

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2013

Present: Lawrence Burton, Rick Clemens, Bob Erio, Sienna Greener-Wooten, Michelle Heid, Roy Jensen, Pam Jordan, Ken Lane, Jenni Moran, Scott Shepard, Wayne Tashjian, and Gay Wane - Committee Members

Erica Beall, Jennifer Kaiser, Anna Polin, George Stevens, Joan Watson-Patko, and Ruth Zepeda - Staff Members

Dana Andrews, Nancy Parelskin, Randi Levinson-Kuzmin, Pam Jacobson, Faun Jimenez, Liz Bunkell, Emily Owens, Engrid Smith, Lea Saxton, Fernando Sandoval, Ken Greenlinger, Celina Lopez, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Julia Shaull, Marina Pink, Arcelia Berleson, Cynthia Fernandez, Christie Sotelo, Jay Lytton, Doug Pascover, Sima Semmel, Diana Delgado Basham, Rhonda Bunnin, Maribel Galvan, Anthony Jenkins, Donnette Springman, Chris Bratzel, Kathy Sturkey, Joe Tighe, Eduardo Lewis, and Valerie Kissell - Guests

Absent: Jonathan Istrin, Rebecca Lienhard, Salisa Wagner, and Dolly Wauls

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jenni Moran, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Everyone present was introduced.

II. Public Input

- A. Kathy Sturkey announced that the annual Amgen bicycle tour will be coming through Santa Clarita on Saturday, May 18th, and many of the roads will be shut down. Her agency, LARC Ranch, will be cut off from road access from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- B. Doug Pascover is a member of the political action committee of Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center's VAC. This is trying to unite the vendor community with the goal of changing recent legislation that adversely impacts vendors' ability to survive as private entities and to provide the best possible services to our clients. Doug provided copies of a sample letter to legislators addressing the legislation passed in 2011 on fiscal accountability of requiring financial reviews or audits, and also requiring vendors of regional centers with

negotiated rates to spend 15% or less on administrative costs. We must let our representatives in Sacramento know how the decisions they make today will affect the future of thousands of individuals with developmental disabilities, their constituents, and local businesses employing many constituents in their districts. Please feel free to pass it on to your friends and colleagues. The time to act is now! Thank you and we are hopeful as a community that we will make an impact in changing the language in the legislation.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (L. Burton/R. Jensen) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from April 4th VAC Meeting

M/S/C (G. Wane/P. Jordan) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Director's Report (George Stevens, Executive Director, NLACRC)

A. 1915i Waiver

Yesterday, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) told us that the 1915i waiver was approved. That is very good news for the regional centers because it means DDS will be receiving money through the waiver for them.

B. NLACRC's Budget

The center is still projecting deficits in our purchase of service (POS) budgets for the last several fiscal years. This fiscal year, the center is projecting a POS deficit of around \$24 million – the highest regional center POS deficit in the state. However, the center will continue to purchase services based on consumers' needs, identified on their Individual Program Plans (IPPs).

C. POS Diversity

Per DDS's direction, we have posted information on our website on the services that are provided to our clients, broken down by various categories. George encouraged the vendors to take a look at the information and provide him with any comments. A POS diversity hearing will be held sometime in late June.

D. State Budget

The restoration of the Early Start program is starting to get some traction. George urged the vendors to contact the local legislators to support it, especially members of the Assembly and Senate Human Services Committees.

E. Uniform Holiday Schedule

DDS is welcoming comments on the next uniform holiday schedule and George encouraged them to go to DDS's website and provide their input. The current schedule has programs closing down for 1 day during the break between Christmas and New Year's, which doesn't make much sense.

F. Vendor Audits/Financial Reviews

Only 55% of our providers have submitted their required audits for 2011. DDS told us we must pursue obtaining copies of these audits from our providers. If you are required to submit one, please do.

G. Worker's Compensation

Providers are required by law to carry worker's compensation insurance. We have sent out letters requesting proof. Please respond. If we do not receive proof of this insurance, we will report programs to the Labor Board. The Labor Board will show up, unannounced, and close your program that same day if you cannot provide proof of your coverage. They also assess fines.

H. Fire Marshal

Gay Wane asked George if he could comment on the LA County Codes and the Fire Marshal's interpretation of them, including the requirement for our providers to install sprinklers and alarms in the whole building – even if they are occupying a small part of it. George stated that he recently had a conference call with DDS about this. We have several programs who are struggling with this because they cannot get licensed without the fire marshal's clearance. This is impacting all of our new developments. Gay added that this is because they changed vendors' codes from a B-2 to an I (institutional). And with that comes a lot more requirements. Vendors were warned to not embark on any new developments until this issue can be resolved.

I. State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Settlement Agreement

Back in 1987, the SCDD filed and won a lawsuit that allowed service providers to submit cost statements to regional centers every other year so adequate adjustments could be made. This document would help us to make our case to legislators on the stagnation of vendor rates. George is looking for a copy of that settlement agreement; if you have one, please forward a copy to George at gstevens@nlacrc.org.

V. Committee Business

A. Election of FY 2013-14 VAC Chair

M/S/C (R. Jensen/S. Shepard) To elect Jenni Moran to serve as VAC chair for FY 2013-14.

VI. Reports from the VAC Priority Issue Work Groups

A. Early Start/Prevention Services (Roy Jensen) – *Will meet after this meeting*

B. Children's Services (Rick Clemens) – *Will meet after this meeting*

C. Adult Services (Rebecca Lienhard)

Jenni reported that the group worked collaboratively to begin developing an Employment First policy. Rebecca is putting together the group's mission/vision statement, which will be presented to the VAC and then to the Board of Trustees. The next step will be to determine the employment rate of consumers in our area and then develop an employment goal to reach.

D. Mental Health Issues (Pam Jordan/Gay Wane)

Gay Wane reported that this group meets on the last Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. It is a collaborative meeting with vendors, regional center staff, and representatives from the Department of Mental Health. They staff cases and Gay encouraged anyone who needs assistance with obtaining mental health services for consumers to contact Steve Johnson and come to the next meeting. (sjohnson@nlacrc.org).

E. VAC Employment (Red Bubble Group)

(See Section VI.C. above.)

F. VAC Employment - *Blue and Purple Bubble Groups meet after VAC meeting*

1. The Blue Group: This group is focusing on identifying critical skills for children's services.
2. The Purple Group: This group is focusing on developing ongoing seminars for families, services providers, and consumers.

Jenni stated that the guests present are more than welcome to join either of these group discussions.

VII. Report on Board Committee Meetings

A. Administrative Affairs (Ken Lane)

Ken reported that the Administrative Affairs Committee has met twice since his last report. Discussion items included:

1. The ongoing deficit being caused by the implementation of the intermediate care facility (ICF) state plan amendment (SPA).
2. The center has recently had 39 new hires and 7 promotions.
3. Payment of the center's annual dues to the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) in the amount of \$68,000.
4. 84 vendors have still not submitted their required audit for 2011.
5. The KIDS program is closing as the owners are retiring. They are currently providing services to 424 consumers.

B. Board of Trustees (Jenni Moran)

1. The board is very concerned about the center's ongoing budget deficits and cash flow issues. This board is very astute when it comes to finances, including issues that affect service providers.
2. Jeremy Sunderland, the board's ARCA delegate, has been nominated to serve as the president of ARCA!

C. Consumer Services (Rebecca Lienhard/Lawrence Burton)

1. Of the 19,025 consumers that the center serves, the diagnosis breakdown is as follows:
 - Intellectual Disability: 8,177 (8.15% increase since July 1, 2010)
 - Autism: 6,311 (**24.06% increase**)
 - Cerebral Palsy: 531 (4.73% increase)
 - Epilepsy: 222 (2.78% increase)
 - Other developmental disability: 933 (12.27% increase)
 - Early Start: 2,731 (12.47% increase)
2. The center's goal for this fiscal year was to move 14 consumers at Lanterman Developmental Center (LDC) into the community. To date, the center has successfully placed 15 consumers in the community. There are now just 36 NLACRC consumers living at LDC.

D. Government & Community Relations (Rebecca Lienhard/Lawrence Burton)

1. The committee oversaw the planning of the annual Legislative Breakfast, which was recently held at Sam's Café. The theme of this year's breakfast was "help rebuild the promise." This year's Jynny Retzinger Community Service Award was given to Pat Cambern, a long time parent advocate who was a member of NLACRC's original Board of Trustees.
2. Team meetings with local legislators are being arranged as part of NLACRC's Grass Roots Week. Each team is composed of a NLACRC staff lead, a provider, a board member, and a consumer. The talking points this year will be:
 - The restoration of the Early Start program.
 - The sunset of the annual family program fee.
 - Adequate rates for service providers.
3. The committee chair shared an article on the annual turnover rate of home care aides: 50%!
4. A legislative update was given which included a number of specific bills, including AB 462 which would require the installation of automatic sprinklers (cost prohibitive!).

E. Housing (Jonathan Istrin)

This committee meets quarterly. The next meeting will be held Monday, May 13th, at noon.

F. Nominating (Bob Erio)

The committee held group orientations for Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) and Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) applicants on April 4th. There was a really good turnout at the VAC orientation, but only 1 applicant showed up for the CAC orientation. The committee will be recommending the nomination of 3 VAC applicants to the Board of Trustees. The committee is going to task the FY 2013-14 Nominating Committee with filling the vacancies on the CAC. As far as VAC composition goes, the committee is rather heavy in the behavioral services category.

G. Strategic Planning (Roy Jensen)

This committee meets quarterly. The next meeting will be held Monday, May 6th, at 6:30 p.m.

VIII. Open Issues for Discussion

A. Transition to High School Fair

One of the VAC members reported that they attended the center's transition fair that was recently held at Leichman High School and it was terrific! Connection to the regional center was encouraged, the workshops were interesting, and there was a really good turnout of people there.

B. Community Services Director's Report

Joan Watson-Patko made the following announcements:

1. A second letter is being sent out to those providers who have not submitted proof of worker's compensation insurance coverage. If proof is not submitted, we will have to let DDS know and they will report you to the Labor Board. The Labor Board can show up at a provider's site, shut them down, and assess fines. Please work with us and send us proof of your coverage. We currently have over 250 consumers living at these homes.
2. The current contracts with our independent living services (ILS) and supported living service (SLS) providers will expire at the end of June. New 5-year contracts have been mailed out. Please sign and return your

contracts by the deadline as they contracts need to be signed before they can be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval.

3. The Medicaid Integrity form (DS 1891) has been updated to include Social Security number and date of birth. These forms need to be re-signed every 2 years.
4. We are still working to convert our SLS providers to hourly rates. The process is being delayed because we are having difficulty obtaining in-home support services (IHSS) information.
5. The IHSS rate for Los Angeles County was increased from \$10.60 to \$11.19 per hour effective January 1st.
6. Reminder: When submitting special incident reports, you must send a copy to the consumer's regional center. If that consumer is residing in a different regional center's catchment area, you must also submit a copy of the SIR to that regional center as well.

IX. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

- A. Minutes of May 2nd VAC Meeting
- B. VAC Chair for FY 2013-14

X. Announcements/Information/Public Input

- A. **Next VAC Meeting:** Thursday, June 6th, at 9:30 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

Jenni adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

[vacmin.may2.2013]

