

Board of Governors

Executive Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2023

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



ECAC Members	RCAC Members/Public	L.A. Care Board of Governors/Senior Staff
Russell Mahler, RCAC 1 Chair Estela Lara, RCAC 2 Chair Cynthia Conteas-Wood, RCAC 3 Chair, ECAC Vice-Chair Silvia Poz, RCAC 4 Chair Maria Sanchez, RCAC 5 Chair Andria McFerson, RCAC 6 Chair Fátima Vázquez, RCAC 7 Chair, ECAC Chair Ana Romo, RCAC 8 Chair Tonya Byrd, RCAC 9 Chair Damares O Hernández de Cordero, RCAC 10 Chair Maria Angel Refugio, RCAC 11 Chair Lluvia Salazar, At-Large Member Deaka McClain, At Large Member * Excused Absent ** Absent *** Via teleconference	Izmir Coello, Interpreter Isaac Ibarlucea, Interpreter Alex Mendez, Interpreter Estefanie Mendez, Interpreter Katelynn Mory, Interpreter Susana Sanchez, Interpreter Norma Angelica Álvarez, Public Sandra Aramburo, Public Gisela Brigido, Public Elizabeth Cooper, Public Andrea Domingo, Public Olive Ezenda, Public Brigitte Green, Public Adela Guadarrama, Public Janet Henderson, Public Lynnea Johnson, Public Fresia Paz, Public Dazzling Sanchez, Public Maria Tamayo, Public	Hilda Pérez, Member, Board of Governors Layla Gonzalez, Advocate, Board of Governors John Baackes, Chief Executive Office, L.A. Care *** Francisco Oaxaca, Chief of Communication and Community Relations Marina Acosta, Manager, Health Equity, Health Equity Department Miriam Admasu, Department Assistant, CO&E Tyonna Baker, Community Outreach Field Specialist, CO&E Malou Balones, Board Specialist, Board Services *** Cherie Compartore, Senior Director, Government Affairs Department *** Idalia De La Torre, Field Specialist Supervisor, CO&E Johanna Gonzalez, Quality Improvement Project Manager II, Quality Improvement Department *** Hilda Herrera, Community Outreach Field Specialist, CO&E Xin Lee, Quality Improvement Project Manager II, Quality Improvement Department *** Rudy Martinez, Safety & Security Program Manager III, Facilities Services0 Joshua Mendoza, Community Outreach Field Specialist, CO&E Linda Merkens, Senior Manager, Board Services Nicole Moussa, Manager, Technical Information, Pharmacy & Formulary *** Victor Rodriguez, Board Specialist, Board Services Prity Thanki, Local Government Advisor, Government Affairs *** Martin Vicente, Community Outreach Field Specialist, CO&E

AGENDA ITEM/PRESENTER	MOTIONS / MAJOR DISCUSSIONS	ACTION TAKEN
CALL TO ORDER	<p>Chairperson Fatima Vazquez called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Chairperson Vazquez advised the public to recheck the directions for updates prior to the start of the meeting.</p> <p>“Members of the Executive Community Advisory Committee, L.A. Care staff, and the public can attend the meeting in-person at the address listed above. Public comment can be made live and in-person at the meeting. A form will be available to submit public comments.</p> <p>Accordingly, members of the public should join this meeting via teleconference as follows: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84483536180 Teleconference Call –In information/Site Call-in number: 1-415-655-0002 Participants Access Code: (English) 2498 768 0914 Call-in number: 1-415-655-0002 Participants Access Code: (Spanish) 2488 424 7871 For those not attending the meeting in person, public comments on Agenda items can be submitted in writing by email to COEpubliccomments@lacare.org or by calling the CO&E toll- free line at 1-888-522-2732 and leaving a voicemail.</p> <p>Attendees who log on to lacare.zoom using the URL above will be able to use “chat” during the meeting for public comment. You must be logged into Zoom to use the “chat” feature. The log in information is at the top of the meeting Agenda. This is a new function during the meeting so public comments can be made live and direct.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The “chat” will be available during the public comment periods before each item. 2. To use the “chat” during public comment periods, look at the bottom of your screen for the icon that has the word, “chat” on it. 3. Click on the chat icon. It will open a window. 4. Select “Everyone” in the to: window. 5. Type your public comment in the box. 6. When you hit the enter key, your message is sent and everyone can see it. 7. The chat message, 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. 8. L.A. Care staff will read the chat messages for up to three minutes during public comment so people who are on the phone can hear the comment. <p>Your comments can also be sent by voicemail or email. If we receive your comments by 10:00 a.m. on May 10, 2023, it will be provided to the members of the Executive Community Advisory Committee at the beginning of the meeting. The chat message,</p>	

	<p>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.</p> <p>Once the meeting has started, public comments should be submitted prior to the time the Chair announces public comments for each agenda item and staff will read those public comments for up to three (3) minutes. Chat messages submitted during the public comment period for each agenda item will be read for up to three (3) minutes. If your public comment agenda is not related to any of the agenda item topics, your public comment will be read for up to three (3) minutes at item IX Public Comments on the agenda.</p> <p>Please note that there may be a delay in the digital transmittal of emails and voicemails. The Chair will announce when the public comment period is over for each item. If your public comments are not received on time for the specific agenda item you want to address, your public comments will be read at the public comment section of the agenda.</p> <p>The purpose of public comment is that it is an opportunity for members of the public to inform the governing body about their views. The Executive Community Advisory Committee appreciates hearing the input as it considers the business on the Agenda.</p> <p>These are extraordinary circumstances, and the process for public comment is evolving and may change at future meetings. We thank you for your patience.</p> <p>All votes in a teleconferenced meeting shall be conducted by roll call.</p> <p>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 calling our toll-free line at 1-888-522-2732 or by email to COEpubliccomments@lacare.org.</p> <p>SB 1100 was signed by Governor in August 2022, and added a short section to the Brown Act as Govt Code Section 54957.95 to supplement language already part of the Brown Act :</p> <p>(a) In addition to authority exercised pursuant to Sections 54954.3 and 54957.9, the presiding member of the legislative body conducting a meeting may remove an individual for disrupting the meeting.</p> <p>(b) As used in this section, “disrupting” means engaging in behavior during a meeting of a legislative body that actually disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting and includes, but is not limited to, both of the following:</p> <p>(1) A failure to comply with reasonable and lawful regulations adopted by a legislative body pursuant to Section 54954.3 or 54957.9 or any other law.</p> <p>(2) Engaging in behavior that includes use of force or true threats of force.</p> <p>(54954.3 contains provisions related to public comment time restrictions, and 54957.9 allows the presider to clear the room if the meeting can’t continue.)</p> <p>AGENDA and PRINTED MEETING MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BEFORE THE MEETING AT L.A. Care’s Offices at 1055 W. 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017 through the Reception Area in the Building Lobby.”</p>	
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APPROVE MEETING AGENDA	<p>Member Maria Sanchez, <i>RCAC 5 Chair</i>, stated that the agenda's date is incorrect. It should read May 10, 2023.</p> <p>Member Andria McFerson, <i>RCAC 6 Member</i>, stated that Member Russell Mahler, <i>RCAC 1 Chair</i>, asked for more information about the RCAC restructure and thanked staff for doing that. She stated that some of the topics she asked to be on the agenda are not on the agenda. She asked that there be an agenda item about an emergency drill and COVID-19 updates.</p> <p>The Agenda for today's meeting was approved with the changes mentioned above.</p>	Approved by roll call. 12 AYES (Byrd, Conteas-Wood, Hernandez de Cordero, Lara, Mahler, McClain, McFerson, Poz, Salazar, Sanchez, Refugio, Vazquez)
APPROVE MEETING MINUTES	<p>Member McFerson stated that it basically states in third person and that they make the agenda, this is what it's saying, but she thinks it's more like a "we." "We make the agenda." "They are made so that we can speak to each other as far as health goes." Having a list that they did not agree on amongst especially themselves. She was explaining the fact that the agenda adhere to the necessities of the people that they represent in their community. She wants to reiterate that this is third person and it's not actually what she said specifically. It does say that Mr. Baackes is first, but he was second on there. She thought the things he was saying were very important. But they were not placed on the agenda. He was talking about how ECAC needed to have some sort of structure to where they won't concentrate on the minutes and the agenda, they won't concentrate on the basic instruction you have before and then approving agenda and then approving the minutes.</p> <p>The April 20, 2023 meeting minutes were approved with the changes mentioned above.</p>	Approved by roll call. 12 AYES (Byrd, Conteas-Wood, Hernandez de Cordero, Lara, Mahler, McClain, McFerson, Poz, Salazar, Sanchez, Refugio, Vazquez)
STANDING ITEMS		
UPDATE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	<p>John Baackes, <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>, gave a Chief Executive Officer Update.</p> <p>He apologized for not being there in person, he is in Sacramento attending a meeting to increase the amount of money coming into Medi-Cal to expand the providers available. He reported that the Medi-Cal redetermination process has started with mailing of information to those who need to renew eligibility. L.A. Care learned that in the April mailing, 45% of the notifications to the beneficiary that eligibility had been automatically redetermined and the members is eligible for another year. The Department of Public and Social Services (DPSS) receives data on a beneficiary from other agencies which includes enough information to make the eligibility redetermination without a redetermination form. If the number of members automatically redetermined holds steady every month going forward,</p>	

that is a great relief. Because that is 45% of the people that do not need to worry. For that automated process to work for everyone, DPSS has to have the most current information. He encouraged everyone to update the information with DPSS.

California's state budget for 2024 has a huge deficit. In 2023, California had \$100 billion revenue surplus. What effect will it have on Medi-Cal? the service provider in Medi-Cal gets about 50% compared to Medicare was paying and about 30% of payment by commercial health insurance. L.A. Care took a lead in forming a coalition last summer. It is now called the California Safety Net Coalition (CSNC). This organization will attempt to create a tax that will supplement Medi-Cal funding currently provided by the state and the federal governments. The initiative would appear on the ballot in November of 2024. In the meantime, the Governor will announce his revised budget on May 12. The revised May Budget will include a tax from the same source to be implemented in this year's budget starting on July 1. He is confident it might work because for the first time in California, the coalition that L.A. Care put together includes hospitals, doctors, independent doctors, clinics and federally qualified health centers. It also includes the medical groups L.A. Care contracts with and it includes health plans. These have all come together as a coalition that represents the entire system to try to make Medi-Cal work in California. He will keep the committee informed at future meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member:

Good morning, members of ECAC, Chairperson, and members of ECAC. And good morning, Mr. Baackes. I see some old timers here. Not that they're old but just old timers. Mr. Baackes, I would like to ask you a question. First, I would like to bring to the attention of the ECAC members and Chair, we're not lawyers, when you quote what changes in the Brown Act, there should be someone from the legal department, Mr. Baackes to advise us. I don't know about law. I don't, I'm a simple person. We're not lawyers. We're what the laws are. If I have to follow the rules, I want to know what the rules mean. One thing I would like to bring to your attention, Mr. Baackes I was part of many years ago why wasn't the coalition consists of consumer members? That's what recommend the executive committee the RCAC should have been part of the coalition because as part of their -- they engage the members who will be impacted if providers don't get the service. And finally, Mr. Baackes, I think we need to talk about what the rule, what I hope it cries out and begs your attention regarding changes in the RCAC which I will discuss later. And I thank you for your leadership, Mr. Baackes. These issues -- they cry out for your attention. And also the RCAC should be

involved because providers are not paid. You'll find that piece address I thank you very much.

Mr. Baackes responded that Mr. Oaxaca will report on later in the meeting on the proposed changes in the RCAC structure. He encouraged everyone to listen carefully, because it really is being designed to get new blood into the RCACs and to also provide more forums where members can actually talk about issues, instead of all the formality that we have in these meetings which take up so much time.

Now the CSNC is made up of entities that put up the money to do this. The ballot initiative process is not going to be cheap. And the organizations that are around the table are funding this. L.A. Care is there as a health plan.

Member Russel Mahler, *RCAC 1 Chair*, asked if members can have input on what he is doing in Sacramento and can he provide this information to members of his RCAC. Mr. Baackes responded that he will draft something that can be distributed to the RCACs.

Member McFerson stated that she is glad he is here and appreciates the updates going to Sacramento and they are very beneficial to bring back to the RCACs. She asked him if everyone will be automatically redetermined for Medi-Cal or just people that receive EBT benefits. She asked, "Is it possible that we can vote on keeping the RCACs so we can be a part of different things like that in general?" She if they do not vote on it today if they can vote on it in the future to keep the RCACs for the next six months and beyond. Beginning January 1 2023, the Assembly Bill AB2449 allows individual Board members to participate in meetings locally of course emergency circumstances, their health keeps them from coming to the meeting and they do it virtually and that is basically what they did to change things a little bit as of January 1 and it also says that the Bill 2647 circulation of public meeting materials, it says that the seats have within 72 hours and then also the public, have it within the next business day. She noted it can be from Friday to Monday. Is it possible to have the written agenda items sent to members before, within 72 hours which the assembly bill.

Mr. Baackes responded that when legislation is signed and passed into law, of course L.A. Care will comply. He thanked her for bringing it to his attention, he will make sure Legal Services and CO&E are on the same page. The Medi-Cal redetermination, whether automated or the actual process, is a decision made by DPSS, L.A. Care does not control that. His understanding is that they tap into data in other agencies that helps determine that they are qualified. He would imagine that is income data and, if they are participating in another public social service and DPSS has access to it, that's how the eligibility is automatically redetermined.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORT	<p>Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Perez gave a Board Member Report.</p> <p>Ms. Gonzalez thanked all the ECAC and RCAC members for attending the meeting today.</p> <p>The Board of Governors met on May 4. Meeting minutes can be obtained by contacting Board Services and on L.A. Care’s website. The list of motions approved at that board meeting is available from CO&E. She thanked all the RCAC members that joined the Board meeting in person. She and Ms. Perez were happy to see members there and making public comments. Public comment gives Board Members the opportunity to hear from its members and it is greatly valued and helps L.A. Care improve its services for L.A. Care members. The following members attended in person:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gladis Alvarez 2. Fresia Paz 3. Amanda Calzada 4. Ana Rodriguez 5. Celia Hernandez 6. Maria Alvarez 7. Nereyda Ibarra 8. Maria Mendez 9. Andria McFerson 10. Elizabeth Cooper 11. Mary Jo Fernando <p>Mr. Baackes gave a CEO Report. He gave an update earlier.</p> <p>Ms. Compartore gave a Government Affairs update. CMS issued two proposed rules for Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Programs that include several substantial changes to Medicaid managed care policies, including the establishment of wait times; requiring states to establish secret shopper surveys; new provider directory requirements; and requiring states to disclose provider payment rates in both fee-for-service and managed care. CMS also recently released a proposed rule that impacts DACA recipients (Dreamers). If finalized, the rule would allow DACA recipients to enroll in Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Programs (CHIP), and the Affordable Care Act’s Health Insurance Marketplaces.</p> <p>ECAC members and RCAC members as well as the public had an opportunity to make public comments. Fresia Paz, RCAC 10 Member, asked the Board about access to the CalAIM services. Board Member Ghaly responded that there are many different aspects of CalAIM, and almost all of the connections to those services would happen through the primary care provider. Ms. Paz asked if the provider is aware of the programs. Board Member Ghaly responded that many of the components of CalAIM have been</p>	
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	<p>implemented but providers have differing stages of readiness. She offered to speak to Ms. Paz' specific needs offline. She pointed out that L.A. Care can help facilitate the connection to services. The programs that L.A. Care offers are available. Mr. Baackes offered to have staff talk with Ms. Paz. Board Member Ghaly responded that there are two broad categories, one is Enhanced Case Management (ECM) which is available through the providers. The second category is Community Supports, which connects with services such as housing and other services.</p>	
<p>COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT UPDATE</p>	<p>Mr. Oaxaca gave a Communication and Community Relations Department Update (<i>a copy of the written report can be obtained from CO&E.</i>).</p> <p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p> <p>Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member: <i>Thank you, Francisco for your presentation. I will -- two board members, Hilda and Layla Gonzalez and. Hilda Perez to please take notice that those members -- I want the two board members to please take notice. This is Ms. Cooper speaking. What happened about 14 years ago, we found out about it. I want to know first Francisco, I want a lawyer. Just a moment, when you said something other than authority and purpose of the advisory committees. You the members for your ECAC, we represent the members, Francisco, it's not that lies are being spread, it's misrepresentation, I feel is being spread. And I would like to know what port of authority did the board approve this? The ECAC, remember, you represent your members, think about this, this is the ballot. The great resource center was to serve the community so what will you do? You'll terminate your rights. It doesn't worry me, I can go to another committee, I gain no financial gain out of this. But I think there are some member who is are present sitting as staff present know what I'm talking about.</i></p> <p><i>Members please take notice because I, Ms. Cooper would like to request that L.A. Care provide a lawyer for me to know my rights as a member under the community. Under the code number 1487966, medicare manage care division policy letter 90901 and I would like to know, Francisco, what was your port of authority change then? Did the board approve this? Did the Board of Governors have to approve? I'm sorry about the time. Public comment. Thank you.</i></p> <p>Brigitte Green, RCAC 6 Member: <i>Shesaid that they were informed at the RCAC 6 meeting there will no longer be RCACs, she asked if they would be voting on it. She asked if it is official that the RCACs will no longer meet and then stated that after listening to the presentation she now understands what is going on.</i></p>	

Mr. Oaxaca responded that as he mentioned in his report and it is important to state the facts, and the fact is that the RCACs are not being eliminated and they will continue. There is no action being taken or action that has been taken by staff. It is a proposal that will eventually go to the Board of Governors for their consideration. Staff is going through an extensive member input process as L.A. Care has always done. Whenever there are any changes to the operation or structure of the advisory committee staff are not proposing anything that is not aligned with the current bylaws regarding the advisory committees or that would require any changes to the enabling legislation that created L.A. Care and set the framework for the advisory committee structure.

Chairperson Vazquez closed the public comment section for this agenda item. She said they will not take questions from the committee and reminded everyone of the meeting guidelines. Member McFerson interrupted the chair and called for point of order. She asked that every chair that raises their hand, including the BOG, be given two minutes to speak and that it not be a dictatorship. They can vote on that decision. Chairperson Vazquez reminded Member McFerson the committee that they must follow the guidelines that were approved by ECAC. They are running short on time. All the presentations and agenda items must be completed.

Member McClain asked Mr. Oaxaca what time the Long Beach Community Resource Center (CRC) grand opening on June 9 will be and she asked if L.A. Care will provide transportation for members that would like to get services at all CRCs. She noted that it is a social determinants issue. She is thankful that L.A. Care is providing help to people that need help with their CalFresh documents. Her issue is that most of them are on fixed income and when it comes to CalFresh they do not get a lot of money. When they had that extra money [inaudible].

Member Salazar asked for an update on her request to have representatives from the CRCs to give reports at ECAC. She noted that it is very important now that all the RCACs are beginning to meet and are not going away. They will still be communicating with the RCACs. She pointed out that she was campaigning in Palmdale and saw an improvement. She spoke to [inaudible] and agreed there should be a representative from every CRC at ECAC. They need to be at ECAC and be familiar with all of them.

Member Mahler thanked Ms. Oaxaca for his update in regards to the RCAC restructure. He is glad that Member Salazar was able to visit them in the Antelope Valley for the first time.

Mr. Oaxaca responded that the grand opening is from 10 am to 12 pm, and an invitation will be going to RCAC and ECAC members. He asked if ECAC will still continue to meet when the RCACs take a break. Mr. Oaxaca responded that they will still meet, ECAC will not change.

	<p>Chairperson Vazquez stated that any members that have any questions please write them down so they can be answered by staff. Member McFerson interrupted the chair and called for point of order. She asked Chairperson Vazquez if they can have the opportunity to vote on whether or not they will continue with the new changes regarding the RCACs. Member Salazar asked Mr. Oaxaca to please answer her questions.</p> <p>Mr. Oaxaca stated that all but two RCACs are meeting at the CRCs. He is making arrangements with the managers so they can be available during the RCAC meetings. They will work directly with the RCACs which ECAC members already attend. CRC staff will take turns attending ECAC. The RCACs will have a regular connection with the CRC and the manager. Member Salazar stated that this needs to happen now, they needed to do that a long time ago. They are late and need to start before the centers open. Mr. Oaxaca responded that they have already started.</p> <p>Member McFerson called for point of order and asked ECAC if they can vote without any interruption from her on something dire that is changing the RCACs. She said that if Chairperson Vazquez does not honor the point of order she will ask Chairperson Vazquez to step out. She said she has the right to say that. Chairperson Vazquez responded that as the Chair she has a responsibility to continue with the agenda and the meeting. She noted that the motion is not on the agenda and is asking for their cooperation Member McFerson is asking for a point of order. Ms. Gonzalez stated that Member McFerson is being disrespectful to Chairperson Vazquez. She understands that Member McFerson wants to express herself, but she is being disrespectful by talking over Chairperson Vazquez. She thinks that Member McFerson is being extremely rude and it should be brought to everyone's attention. It is in the Brown Act that she not be disrespectful and disruptive to the meeting and adhere to the rules in the Brown Act so they can proceed. Member McFerson stated that have every opportunity to speak if they call "point of order." If they don't agree with the Chair they can call point of order and vote.</p> <p>Member McClain called for point of order. She would like this meeting to get back on track. She thanked Chairperson Vazquez for doing an awesome job. She understands that they are trying to get through the agenda, but she asked to please allow the rest of those people one minute only and then have them say what they want to say and then continue. Chairperson Vazquez thanked her for her comments and stated that they must continue with the agenda. Member McFerson said that not all of the Chairs are in the room and they did not get a chance to vote. Member Salazar said the Chair must wait for all the Chairs to return.</p> <p>Member McClain asked if all the members that were not able to speak if they can write down their questions and make sure that their questions are answered.</p>	
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Ms. De La Torre stated that part of the meeting guidelines is to write down any comments and questions are not made due to time limits. Mr. Oaxaca will then provide a response and it will be included in the meeting minutes. Member McFerson called for point of order and said that they are able to vote on specific words Chair is telling them not to do. They can vote on whether or not the RCACs stay the rest of the year and keep that same protocol. They then send that to the board through their Board seats and they make recommendations because the Board has to change face, they have to vote on whether the RCACs come back but if we don't have any representation and don't tell the board, they are going to make sure that they vote how they think, not how members think. She asked for one more minute for the opportunity to represent RCACs today to speak on the RCAC change that Mr. Oaxaca is announcing. Chairperson Vazquez said [inaudible].

Member McClain called for point of order and asked Mr. Oaxaca for clarification on the RCACs taking a break is a state order to prepare for the transition next year. Mr. Oaxaca asked the Chair if he can responded. He responded that Member McClain she is correct in one sense that some of the changes that staff is purposing is to bring L.A. Care into the new contract with the state in house. Those are immovable objects; L.A. Care has to do certain things to remain in compliance with the new contract. The RCACs will spend a certain number of meetings throughout the year in a transition that will take place and to provide more opportunities for members to give us input on that transition process. The RCACs are not going away. The break is meant to give staff and members time to be able to transition in what is being proposed as a new structure in 2024. Member McClain noted there was a misunderstanding and asked if it would be after this meeting or the RCACs. Member McFerson said June. Member McClain stated that they thought they would not meet after June until next year. Mr. Oaxaca responded that the RCACs will continue to meet as they are. The structure of the meetings will be different, but they will be focused on the transition and on staff getting input from members on the proposed structure as they finalize the structure before it comes to ECAC and then the Board. There will be no changes until the Board considers the changes and takes a vote. [inaudible]. Member McFerson would like the opportunity to speak. She said with that being said the state is not choosing to change things, they have every right to keep the Brown Act and Robert's Rule of Order into the RCACs and not allow staff to change things so that it is just a listening session or change things period. She said she would like to file a motion to continue with the same RCACs as they did before with the right to speak, add things to the agenda, and vote on specific things and advise these two seats right here and to advise the Board so they can adhere to the necessities of people and their health care. Member Russell seconded the motion.

Chairperson Vazquez asked for guidance from CO&Estaff. She said they can't vote on any motion that was not on the agenda. Ms. De La Torre stated that is it part of the ECAC to

have all motions documented on the agenda. The motion is not properly documented and they must move forward with the agenda. Member McFerson called for point of order and said there is a motion on the floor and if they go to any other Board of Governors meeting they can file a motion on the agenda item. The motion is towards that agenda item and staff and the Chair can't delegate it. If Chairs want to file a motion they can. She filed a motion to continue the RCACs with the Brown Act and Robert's Rule of Order. She asked if they can still advise the BOG. Member Mahler seconded the motion. Member McFerson asked Chairperson Vazquez if they can vote. Chairperson Vazquez stated that she can't call for a vote, because the motion is not on the agenda. She can't continue. Member McFerson clarified that she is not able to file a motion in regards to agenda item 4C. Ms. De La Torre stated that in order for the public to be aware of the motions and have the opportunity to discuss and be part of the motion, it must be documented on the agenda for any action to take place. Ms De La Torre said the motion can't move forward. They have to be transparent, because they are public meetings. If any action takes place at ECAC it needs to be documented so that the public can take action and participate in the discussion. Member McFerson stated that it is a formal complaint that a staff member can't filibuster a meeting or tell them how to obtain any structure. Mr. Oaxaca stated that there was never any intent to reduce the ability of numbers to comment or have a structure for the RCACs. The RCACs operate the way the RCACs operate and they are considered Brown Act committees. The intent is to provide an opportunity for those meetings during that transition period to be focused more on discussing and restructuring the maximum. Some of the other topics that they would normally be addressing to pause or take a break on those. Member McFerson thanked him for clarifying that and noted they will still have the Brown Act and Robert's Rule of Order in same practice as every two months. They will still have the right to vote and advise the Board seat and they will advise the full Board. Ms. Oaxaca stated that there are no changes being proposed as to how ECAC operates. Member McFerson asked if this also applies to the RCACs. Mr. Oaxaca responded that there are no changes being proposed to that part of the RCAC structure. One thing that he found is that offering the other opportunities that will not operate under the Brown Act and Roberts', found it creates an opportunity to have more open conversations and have conversations that are more efficient. It gives members to be more engaged during roundtable discussions.

The following questions were not asked at the meeting due to time limitations and were answered by email after the meeting:

Member Contreas-Wood asked, "In light of the idea to have RCAC meetings at the Community Resource Centers, I would like to know the closest Community Resource Center in the San Gabriel Valley?" Mr. Oaxaca responded "I think it is Pomona, which is 27 miles from downtown Pasadena where most of our RCAC 3 members live. **El Monte would be the closest center that is currently open. We have a center in Lincoln Heights that**

	<p>is under construction and will be completed this year. That will be the closest center to the Pasadena area. Are there any plans to have a Community Resource Center in Pasadena? Mr. Oaxaca responded “There are no plans to open a center in Pasadena.”</p> <p>Member Lara asked, “Can I attend the Grand Opening of Long Beach on June 9, 2023 as a public?” Mr. Oaxaca responded “All ECAC members are being invited to the event.”</p>	
MEMBER ISSUES	<p>Member Lara stated that at her meeting they had a major issue. She noted that each and every committee member will treat each other with respect. She said that there were two Board seat candidates at her meeting and one of the candidates was told that she could not apply for the Board seat because she did not speak English. She found the remark disrespectful, discriminatory, and rude. She noted that L.A. Care provides interpretation for people who do not speak English. They will start the process of removing this member from the committee.</p> <p>Member McFerson stated she feel it's a bit of a distraction to prolong the meeting with basic roadblocks so that Chairs won't be able to openly speak about healthcare because that is why they're there. They are there to discuss member issues regarding health care. As far as Member Lara's comments she thinks it was prejudicial to actually allow her to speak about the RCACs and not member issues specifically and as far as that goes, they cannot ask someone to lead your RCAC. They cannot do that.</p> <p>Member McClain stated that would like to add to Member Lara's comment and say that some people may not think this is an issue but one of their members was attacked with misinformation. She is a representative for people with disabilities, she just wanted to bring this to this table because one of their members that was verbally attacked is disabled and she is their Chair. She apologized to Chairperson Vazquez, but she feels it needs to be said. Due to this member's abusive comments it caused Chairperson Vazquez to be upset and they will both be filing a complaint. She stressed that they be aware of the code of conduct.</p>	
OLD BUSINESS		
BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTIONS	<p><i>(Member Ana Romo, RCAC 8 Chair, joined the meeting.)</i></p> <p>Linda Merkens, <i>Senior Manager</i>, gave a Board of Governors Elections update.</p> <p>She thanked the committee and welcomed everybody. She noted that everybody should have gotten the reading materials. Last month she provided ECAC with written talking points, because they were short on time. Staff is asking ECAC to provide additional guidance to make a decision about the election rules that this body approved in February. There is not a valid candidate for the advocate seat. There are two alternatives suggested in the memo that was distributed.</p>	

	<p>Member McFerson asked “In order to run for an election, do you have to be a member? Does the consumer advocate have to be a part of a group and receive their recommendations?” She noted that at the last meeting she filled out an application really quickly and she put a member down as the nominee, the President nominated her. Then she was told to scratch that out because she does have, she wants to be a consumer advocate in this election. She said she was distressed that she put the organization that she is with and the person that wants the recommendation letter. After that the person that she put on the application got a call from the staff member, she believes it was Ms. Merkens. They stated that that they have to be a member and they have to have a social security number and get a background check. Now this is what she was told. That is why she was reluctant to do the recommendation letter. She was one of the only persons that filled out that application as a consumer advocate. Her other question is “what is the time limit that somebody has to be a part of another organization or whoever makes the recommendation? Is there a time limit that that person engages in that specific company or organization in order for them to proceed a recommendation letter?” She asked for clarification about her eligibility. Ms. Merkens responded that the rules that were approved by ECAC includes the requirement.</p> <p>“A volunteer of a community based organization or agency who is recommended by that entity as its representative to L.A. Care and who represents the best interests of and brings forward the issues and concerns of the populations served by L.A. Care.” Member McFerson asked if the candidate must have a letter of recommendation. Ms. Merkens responded that there needs to be a letter of recommendation from a representative of that organization. Member McFerson asked if they need to be a member, she said she received an email from her stating that they must be a member. Ms. Merkens responded that she may be misreading something that was sent to her. Member McFerson said that she will see later, because she recorded the conversation. Ms. Merkens asked if she recorded the conversation without her permission. Member McFerson responded that she didn’t say she recorded the conversation with Ms. Merkens, she meant she recorded a conversation she had with someone.</p> <p>Member Deaka McClain, <i>Member At-Large</i>, suggested that they give people the opportunity to apply, but asked if Ms. Gonzalez was willing to continue on the Board as the Member Advocate. She said the memo states that “if Ms. Gonzalez resigns.” She asked Ms. Gonzalez if she was going to resign or if she would like to continue before they vote to extend the application process.</p> <p>Ms. Merkens stated that option one states “If there is no new nominee for the Consumer Advocate seat, Ms. Gonzalez can remain in that seat unless she resigns or ECAC takes some other action.”</p>	
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	<p>Member McClain asked for clarification. She would like to know if they have any candidates. Ms. Merkens responded that there are no valid candidates.</p> <p>Member McClain asked Ms. Gonzalez if she was willing to remain on the Board throughout the extended process. Ms. Gonzalez responded that she is willing to stay until the final replacement, whether it takes a few months or years. She does not want to leave the post if there is no one to replace her. She would like to be sure there is a representative in the post so it's not left alone, but she does not know how long that would take. This election is only to cover the remainder of the current term. She noted that there will be a new election next year for each seat for a four year term. She is willing to stay in her seat until they elect a new Member Advocate.</p> <p>Ms. Perez asked Ms. Merkens if she could please clarify application requirements for the Member Advocate seat. Ms. Merkens responded that she is unsure what is being asked. She asked members to refer to the application (<i>The requirements are on page four of the application</i>). The definitions were created by the original ECAC. Ms. Perez noted that Member McFerson asked “if a person is going to submit an application for the consumer advocate seat, does that person need to be a volunteer with an organization for a certain amount of time? Or the organization can extend or release or provide that person with recommendation?”</p> <p>Ms. Merkens stated that it is decided by ECAC not by L.A. Care. She noted that these definitions were created by ECAC. That is the definition, is a volunteer of the community-based organization or agency who is recommended. It doesn't say anything about time spent or anything else. This is the definition that we work with to follow the rules that ECAC decided.</p> <p>Member Estela Lara, <i>RCAC 2 Chair</i>, asked for the page number that the Member Advocate definitions are on. Ms. Merkens responded that they are on page four. Member Lara asked if a member can run for the member advocate seat. Ms. Merkens said that the rules do not preclude a member from running as an advocate. Member Lara said that if Ms. Gonzalez must leave her seat for unforeseen circumstances ECAC must set a limit for themselves.</p> <p>Ms. De La Torre stated that this election is only to finish the current term which ends in October 2024. She noted that Ms. Gonzalez is willing to stay in her seat until someone else is elected. It has been stated that there will be another election next year.</p> <p>Member Lara asked if the RCAC chairs will also remain until next year. Ms. De La Torre responded that this term limit only applies to the Board seat elections.</p> <p>Member McFerson asked for clarification about the temporary executive advisory committee (TCAC) and asked if that is this committee. Ms. Merkens responded that the</p>	
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	<p>TCAC (referred to in the application) was a precursor to the ECAC. Originally before L.A. Care received its license and began operations as a health plan, there was a planning body and part of the planning body was the group of L.A. Care members and that group was referred to as the temporary executive committee advisory committee. This was back in the 90s. Once L.A. Care got its license, the group became ECAC.</p> <p>Member McFerson stated for the record she is still running as a member advocate. She said she wrote down what staff told her. Which was the nominees name, once she did that, they asked a question. She crossed out the name and put the name of the organization then she received an email saying she must be a member in order to nominate a person and things like that. Everything was up in disarray. Now that it has been clarified she will make sure she gets a letter of recommendation and they carry out the process with her original application date. She thanked Ms. Merkens.</p> <p>Member Lluvia Salazar, <i>Member At-large</i>, stated that she has a question about the recommendation letter. As far as she knows the nonprofit organizations, if they give a recommendation letter, they should have the nonprofit number. “What other information do you require from them?” Since they are a nonprofit organization, they are representing the organization. Confirmation should be more than enough. She asked, “So are you requesting information as far as I know if it's a nonprofit or if the organization corporation is actually the officers of the corporation?”</p> <p>Ms. Merkens responded that the definition just says community-based organization or agency. It doesn't make any further distinction about the organization. L.A. Care has in the past accepted different groups. Accepted the recommendations from different groups. As long as they share a mission to serve the same people that L.A. Care serves. The same communities that L.A. Care serves.</p> <p>Advocate Seat Suggested Alternatives Vote</p> <p>OPTION 1 – Ms. Gonzalez remains in her seat until the next election</p> <p>Estela Lara, RCAC 2 Chair Cynthia Conteas-Wood, RCAC 3 Chair, ECAC Vice-Chair Silvia Poz, RCAC 4 Chair Maria Sanchez, RCAC 5 Chair Fátima Vázquez, RCAC 7 Chair, ECAC Chair Ana Romo, RCAC 8 Chair Tonya Byrd, RCAC 9 Chair Damares O Hernández de Cordero, RCAC 10 Chair Maria Angel Refugio, RCAC 11 Chair Deaka McClain, At Large Member</p>	
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	<p>OPTION 2 – Extend the application period for ONLY the Advocate seat Russell Mahler, RCAC 1 Chair Andria McFerson, RCAC 6 Chair Lluvia Salazar, At-Large Member</p> <p>The committee voted in favor of asking Ms. Gonzalez to continue in her seat as the Member Advocate until October 2024.</p> <p>Member Salazar stated she will choose option two because she thinks they should give a chance to whoever is actually running to give them a chance to run. She said that this game of work is not easy, it's a lot of paper work. She said that everyone that voted for Option one is not giving people the opportunity to run.</p> <p>Ms. Merkens stated that currently there is no valid candidate for the Member Advocate seat.</p> <p>Member Ana Romo, <i>RCAC 8 Chair</i>, asked if Member McFerson submitted her application why is she being allowed to run. If she is the only person running she should be automatically in.</p> <p>Ms. Merkens responded that as of April 12, when the nominations were closed by ECAC, there are no completed applications for the Member Advocate seat.</p> <p>Ms. Gonzalez thanked the committee for allowing her to remain in her seat and looks forward to finding more community advocates so they can run for the Member Advocate seat.</p>	
<p>ECAC AD HOIC COMMITTEE MEMBER SURVEY</p>	<p>Member McFerson gave an ECAC ad hoc committee member survey update.</p> <p>Ad-Hoc Committee Purpose: To work on a potential, feasible questionnaire or survey for relative participants of our community needing proper effective healthcare. This questionnaire can also give L.A. Care instructive information about our members. The Ad-Hoc Committee received a presentation from Linda Carberry, Manager of Quality Data, from the Quality Performance Management Department on the different types of surveys that L.A. Care conducts. The Ad-Hoc Committee members where informed that due to State Regulations and requirements, advisory committee members or the community are not allowed to survey L.A. Care members. Based on the presentation received during the ad-hoc meeting, the committee is recommending the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite Linda Carberry to a future ECAC meeting and educate the ECAC members on how L.A. Care surveys their members. • Work with Linda Carberry to see if L.A. Care can create a poll survey for our RCAC members that can help document their healthcare experiences. 	

	<p>Member Mahler stated that this is good, but instead of meeting through Zoom they should meet in person to continue these discussions. He wondered if this a possibility.</p> <p>Member Salazar said that is a great idea and said that she has been trouble with her dentist. Her dentist tried to schedule her at odd times like 9:00A M on a Monday.</p> <p>Member McClain asked if they can amend this report. She asked if they can help create the polls. She would like to know if ECAC can come up with the questions that will be on the survey. That is her suggestion.</p> <p>Member Romo said that she would like to give support about the questioner, she would also like a follow-up because of the pandemic. She has a problem with two providers from L.A. Care, one in Downey, and one doctor in the Wilmington area. She would like help obtaining a Specialist and resolving those problems. She noted that there are many problems with those providers and they have been talking about them for two years now and nothing has been resolved.</p> <p>Chairperson Vazquez asked for a vote to continue with the recommendations made by the ad hoc committee.</p> <p>Member McFerson noted the amendments that were made by committee members and they need follow up.</p> <p>Ms. De La Torre noted all the comments that were made by members and suggested that the ad hoc may need to meet again. Chairperson Vazquez stated that the ad hoc committee will meet again.</p>	
NEW BUSINESS		
HEALTH EQUITY: GENDER IDENTITY & SEXUAL ORIENTATION (SOGI) AND GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION PRESENTATION	<p>Marina Acosta, MPH, Manager of Health Equity, Health Equity Department, gave presentations about Health Equity: Gender Identity (SOGI) and Gun Violence Prevention (<i>a copy of the full reports can be obtained from CO&E.</i>).</p> <p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p> <p>Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member. I think the Brown Act is being violated. There is a motion. So help me, the Brown Act. I would like to, I'm sorry, but a lawyer should have been here today.</p> <p>Member Salazar asked for clarification on the difference between pansexual and queer. Her child asked her and she was not able to give an explanation. Ms. Acosta responded that she would like to have an expert come in and speak on subject matter, but noted that pansexual is someone who open to all genders as a partner. Queer is an umbrella term for anyone that is gay or lesbian.</p>	

	<p>Member McFerson thanked Ms. Acosta for her presentations. She appreciates her presence and for what she does for the community and what she allows others to do. She is pretty sure there are members in the room that would love to participate in some of the programs she offers to reach out to the community about violence and equal rights. She asked if she can stay and ask any members if they would like to participate. Ms. Acosta thanked her for her comments and is happy to return to an ECAC meeting.</p> <p>Member Lara asked what is the difference between a transsexual and a transvestite. Ms. Acosta responded that transvestite is no longer a valid term it is outdated. Transgender or transsexual are the more appropriate terms and refers to someone that is going through or has gone through a sex change.</p> <p>Ms. Perez thanked her for giving this report. She noted that there is a great need for education on these topics and on how to be respectful of people's sexual orientation. She asked if there are any efforts on putting this information on the social media pages. Ms. Acosta thanked Ms. Perez for her comments and suggestions.</p>	
COLORECTAL INTERVENTION UPDATE	<p>Johanna Gonzalez, <i>Quality Improvement Project Manager, Quality Improvement department</i>, and Xin Lee, <i>Quality Improvement Project Manager</i>, gave a Colorectal Intervention Update (<i>a copy of the full report can be obtained from CO&E.</i>).</p> <p>Member Romo asked if all L.A. Care members will be receiving this information. Ms. Gonzalez said that all members ages 45 and over will receive this information.</p> <p>Member Contreas-Wood thinks it is important to let people know that a colonoscopy is painful and there are no symptoms. She said everyone needs to get this procedure when eligible and very quick.</p>	
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS		
	<p>Member McFerson said they need to speak about the RCACs at the next meeting before any decisions are made. She noted that Member McClain spoke about having an emergency drill. She would like RCAC members to get the Gun Violence Prevention Presentation.</p> <p>Member Byrd would like clarification on everything. She wants to know if RCACs will continue to have meetings. She would also like to know what is their role as ECAC members and the community in relation to the Community Resource Centers.</p> <p>Chairperson Vazquez said she would like staff to give a presentation about durable medical equipment.</p>	
PUBLIC COMMENTS		
	Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Member:	

Members of the ECAC I thank you for giving me a chance to listen. But first, I would like to give knowledge to profilers encouraged. But I agree or disagree, I would like to get profile and courage, Andria, she is people of courage. Whenever she speaks, she speaks about the RCAC. Unfortunately, sometimes the people who represent us don't always speak for us. We also, that is a concern that I want to address but I want to say to each of you the Brown Act is very important. What I witnessed today, I feel there was some violations of the Brown Act because in its motion, the public have a right to speak. Any motion that is wrote up, you have to be aware, members of the ECAC, you represent us. You don't just represent yourself. And I would like to bring up another issue. I was present when those marks was made. I didn't agree with them but let the record so reflect, I didn't agree with them because I believe in diversity. And I don't think it was intended that way. But the person who made those remarks has not been very careful, sensitive to members and I feel as a person of color, I have seen not courtesy, not one time have we through our field specialist, I ask many times with the Chair. So I think if you have, if you don't have clean hands, you should never discuss someone else. If you go and speak about how 1 person is treated, let us speak about all. And our Chair that represents, not one time to the best of my knowledge, action that come to do the field special which I request, do you have any concern, and I think of -- to me has been very discourteous, and you would think the meeting is not run. I respect each one of you all and for future talks, I still say, each and every one of you, but for the RCACs, I'm still requesting an outside to look at this and actually fairly. And I do feel that the person who chose to run advocacy should have been chosen according to the rules that imply that I'm disappointed with some people that put their names out there. But one final thing, if a candidate is running for office, anyone sitting at the table, they have the right to speak but they should let the candidate know I'm a candidate for office, I've only seen two candidates and a democracy. I needed to know, I don't know who is running for office and some of you send that for table. If you run for the FRCs or running for the RCAC Chair, you should present that. Thank you.

Janet Henderson, RCAC 2 Member:

I'll reiterate some of what Ms. Cooper said and as far as -- I'm not going to name people because I'm not good at beating around the bush. Our RCAC, Estela, she said something that someone said and that person is not even around to defend themselves and I was sitting right next to her. That is not what she said. And I think it should have been discussed with her around. She is also a person of color. And as far as being kind as Ms. Cooper so astutely put it, your hands also

	<p><i>need to be clean. She speaks to us as members so poorly and I get no response from what I write on the comment paper. Nothing. So I think it would be great if we all spoke on ourselves before we point fingers at the way other people talk to each other.</i></p> <p>Elizabeth Cooper, RCAC 2 Chair: <i>Thank you for considering me. I'm trying to advocate for all of you. I'm a single parent of a developmentally disabled son and I care for him very much like I care for all of you. But I want you all to remember, some of the programs that you receive and now. The ECAC as we see, we fought for them. When I was the advise Chair, please don't just ignore what we say. We are the RCAC members and we come here to listen to what you all are doing on our behalf and I respect you, madame Chair, and I respect everybody here at the table but I'm here as an advocate and I was an advocate for I became. And I'm an advocate with my federal, state, and local official. So that is why I listen and I'm going to advise my representative for my legislative department to come and see. See how we end to end. And I just want to thank each and every one of you for giving me the opportunity to speak and those of you who listen to me. Thank you to our veterans.</i></p>	
ADJOURNMENT	<p><i>The candidates running for the Consumer Board Seat presented themselves to the committee.</i></p> <p>Chairperson Vazquez thanked the interpreters, L.A. Care staff, and the public for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.</p>	

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Victor Rodriguez, *Board Specialist II, Board Services*

Malou Balones, *Board Specialist III, Board Services*

Linda Merkens, *Senior Manager, Board Services*

APPROVED BY

Fatima Vasquez, *ECAC Chair* _____

Date _____

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9/13/2023

