

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2013

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

Jennifer Kaiser, Anna Polin, Kim Rolfes, George Stevens, Joan Watson-Patko, John Youngbauer, and Ruth Zepeda - Staff Members

Jill Martin, Pam Jacobson, Minerva Ramirez, Nicole Webb, Julia Shaul, Jorge Flores, Marielle DeFazio, Marina Pink, Shellie Bader, Olga Reyes, Don Lucas, Bianca Sevilla, Sherman Mitchell, Rita Guerrero, Ingrid Rushing, Frances Mejias, Donnette Springman, Doug Pascover, Celina Lopez, Rhonda Bunnin, Arcelia Berleson, Maribel Galvan, Carolyn Caldwell, Dana Kalek, Chris Bratzel, Joe Tighe, Kathleen Sturkey, Andrea Benitez, Lisa Lee, Tara Svenkerud, Jay Lytton, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, and Sherise Henson - Guests

Absent: Rick Clemens and Roy Jensen

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jenni Moran, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Everyone present was introduced.

II. Public Input - There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (D. Wauls/P. Jordan) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from March 7th VAC Meeting

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

IV. Director’s Report

George Stevens gave the following report:

- A. Vendor Audits: The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has given us direction to obtain audits/financial reports from providers. We currently need audits from 2011. We have already sent out several notices. If you are required to submit one, please do so promptly! This is a very serious matter. Your vendorization could be affected if you do not submit this information.
 - B. Workers' Compensation Insurance: It is a state law for our providers to have workers' compensation insurance. If you have not submitted proof of your coverage to us, please do so promptly.
 - C. State Budget Hearing: Will be held April 11th. Two of the biggest issues will be Sonoma and Lanterman Developmental Centers.
 - D. 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 opposes this. The fee was implemented during a budget crisis, but now that the crisis has been resolved, the fee should sunset as scheduled. In addition, not nearly as much money has been collected as was anticipated.
 - E. Insurance Coverage for Behavioral Health Services: Only 28% of our consumers fall under the insurance mandate. Making these families go through a difficult process to receive services is not fair. Regional center consumers should be carved out of this program.
- Purchase of Services (POS) Diversity: Per DDS's direction, we have posted information on our website about the services that are provided to our consumers, broken down by various categories. George does not think that the format DDS had the centers use resulted in data that was very informative. A POS diversity hearing will be held sometime in late June.
- F. NLACRC Budget: Starting in February, DDS started paying us partial payments for our claims. We sent them a letter informing them that this practice was causing us to have cash flow issues, and they sent us \$18.8 million! For now, we will be able to pay April claims in May, but if we don't receive additional funds from DDS we won't be able to pay our May claims in June. All of the regional centers are in a similar position at some level.

- G. Media Story: Recently, the media released a videotape of several direct care staff members abusing a consumer in their care. It was very disturbing, and it shook confidence in our system. George would like to take action by forming an advisory group to come up with recommendations. Anyone who is interested in joining this new advisory group should contact George or Jennifer.

V. Community Service Director's Report

Joan Watson-Patko made the following announcements:

- A. Letters of Support for Vendors: The center has developed a new procedure for staff to follow when vendors make a request for a letter of support or reference. Joan provided copies of the new procedure to everyone present and reviewed it with them. Any vendors who are interested in obtaining a letter of this type should contact Joan directly at jwatsonpatko@nlacrc.org or at (818) 756-6116.
- B. Service Provider Needs Assessment Survey: Joan thanked everyone who completed the survey. Fifty surveys have been completed to date, but we would like to encourage anyone who has not responded to do so before the April 11th deadline. The survey's outcomes will be shared at the June VAC meeting.
- C. DS 1891 Medi-Cal Integrity Form: All providers are required to complete one of these forms. The form can be found on the center's website under "Service Providers" and then under "Announcements and Training."
- D. Request for Proposals: The center has issued an RFP for money management. Details can be found on the center's website.

VI. Brief Committee Business

- A. Nomination(s) for FY 2013-14 VAC Chair

Only 1 nomination was made.

M/S/C (G. Wane/R. Lienhard) To nominate Jenni Moran to serve another term as VAC chair.

VII. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

- A. Minutes of April 4th VAC Meeting
- B. Nomination of VAC Committee Chair
- C. Break-out Session re: Employment First

VIII. Announcements/Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 2nd, at 9:30 a.m. (full meeting)

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

- A. Early Start/Prevention Services (won't meet until next month)
- B. Children's Services (won't meet until next month)
- C. Adult Services
- D. Mental Health Issues
- E. VAC Employment Group ("Red Bubble" Group)

The Mental Health Issues Group meets on the last Thursday of each month. The VAC's Adult Services team and new Employment Group broke for individual discussions. Jenni invited the guests present to join them.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m. and the committee broke into their discussion groups.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

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Executive Assistant

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