

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2014

Present: Rick Clemens, Sienna Greener-Wooten, Michelle Heid, Jonathan Istrin, Pam Jacobson, Ken Lane, Marina Pink, Scott Shepard, and Gay Wane - Committee Members

George Stevens, Kim Rolfes, Yolanda Bosch, Sarah Staley, Jason Trevino, Nikisia Simmons, Sarah Rolfes, and Jennifer Kaiser - Staff

Emily Owens, Dana Andrews, Yvonne Paoletti, Rachel Hofman, Sarah Blitzstein, William Powe, Rhonda Bunnin, Dee Prescott, Cynthia Fernandez, Neil Jarquin, Joel Goldman, Lynn Goldman, Deborah Cutter, Renee Reschman, Rajan Jacob, Samuel Ramos, Charles Devlin, Maribel Galvan, Shellie Bader, Chris Bratzel, and Kathy Sturkey

Absent: Annie Cox, Bob Erio, Rebecca Lienhard, Jenni Moran, Wayne Tashjian, and Dolly Wauls

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Gay called the meeting to order, in Jenni's absence, at 9:30 a.m.

II. Public Input - There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (M. Heid/P. Jacobson) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from the March 6th VAC Meeting

M/S/C (M. Heid/S. Shepard) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Executive Director's Report

George Stevens gave the following reports:

A. NLACRC's 29th Legislative Breakfast: Will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, April 11th, at Sam's Café in North Hills. This year's theme is: "direct support

professionals: the unsung heroes in our community.” It is very important to get direct support professionals to attend the breakfast so legislators could put faces along with the issue. We want legislators to take on this issue and we need your support.

- B. “The Way Forward” Conference: George will be attending this conference today and tomorrow along with Diane Ambrose, Rebecca Lienhard, Annie Cox, and 2 of the center’s board members. They will give a report on the conference at next month’s VAC meeting.
- C. NLACRC’s Budget: The center is currently projecting a deficit in our purchase of service (POS) budget of about \$32 million. We have been in communication with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) about this and we believe they’ll come through with the additional funding we need.
- D. Employment First: The center’s Board of Trustees approved the idea to establish an employment first policy for the regional center. The policy is not going to be an idea that will be shared with consumers once they reach adulthood; the policy will begin at birth and follow the consumers as they grow up. George met with Jenni Moran and Rebecca Lienhard after last month’s VAC meeting to discuss the next steps in developing the policy. We plan to involve consumers, families, service providers, service providers’ staff, and regional center staff in the development process.

Action: The VAC’s break-out groups will discuss the policy during their meetings today.

Action: George will find out what the other Southern CA regional centers are doing in the way of Employment First and report back at next month’s VAC meeting.

V. **Community Services Report** (Kim Rolfes)

- A. Contract & Compliance Manager: The center has just hired Yolanda Bosch (former board member and board president) to serve as the center’s new contract and compliance manager. Yolanda was present at the VAC meeting and Kim introduced her.
- B. DS 1891 Portal: This new online screening tool is finally up and running! Service providers must update their DS 1891 Form (Applicant/Vendor

Disclosure Statement) every 2 years and the California Service Provider Portal will make updating DS 1891 forms much easier for our service providers to accomplish this requirement. A mass mailing will be sent out to our providers letting them know about the portal and how to use it. Additionally, the center will be offering 2 webinar trainings to assist service providers on using the portal. The webinars will be held on Monday, April 14th, at 10:30 a.m. and again on Tuesday, April 22nd, at 9:00 a.m.

- C. HIPAA Training: Will be held for our service providers from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Monday, April 7th, at St. Michael's Church in Van Nuys. The training will cover HIPAA compliance and how to avoid privacy breaches.
- D. Department of Mental Health (DMH) Training: We are in the process of scheduling this training for our service providers.
- E. Requests for Proposals (RFPs): We are currently reviewing proposals that were submitted in response to our Community Placement Plan (CPP) RFPs and the selections will be made shortly.
- F. Vendor Audits/Financial Reviews: We are sending notices out to those providers who still have not submitted their 2011 or 2012 audits/reviews to us.
- G. Subminimum Wage Certificates: DDS and the Department of Labor are doing random audits of agencies that use these certificates. Their use requires precise documentation; penalties and fines can be levied if they find the proper paperwork has not been done.
- H. Minimum Wage Increase: The increase will go into effect July 1, 2014. DDS is working with the Lanterman Coalition and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) to establish a methodology for determining the rate increase. Kim is participating in a meeting with them on Monday.
- I. Transportation: The L.A. Department of Transportation is working with R&D Transportation to provide a training on the city of L.A.'s ordinance requiring training and permits for agencies using vans to transport their consumers for non-medical reasons. The training will be held at St. Michael's Church and the tentative date is Tuesday, June 3rd.

VI. Brief Committee Business

A. Nominees(s) for FY 2014-15 VAC Chairperson

M/S/C (J. Istrin/S. Shepard) To nominate Jenni Moran to serve as VAC chairperson for FY 2014-15.

The election will be held at next month's VAC meeting.

B. ARCA Grass Roots Day, held March 12th, in Sacramento (Gay for Rebecca): Gay shared what she learned about this event at last night's board meeting. ARCA organizes this event each year; the regional centers each send a team to Sacramento to visit with legislators at the State Capitol. NLACRC's team members were Rebecca Lienhard, Jenean Glover (board member), Michele Marra (staff member), and Eric Leh (board president). The talking points were the restoration of the Early Start program and provider rates. Jenean took her 2 young daughters with her on the visits (who had benefited from the Early Start program). The girls were quite a hit with the legislators!

C. Discussion and Input on Pending Bills (Michelle): Michelle attended the March 19th Government & Community Relations Committee meeting. They are currently tracking many state and federal bills. The committee is asking the VAC for their input on the following bills. Information about each bill was included in the VAC's meeting packets. The bills were discussed and actions were taken.

▪ AB 1753 (Holden) Regional Centers/Vendorization

M/S/C (M. Pink/S. Shepard) To support the Government & Community Relations Committee's position to oppose AB 1753.

▪ AJR 36 (Gonzalez) Special Minimum Wage Certificate

▪ SB 1109 (Hueso) Public Contracts/Integrated Employment

Action: The VAC will discuss these bills further and provide their input to Michelle Heid to share with the Government & Community Relations Committee.

▪ SB 577 (Pavley) Autism & Other Developmental Disabilities/ Employment

Action: It was determined that VAC members should visit with Senator Pavley to find out what the point of this bill is (why is it specifically for

consumers with autism? And shouldn't the schools have the responsibility for this?) Ken Lane, Scott Shepard, and Rick Clemens will make that visit to Senator Pavley and report back to the VAC.

VII. Agenda Item for the Next Board Meeting

The following item was identified for the VAC's section of the April 9th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the April 3rd VAC Meeting

VIII. Announcements/Public Input

- A. Talent Show!: Ken Lane provided "save the date" cards for The Adults Skills Center (TASC) talent show fundraiser that will be held Friday, May 9th, at 6:00 p.m., at TASC.
- B. Annual Board Dinner: The center's annual board dinner will be held Saturday, June 21st. Rick Clemens, Bob Erio, and Sienna Greener-Wooten will all be terming off the VAC and will be honored for their years of service. Invitation to come as the date gets closer!
- C. APSE Conference: The Association of People Supporting Employment First will be holding their annual conference in Long Beach on July 1st.
- D. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 1st, at 9:30 a.m.

IX. Committee Work

- A. Early Start/Prevention Services
- B. Children's Services
- C. Adult Services
- D. Mental Health Issues (meets on the last Thursday of each month)
- E. Employment First (Bubble Groups)

X. Adjournment

Gay adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m. and the committee broke into their work groups.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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