

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2012

Present: Lawrence Burton, Rick Clemens, Bob Erio, Sienna Greener-Wooten, Jonathan Istrin, Roy Jensen, Pam Jordan, Ken Lane, Jenni Moran, Scott Shepard, Wayne Tashjian, Gay Wane, and Asilia “Dolly” Wauls - Committee Members

Eden Garcia, Jennifer Kaiser, Anna Polin, Kim Rolfes, George Stevens, Joan Watson-Patko, and Dr. John Youngbauer - Staff Members

Maribel Galvan, Carolyn Caldwell, Debra Donovan, Cyndi McAuley, Rhonda Bunnin, Rita Guerrero, Cassandra Turner, Erica Rosas, Ella Williams, Lisa Lee, Nicole Webb, Anthony Jenkins, and Helen Wade - Guests

Absent: Michelle Heid, Rebecca Lienhard, and Salisa Wagner

I. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Jenni Moran, chair, at 9:35 a.m. Everyone present was introduced.

II. Public Input - There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item V.B. was deferred to next month’s meeting.

M/S/C (S. Shepard/P. Jordan) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from September 6th VAC Meeting

M/S/C (L. Burton/G. Wane) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Director’s Report (George Stevens, NLACRC Executive Director)

A. George thanked everyone for their support and well wishes during his recent medical leave.

- B. We continue to project a deficit in our purchase of service (POS) budget for FY 2010-11 of about \$3.5 million. Consumers' Individual Program Plans drive our service decisions and they will continue to do so. George added that we are still about \$500,000 short in our POS budget for FY 2009-10.
- C. The center grew by about 1,000 cases last fiscal year and we anticipate further growth this fiscal year.
- D. Senator Steinberg is chairing a committee that is overseeing POS diversity, which George sits on. George doesn't see how the committee will be able to come up with an accurate product without expanding the entitlement. George encouraged service providers to keep watch on this committee.
- E. A hearing on the Lanterman Developmental Center (LDC) closure will be held on October 23rd. They will be discussing community placements in mental health facilities and out-of-state. Finding placements for the final remaining LDC residents is going to be problematic for many reasons and expensive as they are the consumers who are most difficult to serve.
- F. SB 1381 has been chaptered and will require the state to replace the term "mental retardation" with "intellectual disability." We will all need to change our paperwork accordingly to implement this change.
- G. The Department of Developmental Services' new whistleblower policy was supposed to keep regional centers in check. However, instead it is turning into service providers pointing fingers at one another. We recently had an individual apply for vendorization and when told about the staffing requirements she filed a whistleblower complaint stating that other Early Start providers were not complying with the staffing requirements. The center will be meeting with Early Start providers to help them understand staffing requirements. If DDS audits a provider and they find a staffing problem, there is nothing the regional center will be able to do at that point to help the provider.
- H. The center will be holding a candidates' form and voter education/registration event on Tuesday, October 16th. This will give our community the opportunity to have a conversation with people who want to represent us in the open assembly and senate seats in our area. We are hoping for a good turnout as we want to show them our numbers and our interest (numbers translate into votes!). The questions for each candidate have been mailed to them ahead of time so they can develop their answers. Flyers for the event were made

available. Gay Wane asked if the candidates would be asked about their position on the propositions.

Action: Lawrence Burton is a member of the candidates' forum work group and will take Gay's suggestion back to them.

- I. Dr. Youngbauer announced that UCLA will be holding a conference on aging, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease primarily as they relate to people with down syndrome. The conference will be held at UCLA on Wednesday, October 17th and he was asked to be one of the keynote speakers. More information about this conference has been posted on the center's website. There is a nominal cost for entry.
- J. Dr. Youngbauer also announced that the Autism Task Force is winding up its activities to provide their recommendations on the implementation of SB 940 (insurance coverage for autism-related behavioral services). Once finalized, they will submit their recommendations to the governor and they will then be put into draft regulations which will be briefly released for public comment. George added that the center is already implementing this bill by contacting applicable families and asking them to request coverage for their services. The center will cover co-payments on a case-by-case basis, but cannot pay deductibles as they apply to the entire family, not just the consumer.

V. Committee Business

A. Group Photo of VAC for the VAC Web Page

A group photo of the VAC will be taken after the meeting for the center's website.

B. Review VAC Action Log from FY 2011-12 – *Deferred*

C. Board-Approved VAC Priority Issues and Teams for FY 2012-13

Jenni informed the VAC that the Board of Trustees approved their request to continue their priority issue work groups from last fiscal year into the current fiscal year. The purpose of the groups is to provide the board with advice and guidance on each area, from a vendor standpoint, at the end of the fiscal year.

VI. Reports from the VAC Priority Issue Work Groups

A. Early Start/Prevention Services (Roy Jensen)

Notes from the meeting were provided to everyone present. Roy stated that the group discussed how difficult it is to staff in-home occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech services due to the fact that it can be a 2-hour service (including driving time) and you can only bill for 1 hour. A representative from CASHA will be writing a letter to the center in this regard.

B. Children's Services (Rick Clemens)

Notes from the meeting were provided to everyone present. Rick stated that the group will be finalizing the flow chart for behavioral services which has been developed but not distributed as yet. They also discussed guidelines for having a vendor representative at new parent orientations and the implementation of SB 946. They closed their meeting by thinking of questions that could be used for the candidates forum. Rick stated that this group is to be addressing issues that affect consumers between the ages of 3 and 21 years. The group is in need of participation by additional members who provide services to teen consumers up to age 21.

C. Adult Services (Rebecca Lienhard)

Notes from the meeting were provided to everyone present. Scott gave the report on Rebecca's absence. The group discussed the reinstatement of the quarterly supported living service meeting. Some of the group members expressed a desire to develop additional resource lists that could be shared among providers (e.g. workers compensation carriers, health benefit carriers, etc.); currently the VAC has resources lists for CPA/auditing firms and advocacy organizations. They also discussed the center's new e-mail encryption and services for older consumers. Scott stated that several years ago a group existed that discussed services for older consumers and met on a quarterly basis; they would like to start that group up again. Ken added that he and Dr. Donna Lane recently met with the center's supervisors regarding the need for adequate services for older consumers.

D. Mental Health Issues (Pam Jordan/Gay Wane)

This group does not meet after the VAC meetings like the other groups; they meet at 3:00 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month at the regional center's main office in Van Nuys. The group meets jointly with staff from the regional center and the Department of Mental Health (DMH). They use their meeting

time to discuss and resolve individual case issues. Recent ones include consumers with a dual diagnosis who are transitioning into adulthood and how they and their families are coping. Gay added that the availability of adequate housing for consumers with a dual diagnosis is extremely difficult to come by. Due to confidentiality, the meeting details cannot be discussed here. If anyone has a client who needs DMH services, please contact Steve Johnson, adult unit supervisor at the regional center, and he can make arrangements for the group to discuss it. The goal of the group is to improve the collaboration efforts between the regional center and the DMH – and this has been very fruitful!

VII. Report on Board Committee Meetings

A. Administrative Affairs (Ken Lane)

The committee has met twice since Ken's last report. Highlights of those meetings include:

1. A pre-audit meeting with the center's new auditors (Lautze & Lautze).
2. NLACRC is one of the fastest growing center in the state.
3. DDS has told the regional centers that they are not obligated to pay the centers' full rental costs for their office space.
4. Intermediate care facilities are required to pay the center within 30 days of receiving payment from DDS, however if they are late it causes a tremendous cash flow issue for the center. The center's ICF/state plan amendment billing is currently around \$650,000 per month, which is about \$8 million per year.
5. Chapman & Associates gave a presentation on the center's insurance coverage.
6. A behavioral service provider is closing due to financial restraints that will impact 22 consumers.

B. Board of Trustees (Jenni Moran)

Jenni gave the following highlights from the September 12th board meeting:

1. Diane Ambrose gave a presentation on a study mission she participated in with 38 other professionals in the developmental disabilities field. They went to Israel and visited 14 programs in 7 days! The group will be meeting soon to discuss what kinds of programs they could replicate her in California.

2. The board reviewed the center's draft 2013 performance contract with DDS. The contract will be presented to them again this month for their approval before sending it up to DDS. The draft contract is posted on the center's website.
3. The proposed trailer bill-related changes to the center's service standards were presented to the board. They will be presented to them again this month for their approval before sending them up to DDS for their approval. Once DDS approves the service standard changes, the center will make them available for dissemination.
4. The next board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 10th at Desert Haven in Lancaster. Board meetings are always open to the public so feel free to sit in on one!

C. Consumer Services (Rebecca Lienhard/Lawrence Burton)

D. Government & Community Relations (Rebecca Lienhard/Lawrence Burton)

Lawrence reported that Rebecca attended the meetings and she was not present to give a report.

E. Housing (Jonathan Istrin)

Jonathan stated that the Housing Committee has been given a presentation on special needs trusts and on Inland Regional Center's master trust. Both of these options are a good way for families to plan to keep the family home for their consumer. Information about Inland's master trust is available on their website. Also, the Housing Committee finalized the following goals for this fiscal year and will be presenting them to the board for approval:

1. Identify possible funding streams for housing projects.
2. Share legislative information with the Government & Community Relations Committee, the Vendor Advisory Committee, and with elected officials.
3. Pursue ways for parents to hold their homes in trust for their consumers (e.g. special needs or pool trusts).
4. Explore all types of housing information at each Housing Committee meeting and will make time at meetings for presentations by various housing organizations.
5. Monitor the progress of the nonprofit organizations to acquire and renovate properties in accordance with the approved community placement plan housing plan.
6. Review Request for Proposals (RFP) grants for our catchment area.
7. Monitor the housing development for consumers coming out of Lanterman Developmental Center.

F. Nominating (Bob Erio)

The Call for Applications for the Board of Trustees, Vendor Advisory Committee, and Consumer Advisory Committee will be going out to consumers, families, and with the vendor checks this month. The deadline for application submission is December 31st. The Nominating Committee will be meeting on January 3rd to review the applications that were submitted and to schedule subsequent interviews.

G. Strategic Planning (Roy Jensen)

Roy announced that the next quarterly meeting will be held Monday, November 5th, at 6:30 p.m. However, the meeting will be held after the November 1st VAC meeting and the VAC doesn't meet in December, so he won't be reporting on that meeting until the January 3rd VAC meeting.

VIII. Open Issues for Discussion

- A. Scott announced that the TASH conference will be held on Wednesday, November 8th. For more information, go to their website at www.tash.org.
- B. Ken announced that he recently heard Dr. Ron Cohen, director of United Cerebral Palsy in Los Angeles, speak about the decreasing availability of affordable low cost housing. The situation is bleak.
- C. Gay and Dolly both expressed their appreciation to the center for enabling them to participate in the recent ARCA conference that was held in Pasadena.

IX. Identify any Specific Items for Board Discussion (for the next board meeting)

- A. Minutes of October 4th Meeting

X. Announcements/Information/Public Input

- A. Next VAC Meeting: Thursday, November 1st, at 9:30 a.m. (work groups meet)

XI. Adjournment

Jenni adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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