

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2012

Present: Thomas Aguinaga (via video-conference), Richard Dier, Craig Girard, Dawn Hamilton, Duane Joslin, Martha Lopez, and Jeremy Sunderland – Committee Members
Connie Lapin and Jennifer Pecor – Guests
Joan Daniels, Susana Gil, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Craig Girard at 6:06 p.m.

II. Public Input

A. Connie Lapin's Input:

1. Connie provided copies of an article in the LA Times called, "California patients struggle to transition to managed care system." Although it is allowed, apparently it is a very difficult for people to opt out of the program.

Action: George will contact Disability Rights California to ask them if they will post the opt out process on their website.

2. The Autism Society of LA has released their policy recommendations on the state budget and Connie circulated a copy of it.
3. The state of Oregon was found to be out of compliance with their provision of vocational and educational opportunities to people with disabilities. As a result, thousands of consumers were denied access to basic American life.
4. In New York, the governor and legislators agreed to develop a new agency to monitor public abuse of its 1 million residents with disabilities.

5. Connie asked for a status report on the “The Way Forward” movement for regional centers. George stated that the surveys were sent out, the responses are being compiled, and so far it seems that everyone likes the system as it is. The next full group of The Way Forward regional center directors and board representatives will be held Monday, July 23rd, at Harbor Regional Center.
6. The LA Autism Society currently has a project underway where they sent many local leaders in the developmental disabilities field to Israel to find out more about the services for people with disabilities that they offer there. Diane Ambrose is one of the participants – and told Connie that it is an amazing trip.

III. Consent Items

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes of May 16th Meeting

The agenda and minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Committee Business

- A. Elect a Committee Chair for FY 2012-13

An overview on the duties of the committee chair was given.

M/S/C (C. Girard/R. Dier) To elect Jeremy Sunderland to serve as the committee chair for this fiscal year.

Action: Duane Joslin will begin the meeting, on Jeremy’s behalf, any time the he is not able to arrive on time to start the meeting himself.

- B. Annual Committee Orientation

1. Committee Policies and Procedures
2. Core Values for Policy Development
3. Bylaws Statement
4. Board Audit Section

The documents were provided to the committee and briefly reviewed. Committee members should become familiar with these documents as they outline the purpose of the committee and the responsibilities of the committee members.

Action: George would like to make a few updates to the committee's board audit section. Those changes will be presented at next month's committee meeting.

C. Committee's Critical Calendar for FY 2012-13

Copies of the committee's critical calendar for this fiscal year were provided. Jennifer puts the items listed under each month on the committee meeting agendas so they can be addressed.

Action: Jennifer will ask Ruth Janka, the center's contract administrator, if she would be available to give a training on the Lanterman Act at next month's committee meeting.

D. 4th 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 4th quarter of last fiscal year, the center approved 155 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 4th quarter, the center approved no exemptions and denied no exemptions.

E. 4th 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 July 1, 2009. Of the 18,471 consumers that the center serves (an increase of 619 consumers since the 3rd quarter report), the diagnosis breakdown is as follows:

1. Intellectual Disability: 8,039 (8.14% increase since July 1, 2009)
2. Autism: 5,967 (26.31% increase)
3. Cerebral Palsy: 511 (2% increase)

4. Epilepsy: 221 (7.28% increase)
5. Other developmental disability: 902 (15.35% increase)
6. Early Start: 2,779 (1.91% decrease)
7. Prevention: 52 (72.92% increase)

George noted that consumers who have more than 1 disability are put into the category of their primary diagnosis. Also, the prevention category will disappear from future reports year as the prevention program came to an end on June 30th due to trailer bill language. The center is going to do some more aggressive outreach to try and capture more children in the 0-3 range; it is so important to get these children the services they need while they are still at a young age.

F. 4th Quarter Update on the Transition of Consumers to Managed Care

Dr. Carlo DeAntonio, the center's director of clinical services, provides the committee with this update on a quarterly basis. A written update was provided to everyone present.

G. Supported Living Services (SLS) Standardized Assessment Questionnaire

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is developing a standardized supported living service (SLS) assessment questionnaire for regional centers to use that would take the place of SLS assessments.

H. Discussion re: the Committee's Priority Issues for FY 2012-13

Copies of the committee's goals for last fiscal year were reviewed and discussed:

1. Ensure that the Board of Trustees is provided with trainings by regional center vendored programs, in coordination with the Vendor Advisory Committee.
2. Oversee the implementation of the trailer bill language.
3. Ensure that the center is in compliance with waivers, statute, and regulations, and is aware of the center's caseload ratios.

Action: The committee should give some thought as to what the committee's priorities should be for this fiscal year and they will be discussed at next month's committee meeting.

I. Monthly Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report

Copies of the written CPP report for June 2012 were provided to the committee for their review. The center's goal for last fiscal year was to place 10 consumers out of Lanterman Developmental Center (which is closing) and find or develop placements for them in the community. The center did not meet its goal. We made 6 successful placements but 8 more are still in transition. The barriers to the placements can be attributed to a variety of factors including delays in licensing and opposition by Lanterman Developmental Center staff.

J. 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.

K. FY 2012-13 Committee Meeting Schedule

Copies of the meeting schedule were provided. The committee generally meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.; however George noted that the committee does not meet in December or June. Also, the committee meeting in November will be held on a Tuesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday. And an annual legislative training session is held in lieu of the committee meeting each spring. This fiscal year, the training will be held Tuesday, March 12th.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the August 8th board meeting:

- A. Minutes of July 18th Meeting
- B. 4th Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report
- C. 4th Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report
- D. 4th Quarter Update on the Transition of Consumers to Managed Care

VI. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 15th at 6:00 p.m.

B. Complete Meeting Evaluations

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

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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