

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2016

Present: Diane Ambrose, Yolanda Bosch, Mary Jo Fernando, Craig Girard, Jenean Glover, Sara Iwahashi, Ellen Jannol, Michele Marra, William Rayber, Kim Rolfes, Cynthia Sewell, and George Stevens – Committee Members
Ken Lane – Vendor Advisory Committee Member
Gerald Robles - Guest
Jennifer Kaiser – Staff Member

Absent: Annie Cox, Charles Devlin, and Todd Withers

I. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by William Rayber, chair, at 6:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (G. Stevens/C. Girard) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes of November 2, 2015 Meeting

M/S/C (C. Girard/M.J. Fernando) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Presentation on the National Core Indicators Project

Diane presented a 28-page presentation on the NCI project to the committee. Essentially, the NCI is a nationwide effort to standardize a way of assessing service satisfaction for people with developmental disabilities. It was initially launched in 1997 with 13 states; it has now expanded to 45 states, including California. In-person surveys are conducted and each participant is asked a large variety of questions. Although the data gathered through these surveys is a bit flawed, the data can still be helpful to identify what areas could use strengthening.

Ken noted that consumer satisfaction can also be tied to low provider rates, low wages for direct care staff, and the high turnover rates of direct care staff.

Craig added that regional center executive directors have requested that NCI and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) provide a “download” of their center’s NCI results for quality management opportunities. DDS engaged UC Davis as a consultant for this pilot to develop a user-friendly format for delivering the data sets to the regional centers. DDS is seeking a few pilot participants among the regional centers to provide input on UC Davis’s draft format in the coming months. Diane Ambrose met with DDS’s Renee Kurjiaka to learn more about the pilot and related commitments, then submitted NLA’s name as second pilot participant (the Regional Center of Orange County was first). The advantage for NLA’s participation is the ability to provide input that will make the data easier for us to use.

B. Board-Approved Priorities for FY 2015-16

The board approved the committee’s 4 priorities for this fiscal year: employment; self-determination; sustainability of the system; and the National Core Indicators project.

C. ARCA’s Strategic Plan Priorities

The Association of Regional Center Agencies has developed their 3-year strategic plan includes the following 2 focus areas and their corresponding objectives:

1. Sustainability

- a. Increase community capacity through strategic resource development.
- b. Optimize the self-determination program’s ability to expand access for underserved communities.
- c. Increase integrated housing options.
- d. Increase integrated employment opportunities.
- e. Regional center’s responses to the needs of individuals and families from culturally and ethnically diverse communities.
- f. Regional center IT hardware and software.
- g. Medi-Cal coverage of services to children with autism.

2. Funding

- a. Pursue rate reform for developmental services.
- b. Advocate for an equitable regional center operations funding methodology.
- c. Pursue streamlining of administrative processes to address local minimum wage changes.

D. Update on the Performance-Based Contracts

2016 Contract: The board approved the 3 additional performance-based contract measures at their January 13th meeting and the revised 2016 contract was submitted to DDS for their approval.

2015 Contract: Copies of the final year-end data from were provided to the committee and Sara reviewed it with them. NLACRC is doing better than the statewide average in all 11 policy areas.

E. Update on NLACRC Programs that have Closed

Yolanda presented an updated summary on NLACRC’s program closures to the committee. The majority of program closures were due to the non-submission of the required DS 1891 forms, but most of the remaining closures were due to financial/rate issues.

Fiscal Year	Program Closures	Consumers Impacted
2015-16 (so far)	55	139
2014-15	23	78
2013-14	14	112
2012-13	11	77
2011-12	20	1,096
2010-11	4	47
2009-10	6	133
2008-09	8	138
Total:	141	1,820

F. Update on the Self-Determination Program

We have just hired a bilingual self-determination education specialist who will be providing outreach on the program to our community. DDS submitted the

federal waiver for the program to the Center's on Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) who had 90 days to respond to it. They responded within the 90 days asking the state to answer about 180 questions they had regarding the waiver. Once the state answers their questions, CMS will again have 90 days to respond. We have still not received any direction from DDS on how to implement the program.

- G. ARCA's Resource Limitation Survey Results (Yolanda) – *Deferred*

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the February 10th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the February 1st Meeting
- B. Update on the National Core Indicators Project

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Cynthia provided information to the committee about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. It changes the definitions of competitive integrated employment and supported employment. It also includes limitations on the use of subminimum wages. Cynthia's agency, New Horizons, is the largest habilitation services provider in the area and will be vastly affected by the new requirements of this and CMS final rule. Cynthia offered to hold an educational town hall meeting at New Horizons in the spring to educate providers and families on the changes that are coming.

M/S/C (G. Stevens/E. Jannol) To forward Cynthia's idea of holding a town hall educational meeting at New Horizons to the Vendor Advisory Committee for their consideration.

- B. Next Meeting: Monday, May 2, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

William adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

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Executive Assistant

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