

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2015

Present: Pam Aiona, Mary Jo Fernando, Lesly Forbes, Juan Hernandez, Precious Malumfashi, and William Rayber – Committee Members
Viviana Bautista, Judi Bigman, Jerry Edmond, Shelly Hash, Hillary Marides, and Gerald Robles – Guests
Jennifer Kaiser, and Jose Rodriguez – Staff Members

Absent: Daniel Garcia and Jeffrey Thacker

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Mary Jo called the meeting in Juan’s absence, 2:00 p.m. Introductions were made. Everyone sang “Happy Birthday” to Lesly and William who have birthdays this month. Their birthdays were celebrated with cake and ice cream.

2. Public Input - There was no public input.

3. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (W. Rayber/P. Malumfashi) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes of April 7th Meeting

M/S/C (W. Rayber/P. Malumfashi) To approve the minutes as presented.

4. Presentation: The Special Olympics World Games (Sara Iwahashi)

The World Games will be held in the Los Angeles area from July 25th to August 2nd. Over 7,000 athletes are expecting to compete in 25 different sporting events. The opening and closing ceremonies will be held at the L.A. Coliseum. NLACRC will be organizing volunteers to be “fans in the stands” at the soccer event which will be held in Balboa Park. More information to come!

5. Committee Business

A. Reports on Employment, Transportation, Legislation, and Housing (All)

1. Million Letter Campaign: The center held community action meetings on Monday, April 27th, at New Horizons, and on Tuesday, April 28th, at

Desert Haven, to kick-off a letter writing campaign to our governor and legislators supporting the Lanterman Coalition's request for a 10% increase in rates for our service providers and also for regional center operations budgets. Both meetings were very well attended (standing room only!) with hundreds of letters written! Jose provided sample letters, addresses for the governor and key legislators, and blank writing paper to the CAC members and urged them to write letters – and ask their friends and family members to write letters!

2. Precious reported that her Grass Roots Week team met with a staff member for Assembly Member Patty Lopez and talked with him about why we need the 10% increases. Precious invited him to a future CAC meeting to talk about what the Assembly Member has been doing.
3. Jose reported that his Grass Roots Week team met with Assembly Member Matt Dababneh and talked with him about the 10% increases needed.
4. William reported that Easter Seals also organized a letter-writing campaign for the 10% increases; William and his Easter Seal staff members all wrote letters!
5. Jose announced that a Job and Resource Fair will be held this Friday, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the North Valley Occupational Center in Mission Hills. Several legislators will be there. CAC members should take this opportunity to not just get information at the fair, but to also introduce themselves to the legislators there.

Action: CAC members who go to the Job and Resource Fair will give a report on it at next month's CAC meeting.

6. Mary Jo announced that there will be an important rally held on Saturday, July 11th, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Ronald Reagan state building at City Hall in L.A. The rally will be for a cost of living increase for In-Home Support Services (IHSS) and SSI. It has been 4 years since the last increase.

Action: Jose will put the rally on the CAC's event calendar.

B. Updated Event Calendar

1. The 25th Anniversary of the ADA: The 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act will be Sunday, July 26th.
2. Reports on the Abilities Expo / Slide Show?: Several of the CAC members participated in the Abilities Expo and gave reports on what they saw and

learned. Precious met a special needs attorney who she would like to invite to a future CAC meeting. Jennifer tried out a new wheelchair that can bring you up high so you're at head-level while using the chair. Does the committee still want to submit photos of the Abilities Expo so Jose can put together a slide show for a future CAC meeting?

Action: CAC members will submit the photos they took at the Abilities Expo to Jose and he will put together a slide show for them.

3. Self-Determination Information Meetings: The center will be holding meetings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the following dates to provide information about the self-determination program with our community:

- Tuesday, May 26th (NLACRC's main office in Van Nuys)
- Tuesday, June 2nd (NLACRC's Santa Clarita Valley office)
- Thursday, June 11th (NLACRC's Antelope Valley office)

C. Review Training/Presentation Calendar

The committee reviewed their training/presentation calendar for this fiscal year. For next month, the CAC will discuss what they want to do to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ADA.

D. Draft Travel Tip Guide

Jose asked if the CAC still wanted to develop a travel tip guide? The CAC members said yes! They would also like to develop an employment guide.

Action: CAC members who go to the Job and Resource Fair on Friday should get information from there and share what they learned at next month's CAC meeting.

E. Review Agenda for the May 13th Board of Trustees Meeting

Copies of the agenda for next week's board meeting were provided to the CAC and Jennifer reviewed it with them. Action items (things the board will vote on) include approval of several contracts, approval for the center to open a credit line, approval to pay our annual ARCA dues, and approval of changes to several policies. Board meetings are always open to the public and Jennifer invited the CAC members to come. There is always pizza served prior to the board meeting!

6. **Identify Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting**

The following items were identified for the CAC's section of the board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of May 5th Meeting
- B. Updated Event Calendar

7. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. CAC Attendance Sheet: CAC meeting attendance tracking sheets are always sent out with the meeting packets. Members cannot miss more than 4 meetings in a 12-month period and cannot miss more than 2 consecutive meetings.
- B. Next CAC Meeting: Tuesday, June 2nd, at 2:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Juan adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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