

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2016

Present: Adelina Castellanos, Jessica Gould, Michelle Heid, Erika Hernandez, Meagan Miller, Caroline Mitchell, Debra Newman, Curtis Wang, and Tamar Witmer – Committee Members
Sharoll Jackson – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Diane Ambrose, Maria Bosch, Joan Daniels, Susana Gil, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Shant Kotchounian and Oscar Mejia

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jessica Gould, chair, began the meeting at 6:08 p.m. and introductions were made. Jessica officially called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m., once a quorum of members was present.

II. Public Input

- A. Jessica shared the exciting news that today she was approved by the Behavioral Analysts Board so she can proceed with her certification. In addition, she has a job interview tomorrow!
- B. Sharoll Jackson announced that the Family Focus Resource Center (FFRC) will be holding its annual special needs resource fair on Saturday, October 29th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at CSUN. There will be lots of resource exhibitors, music, entertainment, a photo booth, carnival, and more. NLACRC is a co-sponsor of this event and New Horizons will have a booth there. This is a great networking opportunities for families. For more information contact the FFRC at Facebook at www.facebook.com/ffrec or via Twitter@ FamilyFocusFRC.

III. Consent Items

- A. Approval of Agenda
M/S/C (C. Wang/C. Mitchell) To approve the agenda as presented.
- B. Approval of Minutes of September 21st Meeting
M/S/C (M. Miller/C. Wang) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

- A. Fair Hearing Semi-Annual Report

When a regional center denies a service or eligibility, the individual has the right to appeal that decision. If the appeal is not granted, a fair hearing can be held. The hearings are held by the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), an impartial party, and the consumer and/or family and regional center representatives provide testimony. The OAH makes the final decision. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) tracks the appeals and hearing information from each of the 21 California regional centers and then compiles reports, using the statewide data, twice a year. The report in the committee meeting packet covered the 6-month time period from July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. George reviewed the report with the committee.

B. 1st Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report

The **exceptions** report lists requests from consumers and families for services that are outside of the center's service standards and whether those services were approved or denied. During the 1st quarter of this fiscal year, the center approved 309 requests and denied only 20.

The **exemptions** report lists requests made for services that have been suspended or reduced as a result of the trailer bill language. The report showed that during the 1st quarter, 10 exemptions were approved and 2 were denied.

C. 1st Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report

During the 4th quarter of FY 2015-16:

1. Eligibility: 256 Notices of Action were sent and 8 were returned (appealed).
2. Service: 244 Notices of Action were sent and 14 were returned.
3. Hearings: 4 fair hearings were held (all for service denial); 2 were denied, 1 was partially granted, and 1 decision is still pending.

D. 1st Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report

Copies of the report were provided to the committee for their review. The report showed diagnostic information about the center's consumers each quarter since July 1, 2014. Of the 23,271 consumers that the center serves, the diagnosis breakdown is as follows:

1. Intellectual Disability: 8,712 (4.02% increase since July 1, 2014)
2. Autism: 8,995 (**31.93% increase, but 10% less than last quarter**)
3. Cerebral Palsy: 539 (1.7% increase)
4. Epilepsy: 238 (6.7% increase)

5. Other developmental disability: 1,105 (12.4% increase)
6. Status 0, 1, 2: 3,682 (20.1% increase)

George explained that Status 0 are clients in intake, Status 1 are clients in Early Start (at risk), and Status 2 clients are children over 3 that have been found eligible for regional center services.

E. Self-Determination Program Update (Debra and Ruth)

DDS is still working with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to prepare the waiver for federal funding, but has not formally re-submitted the waiver as yet. DDS is reportedly working to resolve the remaining 35 of the original 180 issues that CMS had with the waiver application. Ruth shared some of the issues that CMS has with DDS's waiver application; discussion amongst the committee members ensued and speculations were made about how the program might develop. DDS states that the best case scenario for resubmission of the waiver application will be February of 2017. Also, the center's Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee (SDLAC) continues to meet on a monthly basis and learn as much as they can. The committee generally meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and meets at the various NLACRC offices. These are open meetings and members of the public are welcome to attend. The next SDLAC meeting will be held Thursday, October 20th, at the center's Antelope Valley office. If you want to keep updated on the development of the self-determination program, you can sign up to receive updates on the center's website.

F. Monthly Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report

Maria reported that the center's goal for this fiscal year is to place 10 consumers out of Fairview Developmental Center and find them homes in the community. As of September 30th, the center has placed 2 consumers out of Fairview and 1 out of Porterville Developmental Center. Three more consumers are scheduled to be moved into the community in December.

One of the FY 2013-14 CPP projects is a crisis support services which will serve up to 50 consumers with severe behavioral/self-care deficits, mental health diagnoses, and possible court involvement. The Request for Proposals was awarded to Modern Support Services and is now moving forward.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the November 9th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the October 19th Meeting
- B. 1st Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report
- C. 1st Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report
- D. 1st Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report
- E. Self-Determination Program Update

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. Legislative Training

A legislative training will be held for all board members on Wednesday, November 16th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The training will be held in lieu of the committee meetings that month.

C. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 18th, at 6:00 p.m. (no December meeting)

VII. Adjournment

Jessica adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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