

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2013

Present: Lawrence Burton, Rick Clemens, Bob Erio, Michelle Heid, Jonathan Istrin, Roy Jensen, Pam Jordan, Ken Lane, Rebecca Lienhard, Jenni Moran, Scott Shepard, Wayne Tashjian, Salisa Wagner, Gay Wane, and Asilia “Dolly” Wauls - Committee Members

Erica Beall, Maria Bosch, Jennifer Kaiser, Anna Polin, Nikisia Simmons, Sarah Staley, George Stevens, Joan Watson-Patko, John Youngbauer, and Ruth Zepeda - Staff Members

Faun Jimenez, Pamela Jacobson, Cynthia Fernandez, Arcelia Berleson, Diana Delgado Basham, Donnette Springman, Doug Pascover, Ilka Szaktilla, Corey Smith, Joe Tighe, Kathleen Sturkey, Chris Bratzel, Diana Rush, Tony Mavros, Mary Cady, Rhonda Bunnin, Annie Cox, Adriana Gracias, Jason Trevino, Ana Hernandez, Sharice Henson, and Richard Dier - Guests

Absent: Sienna Greener-Wooten

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jenni Moran, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item V.B. was moved to become Item VI.A.

M/S/C (G. Wane/P. Jordan) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from the May 2nd VAC Meeting

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

IV. Executive Director’s Report

George Stevens gave the following reports:

- A. Caseload Ratios: We recently received the letter we were expecting from DDS informing us that we did not meet all of our required caseload ratios and, therefore, are required to hold a public meeting to give our community an opportunity to provide us with any input and/or recommendations. The meeting is scheduled to be held Thursday, June 13th, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the center's main office. George stated that the center will be able to meet the required caseload ratios when DDS provides us with enough funding to hire needed service coordinators.
- B. Purchase of Service (POS) Disparity: Statute requires all regional centers to hold an annual POS disparity meeting to present their data and to also post this data on their websites. NLACRC's community meeting will be held Tuesday, June 25th, at 2:00 p.m. at the center's main office. George does not believe that the POS data that DDS required us to post on our website was very informative so he has asked staff to provide him with additional information about how the center spends its POS dollars and he will share that information at the community meeting to make it more educational and productive.
- C. Antiquated Software: The regional center system is using computer software that was developed in the early 1980's, which makes it very difficult to get information from it without a programmer. The center's client data base, resources, and financial software are all separate and cannot interact with one another.
- D. Early Start Restoration: George thanked everyone for their efforts to restore the Early Start program to pre-2009 levels. Legislators are actively discussing it, so please continue to send phone calls and letters to them. We want to be able to serve these children who are currently "falling through the cracks."
- E. Annual Family Program Fee: The governor's proposed budget includes making the fee permanent, rather than allowing it to sunset on June 30th, as scheduled. The NLACRC Board of Trustees opposed this. The fee was implemented during a budget crisis, and now that the crisis has been resolved, the fee should sunset as scheduled. Unfortunately, the legislators agreed with the governor and the fee will become permanent.
- F. NLACRC Budget: We sent another letter to DDS explaining our cash flow situation and letting them know that we will need to contact our consumers, families, and providers if they do not send us the funding we need. We believe that DDS will send us the needed funds, but if they don't, we will need to delay payments to our providers.

- G. Vendor Rates/Cost Statements: George thinks that providers should push to have cost statements reinstated so that their rates can actually cover their costs, and urged providers to put pressure on their legislators to bring them back. Most of our current legislators probably don't know that cost statements ever existed. You should inform them.
- H. SB 486 Self-Determination Program: The board will be discussing this in detail at their June 12th meeting. Please come to the meeting if you would like to join in the discussion.
- I. Family Involvement: We need to continue to work together to get our consumers and their families involved in the system. We need them to become advocates and actively support us. They need to have a stake in the system to sustain it. It could disappear if they don't. Get some parent groups going. When meeting with families, we should talk with them about their "rights and responsibilities."

V. **Community Services Director's Report**

Joan Watson-Patko gave the following reports:

- A. Results of Service Provider Needs Assessment Survey: Joan provided everyone with copies of the survey results and reviewed the data with them. The primary purpose of the survey was to find ways that we could identify providers who were in distress financially and determine ways we could assist them. But what we learned was that until communication is improved between us, providers do not feel comfortable proactively sharing their distress with us. One of the main findings was that providers would like more direct contact with the regional center and they suggested that the center hold discussion groups with the various service categories on a quarterly basis. Although we would like to accommodate this, we don't have enough staff available to do so many meetings on a quarterly basis. As an alternative, Joan would like to work with providers to explore other ways to improve the center's partnership with its providers. The following comments were submitted:
 - 1. Pair vendors with other vendors so they can help them on a one-on-one basis.
 - 2. Designate a point person at the regional center for each type of service so providers know who the best person to contact is when they have questions or need information.

Action: Further discussion about how to improve the center's partnership with its providers will be held at the August 1st VAC meeting.

- B. Supported Living Services (SLS): Ken Lane, director of The Adult Skills Center, is hosting an open meeting to discuss SLS on Monday, June 17th.
- C. Intermediate Care Facilities and Skilled Nursing Facilities: Will have their payments delayed by Medi-Cal if they do not pass on their intermediate care facility state plan amendment funds to the regional center.

VI. Brief Committee Business

- A. January 2, 2014 VAC Meeting (Reschedule?)

Jenni stated that the January VAC meeting is currently scheduled to be held the day after New Year's Day. Does the committee want to reschedule it?

M/S/C (S. Shepard/M. Heid) To change the January 2, 2014 VAC meeting to Thursday, January 9, 2013.

VII. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

- A. Minutes of June 6th VAC Meeting
- B. Results of the Service Provider Needs Assessment Survey

VIII. Announcements/Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, August 1st, at 9:30 a.m. (no July meeting)

The NLACRC Board of Trustees and its committees are "dark" the last half of June and the first half of July, so the next VAC meeting won't be held until August. Jenni will be on vacation that week.

Action: Bob Erio agreed to chair the August 1st VAC meeting in Jenni's absence.

- B. Jenni thanked Pam Jordan, on behalf of the VAC, for her years of service on the committee and for all of her work with the VAC's mental health subcommittee, which was extremely productive. Pam will be honored for her service at the annual Board Dinner this Saturday night.

IX. Committee Work (Committee breaks into their priority issue teams)

- A. Early Start/Prevention Services
- B. Children's Services
- C. Adult Services
- D. Mental Health Issues (meets on the last Thursday of each month)
- E. "Red Bubble" Group

X. Adjournment

Jenni adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m. and the committee broke into their smaller groups for discussion.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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