

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2015

Present: Jun Antonio, Jessica Gould, Myriam Jovel, Caroline Mitchell, Bridget Moss, Debra Newman, Sean Stalbaum, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang – Committee Members
Mary Jo Fernando – Board Member
Gerald Robles – Guest
Michelle Heid and Fredlyn Berger – Vendor Advisory Committee Representatives
Diane Ambrose, Maria Bosch, Joan Daniels, Susana Gil, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, George Stevens, and Jessica Whitney – Staff Members

Absent: Marcia Leija

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jessica Gould, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input - There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Items IV.I. and IV.J. were added to the agenda.

M/S/C (D. Newman/J. Antonio) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of August 19th Meeting

M/S/C (C. Wang/C. Mitchell) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Approved Committee Priorities for FY 2015-16

The board approved the committee's priorities for this fiscal year. Copies of the approved priorities list were provided.

B. Self-Determination Program Update

Debra reported that the self-determination volunteer advisory committee held their second meeting on September 10th. The committee discussed what, if any, of their information should be translated and if so, who would be responsible for the translation. A new video has been created by DDS and posted on their website. The committee watched the 10-minute video and thought it was very informative. The committee continues to wait for more instructive information from DDS, but in the meantime is doing their housekeeping, by electing a chair (Richard Dier) and vice-chair (Debra). The Family Focus Resource Center is having their annual resource fair and the committee will be hosting an information table there on self-determination. The meeting agendas and minutes are being posted on the center's website, along with the meeting schedule. Currently, the group is meeting on the 2nd Thursday evening of each month, at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 8th, at the center's main office.

C. Antelope Valley Transportation Update

Ruth reported that 90 of our AV consumers have been impacted by the transportation issues in that area. Southland Transit has lost 7 of their drivers, due to low rates and high turnover. We are seeking alternative transportation options, such as asking day programs to become vendored to provide transportation services, offering mileage reimbursement to parents who can drive, using Access Services, providing attendants, and in-home support services until the situation can be stabilized. The center sent out a request for proposals for a new transportation provider for the AV and Student Transportation was awarded the contract. Kim is currently working with them to work out the rate challenges, and 15% operations cost cap. George, Kim, and Ruth will be meeting with Assembly Member Lackey on Friday to ask him to support statutory relief.

1. Number of consumers in the AV who require transportation: 534

D. Fair Hearing Semi-Annual Reports

DDS compiles fair hearing data from all 21 regional centers and also records fair hearing decisions rendered by the Office of Administrative Hearings. Once they compile the information, they share it with the regional centers. The most recent report was provided to the committee and reviewed. The report covered the following time frames:

1. July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013

2. January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014
3. July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

In the first 6-month report, it was noted that Eastern LA Regional Center had 30 state-level hearing decisions made, which was considerably higher than the other centers. The majority of service appeals (159 of 416) were for behavioral services.

In the second 6-month report, Harbor Regional Center had the most state-level fair hearing decisions made at 16, closely followed by the other centers. Again, a majority of the service appeals (29 of 108) were for behavioral services.

In the third 6-month report, Inland Regional Center had the highest number of state level hearing decisions made at 18, with the majority of the other centers coming in at 7 or under hearing decisions made. Again, the majority of the service appeals (15 of 83) were for behavioral services.

E. Monthly Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report

Copies of the monthly report were provided to the committee and Maria reviewed the report with them. The center's goal for this fiscal year is to place 10 consumers out of the developmental centers and into the community. As of August 31st, the center has made 2 of the 10 placements; the third placement is scheduled to be made in October.

F. Questions re: Monthly Quality Assurance and Special Incident Reports

These reports are provided at each board meeting as part of George's director's report. They are an agenda item at this meeting in case anyone had any questions regarding either report. There were no questions regarding either report

G. Board Audit: Review Current Service Trends

Diane read aloud the committee's newly approved priority issues for this fiscal year.

H. Board Audit: Are the service standards are consistent with the center's mission and philosophy? Yes.

I. Ability First Program Closure

Ability First let us know that they will discontinue operating programs at the Paul Weston Center in Woodland Hills after November 20th. We are in the process of finding alternative resources for the consumers they serve. Some of the consumers at the Ability First program have been there for 20 or 30 years, so this will not be an easy process. Almost 100 consumers will be impacted by the closure. The reason for the closure is that the property they are on is being sold and it is too difficult for them to relocate, especially with the new CMS Final Rule requirements that will need to be implemented.

George added that the Southern CA regional center directors met last week. They will be organizing a joint meeting with their directors of community services and Vendor Advisory Committee chairs to discuss how to best prepare for the transition to the CMS Final Rule requirements which will need to be in place by March 2019. The regional centers have received no direction from DDS on this.

J. Service Standards

Last year, the center submitted changes to 5 of the center's 11 service standards to DDS for their approval. As reported at last month's committee meeting, DDS sent us a letter asking that additional changes be made to 4 of those 5 service standards. Diane and her staff have made the changes requested by DDS and she shared those changes with the committee. Essentially, the changes were rather minor with a footnote correction and that DDS wanted us to quote regulation and statute exactly – and not use our own language. The changes to the 4 service standards will be presented to the board for their review and input on October 14th, will come back to the committee for final review on October 21st, submitted to the board for approval on November 10th, and then submitted to DDS for their final approval.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the October 14th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of September 16th Meeting
- B. Self-Determination Program Update
- C. Presentation of Proposed Changes to Service Standards
 - 1. Individual Program Plan (IPP Development)

2. Educational and Vocational Services
3. Clinical Services
4. Early Start Program

VI. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

Jessica asked the committee members to please complete evaluation forms after the meeting and submit them to her with any comments.

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 21st, at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Jessica adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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