

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2012

Present: Rick Clemens, Bob Erio, Sienna Greener-Wooten, Michelle Heid, Pam Jordan, Ken Lane, Rebecca Lienhard, Scott Shepard, Wayne Tashjian, Salisa Wagner, Gay Wane, and Dolly Wauls - Committee Members
Erica Beall, Jennifer Kaiser, Marie Paul, Cherylle Mallinson, George Stevens, Joan Watson-Patko, and John Youngbauer - Staff Members
Anthony Jenkins, Sona Terzyan, Neil Jarquin, Rita Guerrero, Arcelia Berleson, Ali Husain, Cynthia Fernandez, Kathy Sturkey, Chris Bratzel, Ronda Bunnin, Lea Saxton, Manbel Galvan, Nancy Parelskin, Dan Merrell, and Charles Devlin - Guests

Absent: Lawrence Burton, Jonathan Istrin, Roy Jensen, Jenni Moran, and Christina Rajlal

I. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Bob Erio, in Jenni Moran's absence, at 9:34 a.m. Everyone present was introduced. Bob welcomed new VAC member Michele Heid.

II. Public Input - There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (G. Wane/R. Lienhard) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from June 7th VAC Meeting

M/S/C (R. Lienhard/W. Tashjian) To approve the minutes as presented.

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

A. Implementation of Trailer Bill Language

1. Service Provider Payment Reductions: The 4.25% reduction to service provider payments did not sunset, but it was decreased to 1.25%. The new reduction will go into effect starting with the payment of July claims which will be paid in August and it is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2014.
2. Supported Living Services (SLS) Rates: We continue to meet with SLS providers to change their rate from monthly to hourly.

3. Financial Management Services (FMS): Staff are working with families to transition them to the FMS.
4. \$50 Million Trigger: We are still concerned that if the tax propositions in the November elections fail, the regional centers may face a \$50 million budget reduction.

B. NLACRC's Purchase of Service (POS) Budget:

The center is projecting a POS deficit of about \$4 million for FY 2011-12.

C. Intermediate Care Facility/State Plan Amendment (ICF/SPA)

We are going "live" this fiscal year with the ICF/SPA and will begin making claiming current services. The ICF/SPA billing process leaves the center to be reimbursed by ICFs, which is an annual amount around \$7 million. If the ICF providers do not pay us promptly, this will cause a big cash flow problem for the center.

D. Behavioral Services

We are working with families and insurance companies to make sure there is a smooth transition from the center paying for autism-related behavioral services to insurance companies. As far as co-payment go, the law does not allow regional centers to make categorical service decisions. As such, the decision as to whether or not the center will cover co-payments will be made on a case-by-case basis. Kaiser-Permanente of southern California has struck an exclusive deal with Easter Seals who will be hiring staff to provide behavioral services.

E. New Director of Community Services

George introduced Joan Watson-Patko, the center's new director of community services. Joan can be reached at (818) 756-6116 or at JWatsonPatko@nlacrc.org.

V. Committee Business

A. Annual Committee Orientation

1. Policies and Procedures
2. Bylaws Statement

Copies of both documents were provided to the committee for their information. VAC members should read and be families with both so they fully understand the purpose of the VAC and their role as a member.

B. Review VAC Action Log from FY 2011-12 – *Deferred*

C. VAC Meeting Schedule for FY 2012-13

Copies of the meeting schedule were provided. The committee will be meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. except for the months of July and December.

D. VAC Priority Issues and Teams for FY 2012-13 – *Deferred*

E. VAC Volunteers to Serve on Board Sub-Committees in FY 2012-13

Jenni contacted everyone and the following VAC members have volunteered to serve on board subcommittees this fiscal year:

1. Ken Lane (Administrative Affairs)
2. Jenni Moran (Board of Trustees)
3. Rebecca Lienhard & Lawrence Burton (Consumer Services)
4. Rebecca Lienhard & Lawrence Burton (Government/Community Relations)
5. Jonathan Istrin (Housing)
6. Bob Erio (Nominating)
7. Roy Jensen (Strategic Planning)

Also, the following VAC members have volunteered to chair the VAC's priority issue groups this fiscal year:

1. Roy Jensen (Prevention/Early Start)
2. Rick Clemens (Children's Services)
3. Rebecca Lienhard (Adult Services)
4. Pam Jordan and Gay Wane (Mental Health Issues)

VI. Reports from the VAC Priority Issue Work Groups

A. Early Start/Prevention Services (Roy Jensen)

Roy was not present to give a report.

B. Children's Services (Rick Clemens)

The group discussed the implementation of SB 946 (insurance coverage for autism-related behavioral services).

C. **Adult Services** (Rebecca Lienhard)

Rebecca provided copies of the meeting notes to the VAC. They discussed the ARCA New Day conference that will be held at the Pasadena Hilton on September 18 & 19. They also discussed the Medicaid Waiver audit, attendant support for consumer trips outside the center's catchment area, resources, services for older adults, and legislative visits.

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

The group does not meet after the VAC meetings like the other groups. This group meets at 3:00 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month at the regional center's main office in Van Nuys. The group meets jointly with staff from the regional center and the Department of Mental Health (DMH). They use their meeting time to discuss and resolve individual case issues. Due to confidentiality, the meeting details cannot be discussed here. If anyone has a client who needs DMH services, please contact Steve Johnson, adult unit supervisor at the regional center, and he can make arrangements for the group to discuss it. The goal of the group is to improve the collaboration efforts between the regional center and the DMH – and this has been very fruitful!

VII. Report on Board Committee Meetings

A. **Administrative Affairs** (Ken Lane)

The committee reviewed several contracts for board approval, primarily for homes that are being developed to serve consumers moving out of Lanterman Developmental Center. A recent audit found that one of the center's service providers had over-billed for just over \$1 million. The center's Board of Trustees sent a letter to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) regarding their POS deficit and DDS sent a positive response – an additional allocation. A situation recently occurred where a staff person left one provider for another and took personal consumer information with them, in hopes of continuing to serve that consumer from the new location – this should never be done and it is also a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) violation. The center has begun hiring service coordinators after a very long hiring freeze. The center was recently dropped by its workers compensation insurance provider due to a high number of claims; they were able to find another provider, but at a cost of more than twice as much.

B. Board of Trustees (George for Jenni Moran)

The board elected its officers for the new fiscal year; Yolanda Bosch will be serving her second term as president. The center will be holding a candidates forum and voter education/registration day on October 16th at Sam's Café at New Horizons. The proposed changes to the center's service standards will be presented to the board for the review in September and then presented to them for approval in October. Once the standards are approved, they need to be submitted to DDS for their review and approval. Once DDS approves the changes, then the standards can be translated into Spanish and distributed.

C. Consumer Services (Rebecca Lienhard/Lawrence Burton)

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

Rebecca and Lawrence were unable to attend the July 18th meetings, so no reports were given.

E. Housing (Jonathan Istrin)

The next quarterly Housing Committee meeting will be held at noon on Monday, August 20th.

F. Nominating (Bob Erio)

The committee met last night. They had their annual orientation and then reviewed their notebooks which contain information about the board, VAC, and Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC). There is currently only 1 opening on the VAC and 1 opening on the CAC. Notices soliciting applications for the board, VAC, and CAC will be sent out in October with applications due December 31st. The committee will begin meeting in January to review the applications and to schedule interviews with applicants. The committee plans to focus on board officer continuity and succession planning with 2-year terms for board presidents.

G. Strategic Planning (Roy Jensen)

The next quarterly Strategic Planning Committee meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 6th,

VIII. Open Issues for Discussion

No further issues were identified for discussion.

IX. Identify any Specific Items for Board Discussion (for the next board meeting)

A. Minutes of June 7th and August 2nd Meetings

X. Announcements/Information/Public Input

A. Cherylle Mallinson made the following announcements:

1. A letter was sent to the center's SLS providers on July 23rd regarding DDS's new SLS assessment questionnaire. The questionnaire must be used anytime a consumer's Individual Program Plan is modified, reviewed, or discussed (at least quarterly).
2. A letter was sent to the center's services providers on July 25th regarding our new e-mail encryption procedure, which will begin on September 1st.
3. A letter was sent to the center's providers on July 27th about how to reset passwords on the electronic billing system. This information is also posted on our website.

B. The next VAC meeting will be held Thursday, September 6th, at 9:30 a.m. and then the work groups will meet.

XI. Adjournment

Bob adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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