

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2013

- Present:** Beth Brodie, Mary Jo Fernando, William Rayber, and Curtis Wang – Committee Members
Lesley Forbes, Elizabeth Macias, Precious Malumfashi, and Jerry Robles – Guests
Eugene Baily, Jennifer Kaiser, Jose Rodriguez, and George Stevens – Staff Members
- Absent:** Ed Catino, Juan Hernandez, Monroe Jones, and Cherie Roberson
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1. Call to Order & Introductions

Mary Jo Fernando, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Everyone present was introduced.

2. Public Input (3 minutes)

Although Elizabeth Lyons was unable to participate in today's meeting, she bought pizzas for the committee in honor of Randy Horton's birthday. For those people present who did not have the opportunity to know Randy, Jennifer explained that he was a former member and chair of this committee and was an unbelievable advocate for people with disabilities, at the local, state, and national levels.

3. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item 6.E. was added to the agenda. The *February 5th* date in section 7.A. was corrected to read *March 5th*.

M/S/C (W. Rayber/C. Wang) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2013 Meeting

M/S/C (W. Rayber/C. Wang) To approve the minutes as presented.

4. Presentation: Overview of Governor's Proposed State Budget (George Stevens)

George gave an overview of the governor's proposed budget for next fiscal year (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014). Highlights include:

1. Additional money for regional center caseload growth.
2. Additional money to cover consumers' and families' co-payments and deductibles related to autism treatment services now covered by health insurance companies.
3. The "sunset" (ending) of the remaining 1.25% payment reduction to regional centers and service providers.

George also added that the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is pushing for the following additions:

1. The restoration of all cuts that have been made over the years.
2. The sunset of the annual family program fee on June 30, 2013.
3. The restoration of the Early Start program.

Budget hearings will now begin and the governor will release any revisions to his proposed budget in May.

5. Old Business

A. Updated Event Calendar

Eugene provided everyone with a copy of the committee's updated event calendar.

Action: Eugene will make sure each event has contact information so people can find out more about the event if they want to.

Action: Eugene will only include events that are within the county of Los Angeles and omit any others.

B. Reports on Employment, Transportation, Legislation, and Housing (All)

Jose provided the committee with information about a new website called "Abilities 365.com." This new website is one of the fastest growing comprehensive online resources for people with disabilities, care givers, families, and industry professionals. There is no charge to use the website and it's a great way to communicate with other members and sponsors. You can share information about yourself, post pictures, or even offer an inspirational quote to others. Highlights of the website include:

1. The Resource and Learning Center: Includes videos, articles, webinars and more. You can receive training and interact with nonprofit associations, service providers, and industry leaders in order to get the latest information about overcoming the challenges associated with your disability.
2. The Product and Services Center: Showcases thousands of products, services, and solutions to special needs as well as saving you money through special offers.

C. Identify Possible Presentation Topics for the May and June CAC Meetings

M/S/C (B. Brodie/C. Wang) William will give a report on independent living at the May CAC meeting and Eugene will arrange a presentation on the metro system for the June CAC meeting.

Action: Eugene will correct the April presentation to read: “Update on Access Services: changes in fees, TAP cards, and other changes (Stephen Wrenn).”

6. New Business

A. Report on Event with Assembly Member Bob Blumenfield (Mary Jo)

Mary Jo participated in the assembly member’s “sidewalk hours” where he is available to meet with people in an informal manner. She asked the Board of Trustees what questions she should ask him. The 3 questions and the assembly member’s responses were:

1. The governor’s budget proposal assumes that the existing 1.25% payment reduction to regional centers and their service providers will “sunset,” (end) on June 30, 2013.
 - Assembly member Blumenfield would like to see the 1.25% payment reduction end, if possible.
2. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is considering co-sponsoring legislation that would restore the Early Start program to the way it was before the budget reductions were made. Does he believe that this legislation would be widely supported?

- Assembly member Blumenfield supports this type of legislation, but believed it would probably take quite a while (more than a year) to get it passed.
3. The governor is proposing major changes to California's adult education system that would impact programs serving adult consumers. Does the assembly member have any information as to how consumers will be impacted by this?
- Assembly Member Blumenfield stated that this proposal would provide more funding for community colleges.

B. Report on ARCA CAC Meeting, held January 11th (William)

William participated in the ARCA CAC meeting that was held last month in Sacramento. The ARCA CAC is a statewide group of consumers (1 from each of the 21 regional centers) who meet 4 times a year in Sacramento. They also hold conference calls in between the in-person meetings. Highlights of the January 11th in-person meeting included:

1. A presentation by Disability Rights California on "The Vote Project."
2. A review of the governor's proposed state budget for next fiscal year.
3. A review of the National Core Indicator Data.
4. Discussion about what areas ARCA CAC could focus on in the future.
5. Each meeting ends with each committee member giving a report on what activities their regional center and/or their CAC is currently involved in.

The next in-person meeting of the ARCA CAC will be held Friday, April 12th. William will give a report on that meeting at the May 7th CAC meeting.

C. Area Board 10 Newsletter

The federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) came to California last month to hear public input on the work the State Council and Area Boards are doing to positively impact the lives of consumers. Comments were due by January 17th.

D. Review Agenda for February 13, 2013 Board of Trustees Meeting

Copies of the agenda for next week's board meeting were provided to everyone present and Jennifer reviewed it with them. The board will be given 2 presentations this month:

1. A presentation of the center's audited financial statement.
2. A presentation of behavioral services.

E. Department of Developmental Services (DDS) CAC

DDS is currently looking for consumers to apply for membership on this committee. The DDS CAC provides advice to DDS on policies, programs, legislation, and regulations that affect the lives of consumers in California. There are currently 15 committee members who meet up to 4 times per year. DDS will cover the costs of transportation and attendants (if needed). In order to apply for membership on the DDS CAC you must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be an adult consumer who is receiving services from a regional center.
2. Must be a member of a self-advocacy organization.
3. Must be nominated by the local People First group.
4. Fill out an application and submit it to DDS by Monday, March 11th.

Information about the DDS CAC, along with an application form, was provided to the committee.

7. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. New Horizons in North Hills is again offering free income tax service, which will be provided by volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). For more information or for an appointment, please contact Michelle Veals at (818) 894-9301, ext. 332.
- B. NLACRC's Self-Advocacy Group will be holding a party to celebrate the group's 22nd anniversary on **Tuesday, March 19th**, at 10:45 a.m. The party will include music, dancing, a raffle, snacks, soft drinks, and more! The party will be held at ST. Michael's Conference Center, 16643 Vanowen Street in Van Nuys. The cost is only 50 cents per person at the door. A planning meeting will be held **Tuesday, February 19th** at 10:45 a.m. at the same location.

- C. The “Just 4 Us” self-advocacy group is organizing a group to watch the CSUN Matadors’ baseball game on **Saturday, April 13th**. For more information or to make a reservation, please call Suzanne Paggi at (818) 421-4439.
- D. Starting January 28th, staff from the Family Focus Resource Center will be available to assist people in the center’s resource center. They can show you what the resource center has to offer and can check out library materials. For more information or to make an appointment, please call (818) 756-6288.
- E. The next CAC meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 5th**, at 2:00 p.m.

8. Identify Board Meeting Agenda Items

- A. Minutes of February 5, 2013 Meeting
- B. CAC Event Calendar
- C. Report on Meeting with Assembly Member Bob Blumenfield
- D. Report on ARCA CAC Meeting (William Rayber)

9. Adjournment

Mary Jo adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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