

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
April 1, 2014

**Present:** Ed Catino, Mary Jo Fernando, Juan Hernandez, and William Rayber – Committee Members

Lesly Forbes, Liz Lyons, and Gerald Robles – Guests

Eugene Baily, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, and Jose Rodriguez, Sandra Rizo, and Anna Whitlock – Staff Members

**Absent:** All present

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**1. Call to Order & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Everyone present was introduced.

**2. Public Input**

Sara, Sandra, and Anna were present to talk with the committee briefly about their possible participation in legislative visits. Each year, the center sends out teams of people to visit with our local Assembly members and Senators. Each team has a staff lead, a board member, a service provider, and a consumer. This year's visits will focus on 2 very important issues: 1) the restoration of the state's Early Start program; and 2) the need for our service providers to be given better rates. Any CAC members who wish to participate will be provided with transportation, if needed. Anna and Sandra are going to try to schedule the visits on Fridays in May and June. A training session will be held on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. to help prepare people for their visits; transportation home will be provided.

**Action:** All of the CAC members expressed interest in participating in a legislative visit.

**Action:** Eugene will forward the CAC roster to Sandra and Anna so they can contact CAC members about the visits.

**3. Consent Items**

**A. Approval of Agenda**

**B. Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2014 Meeting**

The agenda and minutes were approved as presented.

4. **Presentation: “Self-Determination Program”** (Diane Ambrose)

Diane gave the committee an overview on the new self-determination program which was signed into law last year. This program will allow the regional center to provide consumers with their own budget that they will use to purchase the services they choose (within certain guidelines). Consumers who participate in the program will need to have a financial manager (to manage the budget) and a supports broker (who may be hired using funds from the budget, or delegated as long as the qualifications are met). The supports broker has similar functions as a CSC, but may not necessarily be the CSC due to the liability issues of non-vendored providers and potential negative outcomes. The program will be tested over a 3-year period with an initial 2,500 consumers throughout the state, including approximately 175 consumers from NLACRC. The exact formula for identifying how many consumers per regional center has not been identified yet. Selection of these 175 consumers will probably be done through a lottery process. Several steps will need to be taken before the program can be implemented, so we don't expect to be able to offer the program for another year or two. The Federal Waiver needs to be approved and regulations will have to be written prior to implementation. However, in the meantime, the center will be taking steps to share information about the program with consumers and families, so when the time comes, they can make an informed decision about whether or not they want to participate in the program. One of the intents of this new law is to target the underserved consumer population across the state. To that end, special efforts will be made in the NLACRC catchment area to ensure that there is outreach to our geographic areas inclusive of language and ethnicity.

5. **Old Business**

A. **Updated Event Calendar**

Eugene provided copies of the updated calendar to everyone present. The center's 29<sup>th</sup> Legislative Breakfast will be held Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at Sam's Café and a career fair/health expo will be held Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at LA Valley College. Fliers for both events were provided to everyone present.

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

1. **Report on Access Services Community Advisory Committee** (Liz Lyons)

Liz is a member of the Access CAC and gave a report on their March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. In the past, personal care attendants (PCAs) have been able to ride with a consumer free of charge. However, people have been

pretending to be a consumer's PCA in order to ride free. Access is talking about this and how to prevent this from happening. They are considering issuing PCAs a photo identification card, which they will have to show the driver when riding. This is a good idea, but unfortunately, it will cost the PCA \$25 to buy one. In addition, they aren't sure if this will be a one-time fee or if the PCA will have to get their identification card renewed each year. On another issue, Access is changing the way their riders' identification cards look; they will no longer look like a credit card.

2. Coffee with Assembly Member Matt Dababneh

Mary Jo announced that Assembly Member Dababneh is inviting members of his district to have coffee with him and ask him any questions regarding state and legislative issues that affect their community. The coffee meetings will be held twice:

- Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (West Valley Community Police Station, 19020 Vanowen Street, in Reseda)
- Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (Boys & Girls Club, 7245 Remmet Avenue, in Canoga Park)

3. Metro Committee Meeting

Mary Jo attended a Metro committee meeting and they were given a presentation about the bus fare increases that are coming. The fares will go up on September 1, 2014, and will increase again every 3 years until the year 2020.

6. New Business

A. **Review Agenda for April 9, 2014 Board of Trustees Meeting** (Jennifer Kaiser)

Copies of the agenda for next week's board meeting were provided and Jennifer reviewed the highlights. Two of the highlights were: 1) a DVD on direct care staff that will be shown at next week's Legislative Breakfast; and 2) a clip of the new medical center at Westside Regional Center. Each clip is only about 5 minutes long. The CAC expressed interest in also seeing both presentations.

**Action:** As presentations have already been scheduled for the May and June CAC meetings, Eugene will add the DVD on direct care staff to the CAC's

August agenda and the clip about the medical center to the CAC's September meeting agenda.

**B. Follow-up after Special Project Meeting, held March 25<sup>th</sup> (Eugene Baily)**

Eugene commended the committee members to the productive meeting they held to discuss the development of a mini travel guide.

**Action:** Eugene and Jose will be putting together a draft of the mini travel guide and will present it at an upcoming CAC meeting.

**C. Nominations for FY 2014-15 CAC Chair and Vice-Chair**

Juan and Mary Jo both expressed their interest in serving a CAC chair next fiscal year. An election will be held at next month's CAC meeting. Prior to the election, each candidate will be given 3 minutes to make a statement on why they want to become chair.

**7. Identify Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting**

The following items were identified for the CAC's section of the April 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of April 1, 2014 Meeting**
- B. CAC Event Calendar**

**8. Announcements / Information / Public Input**

**A. CAC Meeting Attendance Sheet**

Copies of the committee's attendance sheet were provided for the CAC's information.

**B. CAC Interviews**

Jennifer announced that interviews are going to be held with the 12 CAC applicants tonight and tomorrow night.

**C. Fire Safety**

Jose provided information about fire safety that came from the Department of Developmental Services. For more information about safety, you can go to their website at: [www.ddssafety.net](http://www.ddssafety.net).

**D. Next CAC Meeting**

The next CAC meeting will be held Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at 2:00 p.m.

**9. Adjournment**

Mary Jo adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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