

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

June 7, 2012

**Present:** Lawrence Burton, Bob Erio, Sienna Greener-Wooten, Jonathan Istrin, Roy Jensen, Pam Jordan, Ken Lane, Rebecca Lienhard, Jenni Moran, Scott Shepard, Wayne Tashjian, Donna Thomas, Salisa Wagner, Gay Wane, and Asilia “Dolly” Wauls - Committee Members

Erica Beall, Trudy Callahan, Joan Daniels, Jennifer Kaiser, Cherylle Mallinson, Anna Polin, Kim Rolfes, George Stevens, and Dr. John Youngbauer - Staff Members

Christina Rajlal, Marie Pierre, Rita Guerrero, Celina Lopez, Robin Palin, Andrew Day, Rhonda Bunnin, Mary Cady, Arcelia Berleson, Lisa Lee, Chris Bratzel, Cynthia Fernandez, Anthony Jenkins, and Helen Wade - Guests

**Absent:** Rick Clemens and Lori Sivazlian

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**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**

M/S/C (R. Lienhard/J. Istrin) To approve the agenda as presented.

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

M/S/C (L. Burton/R. Lienhard) To approve the minutes as presented.

**IV. Director’s Report**

**A. NLACRC’s Budget**

1. Purchase of Service (POS): The center has received additional allocations from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), so the center will

not have to borrow any money to get it through this fiscal year. We are still projecting a deficit of about \$7.5 million, but we believe DDS intends upon fully funding our POS expenditures.

2. Operations: DDS gave us additional funds in March so we have begun hiring; we only wish they had given us these funds last July so we could have hired the staff at that time.

## **B. Insurance Coverage for Autism-related Services (SB 946)**

The center is in the process of implementing this new law which will go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup> and have been collecting copies of benefit cards from our consumers and families over the past year. We are preparing to send out letters to consumers and families letting them know the steps that need to be taken by them and the steps the regional center is going to take. We want this process to be as seamless as possible. We continue to try and outreach to insurance companies to talk about their implementation plans. George suggested that vendors try to get on insurance companies' panels. The California Association of Health Plans asked Dr. John Youngbauer for referrals and he provided them with a list of the center's behavioral service providers. The insurance companies seem to be unaware of what they're getting into. DDS expects that the implementation of this program will save the state \$80 million. We still don't know who will be responsible to pay any co-payments or deductibles.

## **C. Electronic Billing**

We still have vendors who have not signed up to submit their billing electronically. We continue to try and contact these vendors because if they don't sign up, we do not have another way of paying them.

**Action:** Vendors should contact George with any issues they are experiencing with the center's electronic billing system so he can share them with the ARCA Information/Systems Committee (of which he is a member) for discussion.

## **D. Prevention Program**

We seem to be missing seeing children before they turn 3; many of our intakes are now children who are 4, 5 or 6 years old. We are deeply concerned about not being able to serve these children earlier. George is asking staff to prepare an outreach program.

**Action:** Vendors should contact George with any suggestions or ideas on how to reach out to physicians or families of children 0-3.

#### **E. Managed Care**

It looks as though Los Angeles will become a demonstration project. We've posted information about it on the center's website. There are advantages and disadvantages to the program and consumers do have the choice to opt out of the program. Representatives from L.A. Care and Health Net representatives come to the center once a week and are available to staff, consumers, and families to answer their questions or to help them enroll. Jonathan Istrin stated that they haven't set pricing as yet on long term services for seniors; he contacted DDS about this, but they had no answers for him. George stated that they carved out long-term care for consumers, plus consumers will need to change their plan anytime they go in or leave an intermediate care facility. Also, they won't disrupt in-home support services this year, but they may next year.

#### **F. Required Caseload Ratios/Community Meeting**

The center did not meet its required caseload ratios for 2 reporting periods in a row. As a result, DDS requires us to hold a community meeting to give our community an opportunity to provide us with their ideas on how we can better comply with the ratios. DDS held back \$426,000 of our operations funding until March of this year; if they had given us this money in a more timely manner, we could have hired the service coordinators that we needed to comply with the caseload ratios. The community meeting will be held Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

#### **G. State Budget**

We are expecting that the budget will be signed by June 15<sup>th</sup> or before, as the legislators don't get paid until they pass it. The legislators have been busy holding budget hearings but they did not accept any public input during the final hearings. Highlights of the proposed budget include:

1. The 4.25% payment reduction will be reduced to 1.25%, but it looks like it won't sunset for 2 years.
2. DDS is developing a standardized supported living service (SLS) assessment questionnaire for regional centers to use that would take the place of SLS assessments.

3. Increased access to federal funding (we support this but it is an additional investment of staff time). Anyone who can be institutionally deemed needs to be.
4. A moratorium on admissions to the developmental centers (we are hoping that they will postpone this for at least a year to allow regional centers time to develop enough appropriate placements in the community). Consumers who are judicially involved will be sent to Fairview Developmental Center.
5. Accessing private insurance to cover Early Start services.
6. A \$50 million trigger that is tied to the elections in November.
7. Regional centers will receive funding for their caseload growth.

Although the legislators are not receiving any public input on the budget, the center's board president is writing on the budget to the members of the Assembly and Senate Health and Human Services Committees. Our local legislators will be copied on that letter.

## **H. Perceived Inequity of Services**

Recent comments made at one of the budget hearings coupled with an article published in the L.A. Times infer that there is an inequity of regional center services for consumers and families of racial minorities. As a result, DDS is collecting information from the regional centers in this regard. From George's perspective, services are based on a consumer's Individual Program Plan. We have diverse staff who want to help people get the services they need. George finds this inference troubling and divisive.

## **I. Appreciation**

George thanked the members of the Vendor Advisory Committee for all of their hard work this fiscal year and for the high level of service they provide to our consumers.

## **V. Brief Committee Business**

- A. Election of FY 2012-13 VAC Chair

**M/S/C** (S. Shepard/R. Lienhard) To re-elect Jenni Moran to serve as VAC chair for FY 2012-13.

B. VAC Representatives on Board Committees

Jenni will be contacting VAC members to find out their interest and availability for serving on the board's subcommittees. VAC representatives will be needed to serve on the following committees:

1. Administrative Affairs
2. Consumer Services & Government/Community Relations
3. Housing
4. Nominating

C. Outgoing VAC Members

Donna Thomas and Lori Sivazlian will be leaving the VAC. Jenni thanked both of them for all of the contributions they made to the VAC. They are 2 phenomenal women and she applauds them. They will be honored for their service at the annual board dinner on Saturday night.

D. New VAC Member Nominees

Michelle Heid, from Behavioral Learning Center, and Christina Rajlal from Path Point, have been nominated to serve on the VAC! Their election will be held at next week's board meeting.

**VI. Identify any Specific Items for Board Discussion** (for the next Board meeting)

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

**VII. Announcements/Public Input**

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. (no July meeting). Jenni will be on vacation so Bob Erio will be chairing the meeting in her place.

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

- A. Early Start/Prevention Services
- B. Children's Services
- C. Adult Services
- D. Mental Health Issues

## **IX. Adjournment**

Jenni adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m. and the committee broke into their priority issue groups for individual discussions (except for the Mental Health Issues team which meets on the last Thursday of the month at the regional center's main office in room 210).

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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