

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**  
May 7, 2012

**Present:** Diane Ambrose, Sandra Baker, Maria Garcia, Sara Iwahashi, Sharoll Jackson, Roy Jensen, Cynthia Kawa, Steve Miller, William Rayber, Meredith Rimmer, Kim Rolfes, and Ingrid Rushing – Committee Members

Jennifer Kaiser – Staff Member

**Absent:** Cathy Blin, Charles Devlin, Michele Marra, and George Stevens

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Sharoll Jackson, chair, at 6:34 p.m. Introductions were made.

**II. Public Input** – There was no public input.

**III. Consent Items**

**A. Approval of Agenda**

Item IV.E. should refer to AB 2338 (Chesbro) not AB 254 (Beall). The agenda was approved as modified.

**B. Approval of Minutes of February 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The first sentence of the third paragraph in Section IV.A. was changed to read, “*Cynthia* added that supported *employment* services had a 10% reduction several years ago . . .” The minutes were approved as modified.

**IV. Committee Business**

**A. Update on the State Budget**

1. Hearings: Diane reported that the Senate Select Sub-Committee on Autism met last Friday. Some negative testimony was given regarding regional center services. They implied that consumers of lower income families or of families with color are receiving fewer services than those of higher income or Caucasian families. These types of remarks are

completely irresponsible as they are vague generalities with no specific facts given. In addition, they cast disparity on our service coordinators by inferring that they are racist. Steve stated that ARCA should present information to balance statements like that and Roy agreed. Diane reported that George will be working with ARCA on testimony that should be presented at the next hearing.

2. Lanterman Developmental Center (LDC) Closure: The legislators are anxious to have the developmental centers closed, but there are many barriers to our community placement plans (CPPs) which prevent us from making the placements, such as:

- The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is not communicating with us in a clear or expeditious manner and they also continue to delay in giving us our CPP funding.
- Community Care Licensing is not adequately staffed so it takes a long time to get a home licensed. It takes about 2 to 3 years to get a home up and running.
- The consumers who remain at LDC awaiting placement are the most difficult ones to serve.

Steve reported that he wrote a letter to Assemblyman Bob Blumenfield suggesting that an unallocated reduction be directed at the developmental centers. The consumers living there currently cost \$350,000 per year, and Steve suggested that the amount be capped at \$300,000 per year. With the declining number of residents the costs are increasing.

3. May Revise: The May Revise will be coming out next week.

**B. Report on March 1<sup>st</sup> Area Board 10 Meeting** (Steve and Ingrid)

Steve and Ingrid had planned to attend the last Area Board 10 meeting to find out why the area board did not support the full sunset of the 4.25% payment reduction. There was discussion as to whether or not this was the position of Area Board 10 or of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, which oversees the area boards.

**C. Update on Legislative Events**

1. ARCA Grass Roots Day (Sacramento): This is a time when each regional center can send a team of representatives to Sacramento to visit with legislators at the State Capitol. Our group consisted of Michele Marra, Yolanda Bosch (board president), Steve Miller, and Elizabeth Lyons. They met with 11 legislators that day! Also, the meetings were much more positive than meetings in the past. Steve stated that the legislators were very supportive of their talking points, but the budget problems still exist. Unfortunately, about half of the legislators representing NLACRC's catchment area are terming out.

**Action:** The committee will recommend to the Government & Community Relations Committee that the center hold a candidates forum prior to the November elections.

2. NLACRC's Grass Roots Week Visits: Each year the center organizes teams generally consisting of a staff lead, board member, vendor, and consumer to visit with our local legislators at their district offices. A training was held for all of the team members back in March to review the talking points. Appointments have been made and some of the visits have already been done.
3. NLACRC's 27<sup>th</sup> Legislative Breakfast: The breakfast was held Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, and Diane thought it was one of the best ones the center has ever had. The theme was, "The System Belongs to Us" and it focused on the importance of Early Start services, the success of supported employment, and ended with a consumer who is a senior, living on her own in her family home after her parents passed away. The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Jynny Retzinger Community Service Award was given to Steve Miller on behalf of Tierra del Sol, which just celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ten legislative representatives and over 150 guests were present. Unfortunately, there were no actual legislators present as our breakfast conflicted with another one, which many had made a prior commitment to attend. We will do our best to make sure our breakfasts do not conflict with similar events in the future. There was discussion about how data could be collected to identify how many voters are aligned with our system.

**Action:** The committee will recommend to the Government & Community Relations Committee to organize a voter education and registration drive prior to the November elections. The education part

could include a list of legislators who have supported our system in the past by listing their voting record.

#### **D. Update on Performance Contract**

Sara reported that DDS will be sending the mid-year 2012 performance contract data in July. The public meetings for the center's 2013 performance contract will be held in August (2 in the San Fernando Valley and 1 in the Antelope Valley). Sara provided the committee with copies of last year's public meeting announcement and asked the committee to please provide her with any proposed changes. The following comments were made:

1. At the top, add a catchy phrase like "Your opinions matter!" or "Tell us how we are doing!"
2. Simplify the announcement.
3. Ask them "Do you have any thoughts regarding Early Start, children, or adult services?" providing a check box for each category and space for their input.
4. Use larger type.
5. Include at least one picture.

**Action:** Committee members will contact Sara with any additional changes to the center's public meeting announcement by Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at [siwashashi@nlacrc.org](mailto:siwashashi@nlacrc.org) or (818) 756-6451.

Sara added that very few people attend the public meetings and rarely are suggestions made for and additional outcomes to be added to the performance contract. Roy suggested that the best practices for forms could be added.

**Action:** Roy will ask the VAC's Early Start group for their input on what kind of forms they would like to use for assessments, etc.

**Action:** Kim will send Roy a copy of the center's Supported Living Services (SLS) assessment form that was developed in partnership with SLS providers.

Kim stated that there is a function in Word that can put language in a specific grade level.

**Action:** Kim will share the grade level Word function with Jennifer and she will share it with the committee.

**E. Update on AB 2338 (Chesbro) Employment First Policy**

AB 254 (Beall) died last year and this bill has taken its place. Eileen Richey, executive director of ARCA sent a letter to Senator Chesbro letting him know that they had taken a “support if amended” position on his bill and then outlined which amendments they would like to see. Copies of the letter were provided to all present. The bill was heard by the Assembly for the third time today.

**V. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

A. Minutes of May 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

**VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input**

A. Ingrid stated that there is nothing specific on preventing abuse for the developmentally disabled population. This is truly an unmet need in the community.

**Action:** Ingrid and Steve will gather some information on abuse prevention and share it with the Strategic Planning Committee.

B. Next Meeting: Monday, August 6, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

**VII. Adjournment**

Sharoll adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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