

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2016

Present: Pam Aiona, Mary Jo Fernando, Lesly Forbes, Daniel Garcia, Hillary Marides, William Rayber, and Adam Stokes – Committee Members
Wilma Baloo, Liz Lyons, Susan Ma, Jill Martin, and Gerald Robles – Guests
Jennifer Kaiser and Jose Rodriguez – Staff Members

Absent: All present

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Mary Jo Fernando, CAC chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. Public Input (3 minutes)

A. Wilma Baloo announced that she was just elected to serve on the MTA Board.

3. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Items 5.A.6., 5.A.7, 5.H., and 5.I. were added to the agenda.

M/S/C (W. Rayber/L. Forbes) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of February 2nd Meeting

M/S/C (L. Forbes/W. Rayber) To approve the minutes as presented.

4. Presentation: Disaster Preparedness

Each person present was provided with an 86-page booklet called, “Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities” that was developed by the City of L.A. Department on Disability in January 2013. The booklet covered everything that

someone should do to prepare for many different kinds of emergencies, including earthquakes, wild fires, floods, landslides, and terrorism. The booklets were reviewed and discussed.

5. Committee Business

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

1. Managed Care Organization Tax (Jennifer): After years of budget cuts and program reductions, the Legislature just passed the funding package that will breathe new life into the developmental disabilities! The package will go into effect on July 1st and includes:

- A 7.5% increase for salaries and benefits for regional center operations and purchase of service budgets.
- A 2.5% increase for administrative and other costs, both for regional center operations and purchase of service budgets.
- The restoration of supported employment rates to 2006 levels.
- 5% increases for supported and independent living services, in-home and out-of-home respite services, transportation services, and intermediate care facilities.
- A comprehensive increase for competitive integrated employment programs.

Although our system still needs substantial reform in the way of rate increases for our providers, these new funds will really help the system in the meantime. The center will be holding a breakfast for our legislators on Friday, April 8th, to thank them for supporting this funding increase for our system.

2. Report on Access Services Meeting (Liz): Access has a “Free Fare” program that everyone should know about. Also, if you sign-up for Access’s mobility training, their customer service department will tell you how to get anywhere in LA County! You just need to call 1-800-827-0829 to sign-up. The next Access Services meeting will be held Tuesday, March 8th, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the MTA building. You can take Access or use the Red line to get there.

3. Entertainment Industry Classes (Precious) – *Deferred*
4. City of Los Angeles Affordable Housing (Daniel): LA City is going to increase the number of affordable housing units to 200,000 and 5% of those will be used for people with disabilities.

Action: Jennifer will bring more information about the housing for people with disabilities to next month's CAC meeting.

5. 2nd Valley Transportation Summit: March 3rd at 6:00 p.m. (CSUN)

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti and other elected officials will join CSUN administrators on Thursday, March 3rd, in a discussion aimed at improving public transit access to CSUN and its surrounding community. The Valley Transportation Summit will bring together local officials, representatives from Metro Los Angeles, and CSUN administrators to talk about the university's proposal to better serve the transportation needs of CSUN's nearly 50,000 students, faculty and staff.

Action: Any CAC members who attend the Transportation Summit will give a report on it at next month's CAC meeting.

6. Legislative Visits in Sacramento (Pam): Pam reported that she attended the recent Cal-TASH conference in Sacramento. The conference focused on "Aging, Dementia, and Disability – A Positive Approach." While they were there, they decided to take some time to visit with legislators at the State Capitol. Pam shared pictures that were taken of her and her team members with various members of the legislature.
7. New Bus Line: North Hollywood to Pasadena Express (Jennifer): Copies of an article announcing this new bus line were provided to everyone present. It will be called the "501" bus.

B. Report on LA Care Meeting (Hillary)

The meeting discussed the fact that the minimum wage increase won't impact IHSS hours, the costs of transportation, and sending a team to Sacramento to visit with legislators in May. LA Care meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to attend them. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 16th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the LA Care Resource Center on San Fernando Road and Van Nuys Boulevard (you can take the 233 or 744 bus to get there).

C. Report on Abilities Expo (All)

Several people felt that the expo was smaller and not as good as last year's expo. Lesly spoke about some of the great options the accessible vans on display had, such as a cell phone charger and a television! The expo also had something that makes wheelchairs go faster!

D. DDS's plans to Close Last 2 Developmental Centers

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is developing a plan to close the last 2 developmental centers in California (Fairview and the general treatment area of Porterville). Any input for their plan should be submitted to them by 5:00 p.m. today in the following ways:

1. By E-mail: Fairview.closure@dds.ca.gov or Porterville.closure@dds.ca.gov
2. By Phone: (916) 654-1706
3. By mail: DDS, 1600 9th Street, Room 240, MS 2-13, Sacramento, CA 95814 (Attention: Amy Wall)

E. Updated Event Calendar

Only 1 event was listed on the calendar.

Action: CAC members need to forward information about any local events to Jose Rodriguez so he can post them on the CAC's event calendar.

F. Finalized Training/Presentation Calendar for FY 2015-16

Action: Susan Ma will give a presentation on LA Care (health and nutrition topics) at the April 5th CAC meeting.

Action: Jennifer will give a presentation on the state budget for FY 2016-17 at the June 7th VAC meeting.

G. Review Agenda for March 9th Board of Trustees Meeting (Jennifer)

Copies of the board meeting agenda were provided to everyone present and Jennifer reviewed it with them. The center's tax return will be reviewed and discussed at next week's board meeting. The meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend.

H. Proposed Nominees to Serve as CAC Chair next Fiscal Year

Lesly, Daniel, and Pam all expressed interest in serving as CAC chair next fiscal year.

Action: Lesly, Daniel, and Pam will each have a minute or so at next month's CAC meeting to tell the committee why they are interested in serving as the CAC chair. An election will immediately follow.

I. DDS Consumer Advisory Committee

DDS is looking for consumers who are interested in serving on their CAC. Information about this was provided to everyone present. Our local People First organization must nominate you for membership, so if you are interested, you should contact them. For more information, please call Nicole Patterson at (916) 502-4350. Applications are due by Friday, March 25th.

6. Identify Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

The following items were identified for the CAC's section of the March 9th board meeting agenda:

A. Minutes from March 1st Meeting

B. Emergency Preparedness Booklet

7. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. CAC Attendance Sheet

CAC members cannot miss more than 2 meetings in a row or 4 meetings in a 12-month period. Copies of the updated attendance sheets are always included in the monthly meeting packets.

B. Next CAC Meeting: Tuesday, April 5th, at 2:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Mary Jo adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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