

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2014

Present: Pam Aiona, Ed Catino, Mary Jo Fernando, Lesly Forbes, Daniel Garcia, Juan Hernandez, Precious Malumfashi, William Rayber, and Jeffrey Thacker – Committee Members
Jessica Gould and Duane Joslin – Board Members
Viviana Bautista, Nina Daily, Elizabeth Lyons, Robert Martinez, Geoffrey Okamoto, Shane Peterson, and Gerald Robles – Guests
Eugene Baily, Jennifer Kaiser, Rose Maag, and Jose Rodriguez – Staff Members

Absent: All present

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Juan Hernandez, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Everyone present was introduced. Everyone sang “Happy Birthday” to Ed Catino and Daniel Garcia.

2. Public Input (3 minutes) - There was no public input.

3. Consent Items

A. Approval of Revised Agenda

M/S/C (D. Garcia/W. Rayber) To approve the revised agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2014 Meeting

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

4. Presentation: Access Services Updates (Geoffrey Okamoto, Operations Supervisor)

Mr. Okamoto provided everyone with copies of the Access Rider’s Guide and the TAP Vendor Directory. Access Services continues to grow and now serves of 136,000 riders, 10,000 riders each day! Access is very focused on rider safety and service efficiency. They have recently hired road safety inspectors to make to rides safer. Mr. Okamoto answered the committee’s questions about Access Services. Afterwards, he invited them to participate in the Access Services Community Advisory Committee and consider joining.

5. **Old Business**

A. Updated Event Calendar

Copies of the updated event calendar were provided to the committee for their information. Six events were listed.

1. The Family Focus Resource Center will be holding a special needs resource fair at CSUN on Saturday, November 8th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

1. **Report on October 9th Hearing** (Liz)

Senator Jim Beall held a hearing in Los Angeles on October 9th to get input from the community on the impact California's recession and trailer bill language have had on the state's developmental disabilities system. Liz attended that hearing. There was a great turnout by consumers! Santi Rogers, director of the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) was there and spoke on behalf of the regional centers. George Stevens, NLACRC's executive director, also gave testimony. As a result of the hearing, Senator Beall and several other senators sent a letter to Governor Brown recommending that he include regional center staff cost of living increases and address the service provider rate issue in his proposed FY 2015-16 budget which will be released in January.

2. **Voter Information Available** (Eugene)

NLACRC has information for today's election in a variety of different languages. Jose added that NLACRC receives voter information about a month prior to each election, which is available to consumers. Mary Jo announced that she, Gerry, and Shane all voted first thing this morning.

3. **Employment Survey** (Eugene)

The San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center is developing an easy-to-use employment resource website to increase awareness of employment opportunities for consumers. They are asking for consumer input on the

development of this website by way of a survey. Eugene provided information about the survey to the committee. Several CAC members said they could not access the survey by the link that was provided.

Action: Eugene will contact Desiree Boykin, who forwarded the survey to him, and ask her to let Kecia Weller at San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center know that we were not able to access the survey via the link she provided.

4. **ADA's 25th Anniversary** (Jennifer)

The 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be July 26, 2015. Many events are being planned during the year to celebrate the ADA's anniversary.

Action: If CAC members hear of any local events celebrating the ADA, they will let Eugene know so he can add them to the CAC's event calendar.

C. Review CAC's Draft Travel Trip Guide (Juan) – *Deferred*

D. NLACRC Facebook Page Update (Jennifer)

Jennifer informed the committee that the board's Government & Community Relations Committee has formed as subcommittee to look at how the center can conduct outreach by using social media, such as Facebook. The subcommittee's first meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19th, at 4:00 p.m.

6. **New Business**

A. Report on October 10th ARCA CAC Meeting (William)

William is NLACRC's delegate to this statewide consumer group, which is comprised of 1 consumer from each of the 21 regional centers. William provided the following highlights from the last meeting:

1. The committee has 2 workgroups, one to increase self-advocacy efforts and another to increase legislative involvement. William belongs to the

legislative workgroup. At each meeting, they break out for workgroup meetings and then report back to the full committee.

2. At each meeting, they go around the room and each member talks about what is going on at their regional center and with their center's CAC.
3. They committee was given a report on the structure and function of ARCA.
4. They were given a report on the ARCA Board of Directors meeting.
5. They were given an update on bills that were recently signed into law by the Governor, including SB 577 (Pavley). This bill will start a 4-year demonstration project for consumers 18-30 years old that will be piloted by 5 of the 21 regional centers. The purpose of the project is to determine whether community-based vocational development services will increase employment outcomes for consumers and reduce purchase of service costs for working age adults. NLACRC is very interested in becoming one of the pilot centers.
6. They also discussed the recent DDS stakeholder meetings.

The next in-person meeting will be held on Friday, January 9th, in Sacramento.

B. Report on Access Community Advisory Committee Meeting (Liz)

Access has re-designed their rider cards to make the photo and printed information in larger type; they are also changing the look so it no longer looks like a credit card. Riders will not be issued the new card until their current card expires. Access recently conducted a random survey to find out how riders felt about their services; most riders were very happy with Access! The next Access CAC meeting will be held Tuesday, November 18th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the LA County MTA office at Union Station in L.A. This is where the meetings are usually held, although Access is thinking about holding the meetings in various places around LA County.

B. Report on October 15th LA Commission on Disabilities Meeting (Daniel)

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

The CAC identified the following ideas for presentations for the remainder of this fiscal year:

1. January 2015: Department of Rehabilitation on Consumer Employment (Precious)

2. February 2015: Recently Passed Legislation (Duane)
3. March 2015: L.A. Commission on Disabilities (Daniel)
4. April 2015: A Video (selected by Daniel)
5. May 2015: The Special Olympics World Games (Sara Iwahashi)
6. June 2015: ADA Anniversary Party

Action: Eugene will update the calendar to reflect these presentations.

E. Review Agenda for November 12th Board of Trustees Meeting (Jennifer)

Each regional center must form an advisory committee, in coordination with their Area Board, to oversee their center's implementation of the self-determination program. AT the next board meeting, the board will be holding a group discussion about how to identify members for NLACRC's advisory committee.

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

The following items were identified for the CAC's section of the November 12th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of November 4, 2014 Meeting
- B. CAC Event Calendar

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

- A. Earthquake Preparedness Guide
- B. Key Earthquake Safety Tips for People with Disabilities

Copies of this information were provided to the committee for their information.

D. California Disability History Week

October 13th-17th was Disability History Week! A poster was developed in honor of women in the disability movement and is available to order at www.yodisabledproud.org. Also they are collecting disability history stories to teach youth about the movement. Please share your favorite story at: disabilityhistory@yodisabledproud.org.

D. CAC Attendance Sheet

The meeting attendance sheet is updated each month and sent out with the meeting packets. Daniel suggested that CAC members be awarded for perfect attendance. Jennifer agreed!

E. Area Board 10 Newsletter

The Area Board puts out an on-line newsletter that has lots of interesting news to share. Copies of the most current newsletter were provided to the committee, headlines included:

1. Help us gather stories about the lack of access to dental care.
2. Study shows that hiring people with disabilities is good for business.
3. Social Security payments to increase.

F. CAC will be Dark in December (No Meeting)

G. Next CAC Meeting: Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Juan adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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