

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Self Determination Local Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
August 13, 2015

**Present:** Victoria Berrey, Mercedes Del Cid, Michelle Heid, Allison Gray, Nicole Carter, Richard Dier, Ellen Jannol, Sandra Baker, Debra Newman, Bebo Saab – Committee Members  
George Stevens, Ruth Janka, Lizeth Chavez – Staff Members  
Julie Eby-McKenzie - State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Sean, John, and Friend of Nicole Carter (Name not provided) - Guest

**Absent:** Royce Abrams – Committee Member

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**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Ruth Janka at 7:10 p.m. with a brief introduction from all present at the meeting table.

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

**III. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Agenda

Committee consented and approved the Agenda as presented

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 22<sup>nd</sup> Committee Meeting:

Committee consented and approved the Minutes as presented

C. Designation of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary positions

Committee is to review any interests received for the following three positions.

**IV. Self Determination Overview Presentation by Bebo Saab**

Bebo presented the committee a brief and descriptive overview of the Self Determination program which addressed the program's framework, laws, and requirements. In addition to the presentation, Bebo provided members with copies of the following materials to reference:

- Self Determination Program Enrollment Overview
- Similarities and Differences between Traditional Regional Center Service Provision

and the New Self Determination Program

- Financial Management Services (FMS) Tasks/Description
- Disability Rights California SB468
- WIC 4685.8 Self Determination Program
- CA Government Code 11123, Open meeting; teleconference requirements
- CA Government Code 11125, Notice of Meeting

## V. Housekeeping

### A. Designation of Committee member Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretary position:

Committee member Michelle Heid volunteered and voted upon to hold interim chair to proceed with the Agenda until the designation of all positions were assigned. At the request of most members in June's meeting any member who was interested in holding any one of the positions should send a mini biography and include their interest for such positions to be discussed during present meeting. The following interests were received, Richard Dier for Chair, Debra Newman for Co-Chair, and Victoria Berrey for Secretary. Members could not confirm they received all interested parties submission so it was asked that members interested in being elected would provide a brief description of themselves. Debra advised she is currently a Board Member for NLA and Secretary for the Board as well as the parent of a consumer who has experienced a vast majority of experiences with navigating through the system of Regional Center and School Districts. Debra also served on many committees who have dealt with special education. Believes her experience with her son provides an insight into what will evolve with Self Determination. Also, willing to apply for one of the 2500 positions for the program and hopes the committee will be a form of support during the process. Bebo moved to have Debra appointed as Vice-Chair, Richard second the motion. Richard inquired Debra's geographic area in which Debra responded Antelope Valley. Debra was voted as Vice-Chair. Victoria Berry was asked to provide some background information to be considered as Secretary. Victoria is the parent of two high school children both consumers, residing in the Santa Clarita. She has volunteered and helped establish support groups. She has worked with the Family Focus Resource Center (FFRC) for 7 years providing parent support to parents of Regional Center families to navigate the Regional Center system and special education system. She manages staff in all 3 locations. She has her Masters in Public Administration with her interest in policy, non-profit management, legislation, and communicating information to parents and consumers while running support groups and staying active in establishing new support groups. Bebo moved to have Victoria appointed as Secretary, motion was seconded and Victoria was appointed as Secretary. The committee moved to discuss the final position of Chair in which Richard Dier has shown interest in filling. Michelle Heid shared that she has worked with Richard Dier on the Board as member and guest and believes Richard will be a great voice for Committee and moves to support his position as chair. Bebo second

that motion by adding the he has worked with Richard in the past and believes Richard holds the Community's best interest. Bebo stated Richard will be very useful in communicating the Committee's concerns with Legislation to get the best policies and supports his validation to appoint Richard as Chair. Richard shared that he didn't disclose that his interest in this topic is lifelong. He was in special education as a child and was a volunteer during College in the Low Brook State Hospital in New York and was an experience that opened his eyes. He is not really interested in managing the Committee as he considers himself a good board member but is interested in participating in the Statewide Committee as there are very few answers and a lot of vagueness to this program and really wants to assist in developing best practice policies and communicate information to this Committee. Willing to apply for his son with the understanding that it may be frustrating as there is so much that is yet to be determined but does consider all the advantages. Richard pledges to be excellent at the Statewide capacity and willing to Chair meetings for this Committee with a consensus format. Thinks this Committee has a lot of challenges for managing this Committee in reviewing the format as there is so many exceptions as one of the issues when reviewing the Agenda item is it will need to be discussed by all members and be open to the public for comment before and after. One of his concerns was how information was going to be provided to Management. Richard thinks a main function for the Committee should be to get educated and brainstorm where the problems are and where the solutions can be found and then trying to communicate that so that we can shape what comes down from legislation. There was no further discussion and Richard was elected Chair for Committee. Per Richard, Michelle would continue to direct tonight's meeting.

- B. Scheduling of future Local Advisory Committee Meetings: It was agreed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month would be the best day for the Committee to hold all future Meetings. Members are encouraged to attend in person and if a member cannot attend a meeting they will be provided with the information and material from the meeting not attended. The committee was made aware that members cannot discuss in detail specific topics or agenda items unless present during a Committee Meeting. Future meetings were scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>, October 8<sup>th</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup>, and the meeting for December 10<sup>th</sup> will be tentative and decided to proceed or go dark in agreement with member's holiday schedules. December meeting will be reviewed and discussed during future meetings.
- C. Time and Location of future Local Advisory Committee Meetings: Committee Members acknowledged and discussed the importance to hold future Committee Meetings in all three branch offices for NLA. There was some concern in accommodating attendees in all three locations and should be considered when deciding a location for Meeting. In accordance to the Bagley-Keene Open meeting Act, the Meetings should be made accessible to all communities in the Regional Center's catchment areas. It was agreed the locations of all the remaining meetings for the 2015

year will rotate between the Santa Clarita Valley and Van Nuys offices. The time for every future meeting was agreed to be scheduled from 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

- D. Communication of Documents Generated and Community Outreach: It was determined the Meetings will be an open forum and the Committee must communicate with the public that translators can be provided to accommodate their needs. Community outreach will be expanded when information is received from the Department. Notice of Interpretation services will be made available when requested. Committee is to discuss in more detail the interpretation services that should be made available as requested and the possibility of public documents being translated.

**Action Item**: Members should identify support groups in the Community

## VI. Recommended Agenda/Action Items

- Ruth Janka will provide all Regional Center staff with information and instruction to provide consumers and families interested in participating in the Self Determination program.
- A budget has not been provided by the Department and funding to cover any Committee related cost will be covered by NLA.
- Review the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act to establish guidelines and understand the rules for holding the Committee.
- Updates on the Waiver to be discussed during next meeting.
- Invitation to be extended to Chris Arroyo to do a presentation on the Begley Keene Open Meeting Act.

## VII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair, Richard Dier at 9:17p.m.

Submitted by,

Lizeth Chavez  
Administrative Assistant