

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2014

- Present:** Dorothy Daniels, Myriam Jovel, Lou Paparozzi, Sean Stalbaum, and Tavia Wooley – Committee Members
Connie Lapin – Guest
Diane Ambrose, Maria Bosch, Joan Daniels, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members
- Absent:** Jay Lytton, Debra Newman, and Angela White
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I. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input

A. Self-Determination Program Updates (Connie)

Connie provided copies of information she found on the Department of Developmental Services' website on self-determination, which included implementation updates, frequently asked questions, and the actual statute.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV.B. was moved up on the agenda so a committee chair could be elected to run the meeting.

M/S/C (D. Daniels/L. Paparozzi) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of May 21st Meeting

M/S/C (D. Daniels/L. Paparozzi) To approve the agenda and minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Election of Committee Chair

M/S/C (T. Wooley/D. Daniels) To elect Tavia Wooley to serve as the committee chair for this fiscal year.

B. Annual Committee Orientation

The following documents were provided to the committee and briefly reviewed. Committee members should become familiar with these documents as they outline the purpose of the committee and the responsibilities of the committee members:

1. Policies and Procedures
2. Bylaws Statement
3. Board Audit Section
4. Core Values for Policy Development

C. Committee Meeting Schedule for FY 2014-15

Copies of the meeting schedule were provided.

D. Critical Calendar for FY 2014-15

Copies of the committee's critical calendar were provided. The calendar lists items and actions that will be taken each month by the committee.

E. Priority Issues for FY 2013-14 / Priority Issues for FY 2014-15

The committee's priority issues for last fiscal year were:

1. Ensure that the Board of Trustees is provided with trainings by regional center vendored programs, in coordination with the Vendor Advisory Committee.
2. Oversee the implementation of the trailer bill language.
3. Monitor Purchase of Service (POS) disparity within the provision of services.
4. Ensure that the center is in compliance with waivers, statute, and regulations.
5. Monitor the center's caseload ratios.

After discussion, the committee decided to make the following changes for this fiscal year:

- Priority Issue #1: the phrase "service providers" will replace the phrase "vendored programs."

- Priority Issue #2 will be replaced with: “Oversee the implementation of the self-determination program consistent with statute, Medicaid waiver, and regulations.”
- Priority Issue #4 will be re-written to state: “Ensure that the center provides services that are in compliance with Medicaid waiver, statute, and regulations.”

M/S/C (D. Daniels/S. Stalbaum) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to approve the committee’s priority issues for FY 2014-15, as modified.

6. 4th Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report

The exceptions report lists requests from consumers and families for services that are outside of the center’s service standards and whether those services were approved or denied. During the 4th quarter of last fiscal year, the center approved 281 requests and denied only 14 (8 of the denials were for co-payments for behavioral health treatment).

The exemptions report lists requests made for services that have been suspended or reduced as a result of the trailer bill language. The report showed that during the 4th quarter, the center had no exemption requests.

7. 4th Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report

Copies of the report were provided and reviewed. The report shows diagnostic information about the center’s consumers for each quarter since the beginning of FY 2011-12. Consumers with more than 1 disability are put into the category of their primary diagnosis. Of the 20,232 consumers that the center serves, the diagnosis breakdown is as follows:

1. Intellectual Disability: 8,363 (6.83% increase since July 1, 2011)
2. Autism: 7,138 (**27.92% increase**)
3. Cerebral Palsy: 525 (3.55% decrease)
4. Epilepsy: 226 (3.2% increase)
5. Other developmental disability: 968 (10% increase)

8. 4th Quarter Appeals and Hearings Report - *Deferred*

9. Monthly Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report

Copies of the monthly report were provided and reviewed. The center's goal for last fiscal year was to place 21 consumers out of large facilities and into the community. As of June 30, 2014, the center has placed a total of 31 consumers, 10 more than our goal!

10. Questions re: Monthly Quality Assurance and Special Incident Reports

The QA and SIRs and included each month in George's director's report which is given at the monthly board meetings. Any questions about either report should be brought to this committee. There were now questions about either of the reports which were part of George's June director's report.

11. Medicare and Medi-Cal for People with Developmental Disabilities (George)

California created a program called Cal MediConnect to enroll individuals with both Medi-Care and Medi-Cal (dual-eligible) into managed care (HMO). Despite assurances that regional center consumers were specifically exempt from the Cal MediConnect program, they are being enrolled anyway. This is a statewide issue with hundreds of consumers being affected. Enrollment becomes effective in their birth month, starting July 1, 2014. We have seen that this enrollment has created disruptions in health care as individuals may not be able to receive care from certain Medi-Care doctors or facilities that are not currently part of the Cal MediConnect HMO plan networks. Families and consumers can request disenrollment from Cal MediConnect by contacting Health Care Options. However, there have been cases where Health Care Options will not accept disenrollment from anyone other than the consumer, unless certain authorized represented paperwork is completed. There is a Cal MediConnect ombudsman who can assist in cases where health care options cannot process disenrollment. Families should contact their service coordinator if they need assistance. NLACRC has a Medi-Care consultant, Valerie Hartsfield, who is available to support case managers and families with this issue.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the August 13th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of July 16th Meeting
- B. 4th Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report
- C. 4th Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report

- * D. Approval of Committee's Priority Issues for FY 2014-15

VI. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

Tavia asked the committee members to please complete evaluation forms after the meeting and submit them to her with any questions.

- B. Connie provided "save the date" cards for the Autism Society of Los Angeles' statewide conference on self-determination which will be held November 7th and 8th, in Los Angeles.

- C. Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 20th, at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Tavia adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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* Action Item

