

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2012

Present: Gus Adams, Pam Aiona, Beth Brodie, Ed Catino, Mary Jo Fernando, Juan Hernandez, Duane Joslin, and Curtis Wang – Committee Members
William Rayber – Board Member
Eugene Baily, Jose Rodriguez, and George Stevens – Staff Members
Cedric Anderson, Elizabeth Lyons, and Santos Ramirez

Absent: All present

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Curtis Wang, chairperson, at 2:00 p.m. Everyone sang “Happy Birthday” to Juan Hernandez and then introductions were made.

2. Public Input (3 minutes)

Gus announced that he was going to resign from the CAC and is only planning to come to the next 2 meetings.

3. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (D. Joslin/C. Wang) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes of May 1, 2012 Meeting

M/S/C (D. Joslin/M.J. Fernando) To approve the minutes as presented.

4. The May Revision of the Proposed FY 2012-13 State Budget (George Stevens)

George explained that the governor is not expected to approve the budget until mid-June, but here is what’s in the budget so far.

A. Developmental Centers: There has been a lot of discussion about closing more of the developmental center and putting a stop to admitting any new people into

them. They want the regional centers to develop homes in the community for them to live in, but they will need to give the centers enough money to do it.

- B. Supported Living Service (SLS) Assessments: This year's budget contained language that would require the regional centers to conduct individual assessments. They've changed their minds. Next year's budget will require the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to develop a standard 40-question questionnaire that service coordinators will ask during Individual Program Plan (IPP) meetings.
- C. Medicaid Waiver: They want to increase ways to get more money from the federal government by adding more consumers to the Medicaid Waiver.
- D. Payment Reductions: This year's budget contained a reduction to the regional center operations budget and to vendor payments by 4.25%. This reduction was supposed to "sunset" (come to an end) on June 30, 2012. In the new budget, they are proposing that rather than sunset the reduction completely, it would be reduced to 1.25% instead. This new reduction would sunset in 2 years.
- E. \$50 million "Trigger": If certain ballot measures do not pass during the November elections, a \$50 million budget reduction would be implemented.
- F. Insurance Coverage for Autism-Related Services: In order to save the state an estimated \$80 million, health insurance providers will now be required to cover the cost of autism-related services for regional center consumers.
- G. Diversity: Some people think that people of color do not receive the same amount of services from the regional centers as other people do. We disagree with this assumption, but the proposed budget will require DDS to gather this type of data from each regional center to determine if it is true or not.

George concluded his budget report by saying that the center's provider community will continue to remain financially strained because they have not received rate increases in many years. With the budget reductions in place, the regional centers will face the challenge of meeting the needs of people moving out of the developmental centers and being able to hire qualified staff.

5. Old Business

- A. Updated Event Calendar: Eugene stated that he will distribute the calendar at the CAC meetings rather than mail them out in the packets so he can have extra time to add additional events.

Action: CAC members should contact Eugene with information on any events in their area that consumers may be interested in attending and he will add them to the event calendar.

- B. Letters Supporting AB 2370 (Mansoor) and SB 1381(Pavley): At the April CAC meeting, the committee took action to recommend to the Board of Trustees to take a “support” position on SB 1381 and AB 2370, which would change the term “mental retardation” to “intellectual disability.” The board approved this action and letters of support were mailed to the Assembly and Senate Health and Human Services Committees. Copies of the letters were provided to the CAC in their meeting packets. Eugene also had copies of both bills available.

- C. Reports on Employment, Transportation, Legislation, or Housing (All)

1. William reported that the MTA will open the extension of the Orange Line. The extension is a 4-mile addition to the San Fernando Valley busway, and will officially open on Saturday, June 30th, with free rides for passengers from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Orange Line is a 14-mile east-west route from North Hollywood to Warner Center. The north-south extension connects the Canoga station to the Chatsworth Metrolink station, allowing passengers a one-seat ride from Chatsworth to North Hollywood, where they can catch the Red Line subway.
2. Liz reported that Access drivers should not be asking riders for any money in addition to the regular fare. If they do, don't pay it. If this happens, contact the Access office immediately to report it.

6. New Business

- A. Report on Housing Committee Meeting (Liz Lyons): Liz is a member of NLACRC's Housing Committee, which meets quarterly. Highlights of the May 14th meeting include:

- George gave everyone an update on the state budget.
- Tom Beltran, attorney, provided information on how parents can hold their homes in trust for their children.

- An update on housing legislation was given.
- The center is remodeling homes in the San Fernando Valley for consumers who are moving out of Lanterman Developmental Center. The good thing about these homes is that they will always stay in the system. If the providers decide they no longer want to provide services, they leave and new providers will be found. That way, the consumers will always be able to stay in their home. After the Housing Committee meeting, the members were invited to go to the open house for the first home on Osborne Street. It was a really nice house in a nice quiet neighborhood. The house had 4 bedrooms, that consumers can lock if they want to. It also had a really pretty backyard with flowers, trees, a vegetable garden, and nice places to sit. The center will continue to build more houses like this one for consumers moving out of the developmental center and into the community. The next Housing Committee meeting will be held Monday, August 20th, at noon here at the regional center.

- B. Review CAC's Goals FY 2011-12 & Plan the Goals FY 2012-13: Eugene forgot to put the goals in the meeting packets.

Action: Eugene will add the goals to the CAC's next meeting agenda and will include copies of the CAC's goals with the meeting packets.

- C. Review Agenda for Board of Trustees June 13th Meeting: Copies of the agenda were provided to everyone present. All of the items with an asterisk (*) next them are action items – things the board will be voting on. As you will see, the board has a lot of things to vote on at their June meeting. Duane talked about each of the action items.

7. **Announcements / Information / Public Input**

- A. The CAC does not meet in July. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 7th, at 2:00 p.m.
- B. Duane announced that this is his last meeting as William Rayber is taking his place as the board's ARCA CAC delegate.
- C. Liz reported that the Self-Advocacy Board of Los Angeles County is meeting on Saturday, July 7th. They welcome new members, and Liz provided copies of the meeting schedules so they can join them. Go to the meetings 3 times in a row and you automatically become a member!

- D. Reminder: The annual board dinner will be held Saturday, June 9th.
- E. Thank you Curtis Wang for being the CAC chairperson this fiscal year. You did a great job!!

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

- A. Minutes of June 5, 2012 Meeting
- B. The CAC's Event Calendar

9. Adjournment

Curtis adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m. and the committee enjoyed cupcakes and ice cream in celebration of Juan's birthday!

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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