

BYLAWS (Rules)
Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC)

We believe:

People with developmental disabilities can be empowered to make choices in all areas of their life, be included in their communities, and participate in decisions affecting their lives.



Article I - Our Name

Our committee is named "**Consumer Advisory Committee**" (CAC).

Article II - Purpose (Mission)

The CAC encourages people with developmental disabilities to become active decision-makers and be representatives for others.

The CAC advises the Board of Directors about issues important to people with developmental disabilities.

What we do

- Speak up for ourselves and other people with disabilities.
- Learn about important issues that affect us.
- Advise the Board of Directors and staff on policies.
- Share information about our rights, IPPs and other issues.
- Teach people about Boards and committees.



Article III - Membership and Term

The CAC will have 14 members.

Any person who receives services from the regional center can be a CAC member.

Members are chosen by a majority vote of CAC members at the next meeting after the Consumer Advocate receives an application.

The CAC will elect a chairperson to represent the committee at ELARC Board of Directors meeting. If the Chair is not able to represent the CAC at Board meetings, a representative can be chosen by the committee.

Applications for CAC membership are available on the ELARC CAC website or ask the Consumer Advocate.

Membership is for 3 years. Members can serve 2 terms in a row.

The ELARC Consumer Advocate is an advisor/helper to the committee and not a member of the committee and does not vote.



Article IV - Officers and Elections

Officers: Chair and Vice-Chair.

Officers are elected by CAC members. The person who receives the most votes will be the Officer for 2 years. An Officer can be voted into the same office 2 times.

If a person cannot complete their term, the CAC will elect a new Officer. That person can run for any office and be elected 2 times.

Duties of the Chair:

1. Schedule/attend planning meetings with the Consumer Advocate.
2. Develop meeting agenda with Vice-Chair and Consumer Advocate.
3. Know the agenda and run the CAC meeting.
4. Help arrange for guest speakers.
5. Represent the CAC in the community.
6. Create committees to work on new ideas or events.
7. Present the CAC report at ELARC Board meetings.
8. Follow-up on issues brought up at CAC meetings.
9. Be a leadership mentor for members.
10. Know the CAC bylaws and meeting procedures.

Duties of the Vice-Chair:

1. Participate in planning meetings.
2. Help Chair and Consumer Advocate develop meeting agendas.
3. Help the Chair run the CAC meeting.
4. Run the meeting when the Chair is absent.
5. Help Chair with committee assignments or member requests.
6. Know the CAC bylaws and meeting procedures.



Article V - Meetings

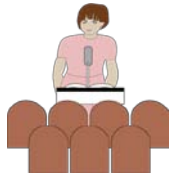
The annual CAC meeting is July. Officer elections take place at the annual meeting.

The CAC meets 4 times a year. The day and time of the meeting is decided by CAC members and ELARC staff.



Article VI - Voting

Each CAC member has (1) vote and votes on all issues.



Article VII – Attendance

CAC members who miss 3 meetings in a row but want to remain a member, can ask the Chair for a temporary leave from attending meetings.



Article VIII

Representation on the Board of Directors

If there is an opening on the Board of Directors and a CAC member has an interest in becoming a member, they can apply by completing a “Board Application Form” available from the regional center office.