

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2016

Present: Annie Cox, Mariela Feldman, Cynthia Fernandez, Michelle Heid, Jonathan Istrin, Eleshia Johnson, Staci Jordan, Ken Lane, Marina Pink, Scott Shepard, Wayne Tashjian, and Dolly Wauls - Committee Members

Kim Rolfes, Jennifer Kaiser, Arsha Garlanian, Yolanda Bosch, Erica Beall, Arpi Arabian, Anna Polin, Kimberly Johnson-McNeil, Jason Trevino, Sara Cox, and Erin Broughton-Rodriguez – Staff

Victoria Berrey, Max Krauss, Fayma Ishaq, Alona Yorkshire, Randi Levinson-Kuzmin, Jill Tapia, Miriam Whitfield, Darrell Bunch, Valerie Kissell, Richard Dier, Phil Motherspaw, Ralph Stokes, Adam Stokes, Rhonda Bunnin, Dana Andrews, Sharoll Jackson, Cyndi McAuley, Elana Schecthman, Leticia Hernandez, Victoria Greenwood, Debra Donovan, and Ana Hernandez - Guests

Absent: Fredlyn Berger, Deborah Cutter, and Kristin Laurino

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Michelle Heid, VAC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input

- A. Scott Shepard reported that he collected hundreds of petitions from stakeholders regarding the needed funding increase for our system and delivered them to the governor.
- B. It was announced that Juno Rada, Valley Village's music director, has been chosen as a contestant in American Idol!
- C. Victoria Berrey announced that the Family Focus Resource Center has found a new location – at NLACRC's newly built-out office space at the center's Van Nuys office, in suite 140. Their new projects will be to provide workshops and planning parent group meetings.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (A. Cox./W. Tashjian) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from the November 5th VAC Meeting

M/S/C (S. Shepherd/W. Tashjian) To approve the minutes as presented.

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

A. State Budget: The governor will be releasing his proposed state budget for next fiscal year at 10:00 a.m. this morning. It is anticipated that he will include some funding for our system to cover growth, but will not include the much-needed 10th funding increase. The managed health care tax is scheduled to sunset on June 30th, but we believe the budget will recommend that the tax continue.

B. AB 1565 (Lackey): Assembly Member Lackey serves part of the center's catchment area in the Antelope Valley and is well aware of the transportation issues we are having in that area. He just released this bill which would ensure the sustainability, quality, and transparency of community-based services for people with developmental disabilities. Michelle Heid e-mailed a copy of this bill to the VAC and encouraged them to read it.

C. Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Interim Director: Santi Rogers retired last month from his position of director of DDS. Michael Wilkening will be serving as interim director until a new director is hired.

D. Self-Determination: DDS submitted its Home and Community-Based Services waiver application for the SD program to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in September 2015. As part of its standard waiver review and approval process, CMS sent a letter to the State asking questions about, and requesting more information on, specific sections in the waiver application. Following the normal process, DDS will be working through the Department of Health Care Services to provide written responses to answer CMS's questions to secure approval of the waiver.

NLACRC's Self-Determination Volunteer Advisory Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis. The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 28th, at 7:00 p.m. at the center's Van Nuys office.

- E. Transportation in the Antelope Valley: Good news! The center has successfully negotiated a contract with Student Transportation of America to provide transportation services in the AV. It will take them about 6 months to order the needed buses and to have them inspected. However, Southland Transit has agreed to continue providing services in the interim.
- F. Behavioral Services: Our center is scheduled to transition its behavioral services to the managed care plans in the month of June 2016.

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

- A. Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR): The center has completed its first SOAR for DDS and it reports that the center is projecting a deficit in its purchase of service (POS) budget for this fiscal year between \$14.9 and \$19.4 million. The center continues to carry a deficit in its FY 2014-15 POS budget of \$1.4 million and a deficit in its FY 2013-14 POS budget between \$24,000 and \$1 million. We do anticipate that DDS will provide us with the additional funding needed to cover these shortfalls.
- B. POS Expenditure Report for 2015: Is posted on the center's website. It provides a breakdown of service delivery by residence, ethnicity, and language. The center will be holding a meeting sometime in the spring to present this information to our community.
- C. Rate Increases: The center has hired a person for the accounting department that will be dedicated to processing rate increases for vendors. The rate increases for paid sick leave, respite providers, and the 5.82% increase for vendors with a DDS set rate are all in process. We received 91 requests for rate increases from negotiated rate vendors and have processed about 1/3 of them. We received 19 requests for increases as a result of the increase in the minimum wage which went into effect on January 1st.
- D. Mileage Reimbursement: Effective January 1st, the IRS mileage reimbursement rate was reduced to 54 cents per mile.
- E. Supported Living Services: Effective January 1st, the rate was increased to \$11.97 per hour.
- F. City of Los Angeles Minimum Wage Ordinance: Effective July 1, 2016, the City of L.A. minimum wage will increase from \$10.00 per hour to \$10.50 per hour; and then annually thereafter. Currently, service providers with a negotiated rate will need to seek a health & safety exemption from the

regional center to request a rate adjustment to comply with the City of L.A.'s ordinance for minimum wage. NLACRC is participating in a subgroup with the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) and DDS to develop the process to submit health & safety exemptions from DDS. Once NLACRC has more information regarding the process to apply for a health and safety exemption to seek a rate increase to comply with the City of L.A.'s minimum ordinance, we will share the same information with our service providers.

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

- A. CMS Final Rule: DDS posts any new information about the CMS Final Rule on their website. Please check it out at www.dds.ca.gov/HCBS.
- B. Audits: Yolanda thanked the providers who successfully had audits conducted for 2011 and 2012 and submitted them to the center. Notices will now be going out requesting audits for 2013 and 2014. State law requires all regional center providers with budgets of \$250,000 or more to get a financial review conducted annually and providers with budgets of \$500,000 or more to have an annual audit conducted.
- C. DS 1891 Forms: The state requires that service providers update these forms every 2 years to show that their employees have not been convicted of a crime related to the Medicare, Medicaid, or Title XX programs or abuse or neglect of an elder, dependent adult, or child. The last 2-year cycle just ended and the new 2-year cycle has just begun. The forms can be easily updated using the center's portal. Unfortunately, we had to de-vendor 56 providers for not following this requirement. The forms can be easily updated using the center's online portal at www.sanctionscreeningnow.com.
- D. Interagency Meetings in the AV: Yolanda is going to begin organizing a quarterly interagency meeting in the AV to foster communication between the center and its providers in that area.
- E. Wage and Hour Training: Yolanda is working with the Department of Labor to organize a training for service providers on this topic.

VII. Committee Business - No committee business was identified for discussion.

VIII. Reports from the VAC Priority Issue Work Groups

- A. Early Start/Prevention Services (Annie): This group wants to focus on:

1. Getting information about rates to Early Start families.
 2. Helping families develop advocacy skills early on.
 3. Expanding families' knowledge of the National Core Indicators data.
 4. Providing families with information on how to work with insurance companies to cover services.
 5. Work with the Infant Development Association of California.
- B. Children's Services (Wayne): This group continues to staff the center's behavioral services orientations for families. The group wants to create a tool that will guide vendors through the CMS Final Rule implementation. The group is open for input on any other topics or projects that need addressing.
- C. Adult Services (Scott): Notes from the group's last meeting were e-mailed to the VAC. This group is focusing on 2 issues: transition and aging.
- D. Mental Health Issues (Deborah): This group discusses individual client cases, so further details cannot be provided. However, if anyone would like to join the meetings, they are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in the center's 2nd floor conference room.

Michelle reported that the break-out groups will meet after the next VAC meeting and welcomed any guests to join in on those meetings and participate in the discussions.

IX. Report on Board Committee Meetings

- A. Administrative Affairs (Ken): Ability First closed its program in the San Fernando Valley which affected about 100 consumers. DDS is offsetting payments to ICF providers so regional centers get paid more promptly. The center has had a lot of new hires, especially service coordinators. The next Administrative Affairs Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, January 27th, at 6:15 p.m.
- B. Board of Trustees (Michelle): There have been several changes made in the board leadership. Lou Paparozzi is the new board president, Dorothy Daniels is the new 1st vice president, and Debra Newman is the new ARCA delegate. The next board meeting will be held at the center's Santa Clarita Valley office on Wednesday, January 13th, at 6:30 p.m.
- C. Consumer Services & Government & Community Relations (Michelle): A legislative training was provided in November, by Michelle, in lieu of these 2 committee meetings. Michelle urged everyone's support of AB 1565 (Lackey)

and the importance of continuing the education of our legislators in regards to the state of our system. Reach out! Legislators and our governor need to hear from each and every one of us. The next CS & GCR meetings will be held on Wednesday, January 20th, starting at 6:00 p.m.

- D. Housing (Jonathan): The next quarterly Housing meeting will be held Monday, February 8th, at noon. The board has decided to move the topic of housing to the Strategic Planning Committee, so the Housing Committee will only be meeting 2 more times – in February and in May.
- E. Nominating (Jonathan): This committee will be meeting next Tuesday night to review the applications that were submitted by individuals wanting to serve on the Board of Trustees, VAC, and Consumer Advisory Committee.
- F. Strategic Planning (Annie): The committee voted to add 3 more measures to the center's 2016 performance contract that would incorporate data from the National Core Indicators studies. The committee was also provided with the updated report on program closures; the center has had 16 program closures which affected 139 consumers so far this fiscal year. They also identified their priority topics for this fiscal year. The next quarterly SPC meeting will be held Monday, February 1st, at 6:00 p.m.

X. Open Issues for Discussion

- A. Marty Omoto: Marty has his finger on the pulse of what is going on in Sacramento as it relates to the developmental disabilities system. To get on his e-mail list, go to www.cdcan.us.

XI. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

The following item was identified for the VAC's section of the January 13th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the January 7th VAC Meeting

XII. Announcements/Information/Public Input

- A. Access Services: Fayma Ishaq introduced herself. She is a project administrator for Access Services. Please feel free to contact her with any questions, input, or complaints. She can be reached at: ishaq@accessla.org.
- B. Next VAC Meeting: Thursday, February 4th, at 9:30 a.m. (break out groups)

XIII. Adjournment

Michelle adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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