

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Housing Committee Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2013

Present: Richard Dier, Jonathan Istrin, Elizabeth Lyons, Kim Rolfes, Scott Shepard, and Joan Watson-Patko – Committee Members
Tara Barauskas, Mrs. Brown, Linda Dier, and David Littlehales - Guests
Jennifer Kaiser – Staff Member

Absent: Eric Leh, Steve Miller, and George Stevens

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Richard Dier, chair, called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. Introductions were made.

II. Consent Items

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes of November 29, 2012 Meeting

The agenda and minutes were approved as presented.

III. Public Input – There was no public input.

IV. Committee Business

- A. Presentation: A Community of Friends (Tara Barauskas & David Littlehales)

A Community of Friends (ACOF) is a nonprofit organization that provides affordable housing for various special needs groups, specifically mental illness, but also including homeless, low income, emancipated foster youth, and most recently, people with disabilities. They are now celebrating their 25th year! ACOF has developed 40 projects throughout southern California; they currently have 3 projects under construction and another one is breaking ground within the next 3 months. Depending upon the type of tenants, ACOF also provides support services, including transportation, life skills classes, child care, budgeting, healthy living, and parenting. One of their projects, which was just recently completed, is “Vista del Rio,” a beautiful 40-unit facility in Santa Ana. It was constructed to serve 30 people with developmental disabilities and 10 people with physical disabilities, and their

family/aide. These tenants will pay just 30% of the total rental costs. The facility is on a 2-acre site, and has the following features:

1. A large community kitchen, with cooking classes.
2. A beautiful garden, with gardening classes.
3. A computer room, with computer classes. (Liz suggested that they look into procuring “Simply Speaking” and Kurzweil software.)
4. Solar power.
5. A recycling program.
6. A water reduction program.

ACOF is funded through grants, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and The United Way. Referrals are made by medical doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists, LCSWs, etc. Tara and David said they would be happy to work with the regional center on developing properties with set-asides for people with developmental disabilities.

B. Update on Community Placement Plan (CPP) Activities

NLACRC has 11 housing CPP projects planned for this fiscal year. Two of the projects have been completed, 3 will be completed this month, and the remaining projects will be completed later this fiscal year.

C. Update on Housing Legislation

Joan provided a handout containing the most current legislation regarding housing in California. She could find no information on federal housing legislation.

Action: Committee members should feel free to forward any state or federal legislation that pertains to housing to Joan and she will include that information in her next report.

D. New Housing Guidelines

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) recently released their new housing guidelines.

Action: Jennifer will e-mail the new DDS housing guidelines to the Housing Committee.

E. Sonoma Developmental Center

They recently lost its certification and subsequently their federal funding. It is an unsafe place for consumers to live and is costing DDS millions of dollars to keep open.

F. Future Presentations

Per the committee's suggestions, Kim contacted George Braddock (who wrote a book on how to modify your home to accommodate your child's behaviors). He is willing to talk to the committee via a webinar, but prefers to speak in person. He charges a fee, so rather than pay him to speak to just this committee, perhaps we could hold a forum in a larger venue and invite our service providers to attend. This would require board approval.

Action: Kim will attend the March 7th Vendor Advisory Committee meeting to find out if they have any interest in attending a presentation by George Braddock. If so, the recommendation to hold a large forum, sometime in the summer, will be presented to the Board of Trustees for their approval.

Action: Richard will also attend the March 7th Vendor Advisory Committee meeting to help Kim explain about George Braddock's accomplishments.

Action: In the meantime, Kim will ask Steven Robers with Community Provider of Enrichment Services (CPES) to give a presentation at the next quarterly Housing Committee meeting.

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

A. Minutes of February 11th Meeting

VI. **Announcements / Information**

A. Next Quarterly Meeting: Monday, May 13, 2013, at 12:00 p.m.

Richard announced that he will be terming off the board on June 30, 2013 so the next Housing Committee meeting will be his last, as a board member. However, we would still be interested in participating in the meetings as a member of the public.

VII. **Adjournment**

Richard adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

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Executive Assistant

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