

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2015

Present: Mary Jo Fernando, Lesly Forbes, Juan Hernandez, Precious Malumfashi, William Rayber, and Jeffrey Thacker – Committee Members
Judy Hsieh Bigman, Elizabeth Lyons, Hilary Marides, Gerald Robles, and Tanner Scharch – Guests
Jennifer Kaiser, and Jose Rodriguez – Staff Members

Absent: Pam Aiona and Daniel Garcia

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Juan Hernandez, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. Public Input (3 minutes)

Liz announced that the State Council on Developmental Disabilities held meetings on Saturday to get input on what the State Council needs to do over the next 5 years about improving child care, employment, health, quality assurance, transportation, education, early intervention, community supports, housing, and recreation. Liz was upset because there were so few consumers there giving input. Liz stressed the importance of consumers getting involved in meetings like this. It's your life they're talking about! We need to go, speak up, learn, and bring information back to share with other consumers.

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 February 3, 2015 Meeting

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

4. Information: Los Angeles Commission on Disabilities

The mission of the commission is to advise the L.A. County Board of Supervisors on a range of issues affecting the lives of people with disabilities and actions they can take to achieve a barrier-free county where people with disabilities have equal access to programs and services. The commission and its committees focus on issues of health,

employment, education, transportation, access, and recreation. Jennifer reported that she went to their web page and it was very outdated and she wrote them a letter telling them so. Jose stated that he's been to their meetings before and they are primarily focused on people with just physical disabilities, not so much regional center consumers. But, he suggested that CAC members could go to the commission meetings and make their voices heard and let them know that regional center consumers could use their attention as well.

Action: The monthly commission meetings will be added to the CAC's event calendar.

5. Committee Business

A. Eugene Baily's Retirement

After nearly 25 years of working at the regional center, Eugene retired from the center late last month. He will be missed by all.

B. Identify Nominees for FY 2015-16 Committee Chair

Juan, Mary Jo, and Jeffrey all expressed interest in serving as CAC chair next fiscal year. Precious may also be interested in running. The election will be held at next month's meeting.

C. Update on Special Olympics World Games

The Special Olympics World Games will be held in and around the L.A. area from Saturday, July 25th, through Sunday, August 2nd. There are many ways to get involved to support the games. Information from the website was shared with the CAC. Liz reported that she signed up to become an official volunteer on their website and it was really easy! The opening and closing ceremonies will be held at the L.A. Coliseum.

D. L.A. Care Community Coordinating Council

Judy Bigman, from L.A. Care announced that they are looking for consumers to serve on their CCI consumer council. You must be a patient of L.A. Care to serve on the council. Any consumers interested should come to the next council meeting:

Wednesday, March 25th
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

L.A. Care Family Resource Center
10807 San Fernando Road
Pacoima, CA 91331

Judy added that they have elections for seats on the Board of Governors every 4 years. The Consumer Representative and the Consumer Advocate Representative seats are coming up for election next year. She encourages those interested to run for those positions so that the health access issues of people with disabilities are represented.

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

1. Report on February 9th Housing Committee Meeting

Liz is a member of NLACRC's Housing Committee and gave a report on the last quarterly meeting. A written report was also provided to the CAC.

- A presentation was given by staff from Eastern L.A. Regional Center who were able to develop a 56-room apartment building in Eagle Rock for consumers, homeless veterans and low-income seniors.
- An announcement was made that all of the consumers living at Lanterman Developmental Center were moved out by the December 31st deadline.
- Regional centers and others are planning to discuss Section 811 project-based rental assistance that may be available to consumers. The first meeting will be held sometime in April.
- The center will be developing 2 new residential facilities and one small family home in the Antelope Valley.

2. Access Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Liz is also a member of this committee and gave a report on their recent meeting. Access is going to develop an app for riders to use so they can make reservations and monitor the location of their bus by use of their Smart phones!

F. Updated Event Calendar

Copies of the updated event calendar were provided to the CAC. The calendar including lots of local events, including:

1. Education Rights Information Session (Eastern LA Regional Center)

Eastern L.A. Regional Center's CAC is holding an informational session on "Education Rights" at their next meeting on Tuesday, March 17th, at 4:00 p.m. Liz reported that she has visited other regional centers and gone to their CAC meetings and encouraged others to do so as well.

2. Abilities Expo (L.A. Convention Center)

Many of the CAC members were planning to attend at least 1 day of this 3-day event that will be held this weekend. It was pointed out that they will have several workshops on travel so this would be good information to bring back for the CAC's travel tip guide! It was also recommended that consumers bring their own lunches as the food and drinks at the expo are very expensive!!

Action: CAC members who participate in the expo should take photos of their time there so they can be shared with the committee at next month's meeting.

G. Free Income Tax Preparation (New Horizons)

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) along with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is again offering free tax preparation for consumers at New Horizons. For more information, call Michelle at (818) 894-9301, x332.

H. State Council on Developmental Disabilities Newsletter / Presentation Options

The most recent newsletter announces that the State Council is available to give presentations on various topics to stakeholder groups. Topics include: self-determination; fair hearings; overview of regional centers; employment; and developing and growing effective self-advocacy groups.

Action: The committee would like Jennifer to ask the State Council to give the CAC a presentation on employment.

I. Review Information Submitted by CAC Members for the Draft Travel Guide

No CAC members brought in any information for the travel tip guide. Jennifer read aloud information that was provided by the center's publication department about what should and shouldn't be included in the guide.

Action: Jennifer will draft a travel tip guide for the CAC's review and input.

J. Update on the Self-Determination Program

NLACRC has a written process that it will follow to help prepare for the self-determination program. The process steps were provided to the CAC and are also posted on our website. They will be updated on a regular basis so everyone will know where we are in the process. We are looking for applicants for our self-determination volunteer advisory committee. The self-determination legislation states that each regional center must work with their local State Council office (formerly area boards) to develop a community advisory committee that will oversee their implementation of the program. This will be an 11-member committee. The State Council has identified their 5 participants, plus the client rights advocate. NLACRC also has 5 spots to fill. One of the spots will be filled by Dawn Hamilton, board member and parent. Another spot will be filled by Victoria Berry from the Family Focus Resource Center. The remaining 3 spots will probably be filled by another parent, a consumer, and a service provider.

K. Review Agenda for March 11th Board of Trustees Meeting (Jennifer)

Jennifer provided copies of next week's board meeting agenda to those present and reviewed it with them. NLACRC's board meetings are open to the public and consumers are more than welcome to attend as guests.

6. Identify Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

The following items were identified for the CAC's section of the March 11th board meeting:

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

7. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. CAC Attendance Sheet

Meeting attendance sheets are always included in the meeting packet. Members cannot miss more than 5 meetings in a 12-month period or 3 meetings in a row.

B. Next CAC Meeting: Tuesday, April 7th, at 2:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Juan adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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