

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2014

Present: Rick Clemens, Annie Cox, Bob Erio, Jonathan Istrin, Pam Jacobson, Ken Lane, Rebecca Lienhard, Jenni Moran, Marina Pink, Scott Shepard, Wayne Tashjian, Gay Wane, and Dolly Wauls - Committee Members
Jennifer Kaiser, George Stevens, Kim Rolfes, John Youngbauer, Sarah Staley, Anna Polin, Jason Trevino, Sarah Rolfes, and Erica Beall – Staff
Tessa Graham, Kristie Hoefflin, Arcelia Brown, Charles Devlin, Valerie Kissell, Emily Owens, Christian Metzger, Linda Cobuzzi, Penny Raymer, Gail Peters, Deborah Cutter, Neerod Haddad, Cyndi Staley, Rhonda Bunnin, Mary Cody, Moira Letzer, Cindy Aguirre, Arno Nazaryan, Chris Bratzel, Steve Bratzel, Michael Wright, Cynthia Fernandez, and Jim Moran – Guests

Absent: Sienna Greener-Wooten and Michelle Heid

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jenni Moran called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Jenni apologized for her recent absences which were due to medical issues and a personal tragedy and thanked everyone for their support.

II. Public Input

Nancy Carter, NLACRC's federal revenues coordinator, announced that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Department of Health Care Service (DHCS) will be conducting a comprehensive audit at NLACRC to determine whether the home and community-based service waiver standards are being followed. The waiver is very important to the center as it brings in about \$6 million in revenue each year. As part of this review, auditors may interview service providers and your staff, inspect your facility, interview your consumers, review your consumer files, and review your medication administration practices. If you are selected for a visit, the center will help you prepare for the auditors. The review will be held for 2 weeks beginning August 11th. For more information, please contact Nancy at (818) 756-6270.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (G. Wane/R. Lienhard) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from the May 1st VAC Meeting

M/S/C (W. Tashjian/A. Cox) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Executive Director's Report (George Stevens)

- A. Southern CA Regional Center Employment First Policies: The Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) has been working to develop an employment first policy for the center and have asked to present it at an upcoming board meeting. However, George wants the presentation to involve the 3 VAC work groups (Early Start, School Age, and Adult).

Action: The VAC's Early Start, School Age, and Adult work groups will work together to prepare a presentation of the draft Employment First policy at the September 10th board meeting.

- B. Draft Letter to the LA Department of Transportation (LADOT): As discussed at the last VAC meeting, Kim drafted a letter to the LADOT for George's signature. Copies of the draft letter were provided and reviewed. Essentially, the letter states that George believes that our service providers are exempt from the LADOT ordinance. A couple of typos were identified; they will be corrected and the letter sent.
- C. NLACRC's Budget: The new administration at DDS has been very proactive this year and George does not anticipate any cash flow issues. Also the state budget includes an increase to DDS's loan authority which will relieve the regional centers from having to borrow.
- D. Medicaid Waiver: Jim Shorter, executive director of Golden Gate Regional Center, recently gave testimony to explain how regional centers are working hard to get consumers on the waiver but they need to have adequate funding in order to hire the staff needed to do this. A lot of dollars are at risk if regional centers are not able to add consumers to the waiver.
- E. Early Start: The Assembly and Senate have both agreed to restore the Early Start program. If the final state budget includes this when it goes to the governor, we will all need to contact the governor's office to support it. Bringing back Early Start is the right thing to do. A VAC member added that we should take this time to contact legislators and thank them for including Early Start restoration in the budget.

- F. Service Provider Rates: The state budget does not include the proposed 5% increase for service providers to begin the restoration process of their rates. It also doesn't include an increase for regional center operations budgets. Our board's Executive Committee will be recommending that the board add restoration of service provider rates to their list of primary activities for next fiscal year.

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

- A. Minimum Wage Increase: Kim handed out copies of a notice that will be going out to all service providers about the rate changes that will be coming to help certain service providers cover the minimum wage increase which goes into effect July 1st.
- B. New Director of Community Services: Yolanda Bosch has been hired at the new director.
- C. Community Placement Plan (CPP): The center's CPP start up plan for fiscal year 2014-2015 includes four (4) specialized residential facilities, two (2) day programs, one (1) crisis team service; and one (1) supported living services provider.
- D. Annual Audits/Financial Reviews: Service providers must submit their 2011 and 2012 annual audits or financial reviews to the center.
- E. Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs): Our ICF providers will be receiving a rate change effective May 27, 2014. ICF rates will no longer receive a generic rate based on the type of ICF operated instead, ICF rates will be established by Medi-Cal based on the ICF's actual costs. In some cases, some ICF providers may receive a reduction in their rate.
- F. Department of Mental Health Trainings: The 2 trainings for service providers, scheduled for Thursday, June 12th, are full!
- G. DS 1891 Trainings: A training was held yesterday and another one will be held on Tuesday, June 3rd.
- H. Behavioral Services Reports: Dr. John Youngbauer reported that starting in July, the center will be changing the report deadlines from quarterly to every 6 months.

VI. Brief Committee Business

- A. Report on Conference Call with Senator Pavley (Ken Lane): Ken reported that he, Gay, Scott, and Rick all spoke with one of the senator's representatives about SB 577. They had a lot of questions, which were all answered. Ken prepared a list of the major points that were discussed during their conversation. Ken stated that this is a great bill for service providers and it needs the VAC's support.

M/S/C (J. Istrin/R. Lienhard) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to support SB 577 (Pavley).

Recommended Position on AJR 36 (Gonzalez) and SB 1109 (Hueso): SB 1109 would remove the allowance for providers to use minimum wage exemptions for specified contracts entered into by a state agency for services rendered to the state. It would further require agencies that employing people with disabilities under a contract with a state agency pay all of its employees at least the state minimum wage for work on the contract. The Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) would urge the United States Congress to phase out the use of the special minimum wage certificate provision and eventually repeal Section 14 (c) of the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act. The elimination of 14 (c) would discontinue the ability to provide people with significant disabilities the opportunity to work. After much discussion, the following action was taken:

M/S/C (J. Istrin/G. Wane) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to oppose this bill unless it is amended to include alternatives for consumers who would lose their employment as a result of this bill's implementation.

VII. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

The following items were identified for the VAC's section of the next board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the May 29th VAC Meeting
- *B. Approval to Support SB 577 (Pavley)
- *C. Approval to Oppose SB 1109 (Hueso) Unless Amended

VIII. Announcements/Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, August 7th, at 9:30 a.m.

- B. Annual Board Dinner: Bob Erio, Rick Clemens, and Sienna Greener-Wooten will all be terming off the VAC at the end of June and will be recognized at the annual board dinner that will be held Saturday, June 21st.
- C. Inclusion: Rick stated that in 1990 he included a consumer in his general education classroom and since then thousands of consumers have been included in classrooms. We need to continue to push in that direction.

IX. Committee Work

After the meeting is adjourned, the committee will break into their committees for individual discussions.

- 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

Jenni adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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* Board Action Item

