

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes**

January 16, 2013

**Present:** Richard Dier, Duane Joslin, and Jeremy Sunderland – Committee Members  
Connie Lapin and Jennifer Pecor – Guests  
Lawrence Burton – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative  
Diane Ambrose, Joan Daniels, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

**Absent:** Craig Girard, Dawn Hamilton, and Martha Lopez

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Duane Joslin, in Jeremy's absence, at 6:23 p.m.

**II. Public Input**

A. Connie made the following announcements:

1. Medi-Cal patients are suing the state over being forced into managed care. Connie shared copies of an article that was published covering their story.
2. Connie and her husband were recently featured in the Jewish Journal "mensch list" for being a "two-person army for their son" with autism. Connie wants to emphasize to young parents that their child with a disability is a long term commitment.
3. The Autism Society of Los Angeles, in conjunction with the Family Resource Center, held a conference last week called, "The Future is Now: Creating a Meaningful Life for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders" at California State University, Northridge. She attended that conference.

**III. Consent Items**

**A. Approval of Agenda**

A new Item IV.C. was added to the agenda.

**M/S/C** (R. Dier/D. Joslin) To approve the agenda as modified.

**B. Approval of Minutes of November 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The minutes were approved as presented.

#### **IV. Committee Business**

##### **A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report**

The exceptions report lists requests from consumers and families for services that are outside of the center's service standards and whether those services were approved or denied. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of this fiscal year, the center approved 195 requests and denied only 4.

The exemptions report lists requests made for services that have been suspended or reduced as a result of the trailer bill language. The report showed that during the first 2 quarters of this fiscal year, no exemptions were requested or subsequently granted.

##### **B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report**

Copies of the report were provided to the committee for their review. The report showed diagnostic information about the center's consumers each quarter since the beginning of FY 2010-11. Of the 18,793 consumers that the center serves, the diagnosis breakdown is as follows:

1. Intellectual Disability: 8,143 (7.7% increase since July 1, 2010)
2. Autism: 6,237 (**22.61% increase**)
3. Cerebral Palsy: 528 (4.14% increase)
4. Epilepsy: 221 (2.31% increase)
5. Other developmental disability: 933 (12.27% increase)
6. Early Start: 2,731 (7.73% increase)

George noted that consumers who have more than 1 disability are put into the category of their primary diagnosis. The center's caseload has increased by nearly 11% since July 1, 2010.

##### **C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Appeals & Hearings Report**

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY 2012-13:

1. Eligibility: 423 Notices of Action were sent and 20 were returned (appealed).
2. Service: 343 Notices of Action were sent and 11 were returned.

3. Hearings: 9 fair hearings were held:
  - 5 eligibility hearings (all decisions pending)
  - 4 service hearings (1 denied, 1 partially granted, and 2 decisions pending)

**D. Review Mission, Vision, and Values Statement for Possible Changes**

The center's current mission, vision, and values statement was developed at a board retreat in 2007. It is being present to this committee to see if it needs any updating. It was suggested that the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet under the vision section include a reference to health care.

**Action:** Committee members and staff will review the center's current mission, vision, and values statement and bring any suggested changes to next month's committee meeting.

**E. Monthly Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report**

Copies of the written CPP report for December 2012 were provided to the committee and Diane reviewed it with them. The center's goal for this fiscal year is to place 14 consumers out of Lanterman Developmental Center, Fairview Developmental Center, and Canyon Springs and to find or develop placements for them in the community. The center is on schedule for meeting its placement goal and will probably exceed it. It takes about 3 years to develop a community home so they are all becoming available now.

George added that the legislature had asked the Southern California regional center directors to provide them with testimony in regards to the closure of Lanterman Developmental Center. Several of the directors were uncomfortable with doing this, however, 7 of the directors agreed to submit testimony as a group. This testimony was sent to legislators yesterday; we also sent ARCA a copy.

**F. Questions re: Monthly Quality Assurance and Special Incident Reports**

These reports are provided at each board meeting as part of George's director's report. They are an agenda item at this meeting in case anyone had any questions regarding either report. There were no questions regarding either report.

**V. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

- A. Minutes of January 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report
- C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report
- D. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Appeals & Hearings Report

**VI. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input**

**A. Complete Meeting Evaluations**

Duane asked the committee members to please complete evaluation forms and submit them to him with any comments.

- B. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.

**VII. Adjournment**

Duane adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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