Medi-Cal. Most Medi-Cal recipients don’t know about the exceptions, and don’t have access to financial advice to help save as allowed by the rule.

**SB 107 - CalFresh**
This bill aims to simplify the CalFresh application. When the COVID-19 crisis hit and need surged, CalFresh applications skyrocketed. In response, the federal government authorized a waiver that allowed the state to simplify the application process. This helped connect more than 500,000 additional households with vital nutrition assistance in just a few months. But the waiver is set to expire this year. This bill aims to allow CalFresh participants to complete forms that require a signature by phone. This improvement will make it easier for people to get, and stay connected to, vital food assistance.

Deaka McClain, *Member At-Large*, she asked if people on (unintelligible) will not be getting the one-time grant payments. Ms. Thanki responded that she is not sure about the payment she is speaking of. She recommended that she speak to DPSS to confirm. They will know more. She has been told that timing and delivery of payments to people on SSI/SSP is still under discussion. She does not have all the details at this time.

Ms. Salazar asked if the $600 one-time payment will be included in people’s taxes or it separate help. Ms. Thanki responded that it is one-time grant as relief during COVID-19. She recommended that she speak to a tax consultant. Ms. Salazar stated that she is a tax preparer and has not received that information. She noted that the government is giving a stimulus check to people with ITIN numbers as well. She would like to know if it’s a different budget.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORT**
Layla Gonzalez, *Member Advocate, Board of Governors*, gave the following updates:
- To all those that have lost a family member or loved one due to COVID-19, she sends her condolences. She prays that those in the Intensive Care Unit recover quickly.
• March is Women’s Month and March 8 was recognized as a day to celebrate women internationally. There are many women that have shaped and guided us to be who we are today, please be sure to thank and honor the women in your life. I thank Hilda Perez, Member Representative, Board of Governors, a representative to L.A. Care Board for two terms, former ECAC and RCAC Chair. She has been a wonderful, humble servant to L.A. Care members for many years and has always been mindful of L.A. Care and community member’s needs.

• The Board of Governors met virtually on March 4.
• A list of approved motions can be obtained from CO&E.
• We thank all of the RCAC members that continue to join and listen to the Board meetings and ECAC meetings in this era of social distancing. We appreciate your comments and questions. Remember that you can call the public comment phone number on the Agenda and leave a message with your concerns, it does not require internet access.

• John Baackes, Chief Executive Officer, gave updates at the Board Meeting, I'll give you a few highlights and I'll try not to repeat what he said in his report to ECAC earlier:
  - The Cal-MediConnect pilot program is due to end and members will be transferred to a Dual Special Needs Program (DSNIP), and I want to reassure you that there will be no change in covered benefits after the transition.
  - The food distribution event schedule is on the L.A. Care website.
  - A Provider Awards Program was held virtually on at the end of February, to recognize physicians and doctors that have shown to be great providers of high quality services for L.A. Care members.
  - The 2021 Black History Month “A Vision and Voice for Equity” virtual meeting on Mental Health and the Black Community was held, hosted by CO&E and L.A. Care’s Health Promoter Programs and moderated by James Kyle, MD, MDiv, Medical Director, Quality, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Quality Improvement and the Equity.

• Richard Seidman, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, provided a Chief Medical Officer report at the meeting, and you have heard his update a few minutes ago.
• Cherie Compartore, Senior Director, Government Affairs, gave a Government Affairs update at the Board meeting and a few minutes ago in this meeting.
• The Board approved a motion to extend Mr. Baackes’ contract as CEO for two years. Mr. Baackes has led us through the pandemic and continues to be a great leader for this organization.

Mr. Baackes asked if he can address Ms. McFerson’s question about LANES. Ms. McFerson noted that the contract goes up to $8 million dollars for TransUnion. She would like to know if they provide services for members. She does not know what TransUnion
does. She would like to know. She asked if LANES can give information about locations for COVID-19 vaccination sites and give masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers. She noted it’s a lifesaving thing and that’s all she wanted to know. Mr. Baackes responded that LANES is a health information exchange and L.A. Care is a participant in that. The idea of the health information exchange is for providers and insurance companies to put their information in a central depository for patient data to save time and money. It allows specialists who received a referral for a member to access patient data. LANES only covers L.A. County, there are different exchanges that cover other counties and states. California is looking to create a Statewide exchange to make transfer of records easier.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

Auleria Eakins, EdD, Manager, CO&E, gave Community Outreach & Engagement updates (a copy of the written report can be obtained from CO&E).

Global Issues Update
RCAC 6 member and Chair would like to make a motion and recommendation to ECAC for L.A. Care to consider providing a care package that contains 5 face masks, 5 sets of gloves, and 1 bottle of hand sanitizer at all the Community Resource Centers (CRCs) that would be available to the public. For L.A. Care members who cannot attend the CRCs, L.A. Care can consider mailing the same care package to all L.A. Care members.

She stated that currently there are several efforts to provide masks to L.A. Care members within the organization.

Members can request a free mask by calling members services on the back of their card and they will mail it to your home. This is available as long as supplies are available. If members need help calling members services, you can contact your Field Specialist. Beginning in April, on a limited basis the CRC’s will be providing masks for free to members who need them. For the location nearest you, please contact your field specialist.

Update on L.A. Care’s Black History Month Planning Efforts
- Black Mental Health Webinar
- Internally L.A. Care has been spotlighting a series of staff members each week who have been sharing cultural stories and other important black history milestones

CRC Update
After consultation with Dr. Seidman and taking into account the current status of the pandemic in the county, L.A. Care has decided to extend the closure of the CRCs until May. Staff will reevaluate monthly if opening is appropriate. The website has been updated to reflect the closure. Please feel free to forward this update to members of the community.

Upcoming Food Pantries
Friday, March 12  
8:00 am - 11:00 am  
Antelope Valley Partner for Health  
44226 10th St. W., Lancaster

Saturday, March 13  
9:30 am - 10:30 am  
East Side Union School District  
44938 30th E, Lancaster

Saturday, March 20  
9:00 am - 11:00 am  
MEND Poverty  
10641 N. San Fernando Rd., Pacoima

Saturday, March 20  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Community Resource Center in Pomona  
696 Holt Ave., Pomona

Thursday, March 25  
11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Crenshaw Family YMCA  
3820 Santa Rosalia Dr., Los Angeles

For more information on the upcoming food pantries RCAC members can contact their Field Specialist or check our website: [https://www.lacare.org/events/food-pantry](https://www.lacare.org/events/food-pantry)

Vaccine Efforts
CRC drive-thru COVID-19 vaccine clinics are in the planning stage. Pharmacy and Health Services departments are working to implement from March 31st through May 8th across the 8 CRC locations, depending on vaccine availability (implementation outside of CRCs given the need for large space/sq. footage). The vaccines will be available to the population defined by state and county guidelines with approved tiers, primarily targeting L.A. Care members and open to other community members, as defined by L.A. Care Pharmacy and Health Services leadership. More details to be shared through Communications and Marketing efforts.

L.A. Care supported a large series of vaccine events held by Dignity Health Systems in Carson where over 20,000 individuals were vaccinated over a 5 day period. L.A. Care reached out to several thousand of its high-risk seniors in that area and helped them arrange appointments to get vaccinated. L.A. Care also supported MLK Medical Center with
outreach to its eligible members to get vaccinations at MLK this week. L.A. Care is also working on a collaboration with Supervisor Hilda Solis to hold several more vaccination clinics in Southeast L.A. beginning in early March.

Upcoming ECAC Presentations
April 2021- Needs Assessment for Health Education

Ms. McFerson would like to know what the Needs Assessment presentation consists of. She understands that there is a presentation on Dental services, but there also needs to be a presentation on the Social Determinants of Health and how it’s affecting the Asian community. At this time they are receiving racist behavior and it is affecting their community. Ms. Eakins is unaware of what the Needs Assessment presentation will consist of. The Health Services team is creating the presentation. She wanted the members to be aware. She will note her request for Social Determinants of Health in the presentation.

Estela Lara, RCAC 2 Chair, she thanked Ms. Eakins for her report. Ms. Lara noted that there is a food pantry taking place on March 11 at the Regency Theatre 7876 Van Nuys Blvd. in Van Nuys. She feels that it is very important for every RCAC region to hold a food pantry in their regions.

Ms. McClain asked for clarification on how members can have more involvement in the Equity Council Steering Committee. She would like to know how members can provide more input. Ms. Eakins responded that the members on the committee are delegated to provide input to the Equity Council Steering Committee, she as an ECAC member is able to bring her thoughts and questions to ECAC and hold discussions there.

Ms. Gonzalez thanked Ms. Eakins for her report. She feels that some people will miss their 2nd vaccine due to the changing of tiers. She does not want people to miss their vaccines. She would like to know if the list of events can be placed on the website for everyone to access. Ms. Eakins stated that the vaccine question is more suited for Dr. Seidman. She will forward the question and get the answer, and then will forward it to her. She stated that the pantry list will be made available on the website.

Ms. Byrd thanked Ms. Eakins for the Black History month presentation. She would like to know if they can have a Black History program next year. Ms. Eakins responded that they ask for a vote at the next ECAC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

SMILE, YOUR MEDICAL BENEFITS INCLUDE DENTAL

Carmel Rangel, Member Relations Representative, Medi-Cal Dental Outreach Department, Smile California, presented information about Medi-Cal Dental benefits (A copy of the presentation can be obtained from CO&E.).

What is Smile, California?
• A campaign designed to help Medi-Cal members, like you, make the most of their dental benefit.
• As a Medi-Cal member, your benefits and your child’s benefits include dental coverage!
• Medi-Cal provides free or low-cost dental services to help keep you and your smile healthy.

Medi-Cal Dental provides free or low-cost check-ups every six months for members under the age of 21 and once every 12 months for members 21 and older.

Other services covered by Medi-Cal Dental may include:
• Exams and x-rays
• Cleanings
• Fluoride treatments
• Emergency services
• Tooth removal
• Fillings and crowns
• Root canal treatments
• Scaling and root planing
• Periodontal maintenance
• Complete and partial dentures
• Denture relines
• Orthodontics (braces) for children who qualify

Babies
Baby teeth are critical to your child’s health and development. They help him or her chew, speak and smile, so it is important to keep them healthy. Your child’s first dental visit should take place after their first tooth appears, but no later than their first birthday.

Children
Keeping baby teeth healthy is an important step in caring for your child’s permanent teeth because baby teeth hold space for permanent teeth growing under your child's gums. Children start to lose their baby teeth as early as five years old. This is when their permanent teeth begin to grow in. Ask the dentist about sealants to help protect your child’s back teeth from cavities. Sealants are clear, protective coatings that are quick and painless. Sealants are covered in your child’s Medi-Cal Dental plan.

Teens
Eating sugary foods and drinks puts teens at a higher risk for gum disease and tooth decay. Encourage your teen to eat a balanced diet, limiting sweets and sodas.
Your teen should continue to see the dentist two times per year for a check-up and cleaning. Teenagers who get regular dental check-ups maintain good oral health well into adulthood.

**Pregnancy**

Keeping your teeth and gums healthy is one of the most important things you can do during your pregnancy. It is also an important part of keeping your baby healthy. Regular brushing and flossing, eating a balanced diet and visiting your dentist regularly will help reduce dental problems that often accompany pregnancy, like gingivitis. Dental visits during pregnancy are safe and recommended. It is safe to see the dentist at any time during your pregnancy.

As a Medi-Cal member, you are covered during pregnancy and 60 days past the birth of your baby.

**Adults and Seniors**

As we age, changes in our body increase our risk for developing dental conditions like cavities and gum disease. Practicing good oral hygiene can help prevent these conditions. It can help maintain your overall health.

She stated that the best source for helpful information about the Medi-Cal Dental Program, covered services, and good oral health habits is their website: [www.smilecalifornia.org](http://www.smilecalifornia.org)

Members can also find a Medi-Cal Dental provider near them using the Find a Dentist tool.

Ms. McFerson asked if adults that have L.A. Care as a subsidy can have fillings. She has a friend that has injuries on her gums, is there anyway that she can receive any sort of coverage to pay for an oral surgeon. She thinks that the flyer that Ms. Rangel displayed is awesome. It allows people to know the options they have. She asked for before and after pictures.

Ms. Rangel thanked Ms. McFerson for her comments. As far as fillings and coverage, the patient needs to see a general dentist first and if necessary they will send her to an oral surgeon. Care coordination and case management is offered by Medi-Cal. They have a dedicated team that can work with L.A. Care and consolidate expenses for medical visits, transportation, and pharmacy services. It is a benefit that people don’t often speak about. She noted that the process can be overwhelming, but her team is available to help.

Ms. Lara thanked Ms. Rangel for her presentation. She stated that she needs a dentist and asked if they can speak offline via email. She asked if her website is listed by specialty and rated based on complaints. Some people select dentists based on ratings. Ms. Rangel stated that they do not have a rating system for dentists. She recommended that she call the service center for assistance.
Ms. Vazquez stated that sometimes in the dental clinics they charge $25 when members do not make it to the clinic. She would like to know what happens when people are not happy with the services they received at the clinics. Are members able to change clinics? She noted that sometimes some members are eligible for cleanings, but many times deep cleanings are not covered. Ms. Rangel responded that members should not be charged for cancellations. When there is a charge that should not have made been members are encouraged to reach out to her office to get assistance with resolving these charges. Medical and Dental charges work differently. Some services like deep cleaning sometimes require a prior authorization.

Ms. Gonzalez asked for clarification on what line of business this covers. Ms. Rangel responded that only people with full scope Medi-Cal qualify for these dental services.

**MOTION TO ECAC**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment received from Rachael Rose Luckey, RCAC 4 Member:

> Clearly I am in support of this motion and request that if this motion is approved, to assemble the ad hoc committee with haste, have it meet and bring back a recommendation to ECAC to be placed on the agenda for the April ECAC meeting.

Ms. McFerson presented the following RCAC 6 motion:

> I, Andria McFerson, do therefore move that ECAC create an ad-hoc discussing the order of the agenda to reflect public comment to come before the ECAC comments and decisions and after the agenda item is presented to everyone.

Ms. McFerson stated that she has heard many people ask that the public comment after the agenda item is presented. They don’t know what is going to be presented and have to hear it first and then make their public comments.

Ms. Lara asked Ms. McFerson if she is asking to change the process for public comments from before the presentation to after an agenda item is presented. Ms. McFerson responded that ECAC can have an ad hoc to discuss these things and why it’s important and can be done to ensure that the public has their public comments after the agenda item. It will be more accessible to the public. Ms. Lara asked if she is asking for an ad hoc committee to be formed or is she asking to move the public comment until after the presentations. Ms. McFerson stated that she feels it is great if they can vote on having the comment after an item is presented, and she tried to do it at the last meeting. The staff helped her write it out and that is what they came up with.
Ms. McClain asked for clarification. She doesn’t feel an ad hoc is needed for this. She asked if they do not already allow public comment to go first and again after the presentation. Ms. McFerson responded that there are people who are affected by all that the presentations entail and when that happens they need to make comments after, not before. Ms. McClain asked if she wanted to have another public comment period after a presentation. Ms. McFerson clarified that there would be public comment after the agenda item so the community can provide input about the presentation.

Cynthia Conteas-Wood, RCAC 3 Chair, asked if this motion is about creating an ad hoc committee to discuss this. Ms. McFerson responded that if they need an ad hoc to come up with a more accessible way for people to make public comments after the presentations. If the ad hoc is not necessary, ECAC could vote on having the public comment after the Agenda item.

Ms. Eakins stated that the motion was made and seconded as is, if they would like to change it there would need to be an amendment to the motion.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that there is no mechanism right now to allow people to make public comments after a presentation. People are forced to submit their comments via email, voicemail, or text before they can hear the presentation and make an appropriate question. She stated that Ms. McFerson is suggesting the ad hoc discuss other methods to have comments after the presentation. Ms. McFerson is suggesting to make an ad hoc to find other ways to make public comment more valuable.

Ms. McClain stated that this can be handled today. Ad hoc meetings could be saved for other things. She thinks they should vote to amend the motion without an ad hoc, to have public comment after the item. She does not feel they need to create an ad hoc. Ms. McFerson thanked the members for their input and suggested that the motion could be amended so the ad hoc is not created, and the committee can vote on a motion to have public comment after an agenda item is presented.

Ms. Eakins asked Board Services to clarify the proper procedure. Linda Merkens, Senior Manager, Board Services, stated that the motion can be voted on as written or there can be an amendment made and then voted on.

Idalia De La Torre, Field Supervisor, CO&E, asked that the amendment be stated clearly, seconded, discussion held, and the committee can then vote.

Ms. McClain made a motion that public comment be read after the agenda item instead of before:
I, Deaka McClain, amend the current motion that Ms. McFerson had put before us to add an ad hoc. I am asking that we remove that word and we just put in the
motion that moving forward that in the future have the public comments so people can participate and have a comment after agenda items instead of before. Ms. McFerson accepted the amendment to her motion and seconded the amended motion.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that the motion as currently written will not allow members to speak directly to the subject matter, and this misses a big part of the changes you are trying to make. Ms. McFerson stated that she did not want to add the word “read” in the motion, but used the word, reflect. She would like to give the public the opportunity to hear the presentation and then have a public comment. She stated that she seconded the amended motion and asked if there is anything that needs to be changed to make sure that the public can have an opportunity to hear the presentation and then comment.

Ms. De La Torre asked Ms. McClain to again state the amended motion clearly so members know what they are voting for. Ms. McClain clarified that the amended motion should be clear that after an agenda item and after ECAC discussion, public comment can be shared based on what was discussed as well as the presentation. Ms. McFerson agreed that the amended motion should allow public comment after the presentation and ECAC discussion. Ms. McClain restated the amended motion:

I, Deaka McClain, amend the current motion that Ms. McFerson has put before us to have an ad hoc, I'm asking that we remove that word and amend the motion that we will, in the future, have the public comments where people can participate and have a comment after all agenda items, whether it be an agenda item discussion or a presentation. Ms. McFerson accepted the amendment and seconded the amended motion.

Ms. Vazquez asked if there are any other questions that need to be asked.

Ms. Lara stated that she is confused. The motion is confusing and it does not take into consideration what Ms. Gonzalez stated earlier. She asked how are members going to get their comments in during the presentation to be read after the presentation. She noted that other members might be confused. The motion as it is written is very confusing. Ms. McFerson responded that Ms. McClain amended it. Ms. Lara responded that it still doesn’t make sense.

Ms. McClain stated that this will not work, because they are on Zoom and not holding an in person meeting. People have to put their comments in before the item. Ms. Lara responded that what you are reading is not what you are intending.

Ms. Eakins responded that the committee is trying to make the best decision for ECAC members and the community. The Brown Act provides for comments to be made before or during the item. The community has an opportunity to weigh in on what works best for them. She noted that many members do not have the opportunity to send their comments.
during the presentation in this virtual environment. We get maximum input when we ask for comment before the item. When we ask for comment during the item, some members, especially our senior members, will not be able to participate. Ms. McClain agreed that this will be difficult to do on Zoom.

Ms. McFerson asked that they move forward with a vote on the amended motion due to time. She noted that people for whom it is accessible can make public comment after the item.

Ms. Contreas-Wood stated that everyone has good points, but she needs to see the final motion in writing. She is also confused about the motion. She would feel better about seeing written a motion that is more reflective of what Ms. McClain stated.

Ms. McClain asked that the motion be tabled for the next meeting once the language has been agreed on. She noted that a vote may not go the way Ms. McFerson wants it to go.

Ms. McFerson stated that there is already an amended motion on the floor and they need to vote on it. Another motion could be submitted in the future. Ms. Eakins responded that only the Chair can call for a vote.

Ms. Vazquez asked the committee to take into consideration that there was an initial motion on the floor and it has been amended. She called for a vote on the motion as amended.

Ana Romo, RCAC 8 Chair, stated that she is not in agreement, because if they accept public comments at the end it will delay the meeting further. She stated there has to be a better way.

The amended motion was restated as:

**Motion that ECAC have the order of the agenda to reflect public comment be allowed after the agenda item presentation and the ECAC comments and decisions.**

Ms. McFerson called Point of Order, and stated that the original motion was still on the floor. Ms. Merkens clarified that Ms. McFerson accepted the friendly amendment, and the original motion was replaced by the amended motion, which was voted on.

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**Motion was not approved.**

4 Ayes (Byrd, McClain, McFerson, Salazar)

4 Nays (Contreas-Wood, Lara, Poz, Romo)

4 Abstention (Hernandez de Cordero, Refugio, Sanchez, Vazquez)

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**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Lara asked if L.A. Care can purchase 22 personal computers that RCAC Chairs and Vice Chairs can use to fulfill their roles as ECAC members on behalf of L.A. Care members.

Ms. McFerson stated that she “… basically making sure that we participate in some sort of community involvement so that the vaccination and different things like that people just like us will be able to advocate for those things and give people necessary information letting
them know how important the COVID-19 vaccine is. I want to be able to do that with the RCACs or ECACs, whoever is willing and able to participate communicating with our members at different events and things that we have in conglomerance with CBOs. Can we come together as a group and let people know how important it is.”

Ms. McClain asked Ms. Merkens if ECAC can put Ms. McFerson’s motion back on the agenda. Ms. Merkens responded that she would contact Ms. Eakins. Ms. McClain suggested an agenda item to form an ad hoc with regard to Ms. McFerson’s motion.

Ms. Vazquez suggested that they add a topic to discuss member treatment at doctor offices.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that she would like to see an update on the urgent care centers. People are getting sick with the flu and other things and people need to know which sites are open.

Ms. Perez asked for clarification about Ms. Lara’s suggestion about computers. Ms. Lara noted that certain members don’t have computer access right now but can only use the phone. Some members have a computer but are not able to use Zoom.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public Comment submitted by Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Chair:

*Madam Chair of ECAC and the ECAC members. I would greatly appreciate if all ECAC members can consider the at Large representatives to provide updates and give reports to the consumers. Particularly for those that have special needs since this is very important information. Also, chairs of the RCAC’s be more focus on issues and please speak up. Thank you for the opportunity to give my comments.*

Public Comment submitted by Rachael Rose Luckey, RCAC 4 Member:

*I would love to be able to give public comment but until I have heard the updates from Auleria, I have no clue as to what comments I could give that would be relevant. Please move public comment to before questions from members of ECAC. Thank you.*

Public Comment submitted by Carolyn Rogers Navarro:

*LA Care used a “healthcare” contractor called Synermed who in turn contracted with a fake named company and LA Care signed contracts (I obtained copies) under this fake name without due diligence for years! This was verified by the Dept of Managed Care. Google Synermed DMHC 2019. Synermed in turn restricted access to doctors and procedures, due process that enrollees had the right to, causing bodily harm and deaths. The Dept of Managed Care verified what I’m saying, they issued a “corrective action “ that LA Care “follow up with” victims of this fraud, our dead daughter is a victim but no one has formally*
notified us and I don’t believe LA Care has informed other people, even worse I see the same abuses now in 2021 and I found evidence that Synermed bad actors continue to have a hand in poor care, enrollees are still feeling the after effects of this fraud, I don’t care what name they now hide behind now. We alerted LA Care about Synermed fraud in 2014, we were treated like we lying, they defended Synermed and would not help our daughter who had the right to LA Cares help! De La Torre, do not make one more condescending “upset mother” remark to explain my comments, my gender has nothing to do with these facts that enrollees have the right to know about! I reported my concerns to the IRS, that I have never been “followed up with” as ordered by the Department of Managed Care, which is LA Cares fiduciary duty to do, instead LA Care is beholden to for profits who provide bogus “healthcare” so LA Care fails to fulfill its obligations as a nonprofit!

I’m very alarmed that me the mother of a Synermed victim came forward and you people acted like you were hiding something, acted defensive, defended Synermed and refused our 100s of attempts to get help for our autistic daughter who ended up dying. A decent fiduciary would want to know if a contractor was committing fraud which I alerted you to, you have no business being a fiduciary, especially you, Mr. Baackes, you denied a contract with Synermed who contracted under a bogus name “EHS” and were affirmed to be the same people (verified by DMHC) but you didn’t state that part of things in response to my comment, you only used this bogus front company as justification to discredit my public comment when everything I said is based on the DMHC enforcement that Ms. Haydel received and responded to. I’m not overacting, you people are disgusting and should be investigated and shut down! You do not intimidate me, I AM getting justice for my daughter and I’m making major progress, you people hiding under slimy rocks isn’t holding me back at all, it’s just making LA Care look bad!

The minute L.A. Care took our complaint against Care 1st and EHS and assigned an agent to our case was the minute our daughter became L.A. Cares responsibility, so in retaliation for us complaining L.A. Cares doctors decides to block our daughter’s rights to assistance when this “doctor” had NO authority to do so, another complaint I mailed to the IRS!

Ms. Eakins announced that the food pantry schedule is now available on L.A. care’s website.

Ms. McFerson stated that she is so glad that there was discussion on her motion, as she had originally proposed for the next meeting. ECAC does have a purpose and should all work together. She has done nothing but advocate for low income people, disabled and seniors.
Public comment should be more accessible for all, so people can comment after a presentation. She asked that they work together and reminded the committee that they have a purpose.

**Public Comment submitted by Rachael Rose Luckey, RCAC 4:**
You have violated the Robert rules of order by not voting on the original motion. An amendment was moved, seconded and it did not pass but the original motion was still on the floor and is still on the floor. You all need to read your Robert’s rules!!!!!!!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:</th>
<th>APPROVED BY</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victor Rodriguez, <em>Board Specialist II, Board Services</em></td>
<td>Fatima Vasquez (due to public health orders the document will be signed when it is possible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malou Balones, <em>Board Specialist III, Board Services</em></td>
<td>Fatima Vasquez, <em>ECAC Chair</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Merkens, <em>Senior Manager, Board Services</em></td>
<td>Date 4/14/21</td>
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**ADJOURNMENT**
The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.