

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
May 1, 2012

**Present:** Gus Adams, Pam Aiona, Beth Brodie, Ed Catino, Mary Jo Fernando, Juan Hernandez, and Duane Joslin – Committee Members  
Cedric Anderson, Santos Cortez, Anna Eskandarian, Monroe Jones, and Eti Monsefi, and William Rayber – Guests  
Eugene Baily, Jennifer Kaiser, Jocelyn Mundy, and Jose Rodriguez – Staff Members

**Absent:** Curtis Wang

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**1. Call to Order & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Jo Fernando, vice chairperson, at 2:00 p.m. Introductions were made and everyone wished a happy birthday to Duane (May 17<sup>th</sup>) and Gus (May 18<sup>th</sup>)!

**2. Public Input (3 minutes)**

Jennifer announced that Beth Brodie got her picture in the paper due to her participation in a Special Olympics event that was recently held at a high school in La Crescenta. A copy of the article was circulated. Congratulations Beth!

**3. Consent Items**

**A. Approval of Agenda**

M/S/C (B. Brodie/J. Hernandez) To approve the agenda as presented.

**B. Approval of Minutes of April 3, 2012 Meeting**

M/S/C (P. Aiona/E. Catino) To approve the minutes as presented.

**4. Presentation: The Department of Rehabilitation**

Jocelyn Mundy, NLACRC supervisor, and Anna Eskandarian, supported employment director at New Horizons, gave the presentation. Jocelyn began by explaining that adult consumers who are interested in competitive employment have many choices. The topic of employment usually comes up at the Individual Program Plan (IPP) meeting, but consumers can contact their service coordinator at any time if they are interested in

finding a job. The service coordinator will ask the consumer many questions to find a good job match, including:

- Do you want to work by yourself or in a group of 3 or 4?
- Do you want to work inside or outside?
- Do you want to work at a retail store (such as Target or Walmart)?
- Do you want to work in a hotel?
- Do you want to work in a restaurant?
- Do you want to do gardening work?
- Are you interested in janitorial work?
- What area would you like to work in?
- What kind of transportation do you have?

The Department of Rehabilitation funds the intake process, the job development, and the job coach. In order to qualify for their funding, a consumer must:

- A. Produce a valid Social Security card.
- B. Complete a Vocational Services Referral form.

Once this has been done, the regional center sends the referral packet to the Department of Rehabilitation. Anna explained that once her agency receives a referral packet, she sets up a meeting with the consumer and a Department of Rehabilitation counselor. The counselor will establish if the consumer is eager, ready, and able to work. Once that is done, the consumer is asked to begin participating in a job club. This club meets once a week to prepare consumers for a job. Once a suitable job match has been found, then the consumer goes to work with the help of a job coach. The job coach begins by working with the consumer full time, then each month, the job coach begins working less and less with the consumer until a good stopping point is found. Anna stated that New Horizons has had many consumers who stopped needing the support of their job coach and have graduated from their program and are now working independently. Anna then showed a short DVD on 3 of their consumers who are now working independently. Anna also presented everyone with copies of New Horizons' job placement and Pathways program brochures, a flyer for the job club, and a Social Security summary guide to employment supports for people with disabilities.

The CAC thanked Jocelyn and Anna for their excellent presentation.

## **5. CAC Election for Fiscal Year 2012-13**

- A. Statements from Each Candidate** (Beth, Mary Jo, Juan, and Curtis)

Each candidate gave their statement on why they think they would make a good committee chairperson. As Curtis Wang was absent from the meeting, Eugene read his written statement aloud.

**B. Election**

The ballots were distributed, completed by the committee members, and put into the ballot box. Jose Rodriguez counted the completed ballots.

**Action:** Mary Jo Fernando was elected to serve as chairperson of the CAC next year and Curtis Wang was elected as vice-chairperson.

**C. Current Issues Report - *Deferred***

**6. Old Business**

**A. Updated Event Calendar**

Eugene distributed copies of the updated and revised CAC event calendar.

**Action:** CAC members will contribute to their event calendar by bringing in information about interesting events that are happening in their area.

**B. Letters Supporting AB 2370 (Mansoor) and SB 1381 (Pavley)**

These bills pertain to replacing the term “mental retardation” with “intellectual disability.” At last month’s meeting the committee had made a recommendation to the board of support these bills. Jennifer reported that the board supported the committee’s position and letters supporting these bills will be written and presented at the next board meeting for approval.

**Action:** Eugene will include copies of the AB 2370 and SB 1381 support letters in next month’s meeting packets.

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

Per the CAC’s goals for this fiscal year, they need to focus on these 4 subjects.

**Action:** CAC members will look for information to share on 1 of their 4 goal subjects and will bring it with them to share at next month’s CAC meeting.

## 7. New Business

### A. **Report on Metro's Orange Line** (William Rayber)

The Orange Line is being extended from the Canoga station to the new Chatsworth station. The extension should be completed sometime next month.

### B. **Report on Section 8 Housing** (Juan Hernandez)

Juan gave a report on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing vouchers. The voucher program is the federal government's way to help very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing. A person issued a housing voucher is responsible for finding a suitable housing unit where the owner agrees to rent under the program. Part of the rent is paid by the government to the owner and the person with the voucher pays the difference.

### C. **Planning the Training / Presentation Calendar FY 2012-13**

### D. **Review CAC's Goals FY 2011-12 & Plan the Goals FY 2012-13**

Copies of the CAC's current presentation calendar and goals for this fiscal year were provided to the committee. Eugene asked the CAC members to please begin thinking about what types of presentations they would like next fiscal year and whether or not they want to change their current committee goals.

**Action:** CAC members will begin thinking about presentations and goals they would like to have next fiscal year.

### E. **Review Agenda for Board of Trustees May 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Copies of the board meeting agenda were provided to everyone present and Jennifer reviewed it with them. The board meetings are open to the public.

## 8. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. **Save the Date for the Annual Board Dinner!** This year's dinner will be held Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and invitations will be mailed soon. All CAC members and their guest will be invited to attend the dinner. We will be awarding Pam Aiona for her 6 years of service on the CAC at this year's dinner.

**B. Next CAC Meeting:** Tuesday, June 5, 2012, at 2:00 p.m.

**9. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

- A. Minutes of May 1, 2012 Meeting
- B. The CAC's Event Calendar
- \* C. Approval of Letters Supporting AB 2370 (Mansoor) and SB 1381 (Pavley)

**10. Adjournment**

Mary Jo adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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