

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

April 2, 2015

**Present:** Fredlyn Berger, Annie Cox, Deborah Cutter, Mariela Feldman, Cynthia Fernandez, Michelle Heid, Kristin Hoefflin, Jonathan Istrin, Eleshia Johnson, Rebecca Lienhard, Scott Shepard, Wayne Tashjian, and Dolly Wauls - Committee Members  
Sarah Staley, George Stevens, Jennifer Kaiser, Erica Beall, Kim Rolfes, Jason Trevino, Nikisia Simmons, Yolanda Bosch, Debra Dinielli, Dr. John Youngbauer, Alejandra Guillen, Anna Polin, Sarah Cox, and Kimberly Johnson-McNeil - Staff  
Leticia Hernandez, Don Lucas, Stella Shabanjian, Ella Williams, Victoria Greenwood, Darrell Bunch, Victoria Berrey, Suad Bisogno, Maria Ortiz, Sina Javonmard, Tanner Scharch, Lori Sivazlian, Charles Devlin, Marie McManus, Elana Schectman, Sona Terzyan, Rosa Hernandez, Valerie Kissell, Michael Wright, Diana Leff, and Rita Zelaya - Guests

**Absent:** Pam Jacobson, Ken Lane, Jenni Moran, Marina Pink, and Gay Wane

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

Jenni called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. Introductions were made.

**II. Public Input** - There was no public input.

**III. Consent Items**

**A. Approval of Agenda**

**M/S/C** (S. Shepard/W. Tashjian) To approve the agenda as presented.

**B. Approval of Minutes from March 12<sup>th</sup> VAC Meeting**

**M/S/C** (W. Tashjian/A. Cox) To approve the minutes as presented.

**IV. Executive Director's Report**

George Stevens gave the following reports:

A. Million Letter Campaign: In coordination with the center's Board of Trustees, the center is planning to hold 2 town hall meetings (in Van Nuys

and Lancaster) to initiate a letter-writing campaign to the Governor to get him to include the Lanterman Coalition's 10% increase for regional centers and 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. We want to get media attention as well. The center will develop a flyer that will be made available to share with consumers, staff, family members, friends, providers, and others, along with a sample letter that they can send. This is our number one priority. Families need to understand that the system is in crisis and it is up to them, and the people they know, to help save the system.

1. San Fernando Valley meeting: Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. at Sam's Café at New Horizons.
2. Antelope Valley meeting: Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. at Desert Haven Enterprises.

Please help us spread the word so we can get as many people as possible to attend these meetings.

B. Self-Determination: We have 3 informational meetings planned to provide information to our community on the self-determination program:

1. San Fernando Valley meeting: Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. (NLACRC's main office in Van Nuys).
2. Antelope Valley meeting: To be determined.
3. Santa Clarita Valley meeting: Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. (NLACRC's Santa Clarita Valley office)

We still don't have a lot of new information as yet, but the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has promised to send regional centers information and training materials "soon." The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) returned DDS's waiver application to them for revisions, which re-sets the clock for the 90 day turnaround time. DDS is collecting names of people interested in participating in the self-determination program once it's up and running; anyone interested should go to DDS's website to sign up. NLACRC is finalizing its 5 members of the joint State Council/NLACRC self-determination volunteer advisory committee. The deadline for filling out an application was March 31<sup>st</sup>. Ruth Janka and members of our board will be reviewing the applications and conducting interviews with the applicants.

C. NLACRC's Budget: The center's operations budget is \$38.4 million with no projected surplus or deficit. The center's purchase of service (POS) budget is

\$290.2 million with a projected deficit between \$17.4 and \$19.9 million. George is not worried by the POS deficit, as DDS has always made the centers whole at the end of each fiscal year. If we experience a cash flow issue, we will borrow money from our credit line to pay our providers.

**V. Chief Financial Officer's Report** (Kim Rolfes) - Kim had no report.

**VI. Community Services Director's Report** (Yolanda Bosch)

A. PowerPoint Presentation (CMS HCBS Final Rule): In January 2014, CMS issued rules about what services 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.

These new mandates are troublesome and very concerning. They will mean a lot of changes to our system. In addition, they will be difficult to implement with consumers who have behavioral or judgment issues. In the meantime, public input is being solicited. The final implementation date isn't until March 2019.

B. Uniform Holiday Schedule: The uniform holiday schedule is coming to an end. Apparently DDS did not seek CMS's approval for their holiday schedule, so it was found to be unlawful – along with the half-day billing. We anticipate receiving a program advisory about this from DDS shortly. In the meantime, we will probably revert to the old holiday schedule, which included closures on all major holidays and during the time between Christmas and New Year's Day. NLACRC originally began the uniform schedule to identify days that we would not pay for transportation, due to decreased consumer attendance at programs; not a directive for programs to close on those days. Going forward, we will be modifying our e-billing system to allow providers to enter their attendance data. To bill for days retroactively, please submit that information in writing to our accounting department.

**Action:** Kim will post information about the uniform holiday schedule on the center's website so providers know what process they should follow.

C. Minimum Wage Increase: Service providers with negotiated rates can request rate increase waiver from DDS to cover the cost of minimum wage increases. We are planning to reach out to our providers in July to notify them of the process prior to the next minimum wage increase which will go into effect January 1, 2016.

D. Residential and Supported Living Out-of-Community or Out-of-State Travel Guidelines

These guidelines were drafted to reflect the center's process to assess and make decisions regarding requests to provide services and supports to consumers who are traveling outside their community or outside of the state. We want to make sure that any safety issues can be addressed and proper supports are in place. We also want to make sure it is the consumer's choice to travel. The draft guidelines have been presented to several of the board's committees for their review and input. The guidelines will be presented to the Board of Trustees for their approval on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Once approved, the guidelines will be incorporated into the center's service standards.

E. Antelope Valley Transportation: We will be posting an RFP on our website; we are looking for someone to provide transportation for consumers in the Antelope Valley.

## VII. Brief Committee Business

A. Election of FY 2015-16 VAC Chair: Michele Heid was the only nominee presented at last month's VAC meeting.

**M/S/C** (R. Lienhard/S. Shepard) To elect Michele Heid to serve as the VAC chair for FY 2015-16.

Rebecca added that Michele has knowledge of behavioral and early intervention services, but is interested in learning more about any other services that are being provided.

## VIII. Agenda Item for the Next Board Meeting

The following items were identified for the VAC's section of the April 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the March 13<sup>th</sup> VAC Meeting
- B. Minutes of the April 2<sup>nd</sup> VAC Meeting
- C. VAC Chair for FY 2015-16

## **IX. Announcements/Public Input**

- A. Scott Shepard announced that the legislative visits have been going well! Assembly Members Wilkes, Nazarian, and Gallo have all agreed to support the Lanterman Coalition's recommended 10% across-the-board increase for regional center operations and service provider rates. We need to keep track of the legislators who are supporting us and those who aren't.
- B. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. (full meeting)

## **X. Committee Work** (The committee breaks into their workgroups)

The committee broke into their workgroups for individual discussions.

- A. Early Start/Prevention Services (Annie Cox, Chair)
- B. Children's Services (Wayne Tashjian, Chair)
- C. Adult Services (Rebecca Lienhard, Chair)
- D. Mental Health Issues (Gay Wane, Chair)

## **XI. Adjournment**

Jenni adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by,

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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