

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2017

Present: Pam Aiona, Lesly Forbes, Jacob Freeman, William Rayber, Ben Segel-Evans, and Adam Stokes – Committee Members

Nina Daly, Mary Jo Fernando, and Julie Eby-McKenzie – Guests

Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, and Jose Rodriguez – Staff Members

Absent: Melissa Ferman

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Pam Aiona, CAC chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. Public Input (3 minutes)

3. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

One item was added to the agenda.

M/S/C (W. Rayber/J. Freeman) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of February 7th Meeting

M/S/C (W. Rayber/J. Freeman) To approve the minutes as presented.

4. Committee Business

A. Letter of Support to the State Council (Julie Eby-McKenzie)

The Self-Advocacy Board of L.A. County has been around for 30 years and Julie provides them with support. The self-advocacy board meets the first Saturday of each month in Glendale; Jose Rodriguez is a member of the board and Lesly Forbes is becoming a member of the board. Julie encouraged other consumers to come to the meetings as they are always looking for new members! The self-advocacy board is going to film a documentary on July 24, 2017 called “Bottom

Dollars” about wages earned by people with disabilities that is lower than the minimum wage. The self-advocacy board has asked the State Council for a \$500 grant to help offset costs. Would this committee consider supporting their grant request? Julie provided a draft letter of support that the committee could use as a sample.

M/S/C (L. Forbes/W. Rayber) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to approve the CAC sending a letter to the State Council supporting the grant request by the Self-Advocacy Board of L.A. County.

[The Board of Trustees approved the CAC's request at the March 8th board meeting, Pam Aiona signed the support letter, and it was sent to the State Council.]

Julie also let the consumers know that the State Council is there for them if they need help and she gave each consumer present one of her business cards.

A. Grass Roots Local Visits with Legislators (Sara Iwahashi)

Each year, in the spring, the regional center sends out teams to visit with our local Assembly member and Senators. Each team includes a staff lead, a board member, a service provider, and a consumer. Sara asked for volunteers from the CAC to go on one of these visits. William and Mary Jo both told the CAC about their visits to local legislators last year and how interesting they were. Sara stated that it is very important for consumers to get to know their local legislators and that you let them know what is important to you.

Action: Everyone but Ben volunteered to serve on a Grass Roots Week team.

Action: Jennifer will look into transportation options to get the CAC members to their meeting and back.

B. Identify Nominee(s) to Serve as CAC Chair in FY 2017-18

Anyone interested in serving as CAC chair next fiscal year should come to next month's CAC meeting prepared to give a short speech as to why they think they would make a good CAC chair. After the speeches are given, an election will be held for a chair and vice-chair.

C. Reports on Employment, Transportation, Legislation, and Housing (All)

1. Report on Access Services Meetings (Liz): Liz was not present to give a report.
2. L.A. Care Meetings: Hillary Marides used to give monthly reports on these meetings, but she no longer belongs to that group.

Action: Mary Jo Fernando is a member of L.A. Care and offered to give monthly reports on their meetings.

3. AB 279 (Holden): The state minimum wage won't catch up with the L.A. County minimum wage until 2020. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will give money to the regional centers to cover the state minimum wage increases, but not the Los Angeles increases. This is quite a hardship on our services providers. Assembly Member Holden has introduced this bill to cover the L.A. minimum wage increases for regional center providers. We are working hard to get this bill passed by writing letters of support and asking other Assembly Members and Senators to co-author the bill.
4. The CalChannel: William reported that people can watch the hearings that are being held in Sacramento on the CalChannel at www.calchannel.com. On William's television, it is channel 228 on Spectrum.
5. "How to Find a Job" Workshop: Will be held Thursday, March 30th, 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Family Focus Resource Center, at NLACRC's Chatsworth office.

D. Training/Presentation Calendar for FY 2016-17

Jose Rodriguez tried to get Red Cross to give a presentation to the CAC this month, but they had no one available – in addition, they wanted us to pay them. A housing presentation will be given to the CAC at their April meeting, and a self-advocacy presentation will be given to the CAC at their May meeting.

Action: Jose will try and schedule a presentation by the Department of Rehabilitation for the CAC's June meeting.

E. Review Agenda for Board of Trustees Meeting (Jennifer)

Copies of the agenda for tomorrow night's board meeting were provided and

Jennifer reviewed highlights of the meeting with the committee, which included:

1. The presentation of the center's tax returns.
2. Approval of 9 contracts that are worth \$250,000 or more.
3. Submission of executive director evaluation forms.

Jennifer explained that each year, the board members are required to evaluate the executive director's performance by completing an evaluation form and submitting it to the board president. Jennifer added that board meetings are always open to the public and guests are always welcome.

F. Event Calendar

Jose Rodriguez provided everyone with an updated event calendar and also provided fliers for each event, which included:

1. The Abilities Expo: March 24th-26th, 2017 (L.A. Convention Center)
2. Life After High School Fair: March 29th (Miller Career Center, Reseda)
3. People First Statewide Gathering: June 23rd- 25th (Marriott, Sacramento)

5. Identify Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

The following items were identified for the CAC's section of the March 8th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes from March 7th Meeting
- B. Approval of Support Letter to the State Council

6. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. CAC Attendance Sheet

The updated meeting attendance sheets are always included in the meeting packet. CAC members cannot miss 3 meetings in a row or 5 meetings in a 12-month period.

B. 50th Anniversary of the Lanterman Act Celebration

The center will be holding an event to celebrate the Lanterman Act's 50th anniversary on Friday, April 21st, at the Airtel Plaza Hotel. The documentary film

about the making of the regional center system, called “We’re Here to Speak for Justice” will be shown, a panel discussion will be held to talk about the future of the Lanterman Act. There will also be a special presentation to honor one of our former legislators who was a champion for our system. More information to come!

C. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 4th, at 2:00 p.m.

7. **Adjournment**

Pam adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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