

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
February 7, 2013

**Present:** Lawrence Burton, Rick Clemens, Bob Erio, Sienna Greener-Wooten, Michelle Heid, Jonathan Istrin, Roy Jensen, Pam Jordan, Ken Lane, Rebecca Lienhard, Jenni Moran, Scott Shepard, Gay Wane, and Asilia “Dolly” Wauls - Committee Members  
Erica Beall, Jennifer Kaiser, Anna Polin, Kim Rolfes, George Stevens, and John Youngbauer - Staff Members  
Faun Jimenez, Nicole Webb, Cynthia Fernandez, Tara Svenker, Pamela Jacobson, Jill Martin, Donna Thomas, Sherman Mitchell, Liz Bunkell, Erica Rosas, Maribel Galvan, Doug Pascover, Donnette Springman, Royce Siggard, Marina Pink, Brandon Seigel, Khrystyna Cusimano, Dina Gordillo, Kathleen Sturkey, Chris Bratzel, Lisa Lee, Matt Mahoney, Miriam Corona, Rhonda Bunnin, Dina Gordillo, Nancy Parelskin, and Sharise Henson - Guests

**Absent:** Wayne Tashjian and Salisa Wagner

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

Jenni Moran, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:31a.m. Everyone present was introduced.

**II. Public Input** - There was no public input.

**III. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Agenda

Item V.A. Survey Monkey was added to the agenda.

**M/S/C** (G. Wane/L. Burton) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from January 3<sup>rd</sup> VAC Meeting

**M/S/C** (R. Lienhard/D. Wauls) To approve the minutes as presented.

**IV. Director’s Report**

George Stevens gave the following report:

- A. Workers' Compensation: It is state law that our providers carry workers' compensation insurance (even for family members). We need for all our providers to comply with this. We are sending a second letter out to providers who have not yet submitted proof of their workers' compensation coverage.
- B. Audited Financial Reports: All providers whose billing is \$250,000 or more must have an audit performed and submit the results to the regional center. We will be sending out reminder notices to those providers who have not submitted their information.
- C. State Budget: The governor's proposed state budget for next fiscal year includes \$4.3 billion for services and supports to over 266,000 consumers in the state, including the following for community services:
1. \$177.5 million increase for regional center operations and purchase of service budgets to cover increasing caseloads and expenditures.
  2. \$46.7 million to cover the anticipated June 30, 2013 sunset of the 1.25% payment reduction.
  3. \$9.9 million increase for co-payments for health care related services.
  4. \$7.2 million savings by making permanent the annual family program fee rather than have it "sunset," as scheduled, on June 30, 2013.
  5. The sunset of the remaining 1.25% payment reduction to regional centers and service providers.

George added that the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is pushing for the following additions:

- The restoration of all cuts that have been made over the years.
  - The sunset of the annual family program fee on June 30, 2014.
  - The restoration of the Early Start program.
- D. SB 946 (Insurance coverage for autism-related treatment): The Legislature wants to extend the sunset date for this legislation. The regional centers are not 100% in favor of this because it is not really meeting the needs of our consumers and families and it is not even close to achieving the projected cost savings.
- E. Employment First Policy: The Legislature wants to bring back this policy and see that it is fully implemented.
- F. New Legislation: There are lots of new bills being introduced, including:

1. A licensing bill for people who provide applied behavior analysis services. There is concern that this bill could create a shortage of qualified therapists.
  2. A sex crime bill.
  3. An affordable housing bill.
- G. Sonoma Developmental Center: They have lost certification for 4 of their programs which results in a loss of federal funding. The state will have to make up this loss in the amount of \$36 million per year. The ARCA body supports the closure of all of California's developmental centers.
- H. "The Way Forward" Movement: Interviews are being held with nationwide leaders in the developmental disabilities field. We are also trying to determine how the state of New York garners so much federal funding for their consumers. The movement's Steering Committee will be meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> and the full group will meet on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- I. Vendor Rates: Bob Erio asked George when he thought providers should act against the rate freezes and adjustments. George's answer was "sooner rather than later." George added that the center's Government & Community Relations Committee will be meeting with new legislators in our catchment area and will include the vendor rate issue in their dialogues. Rate reductions are simply not a good long-term strategy; as lower cost programs close, due to unsustainable rates, they are replaced by higher cost programs. Providers need to have agreement and speak in 1 voice. Also, providers should make their case to legislators in the assembly and in the senate as the governor has the ability to "blue pencil" items in the budget. The center has been collecting data on its programs that have closed due to budget cuts/rate freezes. Bob stated that we should include the program closure information in our "restoration and recovery" plan.
- J. Kim Rolfes, chief financial officer, gave the following reports:
1. SB 137 (Transparencies): This bill will require the center to post the rates and business contact information for all of our providers on our website.
  2. Independent/Supported Living Services: The center's contracts with its ILS and SLS providers will expire at the end of June. As the new contracts will need to be approved by the Board of Trustees, they will be sent out to providers shortly for their review and approval.

3. DS 1891 (Medicaid Integrity): We will soon have a program installed on our website that will allow providers to check on the Medicaid eligibility of potential employees.
4. Hourly SLS Rates: We are updating the timeline for changing SLS providers to hourly rates and will need providers' In-Home Support Services (IHSS) notification forms.
5. Inactive Providers: We have contacted all providers who have been inactive for 2 years. If they do not respond to our letter by requesting to remain active, we will close their vendorization. However, if a provider chooses to reactivate their vendorization after we have closed it, they will have to start at the very beginning of the vendorization process and comply with all of the new requirements.
6. Vendorization for Insurance Co-Payments: We will be holding a meeting on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, to provide information on how to become vendored to cover families' co-payments. A memo with additional information will be sent out soon.
7. Early Start Providers: We are following up with all of our Early Start providers to make sure they are in compliance with the required staff qualifications.
8. Closing Out FY 2010-11: We will be sending our reminders to our providers that we are closing out FY 2010-11; any invoices for services provided during this time period must be submitted to us before the end of April so we can pay them in May. As our contract with the state will be closed, we will not have a mechanism in place to pay any invoices submitted after this deadline.
9. Bed Bugs: We have information available on how to stop the spread of bed bugs.
10. SLS Guidelines: We are finalizing these guidelines and will be meeting with our SLS providers to talk about restrictions on taking consumers out of the area/state/country.
11. IHSS Rate Increase: Effective January 1, 2013, the rate increased from \$9.00 to \$9.50 per hour.

12. Money Management: We will be releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to a new money management provider late this month.

13. Behavioral Services: We will be releasing an RFP for providers to conduct independent assessments, periodic visits, etc. for our behavioral service providers.

## V. Brief Committee Business

A. Survey Monkey: The survey should be finalized today so it can be sent out. Jenni asked if there were any further comments on the survey. VAC members provided the following input:

1. The reference to a time frame for completing the survey should be removed.
2. If possible, you should be able to save the survey and return to it later in case you aren't able to complete it all at one time.
3. A comment section should be included at the end of the survey.

**M/S/C** (S. Shepard/G. Wane; Opposed: R. Jensen) To approve the survey monkey as modified.

Jenni thanked Kim Rolfes and her staff for including service providers in the development of the survey.

## VI. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

A. Minutes of February 7<sup>th</sup> VAC Meeting

## VII. Announcements/Public Input

A. Next Meeting: Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. (full meeting)

## VIII. Committee Work (Committee breaks into their priority issue teams)

- A. Early Start/Prevention Services
- B. Children's Services (this group will meet jointly with the Adult Services group)
- C. Adult Services
- D. Mental Health Issues

**IX. Adjournment**

Jenni adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m. and the VAC broke into their priority issue teams for individual discussions.

Submitted by,

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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