

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2015

Present: Jun Antonio, Jessica Gould, Myriam Jovel, Marcia Leija, Caroline Mitchell, Bridget Moss, Debra Newman, Jeremy Sunderland, Curtis Wang, and Tavia Wooley – Committee Members

Joan Daniels, Susana Gil, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, George Stevens, and Jessica Whitney – Staff Members

Absent: Sean Stalbaum

I. Call to Order & Introductions

George called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input

Jennifer explained how to use validations for parking.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV. B. Elect a Committee Chair was moved to the end of the committee business section of the agenda.

M/S/C (D. Newman/C. Mitchell) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of May 20th Meeting

M/S/C (D. Newman/T. Wooley) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Annual Committee Orientation

George reviewed the following committee-related documents with those present. Committee members should become familiar with these documents as they outline the purpose of the committee and the responsibilities of the committee members:

1. Policies and Procedures
2. Bylaws Statement
3. Board Audit Section
4. Core Values for Policy Development

B. Approved Committee Critical Calendar for FY 2015-16

Copies of the committee's critical calendar were provided. The calendar lists actions that will be taken each month by the committee. Jennifer uses the calendar to put together the monthly committee meeting agendas.

C. Self-Determination Program Update

Ruth reported that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is currently in negotiations with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on what services will be available through the self-determination program. DDS will be submitting a waiver to CMS for federal funding of the program. The program will initially be opened to 2,900 consumers statewide the first 3 years. NLA will have 174 positions. DDS will be responsible for selecting which consumers will be using the program. We have very little information at this point about the program except for what is written in the statute. We have information on the program posted on our website and will continue to keep it updated.

Action: Jennifer will e-mail the statute for the self-determination program to the committee.

1. Volunteer Advisory Committee Members

Per statute language, each regional center must put together a volunteer advisory committee that will oversee their center's implementation of the self-determination program, in conjunction with their local state council office (formerly the area boards). The committee membership must include the regional center's client rights' advocate. The state council selected their 5 members and NLACRC selected their 5 members for a total of 11 members. Ruth reported that the advisory committee held their first meeting last month and their next meeting will be held August 13th. Ruth is NLACRC's staff liaison to the committee and Julie McKenzie is the state council's staff liaison to the committee. NLACRC's 5 advisory committee members are:

- Debra Newman, Parent and Board Member
- Mercedes Del Cid
- Allison Gray, Consumer
- Michelle Heid, Parent and Service Provider
- Victoria Berry, Family Focus Resource Center

D. Monthly Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report

The CPP report for June 2015 was provided to the committee. The center's CPP goal for FY 2014-15 was to place 15 consumers out of the developmental centers and other large facilities; the center placed all 15.

E. Board Audit: Ensure Community Placement Plans are being met

We are having an issue with getting providers to respond to our Request for Proposals (RFPs) for day programs because the rates we offer are so low. So although we can develop housing for our consumers, we are still unable to provide them with day services. Provider rates have been frozen since 2006.

F. 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.

G. 4th Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report – *Deferred*

H. 4th Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report – *Deferred*

I. Annual Consumer Diagnosis Report (broken down by each valley) – *Deferred*

J. 4th Quarter Appeals & Hearings Report – *Deferred*

These 4 agenda items were deferred to next month's meeting because Liliana Windover, George's administrative assistant, produces these reports and she has been on vacation.

K. Elect a Committee Chair

Only 1 nomination was made.

M/S/C (T. Wooley/D. Newman) To elect Jessica Gould to serve as the Consumer Services Committee chair for this fiscal year.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

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

- A. Minutes of July 15th Meeting
- B. Self-Determination Program Update (Debra will give this report)
- C. Approval of Changes to Educational/Vocational Service Standard

VI. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

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

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 19th, at 6:00 p.m.

1. New Trailer Bill Language: The center must offer a written Individual Program Plan (IPP) within 45 days of the IPP meeting for English and Spanish speaking consumers and families. New trailer bill language looks at identifying "threshold languages." The Department of Health Care Services identifies a threshold language as one that is used as the primary language (other than English) in 5% or more of the "beneficiary population." In LA County, there are 11 languages that meet the criteria of being a threshold language (including English). Using this criteria, NLACRC has only 2 threshold languages: English and Spanish. Any IPPs that need to be translated into a non-threshold language are allowed up to 60 days to be finalized. Our service standards will need to be updated to reflect these changes. A 30-day deadline remains in place for Medicaid waiver cases.

- C. Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN): Jennifer provided information to the committee about a new resource for people with autism and their families on Medicaid coverage for autism-related services that has been released by the ASAN. Connie Lapin, parent and advocate, asked Jennifer to share this information with the committee.

VII. Adjournment

Jessica adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

[csmn.jul15.2015]

