

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2013

Present: Daniel Becerra, Jessica Gould, Duane Joslin, Debra Newman, Jeremy Sunderland, and Tavia Wooley – Committee Members
Connie Lapin and Jennifer Pecor – Guests
Eric Leh – Board President
Diane Ambrose, Maria Bosch, Sara Iwahashi, Michele Marra, and Liliana Windover – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Duane Joslin called the meeting to order for Jeremy Sunderland, chair, at 6:00 p.m. He asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

II. Public Input

Connie made the following announcements:

- A. Three large health insurers have denied coverage for occupational and speech therapies.
- B. She attended a fabulous conference regarding caretakers.
- C. Last month, Disney replaced its Guest Assistance Card (GAC) with Disability Access Service Card (DASC). With the GAC, people with disabilities did not have to wait in line. The DASC allows people to “virtually” wait in line. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) wanted consumer and family input on this new system and put out a survey with a deadline of November 19th (yesterday).
- D. Connie was happy to see that supported living had become an option for some consumers moving out of the developmental centers and into the community.
- E. Connie is a member of a developmental center task force which has been meeting to discuss the future of the state’s developmental centers. They have had several meetings so far and 3 meetings so far and have agreed upon the importance of

providing adequate supports in the community. Their final meeting will be held next month.

- F. A special advisory committee on self-determination has been formed by Terri Delgadillo, director of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The committee includes an ARCA representative, herself and Judy Marks from the LA Autism Society, 2 regional center directors, and other stakeholders. It's just a beginning.
- G. The new minimum wage and overtime laws will have a dramatic impact on providers and consumers. The Lanterman Coalition wrote a letter about it to Governor Brown. Minimum wage and overtime for workers is a good thing, but it must come with adequate funding.
- H. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) will be making recommendations regarding DDS's budget. They are considering expanding funding for DDS.
- I. Area Boards 5 and 10 prepared a new document called "Shredding Services and Supports to People with Developmental Disabilities/Cumulative Impact of Budget Cuts through 2013." Copies of the document were shared with the committee.

Action: Copies of the Area Boards' document on the cumulative effects of budget cuts will be shared with the Board of Trustees for their information.

III. Consent Items

A. **Approval of Agenda**

M/S/C (D. Newman/J. Gould) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. **Approval of Minutes of October 16th Meeting**

Two corrections were made to the minutes. In Section II.B., the second sentence should begin, "*They* have had 3 meetings so far . . ." and in Section II.C. June was replaced with January.

M/S/C (D. Becerra/J. Gould) To approve the minutes as modified.

IV. Committee Business

A. 1st Quarter Appeals & Hearings Report

During the 1st quarter of FY 2013-14:

1. Eligibility: 357 Notices of Action were sent and 12 were returned (appealed).
2. Service: 323 Notices of Action were sent and 16 were returned.
3. Hearings: 5 fair hearings were held:
 - 4 eligibility hearings (1 dismissed, 1 denied, 1 granted, and 1 decision pending)
 - 1 service hearing (denied)

B. DDS's Fair Hearing Semi-Annual Report

DDS compiles fair hearing data from all 21 regional centers, and also records fair hearing decisions rendered by the Office of Administrative Hearings. They present this information in a report that is issued every 6 months. The most recent report was provided to the committee reviewed. The majority of service appeals were for behavioral services (214 filed statewide). There was some speculation as to why Eastern L.A. Regional Center had so many hearings compared to other centers (a total of 33 compared to NLACRC's 8).

C. Monthly Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report

The goal for FY 2013-14 is to place 21 consumers out of Lanterman (LDC), Canyon Springs (CS), Porterville (PDC), Fairview Developmental Center (FDC), and the Institutes of Mental Disease/Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers (IMD/MHRCs) into community settings. The FY 2013-14 plan was submitted by NLACRC to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on June 27, 2013 and approval for the plan was received on September 24th. As of October 31st, NLACRC has placed 8 individuals out of LDC, 1 out of CS, and 5 out of IMD/MHRCs into community living settings, a total of 14 placements for the fiscal year to date.

D. 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.

E. Board Audit: Review the center's Mission, Vision, and Values Statement to determine if the center is providing adequate guidance in establishing consumer services policy.

Diane reported that we will need to make changes to our service standards to reflect new changes in law, including the new self-determination program. Connie added that Disability Rights California (DRC) is developing a fact sheet for the self-determination program.

Action: Connie will forward the DRC's fact sheet on self-determination to Jennifer so she can share it with the committee.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

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

- A. Minutes of November 20th Meeting
- B. 1st Quarter Appeals & Hearings Report
- C. Area Board Document on the Cumulative Impact of Budget Cuts

VI. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

A. VAC Employment First Philosophy and Policy Statement (Draft)

Diane announced that the Vendor Advisory Committee has drafted an Employment First philosophy and policy statement for the board's consideration and adoption. The first draft of this statement was shared with the committee.

Action: Committee members should take time to review the VAC's draft Employment First philosophy and policy statement and the committee will begin discussing in at the January meeting.

B. Complete Meeting Evaluations

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

C. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 15th, at 6:00 p.m. (no December meeting)

VII. Adjournment

Duane adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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