

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2015

Present: Fredlyn Berger, Deborah Cutter, Mariela Feldman, Cynthia Fernandez, Michelle Heid, Jonathan Istrin, Pam Jacobson, Eleshia Johnson, Ken Lane, Jenni Moran, Marina Pink, Scott Shepard, Wayne Tashjian, and Dolly Wauls - Committee Members
Luisine Gambayan, Tanner Scharch, Richard Briseno, Verjine Egian, Victoria Greenwood, Dana Hart, Ana Hernandez, Aleta Andrews, Dana Andrews, Rachel Hofman, Miriam Corona, Martha Rodriguez, Cyndi McAuley, Marci Galvez, Leticia Hernandez, Mandy Flower, Amy Bryman, Sina Javan, Rosa Hernandez, Carolyn Caldwell, Darrell Bunch, and Kimberly McNeill - Guests
Erica Beall, Yolanda Bosch, Sarah Cox, Jennifer Kaiser, Anna Polin, Kim Rolfes, George Stevens, Jason Trevino, and John Youngbauer – Staff Members

Absent: Annie Cox, Kristin Hoefflin, Rebecca Lienhard, and Gay Wane

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jenni called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input

Martha Rodriguez, business manager for Fobi Pharmacy, announced that the pharmacy is providing a course on drug therapy and caring for clients with Dementia, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's disease on Friday, May 22nd, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The course will be held at Willing Works Adult Day Program, 4813 West Washington Boulevard, in Los Angeles. This course has been approved for 8 hours of continuing education units for GH, ARF, and RCFE administrator's recertification. For more information or to RSVP please contact Martha at Martha.r.fobirx@att.net.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV.A. was moved to become item VI.A. and item VII.A. was moved to become item IV.A.

M/S/C (E. Johnson/S. Shepard) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from April 2nd VAC Meeting

M/S/C (W. Tashjian/K. Lane) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Executive Director's Report (George Stevens)

A. Million Letter Campaign: The center held community action meetings on Monday, April 27th, at New Horizons, and on Tuesday, April 28th, at Desert Haven, to kick-off a letter writing campaign to our governor and legislators supporting the Lanterman Coalition's request for a 10% increase in rates for our service providers and also for regional center operations budgets. We had outstanding speakers at both events, including Tony Anderson, Yolanda Bosch, Steve Miller, and Jenni Moran! Both meetings were very well attended (standing room only) with over 600 letters written! NLACRC stamped these letters and mailed them. The letter-writing campaign would not have been so successful without everyone's collaboration – thank you! But we need to continue to keep the pressure on with the governor's May revise coming. Please tell you friends and families about the needed 10% increases and ask them to write letters, send e-mails, and call the governor and their legislators. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) and the other regional centers are all pushing for the 10% increases.

B. Self-Determination Program: The center is in the process of interviewing candidates for the joint State Council/NLACRC local volunteer advisory committee. The State Council's local office has already selected their 5 group members. We will be holding meetings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the following dates to provide information about the self-determination program with our community:

1. Tuesday, May 26th (NLACRC's main office in Van Nuys)
2. Tuesday, June 2nd (NLACRC's Santa Clarita Valley office)
3. Thursday, June 11th (NLACRC's Antelope Valley office)

Spanish translators will be available at all 3 meetings. We still have not been given any new information about the program from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). They have not re-submitted the waiver application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) so the 90-day turnaround time has not been re-set.

C. NLACRC's Budget: The center's operations budget is \$38 million with no projected surplus or deficit. The purchase of service (POS) budget is \$290 million with a projected deficit between \$16 and \$17 million. We may have to borrow money in the next month or so but if we do it will be a transparent

process to our service providers. We are also still carrying a POS deficit for FY 2012-13, but DDS has agreed to send us another contract amendment to cover the shortfall.

- D. Trailer Bill: Next fiscal year, we may want to begin looking at the impact trailer bill language has had on consumers, families, and service providers. Many of the cut backs included in trailer bill language were made because the state was in deficit; these cuts were supposed to be temporary.
- E. Uniform Holiday Schedule & Half-Day Billing: On February 13th, a U.S. federal court ruled that DDS's uniform holiday schedule and half-day billing requirement were invalid and issued an injunction against the enforcement of these 2 statutes. However, the state of California wants the federal court to lift the injunction. A ruling is expected before the next scheduled holiday (Memorial Day on May 25th). The center will keep service providers informed of the outcome. In the meantime, the injunction remains in place and providers should follow the center's uniform holiday schedule.
- F. Behavioral Services: LA Care and Health Net are required to cover behavioral services for consumers who are on Medi-Cal starting July 1st. The center will continue to serve our consumers through the transition process. In addition, we will continue to provide behavioral service orientations for our families so they have a full understanding of the process.

V. Chief Financial Officer's Report (Kim Rolfes)

- A. AB 1400 (Santiago): This bill, if passed, would impose a 15% administrative cost cap on in-home respite providers with regional center annual revenue in excess of \$7 million.

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

- A. Memorandum of Understanding between DDS/DOR/CDE

VII. Committee Business

- A. Update on the Minimum Wage Increase: Jenni asked the VAC members if they would be interested in canceling the break-out groups at their June 4th meeting to get a training on how to apply for a rate increase from DDS to cover the pending minimum wage increase.

M/S/C (J. Istrin/D. Wauls) To cancel the break-out groups scheduled to be held after the June 4th VAC meeting to get the minimum wage training instead.

VIII. Reports from the VAC Priority Issue Work Groups

- A. Early Start/Prevention Services (Annie): The work group is working on writing “functional rules.”
- B. Children’s Services (Wayne): The work group is developing a task force to develop a task list for providers to use to help them prepare for audits.
- C. Adult Services: The work group is discussing services for aging consumers. Ken suggested that this work group consider putting together a stakeholders group to identify what services are needed and how to fund them.
- D. Mental Health Issues: This work group holds a collaborative meeting with members of the Department of Mental Health on the last Thursday of each month to discuss individual consumer cases and solutions.

IX. Report on Board Committee Meetings

- A. Administrative Affairs (Ken Lane): Since FY 2012-13, the amount of cash disbursed by NLACRC but not reimbursed by Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) is \$2,148,605. The center had 11 new hires in March and 10 more in April, primarily service coordinators. The center’s dues to ARCA are \$82,530 and Ken stressed the importance of ARCA to the regional centers and his support, in general, of support agencies.
- B. Board of Trustees (Jenni Moran): The board will be voting on the guidelines for out-of-community/out-of-state travel for residential service providers; The similar guidelines for supported living providers will be deferred pending further input from the VAC.
- C. Consumer Services (Michelle Heid): This committee has been charged by the board for tracking the implementation of the self-determination program, so an update was given on that. The 3rd quarter consumer diagnosis report was presented and showed that out of the 2,294 consumers living in the Santa Clarita Valley, half of them have been diagnosed with autism. Unfortunately, transition services in that area for our adult consumers are very limited. A community placement plan report is given at each meeting; the center is developing 2 homes in the Antelope Valley for adults with behavioral

challenges, one home for adolescents and a day program in the San Fernando Valley, and supported living services for all 3 valleys. The center did not get any applicants for the 2 homes and 1 day program they wanted to develop in the Antelope Valley.

D. Government & Community Relations (Michelle Heid): The committee is tracking a lot of different bills, but special attention was paid to:

1. AB 796: Autism Behavioral, Health Treatment
2. AB 1379: Carter School Special Education Programs
3. AB 643: Silver Alert
4. ABLE Account: Tax advantage savings accounts for individuals with disabilities and their families. This account was created as a result of the passage of the ABLE Act of 2014.

Sixty-two legislators have now agreed to support Senator Beall's proposal!

E. Housing (Jonathan Istrin): This committee meets quarterly; their next meeting will be held Monday, May 11th, at noon.

F. Nominating (Jonathan Istrin): The committee has completed its interviews with applicants for the Board of Trustees, Consumer Advisory Committee, and VAC. The proposed nominees and re-nominees will be presented at the board meeting next week and the elections will be held at the June 10th board meeting.

G. Strategic Planning (Annie Cox): This committee meets quarterly and held their most recent meeting on Monday night. The committee discussed the possibility of adding 6 potential local measures to its 2016 performance contract. The committee has also been tracking program closures; Since FY 2008-09, the center has had 76 program closures affecting 1,657 consumers. These closures were primarily due to financial/rate issues.

X. Open Issues for Discussion

A. Ken Lane and his wife Donna recently testified at a hearing held by the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care on AB 563 (Lopez). This bill would require DDS and the California Department of Aging to develop guidelines and protocols establishing best practices for communication with aging consumers and delivery of services for aging consumers. Ken provided information about the bill to the VAC.

- B. Michelle Heid reported that the Southern California Consortium for Behavioral Analysts is giving a workshop on the legislative process on Friday, June 19th, at CSUN. It's a day long workshop and Michelle will be one of the morning presenters.

Action: Michelle will forward information about the workshop to Jennifer and she will forward it to the VAC.

- C. Pam Jacobson announced that Tierra del Sol is in the process of restructuring its staff to improve efficiency. The position she holds there was an experimental position, and was unfortunately eliminated. So Pam will have to resign her position on the VAC. She told everyone how proud she was of the work the VAC has done, especially with the Employment First policy and the impact they had on the restoration of Early Start services.

XI. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

The following item was identified for the VAC's section of the May 13th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of May 7th Meeting

XII. Announcements/Information/Public Input

- A. Next VAC Meeting: Thursday, June 4th, at 9:30 a.m.

XIII. Adjournment

Jenni adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

