

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
October 6, 2015

**Present:** Mary Jo Fernando, Lesly Forbes, Daniel Garcia, Juan Hernandez, William Rayber, and Adam Stokes – Committee Members

Nina Daly, Elizabeth Lyons, Lucky Pana, and Gerald Robles – Guests

Jennifer Kaiser and Jose Rodriguez – Staff Members

**Absent:** Pam Aiona and Hillary Marides

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**1. Call to Order & Introductions**

Mary Jo Fernando, CAC chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Introductions were made.

**2. Public Input (3 minutes)**

**3. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Agenda

Several items were added to the agenda.

**M/S/C** (W. Rayber/D. Garcia) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of September 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

**M/S/C** (L. Forbes/D. Garcia) To approve the minutes as presented.

**4. Committee Business**

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

1. LA Care Meeting: Liz reported that the LA Care Committee is still looking for additional members. Liz also provided the CAC with copies of the Panorama City Wellness Calendar that she received at the most recent LA Care meeting. The wellness center offers a variety of different activities, including yoga, line dancing, Zumba, and walking. Some of the

classes are free and some charge a fee. For more information you can contact Ann Pagan at (818) 375-3897.

2. Access Meeting: Liz provided the CAC with information from the August 24<sup>th</sup> Access Board of Directors meeting about the proposed restructuring of their fare system.
3. State Council Report: The most recent State Council bulletin featured an article on how the special legislative session without any action to increase funding for regional centers and their service providers.
4. Ballot Initiative: Advocates for our system are considering gathering signatures for an initiative to be put on the ballot for increased funding for regional centers and their service providers. We would need to get 365,880 signatures of registered voters in a 180 day period in order to get the initiative on the ballot. Mary Jo stated that perhaps the CAC could invite members of the media to one of their committee meetings so they could tell them first-hand how the funding crisis has affected their lives.

**Action:** Mary Jo will ask the Board of Trustees for their permission to invite members of the media to a CAC meeting.

5. Right to Die Bill: Daniel reported that Governor Brown just signed a right to die bill that will give that option to Californians who are terminally ill. The CAC agreed that it was very important for consumers to have an advance directive, which states what kind of treatment they would want or would not want if they were too ill to make those decisions.

#### B. Report on Disaster Preparedness Fair

Adam announced that he is a cadet for the fire department. He attended the fair and told everyone that it is very important to always know where building exits are in case of an emergency evacuation. Jose attended the fair and said there were about 200-300 people there, which made the registration lines really long. The fire department gave away emergency preparedness starter kits that included an emergency lamp. Representatives from the City Council, Department of Water and Power, and the Red Cross were also there. They even had an earthquake simulator that you could get in. All who attended felt it was a really good disaster preparedness fair.

C. Updated Event Calendar

The calendar listed 4 events: a senior expo; a pet adoption harvest fair, a special needs resource fair, and a Just 4 Us picnic. It was also announced that Tierra del Sol will be having their annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>; you can take the 169 bus to get there.

D. Report on ARCA Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting (William)

William attended the ARCA CAC meeting that was held last Friday in Sacramento. The committee discussed the budget crisis and attempts to get the special legislative session to pass some kind of an increased funding bill for our system. The committee discussed the National Core Indicators surveys and how the system could use information from them in a constructive way. The ARCA CAC just got its own Facebook page up and running. The next ARCA CAC meeting will be held in early January.

E. Training/Presentation Calendar for FY 2015-16

**Action:** Jose and Mary Jo will ask the fire department if they can send a representative to the CAC meeting in January to discuss disaster preparedness.

**Action:** Jose and Mary Jo will contact the Department of Rehabilitation to see if they could send a representative to the CAC meeting in February to talk about employment options for consumers.

**Action:** Jose will work with Lesly to contact Chrysalis Employment to see if they could send a representative to the CAC meeting in March to talk about the employment programs they offer.

**Action:** Once these presentations are scheduled, Jose will add them to the CAC's training/presentation calendar.

F. Review Agenda for October 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees Meeting (Jennifer)

Copies of the board meeting agenda were provided and Jennifer reviewed the highlights. The October board meeting will be held at the center's Lancaster office.

G. Self-Determination

The 11-member joint NLACRC/State Council Volunteer Advisory Committee has been formed. They are meeting monthly and their agendas, meeting minutes, and meeting schedule can be found on the center's website. Also, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) created a short self-determination informational video. You can find the video on DDS's website at [www.dds.ca.gov](http://www.dds.ca.gov).

H. CAC Recruitment

Every year at this time, the center sends out announcements looking for people interested in applying for membership on the Consumer Advisory Committee. There are 2 openings that will need to be filled. If you know of anyone who would be interested in serving on the CAC, please refer them to Jennifer for an application packet. Copies of the CAC announcement were provided to the committee.

I. Disneyland

Jose reported that Disneyland is offering discount coupons to people with developmental disabilities, \$53 for 1 park and \$83 for a park-hopper ticket. If you participated in this program last year, you don't need to submit a new form. The only time you need to submit a new form is if any of your contact information has changed.

**5. Identify Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting**

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

- A. Minutes of the October 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- B. Committee Event Calendar
- C. Approval to Invite Members of the Media to a CAC Meeting

**6. Announcements / Information / Public Input**

- A. CAC Attendance Sheet: The updated committee attendance sheet is always included in the meeting packet. CAC members cannot miss 3 meetings in a row or 5 meetings in a 12-month period.

- B. Annual CAC Holiday Luncheon: The CAC's annual holiday luncheon will be held Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:00 p.m., just prior to their 2:00 p.m. meeting. The committee members agreed that they would like to have lunch from Boston Market.
- C. Next CAC Meeting: Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.

## 7. Adjournment

Mary Jo adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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