

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2015

- Present:** Pam Aiona, Mary Jo Fernando, Daniel Garcia, William Rayber, and Jeffrey Thacker – Committee Members
Viviana Bautista, Judy Bigman, Elizabeth Lyons, and Gerald Robles – Guests
Eugene Baily, Jennifer Kaiser, and Jose Rodriguez – Staff Members
- Absent:** Lesly Forbes, Juan Hernandez, and Precious Malumfashi
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1. Call to Order & Introductions

Mary Jo called the meeting to order, in Juan’s absence, at 2:05 p.m. Introductions were made. As it is Jeffrey’s birthday this month, we all sang “Happy Birthday” and celebrate with cake and ice cream.

2. Public Input – There was no public input.

3. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item 4. was deferred as Duane was not present.

M/S/C (D. Garacia/W. Rayber) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of January 6, 2015 Meeting

M/S/C (D. Garacia/W. Rayber) To approve the minutes as presented.

4. Presentation: “Recently Passed Legislation” (Duane Joslin) – *Deferred*

5. Old Business

A. Updated Event Calendar

Copies of the updated event calendar were provided.

1. Festival of Human Abilities, held January 24th & 25th

Liz and Jennifer went to Long Beach on Sunday for the festival. It was amazing! There were a lot of artists showing their artwork. There were

performances of many kinds, and they even had a blind man scuba diving in one of the tanks. The aquarium itself was pretty amazing too.

2. “Perfectly Normal” Movie Screening

A documentary was made by New Horizons and CA State University Northridge on the lives of 7 adults with developmental disabilities and it will be shown at Plaza del Sol Concert Hall at CSUN on Thursday, February 12th at 6:30 p.m. with a reception to follow at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free, but parking is \$6. For tickets or more information, call (818) 677-2488.

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

1. Employment First Policy

The Board of Trustees’ Vendor Advisory Committee has drafted an Employment First policy for the center. Copies of the draft policy were provided. The policy will be presented at this month’s board meeting for approval.

Action: Jennifer will present the center’s approved Employment First policy at next month’s CAC meeting.

2. Report on Access Services Meeting (Liz)

Liz provided a handout from the recent Access Services meeting. The meeting was held January 23rd and was the 2nd meeting of the Ad Hoc Origin to Destination Working Group. Access’s new curb-to-curb procedure will allow their drivers to assist riders by coming their front doors and to carry their bags, when needed. Liz also shared a new proposed “no-show” policy with the committee. The committee will be voting on this policy at their next meeting and Liz encouraged people to go to give their input and thoughts.

Action: Eugene will provide the Access Services meeting schedule along with their locations to the CAC.

3. The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act

President Barack Obama recently signed the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, which will allow people with disabilities to open special accounts where they can save up to \$100,000 without risking eligibility for Social Security and other government programs. In addition, individuals can keep their Medicaid coverage no matter how much money is accrued in an ABLE account. An overview of the ABLE Act was provided to the CAC.

4. Legislative Training: Wednesday, February 18th

Each year, NLACRC sends small teams to visit our local legislators to discuss a current topic. Each team includes a consumer, board member, service provider, and staff lead. CAC members will be asked to participate on these teams. To prepare everyone for their visits, a training will be held this month, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Jennifer provided the CAC with flyers for the training.

Action: CAC members should RSVP their attendance to Jennifer ASAP. CAC members will need to get to the regional center on their own but Jennifer will arrange for transportation to take them home.

Action: Mary Jo, Gerry, and Jeffrey will be attending the training and will need rides home.

5. Pet Fair and Adoption Event

Council Member Bob Blumenfield is hosting this event on Saturday, February 14th, 10 am to 2 pm at West Valley Municipal Center, 19040 Vanowen Street in Reseda. They will also be collecting donations for pets in need.

6. Section 8 Advisory Meeting Schedule for 2015

Copies of the meeting schedule were provided. The meetings will be held at 3:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations:

- **Tuesday, January 20th** (Housing Authority, 2600 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles)
- **Friday, April 17th** (Independent Square, 2455 S. Saint Andrews Place, Los Angeles)

- **Friday, June 19th** (Section 8 Office, 19600 Hamilton Avenue, Torrance)
- **Friday, November 20th** (Section 8 Office, 6946 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 100, Van Nuys)

C. Review Info. Submitted by CAC Members for the Draft Travel Tip Guide

Daniel submitted 2 photos of himself and his family while traveling. No other information was submitted by the CAC members.

M/S/C (D. Garcia/W. Rayber) To hold a separate meeting so the CAC can focus on putting together their travel tips guide.

Action: Eugene will contact the CAC members with possible dates for their travel tip guide meeting.

6. New Business

A. The Governor's Proposed State Budget for FY 2015-16

The Governor's proposed budget for FY 2015-16 is very disappointing. Basically, the only new dollars contained in the budget are for caseload growth and utilization (use of services). The proposed budget contains no dollars for service provider rate increases or regional center core staffing adjustments. This budget moves the entire system farther beyond the tipping point.

B. Update on the Self-Determination Program

We are in the process of putting together our volunteer advisory committee. This will be an 11-member committee that will oversee the center's implementation of the self-determination program. The State Council on Developmental Disabilities' local office (formerly Area Board 10), will select 5 members and we will select the other 5; the 11th member will be our client rights' advocate. NLACRC's committee membership will include a representative from the Family Focus Resource Center, a board member, a service provider, and 2 others not yet identified at this time. We will also be posting our implementation process steps on our website and will update it on a regular basis so everyone knows where we are in the process. Ruth Janka, the center's new consumer services director, will be working with the advisory committee to oversee the center's implementation of this program. NLACRC has 174 spots for consumers

to fill as part of the 3-year pilot program. It has come to our attention that DDS may take the responsibility for identifying who these 174 consumers will be.

C. Report on ARCA Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting (William)

William is a member of the statewide consumer group called the ARCA CAC. They meet 5 times a year in Sacramento. William gave a report on the January 9th meeting. The committee listened in to a meeting of the Governor and legislators discussing the proposed state budget for next fiscal year. They broke into discussion groups about self and legislative advocacy. The committee also talked about In-Home Support Services rates. The next ARCA CAC meeting will be held Friday, April 10th.

Action: IHSS rates will be added as a topic of discussion at next month's meeting.

D. Review Agenda for February 11th Board of Trustees Meeting (Jennifer)

Copies of the agenda were provided and Jennifer gave the highlights. At the next board meeting, the center's audited financial statement will be presented. NLACRC received a great audit, with just one finding: 45 minutes that was not billed correctly!

7. Identify Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

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

- A. Minutes of February 3, 2015 Meeting
- B. CAC Event Calendar

8. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. CAC Attendance Sheet

Copies of the committee member attendance sheet are always sent with the meeting packets. CAC members cannot miss more than 4 meetings in 1 year or 3 meetings in a row.

- B. Next CAC Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

C. Disability Scoop Newsletters

Disability Scoop is an on-line newsletter that Eugene receives each week. Copies of the 3 most recent newsletters were provided to the CAC for their information. Topics included:

1. A Super Bowl ad featuring a young girl with Down syndrome.
2. Caregiver wage and overtime protections were struck down.
3. Disability-focused proms expected to draw 7,000 people with special needs.

D. NLACRCs News You Can Use

This is NLACRC's online news bulleting. Copies of the most recent bulletin were provided to the CAC. Highlights included news about:

1. A job and career fair presented by Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian and the Employment Development Department.
2. State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) planning meetings.
3. California Youth Leadership Forum for students with disabilities.

E. State Council Los Angeles News, Volume 38

The SCDD local office (formerly Area Board 10) issues a newsletter each month. Copies of the most recent newsletter were provided to the CAC. Highlights included:

1. The SCDD wants your input on their state plan.
2. Interviewers needed for quality assessment project.
3. Applicants needed for South Central L.A. Regional Center's self-determination local advisory committee.

F. Low-Cost Food Program

A community Distribution Center is open Monday through Saturday, from 9:00 am to 5:00 p.m. (closed Sundays). For just \$25, people with low incomes can go there at receive a pre-packed bag of food, plus they give you a car so you can pick out fresh vegetables, fruits, baked goods, meat, dairy, and more! They are located at 11350 Saticoy Street in Sun Valley.

9. **Adjournment**

Mary Jo adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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