

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2013

Present: Beth Brodie, Ed Catino, Mary Jo Fernando, Juan Hernandez, and William Rayber – Committee Members
Mrs. Brown, Lesly Forbes, Elizabeth Lyons, and Gerald Robles – Guests
Eugene Baily, Jennifer Kaiser, and Jose Rodriguez – Staff Members

Absent: All present

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Mary Jo Fernando, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Everyone present was introduced.

2. Public Input

Liz announced that she is now an official member of the Access Community Advisory Board. She is now beginning to see Access from a different perspective. They are having trouble with increased waiting times due to riders who forget their reservations or want to book rides at the last minute. This causes delays to other riders and is not fair. Access will be sending letters to riders who cause these types of problems.

3. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Revised agendas were distributed and Item 6.E. was deferred because the meeting is not going to take place until October 18th.

M/S/C (B. Brodie/E. Catino) To approve the revised agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of September 3, 2013 Meeting

Beth and Ed abstained from the vote as they weren't present at last month's meeting.

M/S/C (J. Hernandez/W. Rayber; Abstentions: B. Brodie & E. Catino) To approve the minutes as presented.

4. **Presentation on Employment: “Hire Me”** (Jennifer Kaiser)

The Regional Center of Orange County had an article about this film in their recent newsletter and Jennifer thought this committee might want to see it. The film was shown and was about several different consumers who were in the process of pursuing employment opportunities after finishing high school.

5. **Old Business**

A. Updated Event Calendar

Copies of the committee’s updated event calendar were provided. The calendar included 2 NLACRC events, the candidates’ forum on October 8th and the college fair on October 10th.

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

1. **Affordable Care Act:** Beginning next year, most Californians will be required to have health insurance. On October 1st, more than 5 million Californians will be eligible to purchase health plans from competing companies as part of the federal health care reform package known as “The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” (also known as Obamacare). Some people who purchase their insurance through the exchange (called “Covered California), may be eligible for tax subsidies to help pay for health care coverage, depending upon their level of income. For more information, you can contact the following websites:

- Coveredca.com
- Calpatientcare.org

2. **Rider’s Aides:** MTA does not charge aides of disabled riders. But some people have been taking advantage of this. Disabled riders are sometimes asked by strangers if they can pose as their aides so they can ride the bus for free. The CAC firmly agreed that disabled riders should not allow strangers to pose as their aides.

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

The CAC is in the process of developing an easy-to-read (with lots of pictures) pamphlet to help prepare consumers for traveling short or long distances. After discussion, the CAC developed the following timeline for the pamphlet's development:

1. Finalize information to be included in the pamphlet in January.
2. Review the draft pamphlet in February and make any final changes.
3. Review draft pamphlet again in March.
4. Make final revisions to the pamphlet in April.
5. Finalize pamphlet in May.
6. Present pamphlet to the Board of Trustees in June.

The CAC will also need to develop a dissemination plan (who should get copies of the pamphlet?). So far, it was agreed that a copy should be sent to ARCA, William will share copies at an ARCA CAC meeting, and it should be posted on the CAC's website.

Action: CAC members will bring more travel tips and ideas to the next 2 CAC meetings.

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

After reviewing their presentation calendar, the CAC made the following changes:

1. Eugene will arrange for a fun (surprise!) movie for the November 2nd CAC meeting.
2. Eugene will arrange for a presentation on SB 468 (the Self-Determination Program) to be given at the January 7th CAC meeting.
3. Liz Lyons will give a presentation on "Your Rights as a Consumer" at the February 4th CAC meeting.

6. New Business

A. Review Agenda for October 9th Board of Trustees Meeting

Copies of the agenda were provided to everyone present and Jennifer reviewed it with them. The October board meeting is always held in the Antelope Valley; this year it will be held at Desert Haven Enterprises, one of the center's service providers.

B. Disneyland Community Involvement Program

Information about this year's Disneyland program was provided. Anyone interested should complete a release of information form and send it to the center's publications unit or e-mail it to Disneyinfo@nlacrc.org.

C. SSI/SSP Restoration Check for FY 2013-14

The center is sending notices out to consumers regarding their SSI/SSP restoration checks. The checks were mailed out on September 12th and are mailed to consumers on a quarterly basis. The next checks will be issued in December and mailed.

D. Discussion of CAC's Annual Holiday Lunch

The committee decided they would like the following items for their annual holiday luncheon:

1. Boston Market: turkey, chicken, ribs, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes and gravy
2. Drinks: regular and diet root beer, Sprite, and cherry Coke
3. Dessert: pumpkin pie with whipped cream and apple pie with butter pecan ice cream

E. Report on October 18th ARCA Board of Directors Meeting – *Deferred*

Mary Jo and William will both be going to the ARCA board meeting, along with other board members, and will give a report on it at next month's CAC meeting.

7. Identify Board Meeting Agenda Items

- A. Minutes of October 1, 2013 Meeting
- B. CAC Event Calendar

8. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. CAC Meeting Attendance Sheets are always included in the meeting packet. CAC members can miss up to 2 meetings in a row or up to 4 meetings in a year.

- B. William announced that he will be attending an ARCA CAC meeting on Friday, October 11th, and will give a report on it at next month's CAC meeting.
- C. NLACRC's Self-Advocacy Group will be holding a Halloween party on Tuesday, October 15th, from 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon. You can bring a costume and change at the party! They'll have music and a costume contest. The party will be held at St. Michael's conference center, 16643 Vanowen Street in Van Nuys. Only 50 cents admission!
- D. CAC Annual Holiday Luncheon: Tuesday, November 5th, at 1:00 p.m.
- E. Next CAC Meeting: Tuesday, November 5th, at 2:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Mary Jo adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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