

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2014

Present: Bob Erio, Rick Clemens, Annie Cox, Michelle Heid, Jonathan Istrin, Pam Jacobson, Rebecca Lienhard, Jenni Moran, Marina Pink, Scott Shepard, Gay Wane, and Dolly Wauls - Committee Members

Absent: Sienna Greener-Wooten, Ken Lane, and Wayne Tashjian

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jenni called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input - There was no public input.

- A. Jennifer Pecor, from The Adult Skills Center, reported that she is participating on the center's Legislative Breakfast Planning Committee. This year's breakfast will be held Friday, April 11th, and the theme will be "direct care professionals: our unsung heroes." The planning committee would like to put together a video to show at the breakfast, but it is going to cost about \$5,000. So far, we have 5 providers who have offered to share the cost, but the planning committee was hoping for at least 10, so the price per provider would go down. If you are interested in collaborating on the video, in a financial capacity, please contact Jennifer at (818) 903-3452. Thank you.
- B. Richard Dier reported that he coordinates care for severely injured adults. He believes that keeping caseload ratios manageable is a very important issue as he knows how difficult it must be to handle so many consumers' cases.
- C. Gay Wane, from New Horizons, announced that they will be celebrating their 60th anniversary this year and have several events being planned to celebrate. The main event will be a cruise in Marina del Rey with lots of entertainment on board. NLACRC is going to be recognized at the event with New Horizons' Partner for Independence Award!
- D. A free community event called "On-line Dating and Cyber Bullying" will be presented by the FBI on Wednesday, February 19th, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., at Sam's Café at New Horizons.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item VI.B. was added to the agenda.

M/S/C (A. Cox/M. Heid) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from January 9th VAC Meeting

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

IV. Executive Director's Report

George Stevens gave the following reports:

- A. "Employment First:" George expressed his appreciation to the VAC's adult services team for drafting initial language for the center's new Employment First policy. The policy was shared with the board's Consumer Services Committee who will be presenting it to the full board next week for their support.
- B. New DDS Director: Santi Rogers, the former executive director of San Andreas Regional Center, has been appointed as the new director of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The confirmation hearing has not taken place yet, but George believes Santi is an outstanding choice as he has the knowledge, expertise, and understanding of both the regional center and developmental center systems.
- C. NLACRC POS Deficit: The center is currently projecting a deficit in its purchase of service (POS) budget between \$41 and \$42 million. The deficit is partly due to under-funding as we were allocated less money this fiscal year than last fiscal year – and our caseload continues to grow. George is concerned about DDS's growing reliance on federal funding which could create some real cash flow issues later this fiscal year. Regardless of the size of the center's POS deficit, the center will continue to purchase services needed by consumers as identified on their Individual Program Plans (IPPs).
- D. Service Provider Rate Issue: The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is crafting a working document to outline the rate issue.
- E. Restoration of Early Start: ARCA has included the restoration of the Early Start program as part of their legislative platform for this fiscal year.

- F. Implementation of New Statutes: The center is in the process of implementing recently-passed statute, including:
1. Special incident reporting: Gay Wane added that AB 40 requires an LAPD criminal investigation with certain SIRs.
 2. Data security breaches: Two attorneys and a DDS representative will be given a training on data security breaches on Monday, April 7th, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Michael's Church in Van Nuys. There will be room for about 150 providers. Announcements will be sent out as the date gets closer.
 3. Translation of IPPs and IFSPs: Into a family's "native" language. We are developing a document that will be translated into many different languages that families can use to designate which language they would prefer for their IPP/IFSP meeting discussions and for their IPP/IFSP document, as they may be different.
 4. Linguistic and cultural competency training: For regional center board members. This is to ensure that regional center services are provided in a linguistic and culturally competent manner.

V. **Community Services Report** (Kim Rolfes, Erica Beall, and Sarah Staley)

- A. Public Meeting: Regional centers are required to hold a public meeting to present information on how it is spending its POS dollars broken down by ethnicity, language, disability, and geography. Our public meeting will be held Tuesday, March 25th, at 2:00 p.m. at the center's main office.
- B. FY 2011-12 Contract Year: Is closing. Providers must submit any requests for payment by April 6th. After that date, the center will be unable to process claims for that fiscal year.
- C. DS 1891 Screening: Jenni Moran has been piloting this program for us at Desert Haven Enterprises. We are making final adjustments to the program and then it will be rolled out to all providers. The center will provide service providers access to a webinar on the program so they know how to use it. More to come!
- D. 2012 Audits: We are sending out notices to those providers who are required to submit financial reports/audits to us for the year 2012.

- E. Vendorization Closures: We have contacted providers who have not provided services within the last 2 years letting them know that we plan to close their vendorization (unless they ask us otherwise). This is a regulatory requirement.

VI. Brief Committee Business

- A. Discussion re: Possible Presentation on LADOT Ordinance: As discussed at many earlier VAC meetings, the City of Los Angeles has been sending letters to providers requiring them to adhere to specific transportation rules when transporting consumers for non-medical reasons. They are requiring that their vehicles be permitted and the drivers trained. They are threatening to arrest people and assess fines to those who do not follow their rules. They charge \$567 per vehicle, \$106 for certification, and additional funds to cover paperwork costs. For agencies with a lot of vans, that can really add up. Kim reported that Emily Davidson, from R&D Transportation, is willing to come here to talk to providers about the ordinance and hear input.
- B. Review Presentation on Service Provider Rates: As discussed at previous VAC meetings, last year, Kim Rolfes and her legislative team met with Jacqueline Wu, district representative for Senator Carol Liu, as part of the center's Grass Roots Week visits. During their discussion about service provider rates and some of the unfunded costs that service providers have had to absorb, Jacqueline asked if the center would provide data or have access to statewide data about what the costs have been to implement trailer bill language and what the savings have been for it (uniform holidays, independent audits, etc.). Kim also talked with her about how DDS used to collect cost statements from service providers to establish rates and that DDS had not collected this information in many years. Jacqueline expressed an interest in obtaining data about what it costs a service provider to operate their business and indicated that Carol Liu's office may reach out to DDS on this issue. Bob Erio reported that Ability First developed a PowerPoint presentation that can be shown to Senator Liu and other legislators. He showed that presentation to the VAC and also provided the VAC members with a handout of the presentation. After the presentation, Bob said it would be good to get an updated number on how many programs have closed due to inadequate rates and the number of consumers that were impacted by those closures.

Action: George will bring up program closures at the next Southern California Regional Center Directors meeting which will be held next week.

A second handout was provided; an article written by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research on “Challenges to Sustaining California’s Developmental Disability Services System,” which was written in 2011.

After discussion, the VAC felt it was important to support the PowerPoint presentation and the UCLA article with a succinct 1-page cover sheet.

Action: The VAC’s adult services team will develop the 1-page cover sheet to accompany the PowerPoint presentation and the UCLA article.

VII. Agenda Item for the Next Board Meeting

- A. Minutes of the February 6th VAC Meeting

VIII. Announcements/Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, March 6th, at 9:30 a.m.

IX. Committee Work

- A. Early Start/Prevention Services
- B. Children’s Services
- C. Adult Services
- D. Mental Health Issues (meets on the last Thursday of each month)
- E. Employment First (Bubble Groups)

X. Adjournment

Jenni adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m. so the committee work could begin.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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