

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2014

Present: Pam Aiona, Ed Catino, Mary Jo Fernando, Lesly Forbes, Daniel Garcia, Juan Hernandez, William Rayber, and Jeffrey Thacker – Committee Members
Viviana Bautista, Elizabeth Lyons, Gerald Robles – Guests
Eugene Baily, Jennifer Kaiser, Jose Rodriguez, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Precious Malumfashi

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Ed Catino, vice chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in Juan Hernandez's absence. Introductions were made.

2. Public Input (3 minutes)

A. Jeffrey announced that last week, he was recognized for this “exemplary citizenship to the community” by the Rotary Club of Van Nuys. Everyone congratulated Jeffrey on his achievement.

3. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (W. Rayber/M.J. Fernando) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes of August 5, 2014 Meeting

M/S/C (M.J. Fernando/J. Thacker) To approve the minutes as presented.

4. The Budget for FY 2014-15 and other Updates (George Stevens)

A. Budget

The state is not projecting a budget deficit this fiscal year, so there are no major cuts to regional center budgets as in years past. The center's budget this fiscal year is, for the first time, over \$300 million. We always start the year off with a

deficit, but by the end of the fiscal year, the Department of Developmental Center Services, has always made us whole.

B. Self-Determination Program

Senate Bill 468 created a state-wide self-determination program which is a voluntary, alternative to the traditional way of providing regional center services. It provides consumers and their families with more control over the services and supports they need. Consumers and families for example, may purchase existing services from services providers or local businesses, hire support workers, or negotiate unique arrangements with local community resources. Self-determination provides consumers and their families with an individual budget, which they can use to purchase the services and supports they need to implement their Individual Program Plan (IPP). It will take several months for self-determination to be in place. First, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has until December 31, 2014 to apply for federal Medicaid funding to establish and fund the program. Once federal approval is obtained, most likely in 2015, the program will be available statewide but for the first 3 years is capped at 2,500 individuals (of which NLACRC will have 172 spots to fill). After the 3-year phase-in period, the program is available to all eligible consumers on a voluntary basis. For more information, George suggested that consumers get on the Internet and go the DDS's website, and click on the "self-determination program" button. Updated information should be posted there.

C. Employment

The center's Vendor Advisory Committee is currently drafting an Employment First policy for the center; once finalized, it will be shared with the CAC. Also, Senator Fran Pavley currently has a bill on the Governor's desk (SB 577) that would direct DDS to conduct a 4-year demonstration project to determine whether community-based vocational services will increase employment outcomes for consumers and reduce regional center purchase of service budget costs for working age adults.

D. CAC Facebook/Twitter Account

The CAC was aware that South Central L.A. Regional Center's CAC has established a Facebook page and wanted NLACRC to establish one for them as well. George stated that NLACRC is currently serving over 20,000 consumers, is the fastest growing regional center in the state, and has the highest caseloads in

the state. Unfortunately, we do not have staff available to maintain a Facebook page. George's main focus right now is hiring as many service coordinators as we can to bring the caseload ratios down. However, George stated that he will be meeting with South Central LA Regional Center's executive director and will ask him about it at that time.

5. Old Business

A. Updated Event Calendar

1. CAC Input on Local Events to add to the Calendar: CAC members should feel free to bring in any information on events being held in their area for Eugene to add to their calendar.

Eugene also provided copies of the flyers for the September 13th self-advocacy conference and the September 20th movie "Beyond the Chair" that were listed on the calendar.

Jose provided the committee with NLACRC's new social/recreational resource guide; 12 pages full of great ideas on things people can do for fun in our local area.

Action: Eugene will check the Internet each month and will include any meetings he finds on the L.A. Metro and L.A. Commission on Disabilities' websites.

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

1. Discussion re: Letter to the LADOT re: Bus #163: Problems on this bus line were discussed at last month's meeting and the CAC was thinking about writing a letter to LADOT about their concerns. Another issue is that bus drivers either turn off or keep at low volume the audio announcements on this bus; so much so that a consumer riding on the bus got lost. Liz reported that her bus driver told her that bus drivers in LA County are now receiving 20 hours more of training on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Rather than writing a letter, it was felt that consumers should contact the company when experiencing trouble with a bus or bus driver.

2. Daniel shared a photo of Amtrak's new wheelchair ramp. He also reported that he has been able to download videos he has taken on YouTube, which he encouraged other consumers to look at, including:
 - L.A. Metro's Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting about riders who want to bring carts with them on the bus.
 - An L.A. bus driver who received an award for saving a person with disabilities.
 - L.A. Metro's "Mystery Rider" program.
 - "Vote for Accessible Change" video.
3. Liz shared information she received from Desiree Boykin at South Central L.A. Regional Center. The MTA fare for people with disabilities and the elderly will be going up on September 15th, from 55 cents to 75 cents. During peak hours (9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.), the fare will increase from 25 cents to 35 cents.
4. Daniel reported that The L.A. Commission on Disabilities meets every third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Meetings are held in room 374-A of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration at 500 West Temple Street in downtown L.A. The public is welcome to attend. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 17th at 1:00 p.m. and Daniel plans to attend that meeting.

Action: Daniel will give a report on the September 17th Commission on Disabilities meeting at the October 7th CAC meeting.
5. Liz reported that she recently went to Las Vegas with some friends and they have double-decker buses there with open space for people with wheelchairs, walkers, carts, etc. She took a picture of the inside of this bus and sent it to L.A. Metro.
6. Metro was thinking about charging personal care attendants (PCAs) for a special rider card. Lots of consumers voiced their opinion against this idea and Metro agreed not to do it.
7. There are penalties for bus riders who use other riders' cards – never lend your card out!

8. Liz reported that Metro's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) meets monthly in the Gateway Plaza Conference Room, 3rd floor, in the Metro Headquarters building in downtown Los Angeles. Liz is a member of that committee and their next meeting will be Thursday, September 11th, at 10:30 a.m.

Action: Liz will give a report on the September 11th Metro meeting at the October 7th CAC meeting.

C. Review of Draft Travel Guide (Eugene Baily & Chris Whitlock)

It was determined that the CAC could not go forward designing their mini travel guide without board approval first. So instead of presenting the draft of the mini travel guide at the next board meeting, Juan will ask for the board's approval to allow the CAC to develop a mini travel guide.

D. FY 2014-15 CAC Goals

The Board of Trustees approved the CAC's goals for this fiscal year. An approved listing of the goals were provided to the committee and will be revisited every couple of months to see how the committee is doing as far as reaching their goals.

6. New Business

A. Approved Committee Critical Calendar for FY 2014-15

The committee approved their critical calendar at last month's meeting. This calendar lists all of the activities or subjects the CAC will address at their meeting each month. Anything listed on the calendar will be included on that month's CAC meeting agenda.

B. Report on August 11th Housing Committee Meeting (Liz & Juan)

Liz and Juan both attended last month's quarterly Housing Committee meeting. The committee elected Board Member Tavia Wooley to serve as committee chair for this fiscal year. The committee was given an updated on the center's community placements plans (moving consumers from large facilities into the community). The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) has decided to re-start their Housing Committee and they'll have their first meeting next

month. DDS is working on rental assistance for consumers – more information to come!

C. Report on August 29th ARCA CAC Conference Call (William)

William reported that he did not participate in the conference call, but will be participating in the next face-to-face meeting in Sacramento on October 10th.

Action: William will give a report on the October 10th ARCA CAC meeting at the November 4th CAC meeting.

D. Discussion of the Training/Presentation Calendar for FY 2014-15

1. CAC's Ideas for Future Trainings or Presentations

The committee would like to have some information provided to them on the Special Olympics World Games which will be held in Los Angeles in 2015.

Action: Eugene will ask Sara Iwahashi to give a presentation on the Special Olympics World Games at the January 2015 CAC meeting.

E. Review Agenda for September 10th Board of Trustees Meeting (Jennifer)

Copies of the agenda were provided to the committee and Jennifer reviewed it with them. The center's draft performance contract will be presented to the board. Action items include the approval of 4 contracts, approval of George's staff restructuring plan, and the election of Tavia Wooley to serve as the board's 1st vice president. Guests are always welcome to attend the monthly board meetings. Jennifer encouraged any consumers who were interested, to come to a board meeting.

F. Report on Facebook and/or Twitter Account (Eugene)

(See Item 4.D. above.)

E. Review the CAC's Web Page/Ideas for Updates

Copies of the CAC's web page were provided and reviewed. Currently, the only thing on the website is a group picture, the meeting schedule, the roster, and a welcome message from Eugene.

Action: If CAC members have anything interesting that they think should be shared with other consumers, they should bring that information to the committee and if the committee approves, the information will be posted on the CAC's web page.

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

The committee identified the following items for their section of the September 11th board meeting:

- A. Minutes of September 2, 2014 Meeting
- B. CAC Event Calendar
- *C. Approval to Develop a Mini Travel Guide

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

- A. CAC Attendance Sheet

Meeting attendance is kept by Eugene and updated each month. Copies of the updated attendance sheet are always included in the meeting information packet. Committee members cannot miss 3 meetings in a row or 5 meetings in a year.

- B. Next CAC Meeting: Tuesday, October 7, 2014, at 2:00 p.m.

9. **Adjournment**

Juan adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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* Board Action Item

