

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2014

Present: Annie Cox, Bob Erio, Sienna Greener-Wooten, Michelle Heid, Jonathan Istrin, Pam Jacobson, Ken Lane, Rebecca Lienhard, Jenni Moran, Marina Pink, Scott Shepard, Wayne Tashjian, Gay Wane, and Dolly Wauls - Committee Members

George Stevens, Jennifer Kaiser, John Youngbauer, Anna Polin, Erica Beall, Sarah Staley, Kim Rolfes, Evelyn McOmie, Nikisia Simmons, Jason Trevino, and Sara Rolfes – Staff Members

Michael Wright, Anthony Jenkins, Maribel Galvan, Randi Levinson-Kuzmin, Riva Kestenbaum, Jack Darakjian, Joe Tighe, William Powe, Eddie Bueno, Cynthia Fernandez, Sherman Mitchell, Samuel Ramos, Bianca Sevilla, Jackie Olson, Kathleen Sturkey, Chris Brazel, Myesha Arguelles, and Lisa Salazzi – Guests

Absent: Rick Clemens

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jenni called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input

George asked Riva to share a recent announcement with everyone. Riva announced that Avi Leibovici, executive director of Vistas, is retiring after 26 years of service; Riva has been appointed to take his place.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item VI.A. was added to the agenda and item VII.C.1. was moved to become item VI.B.

M/S/C (R. Lienhard/W. Tashjian) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from the February 6th VAC Meeting

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

IV. Executive Director's Report

George Stevens gave the following reports:

- A. ARCA Documents: The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) has recently published 2 documents: "Inadequate Rates for Service Provision in California;" and "Funding the Work of California's Regional Centers," copies of which were forwarded to the VAC. George thinks these 2 reports are very well-written and important for everyone to read. It is also important to share these documents with consumers, families, and legislators to help garner support for these issues.
- B. Minimum Wage: ARCA has been charged with form a stakeholder group to review the implications of the minimum wage increases, and provide recommendations on how they should be implemented.
- C. NLACRC's Budget: The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has augmented our budget with an additional \$8 million, however that still leaves us with a projected deficit between \$34 and \$35 million in our purchase of service (POS) budget for this fiscal year. We don't want to run out of cash before the end of the fiscal year. DDS is aware of our budget shortfall and we believe they will resolve it. Unfortunately, the more we depend upon federal funding, the more cash flow issues we are likely to encounter.
- D. Antelope Valley Vendor Forums: We hold meetings with our providers at our AV office every other month. We provide these forums to give providers the opportunity to get an update on current issues and to ask any questions they have. Unfortunately, we do not have many providers attending these meetings, and at the last AV vendor forum, only 1 provider showed up. Should we change the structure? Provide trainings at the forums? The next AV vendor forum is scheduled to be held Monday, March 31st. One of the VAC members noted that this is a program closure day.

Action: The AV vendor forum scheduled for March 31st, will be rescheduled to March 24th.

Action: Dolly stated that she would try to get more providers to participate in the AV vendor forums or attempt to find out why people weren't coming.

- E. POS Expenditure Data Meeting: NLACRC is now required to hold a community meeting each year to present data on how its POS dollars are spent by age, race, ethnicity, language, and disability. Our community meeting

will be held Tuesday, March 25th, at 2:00 p.m. at the center's main office. The expenditure data that will be shared has also been posted on the center's website.

- F. 29th Legislative Breakfast: The breakfast will be held Friday, April 11th, at 8:00 a.m. at Sam's Café in North Hills. The theme for this year's breakfast is: "Direct support professionals: the unsung heroes in our community." It would be great if we could get a lot of direct support professionals to attend so legislators could put faces with the issue. Ken added that 17 providers have collaborated to pay for a 5-minute video that will be shot and shown at the breakfast; Ken encouraged everyone to attend. Flyers were provided on the information table with further information and how to RSVP your attendance.

V. **Community Services Director's Report** (Kim Rolfes and Erica Beall)

- A. Minimum Wage: A method is being developed on how to implement the new statute. For vendors who have a negotiated rate they are only looking at staff who are making less than \$9 per hour. A meeting to discuss this further will be held this afternoon. Whatever method they decide upon will most likely be used to implement future minimum wage increases. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like compression will be included in their methodology.
- B. FY 2011-12 Contract: This contract is coming to an end, which means that providers must submit any claims by the April 6th deadline so they can be processed by the end of May. We will be unable to process any claims that are submitted past this deadline.
- C. Community Placement Plan (CPP): Requests for proposals for the center's FY 2013-14 CPP have been posted on our website.
- D. DS 1891 (Applicant/Vendor Disclosure Statement): Jenni piloted the DS 1891 portal at Desert Haven Enterprises and Jenni reported that it was easy to use. We will still accept completed paper forms, but our preferred way of submission would be for providers to use the portal. Once the training webinars have been developed, we will make the training and portal available to all providers.
- E. 2011 Financial Reviews/Audits: The final notices have gone out to providers who have not submitted their review or audit to us for 2011. We are now beginning the process of collecting the reviews/audits for 2012.

F. Service Provider Trainings:

1. Raymond McMahon and Kevin Grochow, of Bonnie Bridges, and Bryan Johnson and Elizabeth Hibbert, of DDS, will be giving a 2-hour training on privacy breaches and how to mitigate them at St. Michael's Antiochian Orthodox Church located in Van Nuys. on Monday, April 7th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
2. In May or June, a training will be held by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation on their ordinance that pertains to transporting consumers for non-medical reasons. This training will also be held at St. Michael's Church.
3. NLACRC, along with Health Net and LA Care, will be providing a training sometime later this fiscal year on how mental health services should be delivered.

VI. Committee Business

A. PowerPoint Presentation: "The Time is Now:" Bob provided copies of the PowerPoint presentation to the VAC members and reviewed the changes that have been made to it. Once the VAC approves the presentation, it will need to go through the Board of Trustees' approval process before we can begin using it. The following comments were made:

1. The consumer price index statistics on page 8 should be changed to reflect the numbers that were just released in ARCA's documents (see item IV.A. above.).
2. Once approved, the presentation should be shared with the other regional center's vendor committees.
3. The presentation should be shown to all of our local legislators, but should be shown to Senator Carol Liu first as it was her office that requested the information in the first place.
4. George expressed concerns about providers asking legislators to support an "immediate across-the-board DDS provider rate increase" because if they agree and provide a cost of living allowance (COLA), they may think that it will resolve all of providers' budget woes, which it won't. George also expressed concern about providers asking for the ability to submit cost sheets because provider rates have been so depressed and would not

include all the compromises providers have made over the years. We need a different model that includes all of the compromises providers have made.

Action: Bob will revise the document to update the consumer price index numbers on page 8 and that provider COLAs should be based on CSI numbers to reflect the suggestions made in comments 1. and 4. above.

- B. Cover Sheet for the PowerPoint Presentation: The VAC made the recommendation to develop a cover sheet to accompany the presentation. Bob provided copies of the draft cover sheet to the VAC and reviewed it with them. The cover sheet provides a “snapshot” of what is covered in the presentation.

Action: “Restore the Integrity of the Lanterman Act” should be printed in large letters at the top of the cover sheet.

Action: Bob will make the suggested changes to the PowerPoint presentation and its cover sheet and e-mail them to Jenni prior to the March 12th board meeting.

M/S/C (M. Heid/P. Jacobson) To have Jenni share the revised cover sheet and presentation at the March 12th board meeting. After that, it will be presented at the March 19th Government & Community Relations meeting and then presented for approval at the April 9th Board of Trustees meeting.

Action: Once the PowerPoint presentation and cover sheet have been approved at the April 9th board meeting, Jennifer will e-mail the 2 ARCA documents, the finalized PowerPoint presentation and cover sheet, plus the UCLA policy document to all of the providers on her e-mail list referring to it as “The Advocacy Package.”

The VAC thanked Bob Erio and Ken Lane for all the work they put into developing the presentation and cover sheet. Great job!!

VII. Reports from the VAC Priority Issue Work Groups

- A. Early Start/Prevention Services (Annie Cox): ARCA has taken on the push to restore the Early Start program, so the group is feeling hopeful! A lot of children could have been in and out of the system by age 3, but now many are not being served. ARCA has information about it posted about the need to restore the Early Start program on their website: www.arcanet.org. The

group also discussed the difficulties families are facing by having to pay co-payments for services, but NLACRC staff have been very helpful showing families how to navigate the system.

- B. Children's Services (Michelle Heid for Rick Clemens): This group will be meeting after today's VAC meeting.
- C. Adult Services (Rebecca Lienhard): The group spent their meeting time drafting the cover sheet for the PowerPoint presentation.
- D. Mental Health Issues (Gay Wane): The group met last Thursday and addressed the issues of 3 different consumers. Gay welcomed anyone to join a future meeting if they have any consumers who are struggling with mental health issues. The group meets the last Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at NLACRC.
- E. VAC Employment First Policy (Blue, Red, and Purple Bubble Groups): Jenni reported that she and Rebecca will be meeting with George Stevens after the VAC meeting to discuss the next steps for the center implementing its Employment First policy. Jenni stated that the policy will need to reflect that it is about employment first, not employment only.

VIII. Report on Board Committee Meetings

- A. Administrative Affairs (Ken Lane): The committee reviewed the center's 1099 tax return, was given an update on the large number of service coordinators that have been hired, and approved several contracts over \$250,000. The committee was also informed that for this fiscal year, the center is owed \$3.1 million due to the implementation of the intermediate care facility (ICF) state plan amendment (SPA).
- B. Board of Trustees (Jenni Moran): Jenni thanked Kim Rolfes and her staff as the center received another unqualified audit! "The Way Forward" Conference is being held April 3rd and 4th in Manhattan Beach and is by invitation only. NLACRC was given 6 invitations and Rebecca and Annie will be representing the VAC at the conference, along with 2 NLACRC staff and 2 NLACRC board members. Rebecca will also be representing the VAC as part of NLACRC's team that is going to Sacramento to visit with legislators at the State Capitol as part of ARCA's Grass Roots Day on March 12th; their talking points will be provider rates and the restoration of the Early Start program.

Action: Jenni asked that Rebecca give a report on ARCA's Grass Roots Day at the April 3rd VAC meeting.

Action: Jenni asked Rebecca and Annie give a report on "The Way Forward" conference at the May 1st VAC meeting.

- C. Consumer Services (Michelle Heid): The committee discussed the development of the center's Employment First policy, the center's implementation of SB 555 (which requires IPPs and IFSPs to be translated into a family's "native" language), and was given an update on the center's CPP activities.
- D. Government & Community Relations (Michelle Heid): The committee is currently tracking 28 state and federal bills. They discussed the pending visits that are being scheduled with legislators; any participating VAC members will be provided with a notebook containing everything you need to know about the legislator and the talking points. These legislative visits are in addition to the annual ones that will take during Grass Roots Week later in the spring.
- E. Housing (Jonathan Istrin): The committee was given an in-depth presentation by West Bay Housing, which is developing 4 CPP homes for the center. They are a "one-stop shop" for supportive housing and are currently working with 11 of the 21 regional centers. One of West Bay's projects (with project partners) is to house 2,400 homeless people in Los Angeles County. Jonathan thinks this could be a model that we could use; it gets people housing and then provides a safety net by helping them keep it. The next quarterly Housing Committee meeting will be held Monday, May 12th, and they will be given a presentation on programs and services provided by the Department of Mental Health.
- F. Nominating (Bob Erio): This is a busy time for the committee as they need to conduct interviews with board, VAC, and Consumer Advisory Committee applicants. The committee held a group orientation for the board applicants and after reviewing the composition needs, 11 were selected to be interviewed and were interviewed last week. Five VAC applicants were selected to be interviewed and their interviews will be held this evening. The composition of the VAC is in need of another Early Start provider and notices have gone out soliciting them to apply for VAC membership. The committee also developed a slate of officers for next fiscal year.
- G. Strategic Planning (Jonathan Istrin): After consideration, the committee decided against conducting a satisfaction survey, but instead asked staff to

identify a clear picture of consumers who need services that are not available - and what those services would look like if they could be developed. Once determined, this information could be shared with legislators and others. It was found that the center's case management directors had already developed a needs assessment survey for our service coordinators which the committee felt suited the purpose. William, a consumer who is serving on the committee, made the suggestion that consumers with jobs could mentor those consumers who want a similar type job. The committee also reviewed the 2013 statewide performance contract data and NLACRC is doing better than the statewide average in all of the policy areas.

IX. Open Issues for Discussion – No further issues were identified for discussion.

X. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

The following agenda items were identified for the VAC's section of the March 12th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of March 6th Meeting
- B. PowerPoint Presentation and Cover Sheet: "The Time is Now"

XI. Announcements/Information/Public Input

- A. Gay Wane reported that Senator Steinberg held a hearing recently to review the implementation of SB 946 (health care coverage for behavior health treatment). Gay thanked Michele Heid who went to the hearing and gave significant testimony. Michele stated that primarily they wanted data; the Senator wants to amend his bill to allow regional centers to cover co-payments, co-insurance, and partial deductibles.
- B. Gay also announced that whooping cough is spreading, so if you encounter someone with a bad cough, please urge them to get tested; treatment should not be delayed.
- C. Jennifer Kaiser stated that all of the board and board committee meetings that have been discussed this morning are all posted on the center's website and can be referenced if anyone is interested in any of the meeting details.
- D. Rebecca announced that the National APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment First) conference is being held in Long Beach on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. This is a great opportunity to attend because the conference will be so close!

E. Next VAC Meeting: Thursday, April 3rd, at 9:30 a.m.

XII. Adjournment

Jenni adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

[vacmin.mar6.2014.2014]

