

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2013

Present: Mary Jo Fernando, Juan Hernandez, William Rayber, and Curtis Wang – Committee Members
Gerry Butler, Lesly Forbes, and Bradley Kaster – Guests
Eugene Baily, Jennifer Kaiser, Jose Rodriguez, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Beth Brodie and Ed Catino

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) - There was no public input.

3. Consent Items

A. Approval of Revised Agenda

Revised agendas were handed out to everyone present.

M/S/C (W. Rayber/J. Hernandez) To approve the revised agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes of August 6, 2013 Meeting

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

4. Presentation: NLACRC's Budget for FY 2013-14 (George Stevens)

George reported that the state budget was good to the regional centers this year as the state is not facing a budget deficit, which is very good news. So rather than talk about the budget, George shared the following information with the committee:

A. Cash Flow

There is something that's called the 1915i waiver. It is a way for the state to get money from the federal government. Before it was approved, the state had a hard time getting money, so the regional centers had a difficult time getting money from the state. But the 1915i waiver has been approved and implemented,

so we do not anticipate having any cash flow issues from the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) this fiscal year.

B. Retirement of DDS Director

Terri Delgadillo has announced her retirement; she will be leaving her position at the end of this year. This is a governor-appointed position. George has been talking with our service providers and others to encourage them to identify characteristics they would like to see the new DDS director have.

C. Self-Determination Legislation (Senate Bill 468)

It looks as though this legislation is going to pass so George is already thinking about how the center will implement it. A self-determination program has been discussed for many years; it provides consumers with a budget that they can use to purchase their own services, but it does have restrictions on what they can buy.

5. **Old Business**

A. Updated Event Calendar

Copies of the updated event calendar were provided, but only had 4 events on it from September through December, 2 of them in Lawndale which is near Redondo Beach. Juan and Mary Jo both attended some of the events that were held at Warner Center Park, including movies and a concert.

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

1. Lesly reported that she went to the Access Services office on Friday to renew her identification. She spoke with an employee there to find out if rider's aides are going to be charged a fee. The employee said that Access has no plans to charge aides fees for riding with someone, but Metro is thinking about it. Lesly further reported that when riding the public bus, she sometimes gets asked by other riders if they could "ride with her" so they don't have to pay the fee.

2. Lesly agreed to begin attending the Metro meetings and will give reports on them to this committee.

Action: Jose will provide Lesly with the meeting schedule and locations of the Metro meetings.

3. Access is currently looking to fill several positions, including a customer support representative, a mobility management and outreach counselor, an administrative clerk, and an accounting clerk. Eugene provided information about how to apply for these positions, if interested.
4. There are day programs that provide classes to prepare consumers for employment. If interested, contact your service coordinator.

C. Development of Mini Travel Guide/Checklist (All)

At last month's meeting, the CAC decided to develop a mini travel guide/checklist for consumers to use to help them get prepared before a trip.

1. Juan brought in copies of a checklist called "Things to Consider" when traveling. This information will be included in the CAC's project.
2. Eugene shared copies of information from a website called "Disabled Travelers Guide to the World." It provides information on any place in the world, what you can expect when you go there, and how you should prepare.
3. It was reported that you can call "511" to get travel information.
4. William reported that if you are a AAA member, you can get discounts when traveling.
5. When you travel out of the country, you need to have a passport and should also see if you need to get a visa (a stamp of approval in your passport prior to travel), and proof of Medicare so you can receive medical attention, if needed.

Action: The CAC will continue to bring in information about traveling and this subject will be discussed further at next month's CAC meeting.

D. Discussion of Training/Presentation Calendar for FY 2013-14 (All)

It was noted that a presentation is still needed for the CAC's next meeting on October 1st. Jennifer stated that The Regional Center of Orange County has been circulating a DVD about consumers who are looking for employment called, "Hire Me." The committee said they would be interested in seeing that DVD.

Action: Jennifer will pursue obtaining a copy of the “Hire Me” DVD to show at the next CAC meeting.

E. Area Board 10 Newsletter

Copies of the Area Board’s most recent newsletter were provided to everyone. The main topic was the legislation for establishing a self-determination program (which George talked about earlier). Another report included in the newsletter was about how Social Security is going to stop using the word “mental retardation” and will replace it with “intellectual disability” as part of Rosa’s Law, which was passed in October 2010.

Action: If the self-determination legislation (SB 468) passes, Eugene will make sure it is added to the CAC’s training/presentation calendar and he will work with Jennifer to put a presentation together.

F. Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Logo

William reported that Rene Rodriguez, the chair of the ARCA Consumer Advisory Committee, suggested that his committee come up with a new logo for ARCA. The current one looks like a round spirograph. The new logo should involve the number 21 because there are 21 regional centers. William welcomed the committee’s input. Unfortunately, the deadline for ideas is September 8th.

Action: CAC members will contact William with any ideas they have for the new ARCA logo.

6. **New Business**

A. Approved Committee Goals for FY 2013-14

The Board of Trustees approved the CAC’s proposed goals for this fiscal year with one change: they added the word “meaningful” to the first goal, which will now read: “CAC members will promote and support efforts for *meaningful* employment opportunities for people with disabilities.” Copies of the approved goals were provided to everyone present.

B. Report on August 12th Housing Committee Meeting

Liz Lyons is a member of the center's Housing Committee and usually gives reports on those meetings here. Unfortunately, she could not attend today's meeting. Jennifer provided everyone with written reports from the meeting, which included:

1. Information on the upcoming presentations by George Braddock on September 26 and 27; he will talk with providers on how to make homes safe for consumers. This mainly applies to consumers with behavioral issues.
2. The closure of Lanterman Developmental Center which has been set for December 2014. The center plans to have all of its consumers moved out of there by June 2014, 6 months prior to the deadline.
3. Housing Legislation, including HR 2610 which would make deep cuts to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs – some by nearly 50%.
4. The next quarterly Housing Committee meeting will be held Monday, November 18th and Liz will give a report on it at the CAC meeting in January.

C. Report on August 13th Access Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

No one present attended the August 13th meeting, but copies of the agenda were provided.

Action: Mary Jo will begin attending the Access CAC meetings and give reports on them to the committee.

Action: Jose will provide Mary Jo with the Access CAC meeting schedule and locations.

Action: Eugene will provide copies of the minutes from the Access CAC meetings to this committee.

D. Review Agenda for September 11th Board of Trustees Meeting

Copies of the agenda for the next board meeting were provided to everyone present and Jennifer reviewed it with them. Highlights of the meeting include the presentation of the center's draft 2014 performance contract and the approval of 2 new policies. The 1st policy is on zero tolerance of consumer abuse and neglect

and the other is a recovery policy which provides a process for how the center can get money back from vendors who have been given overpayments.

7. Identify Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the September 11th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of September 3, 2013 Meeting
- B. CAC Event Calendar

8. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Bradley Kaster introduced himself. He is a member of NLACRC's self- advocacy group called "Just 4 Us," which meets every other Friday from 10:30 to 12:30 and includes lunch. He came to today's meeting because he wanted to see what the CAC meetings were like.

- B. CAC Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet for the CAC members is included each month with the meeting packet to keep members aware of their attendance. Members can miss up to 2 consecutive meetings and up to 4 meetings in a year.

- C. Next CAC Meeting: Tuesday, September 3rd, at 2:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Mary Jo adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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