

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2015

Present: Fredlyn Berger, Annie Cox, Deborah Cutter, Mariela Feldman, Cynthia Fernandez, Jonathan Istrin, Eleshia Johnson, Staci Jordan, Ken Lane, Kristin Laurino, Marina Pink, Scott Shepard, Wayne Tashjian, and Dolly Wauls - Committee Members
Kim Rolfes, Jennifer Kaiser, Arsha Garlanian, Yolanda Bosch, John Youngbauer, Arpi Arabian, Jessica A. Garcia, Lisa DePiro, Dana Andrews, Sarah Staley, Jason Trevino, and Erin Broughton-Rodriguez – Staff
Claire Moynihan, Jill Tapia, Theresa Quary, Victoria Berrey, Allen Abraham, Sharoll Jackson, Delma Dinielli, Linda Cabuzzi, Lori Swazlian, Sharon Venezio, Leticia Hernandez, Elana Schechtman, Randi Levinson-Kuzmin, Ana Hernandez, Neda Messian, Maria Ortiz, Don Lucas, Darrell Bunch, Marielena Rivas, Rhonda Bunnin, Anthony Jenkins, Orli Almag, Ralph Stokes, Monica Villeda, Phil Rotherspace, Verjine Egian, Fay Powelson, Helen Wade, and Victoria Greenwood - Guests

Absent: Michelle Heid

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Scott Shepard called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input

Victoria Berrey, from the Family Focus Resource Center, thanked everyone who participated in the FFRC's recent resource fair. It was a very successful day with nearly 80 exhibitors. Victoria also expressed her appreciation to NLACRC and their other sponsors.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (W. Tashjian/E. Johnson) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from October 1st VAC Meeting

M/S/C (A. Cox/K. Laurino) To approve the minutes a presented.

IV. Executive Director's Report (Kim Rolfes for George Stevens)

- A. Dr. John Youngbauer: Kim expressed her deepest appreciation to Dr. Youngbauer who will be retiring from the regional center later this month. He has developed a state of the art behavior program for children with autism and for 17 years has been a leader in behavioral services in the state. John stood and announced that he is leaving the center in good hands and introduced: Dr. Arpi Arabian, behavioral services supervisor; Lisa DePiro, behavior analyst; and Jessica Garcia, autism program coordinator.
- B. A System in Crisis: Provider rates have been frozen for many years and the center has more programs closing than opening. Kim told the service providers that NLACRC is well aware that they are in distress. We need to mobilize our consumers, families, staff, and other stakeholders to speak in one voice and get our issues heard by our legislators and the governor.
- C. Lawsuit: The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Northern California and the law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell LLP filed a lawsuit against California's Department of State Hospitals (DSH) and Department of Developmental Services (DDS), charging that the 2 agencies are leaving vulnerable defendants to languish in jail, denying them treatment, and their right to due process.
- D. Self-Determination: DDS submitted the waiver application to receive federal funding.
- E. Behavioral Services: The transition from regional centers providing behavioral services to managed care plans providing this service continues to be delayed.
- F. Department of Labor Laws: Effective November 12th, home care workers will need to be paid overtime for any time worked that exceeds 40 hours per week; unfortunately the 5.82% increase to cover the overtime costs will not go into effect until February 16th.
- G. Social Security: There will be no cost of living increase for 2016.
- H. DDS Director: Santi Rogers, director of DDS, has announced his retirement. His last day will be December 1st. We don't know who his replacement will be.

V. Chief Financial Officer's Report (Kim Rolfes)

- A. Out of Community/State Guidelines for SLS Providers: This policy was developed in coordination with our SLS providers. The guidelines were approved by the Board of Trustees last month. Copies of the approved policy were provided to the VAC and the policy is also posted on the center's website.

- B. NLACRC's Budget: The center's operations budget is \$40.2 million and the purchase of service (POS) budget is \$326 million for this fiscal year. We won't know how much of a POS deficit we may have until we complete our first Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) which is due to DDS on December 10th.
- C. 2015 Annual Statements: As required by law, each year we send our consumers and/or families statements showing them how much their services cost. The 2015 annual statements will be mailed out to families this week.
- D. Zero Tolerance Policy: NLACRC's contract with DDS requires that center send out its zero tolerance policy for consumer abuse to all of its service providers on an annual basis. Service providers need to share this policy with their staff upon hire and annually thereafter. The Zero Tolerance Policy was mailed to service providers on October 26, 2015.

VI. Community Services Director's Report (Yolanda Bosch)

- A. Update on Minimum Wage and Sick Pay Increase: We have had 41 vendors apply for an increase from DDS to cover these increases; staff are a little overwhelmed but are restructuring the process so the applications can be processed quicker.
- B. Requests for Proposals (RFPs): The center issues RFPs 4 times per year. The vendorization process is posted on the center's website and is easy to follow. Your feedback on the new online process is welcomed!
- C. Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Final Rule: Yolanda attended a CMS meeting last week in Sacramento, but there was nothing new to report. The group is rather frustrated with the lack of direction from the federal government; the feds haven't approved even 1 state as yet. Yolanda will continue to share information as she gets it.
- D. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014: Yolanda provided a handout which contained the highlights of this act. The act will bring changes to the definitions of "competitive integrated employment" and "supported employment." The act will also restrict employers from using subminimum wage certificates unless certain conditions are met.
- E. DS 1891 Forms: The final letters are going out to providers who have not submitted their DS 1891 forms letting them know that we will be forced to terminate their vendorizations if the forms aren't submitted. The forms must be submitted every 2 years.

Action: When Yolanda sends out e-mail reminders to providers, she will include a link the portal.

VII. Brief Committee Business

- A. Cal TASH Conference: Scott reported that the conference will be held in Sacramento from February 25-27, 2016. The conference will include visits with legislators on February 25th and they plan to bombard them. They don't want legislators to forget about the developmental disabilities system in the state budget for FY 2016-17. Scott emphasized how important it was for us to meet with our local legislators so they understand what our issues are.

VIII. Agenda Item for the Next Board Meeting

The following agenda item was identified for the VAC's section of the November 10th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the November 5th VAC Meeting

IX. Announcements/Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, January 7th, at 9:30 a.m. (no December meeting)

X. Committee Work (The committee breaks into their workgroups)

Scott asked the break-out groups to please spend some time developing "talking points" for consumers and families (e.g. "We need 10% now!").

- A. Early Start/Prevention Services (Annie Cox, Chair)
B. Children's Services (Wayne Tashjian, Chair)
C. Adult Services (Scott Shepard, Chair)
D. Mental Health Issues (Deborah Cutter, Chair)

XI. Adjournment

Scott adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant