

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2014

Present: Diane Ambrose, Yolanda Bosch, Craig Girard, Jessica Gould, Sara Iwahashi, Duane Joslin, Michele Marra, Roberta Newton, William Rayber, and Kim Rolfes – Committee Members

Jennifer Kaiser – Staff Member

Absent: Annie Cox, Charles Devlin, Ingrid Rushing, Cynthia Sewell, and George Stevens

I. Call to Order & Introductions

William Rayber, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV.C. was deleted and 3 new agenda items were added to that section.

M/S/C (D. Joslin/J. Gould) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of August 4th Meeting

A correction was made to section IV.F. on page 4: the minutes should indicate that the meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. – not 6:30 p.m.

M/S/C (D. Joslin/C. Girard) To approve the minutes as modified.

IV. Committee Business

A. Approved Committee Priorities for FY 2014-15

The Board of Trustees approved the committee's priorities for this fiscal year. Copies of the approved list were provided to the committee for their information.

B. Number of NLACRC Program Closures and Consumers Affected (Kim)

Kim shared copies of this report with the committee.

Fiscal Year	Number of Programs Closed	Consumers Affected	Primary Reason for Closure
FY 2014-15 (so far)	9	41	Financial/Rates (6 of 9)
FY 2013-14	12	112	Financial/Rates (8 of 12)
FY 2012-13	10	71	Financial/Rates (7 of 10)
FY 2011-12	20	1,096	Closed without notice (14 of 20)
FY 2010-11	4	47	Financial/Rates (4 of 4)
FY 2009-10	6	133	Financial/Rates (6 of 6)
FY 2008-09	8	138	Financial/Rates (5 of 8)
Total:	69	1,638	

The center’s main legislative focus this fiscal year will be to address the issue of inadequate service provider rates.

Action: For the next meeting, Kim will provide a report that shows the number of entities that have closed vs. the number of programs that have closed.

Action: William asked that the committee continue to be updated about the status of the program/entity closures and consumers affected at each Strategic Planning Committee meeting.

C. CMS HCBS Final Rule & Implications for California

In January 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued rules about what service will qualify for federal funding under Medicaid waivers and 1915(i) state plan amendments. The major components require:

1. All services must be provided in home and community-based settings (before they were just for residential settings).
2. Individuals must have a lease agreement.
3. Rooms must have lockable doors.
4. States must give individuals the choice between single and shared rooms.

5. Individuals can control their own schedules and can access food and have visitors at any time.

Diane reported that these new mandates are troublesome and very concerning. They will mean a lot of changes to our system. These mandates will be difficult to implement with consumers who have behavioral or judgment issues. In the meantime, public input will be solicited. A second draft of the plan was posted on October 27th and a stakeholder call is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, December 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. California's initial plan is due December 20, 2014. The final implementation date isn't until March 2019.

Action: Roberta requested that information for the committee be sent with the meeting packets rather than handed out at the meeting so the committee members have the opportunity to review the information ahead of time.

D. Chaptered Legislation

The following bills were signed by the Governor and will have an impact on our system:

1. SB 577 (Pavley): This is 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. The project is contingent upon federal funding. NLACRC is very interested in becoming one of the pilot centers.
2. SB 1093 (Liu): This bill requires regional centers to provide independent living skills services to adult consumers, consistent with their IPP, that provide the consumers with functional skills training that enables him or her to acquire or maintain skills to live independently in his or her own home, or to achieve greater independence while living in the home of a parent/family. It also expands the amount of data that regional centers must collect as part of their purchase of service disparity reports, which are posted on their websites.

Action: Jennifer will forward a copy of SB 1093 to Jessica Gould.

3. AB 1710 (Dickinson): Due to the numerous privacy breaches by companies like Target, Lowe's, and Home Depot, this bill requires that companies that have privacy breaches must offer their customers 12 months of free credit monitoring.

4. AB 1089 (Calderon): This bill specifies transfer procedures for regional center consumers who are in the foster care system. The statewide chief counselors group is discussing this so it can be implemented in a uniform manner.

E. Self-Determination

A conference on self-determination is being held this week in Culver City. But NLACRC will be holding its own conferences, free of charge, in the spring of 2015. We have received a list of the proposed state self-determination definitions and a list of services that are to be part of the program. But these definitions still need approval by way of a federal waiver. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) should be submitting the waiver to the feds within the next month or so. There may be some discrepancy between the state list of approved services and the federal waiver list. In the meantime, we are working with CSUN on a geo-mapping project to identify zip codes of under-served consumers who may want to participate in one of the initial 176 slots. Once the waiver has been approved and we have been given direction from DDS, we will provide education and training to our community, identify consumers who are interested in participating in the program, and then proceed to the selection process. Also, the NLACRC Board of Trustees will be discussing the formation of the center's self-determination volunteer advisory board at the November 12th board meeting. This advisory board is to have member appointed by NLACRC and the Area Board and will be tasked with overseeing the implementation of the self-determination program.

F. New Consumer Services Director

Ruth Janka, formerly the center's contract administrator, was promoted to the third director of consumer services position starting Monday, November 3rd. She will be responsible for the branch offices with her home base being the Antelope Valley office. Along with her administrative duties as consumer services director, Ruth will also be responsible for the implementation and oversight of the Self-Determination program for the center. There will be a transition period over the next couple of months to allow for the completion of contract administration duties and to find a replacement for that position. Ruth brings a wealth of knowledge, skill, and managerial experience to her new role and has worked for the center for nearly 20 years.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following item was identified for the committee's section of the November 12th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of November 3rd Meeting

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Jessica announced that she will turn 29 years old on Thursday!
- B. Duane announced that a pancake breakfast will be held from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Sunday, November 9th, at the Masonic Lodge on Sherman Way in Van Nuys.
- C. Yolanda announced that she has just hired a contract and compliance manager for her department.
- D. Sara announced that the Board of Trustees approved the 2015 performance contract and the 9 additional public policy performance contract measures at the October 8th board meeting.
- E. Michele announced that the center opened 15 service coordinator positions in October; we are focusing on lowering the caseload ratios.
- F. Next Meeting: Monday, February 2nd, at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

William adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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