

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2015

Present: Pam Aiona, Mary Jo Fernando, Lesly Forbes, Daniel Garcia, Juan Hernandez, Precious Malumfashi, and William Rayber – Committee Members
Judi Bigman, Julie Eby-McKenzie, Susan Ma, Gerald Robles, and Tanner Scharch – Guests
Jennifer Kaiser, and Jose Rodriguez – Staff Members

Absent: Jeffrey Thacker

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Mary Jo Fernando called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Introductions followed.

2. Public Input (3 minutes)

3. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Julie Eby-McKenzie, community program specialist with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities' local office, prepared for a presentation on self-determination rather than on Employment First, under Item 4.

M/S/C (L. Forbes/P. Malumfashi; Abstention: D. Garcia) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of March 3, 2015 Meeting

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

4. Self-Determination Program (State Council on Developmental Disabilities)

Julie gave an overview of the self-determination program which will be implemented by the 21 California Regional Centers. This program will allow consumers to select their own services with their own budget. The program will start once it is approved for federal funding. Upon approval of the waiver application, the program will be piloted for up to 2,500 participants statewide during the first 3 years. After this three year phase-in period, the program will be available to all consumers. For consumers who want to try the self-determination program, Julie stressed the importance of them getting their

person-centered plan exactly as they want it, including ideas for their whole life and for their future and the steps you need to get there. This may take several meetings. Consumers should consider their wants, needs, hopes, and dreams.

5. Committee Business

A. Election for FY 2015-16 Committee Chair & Vice-Chair

Mary Jo, Juan, and Jeffrey all expressed interest in serving as chair for next fiscal year. Daniel added his name so he became a “write-in” candidate. Each candidate gave a short speech on why they wanted to become the CAC chair. Ballots were then provided to the committee members and completed. Mary Jo received the most votes and will serve as CAC chair next fiscal year. Congratulations Mary Jo!

Action: An election for the vice-chair position will be held at next month’s CAC meeting.

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

1. Million Letter Campaign

In coordination with the center’s Board of Trustees, the center is planning to hold 2 action meetings (in Van Nuys and Lancaster) to initiate a letter-writing campaign to the Governor to get him to include the Lanterman Coalition’s recommended 10% increase for regional centers and service providers in the revision of the state budget that will be released in May – so we’re going to need to work fast! Our goal is 1 million letters to the Governor! We need to get everyone involved in this effort, including consumers, family members, neighbors, and friends. The center developed a flyer that was mailed out about the 2 action meetings; copies of the flyer were provided to the CAC, along with a sample letter. CAC members were encouraged to attend the action meetings and to encourage others to attend as well! Everyone needs to understand that the system is in crisis and it is up to them, and the people they know, to help save it! Please come to one of the following action meetings:

- San Fernando Valley meeting: Monday, April 27th, at 6:00 p.m. at Sam’s Café at New Horizons.
- Antelope Valley meeting: Tuesday, April 28th, at 6:00 p.m. at Desert Haven Enterprises.

2. Juan reported that Access Services is having a meeting to discuss possible changes in their fare structure. The meeting will be held Monday, April 27th, at 9:30 a.m. at 1 Gateway Plaza in Los Angeles.
3. Mary Jo reported that her team visited a representative of Senator Pavley's as part of NLACRC's Grass Roots Week visits with local legislators. The team asked for her to support the much-needed 10% increase for service provider rates and regional center operations budgets.
4. Jose stated that his Grass Roots Week team met with Assembly Member Matt Debabneh. Jose invited him to an upcoming CAC meeting!

C. Report on L.A. Care Community Coordinating Council Meeting

Jose and Mary Jo both attended the meeting. Jose reported that good information was given about how the LA Care program works with Medicare and Medi-Cal. They had a Spanish-speaking translator there too! Mary Jo reported that the LA Care meetings are held every other month; the next one will be held Wednesday, May 27th. Transportation to and from the meetings is free!

D. Self-Determination Program

[See agenda item 4. above.]

E. Updated Event Calendar – Deferred

1. Slide show and reports on the Abilities Expo

Action: If you attended the Abilities Expo, please forward any good photos of it to Jennifer and she will put together a slide show for an upcoming CAC meeting.

2. The 25th Anniversary of the ADA: July 26, 2015

Action: CAC members should bring information about any 25th anniversary events to the meetings to share with the CAC.

F. Draft Travel Tip Guide – Deferred

G. Review Agenda for April 8th Board of Trustees Meeting (Jennifer)

Copies of the agenda for the next board meeting were provided to everyone present and Jennifer reviewed it with them. Tomorrow night's board meeting will include a presentation on the regional center's purchase of service data. The data will show how the center spends money on services for consumers and families, by age, race, ethnicity, language, disability, and residence type. The center is required to collect this data, present it at a community meeting, and also post the information on its website.

6. Identify Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the April 8th board meeting:

- A. Minutes of April 7, 2015 Meeting – *Deferred*
- B. CAC Chair for FY 2015-16

7. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. CAC Attendance Sheet

Attendance sheets are always included in the meeting packet. CAC members cannot miss more than 2 meetings in a row or 5 meetings in a 12-month period.

- B. Next CAC Meeting: Tuesday, May 5th, at 2:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

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

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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