

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2016

Present: Fredlyn Berger, Mariela Feldman, Cynthia Fernandez, Jonathan Istrin, Eleshia Johnson, Staci Jordan, Ken Lane, Marina Pink, Scott Shepard, Wayne Tashjian, and Dolly Wauls - Committee Members
Alona Yorkshire, Cal Maska, Paola Avelar, Victoria Greenwood, Charles Devlin, Leticia Leon, Max Krauss, Mindy Hughes, Roschell Ashley, Shelly Briggs, Sonia Ojeda, Tina Castro, Dana Andres, Don Lucas, Lori Sivazlian, Linda Cobuzzi, Debra Dinielli, Cyndi McAuley, Verjine Egian, Joel Smollett, Aaron Klodorkovsky, Ella Nu, Lizeth Corral, Irwin Lehroff, Marielena Rivas, Tessa Graham, Alejandra Bartecek, Orli Almog, Ralph Stokes, Patty Knight, and Helen Wade - Guests
George Stevens, Jennifer Kaiser, Everlyn McOmie, Arsho Garlanian, Yolanda Bosch, Kim Rolfes, Crystal Besl, Arpi Arabian, Kimberly McNeill, Sarah Cox, and Anna Polin – Staff

Absent: Annie Cox, Deborah Cutter, Michelle Heid, and Kristin Laurino

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Scott Shepard called the meeting to order, in Michelle Heid's absence, at 9:34 a.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input - There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (E. Johnson/F. Berger) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from the March 3rd VAC Meeting

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

IV. Executive Director's Report

George Stevens gave the following reports:

A. Legislative Breakfast: The center is holding a breakfast at Sam's Café on Friday to thank our legislators and our community partners for supporting the

ABX2 1 legislation that will be bringing much needed funding for our system. We will also talk about the critical housing shortage for our consumers and how some of our consumers are becoming homeless.

- B. DDS Surveys: The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has sent out surveys to randomly selected service providers. If you receive a survey it is very important that you complete it and send it to DDS. The information from the surveys will assist DDS in where to spend the \$69 million in ABX2 1 funding. Also, it is imperative that providers keep good records of this money as the state will be auditing providers to find out how the money was spent. The survey deadline is April 15th. Yolanda added that DDS's website lists who was sent surveys and the center has made calls to those providers to alert them.
- C. Changes to Vendor Audit Report Requirements: ABX2 1 will also increase the payment thresholds for service provider audits as follows:
1. If the amount received from regional center payments during the provider's fiscal year is more than or equal to \$500,000 but less than \$2 million, the provider shall obtain an independent review report of its financial statements for the period.
 2. If the amount received from regional center payments during the vendor's fiscal year is equal to or more than \$2 million, the vendor shall obtain an independent audit of its financial statements for the period.
- D. Behavioral Services: We initially thought that just behavioral services were going to be taken over by managed care, but now it looks as though adaptive skills, related to behavioral needs, will also be going to managed care; this will impact about 1,700 of our consumers.
- E. Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA): This Act will dramatically change how we provide services to our adult consumers, especially those under 24 years of age who are leaving high school. The center will be holding meetings to explain the changes to our community. The first of these meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14th, at New Horizons.
- F. CMS Final Rule: The center continues to focus on how to comply with the CMS final rule. We want to make sure that our consumers are fully integrated and receiving services alongside with people without disabilities by the March 2019 deadline.

- G. Self-Determination Volunteer Advisory Committee: This committee generally meets on a monthly basis and the meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 21st, at 7:00 p.m., at NLACRC's Santa Clarita office.

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

A. Financial Reports:

1. FY 2015-16: The center's operations budget is currently \$40,930,831 with no projected surplus or deficit. The purchase of service (POS) budget is \$328,662,890 with a projected deficit of \$14,744,350 (in the worst case).
2. FY 2014-15: We are still showing a POS deficit of approximately \$515,000, but were recently notified by DDS that an additional allocation would be sent in the near future.
3. FY 2013-14: This fiscal year is closing at the end of this month. Our accounting department has sent out notices alerting our providers that this is their last chance to submit bills for that fiscal year.

- B. The Move of NLACRC's Main Office: Demolition and construction is underway at the new site in Chatsworth and the center will begin moving its staff beginning in September and ending in October.

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

- A. Minimum Wage Increase: The center is busy amending service provider contracts to increase provider rates due to minimum wage, paid sick leave, and the 5.82% increase to comply with changes to the Fair Labors Standards Act.
- B. Updated Documents: The center is trying to streamline and update its documents to ensure that all current laws are reflected in our contracts and payment agreements.
- C. Senate Bill 3 (Leno): This bill was passed on Monday. The bill requires continued raises in the minimum wage until 2022 when the wage increases will be based on the consumer price index (CPI). This means lots of contract amendments. Unfortunately the bill does not address compression which would enable other staff to receive salary increases accordingly.

- D. CMS Final Rule: We are working with DDS and the Southern CA Integrated Health & Living Project to coordinate the roll-out of the CMS self-assessments surveys. Our hope is that the surveys will be sent in June or July of this year. We must be in compliance with the CMS final rule by its March 2019 deadline in order to continue receiving federal funding.
- E. Service Provider Contact Information: If any of your contact information has changed, please contact the center's community services department immediately. We need to know how to reach you and know where you are located.
- F. New Staff Member: Evelyn McOmie has been promoted to quality assurance supervisor, filling the position left open by Sarah Staley.
- G. ARCA Grass Roots Day: Yolanda expressed appreciation to Dolly Wauls who participated in the visits with legislators at the State Capitol as part of ARCA's Grass Roots Day activities on March 30th. Dolly did a great job of representing the service provider community during the visits with legislators.

VII. Brief Committee Business

- A. Election of Michelle Heid to Serve as FY 2016-17 VAC Chair: Michelle was nominated to serve as VAC chair at last month's VAC meeting; now it is time for the election.

M/S/C (J. Istrin/F. Berger) To elect Michelle Heid to serve as VAC chair for FY 2016-17.
- B. Board-Approved Priority Issue Groups: The board approved the VAC's revised priority issues for this fiscal year:
 - 1. Implementation of CMS Final Rule/WIOA
 - 2. Implementation of the Behavioral Services Transition
 - 3. Implementation of the Self-Determination Program
 - 4. Services for Adult Consumers
- C. Report on April 6th Advocacy Meeting (Michelle)
- D. Report on April 7th Budget Hearing (Michelle)

These 2 agenda items were deferred as Michelle Heid is in Sacramento today meeting with legislators.

- E. Update on Self-Determination Program: We are in the process of doing outreach to our community by developing a brochure that can be handed out to our consumers and families. The brochure will be provided at Individual Program Plan (IPP) meetings and at other meetings with consumers and families.

- F. VAC Volunteer Needed: The center will be holding a party to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Lanterman Act; this will be held in coordination with the open house of the center's new office in Chatsworth and the unveiling of the center's new logo. We would like to have a volunteer from the VAC to work with the planning committee.

Action: Fredlyn Berger volunteered to serve on the center's open house party that will celebrate The Lanterman Act's 50th anniversary.

VIII. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

The following items were identified for the VAC's section of the April 13th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the April 7th VAC Meeting
- B. FY 2016-17 VAC Chair

IX. Announcements/Public Input

- A. 1st Annual Transition to Independence Conference: Scott announced that this conference will be held Saturday, April 23rd, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Santa Clarita Valley Activity Center and will be hosted by Senator Sharon Runner and Assembly Member Scott Wilk.

- B. The Lanterman Coalition: Has produced a list of issues that they plan to work on including:
 - 1. Wage compression.
 - 2. The developmental center budget surplus of \$42.5 million and how this money should be used to support people in the community.
 - 3. The stabilization of places to consumers to live in the face of so many facility closures.

- C. Legislative Breakfast Tomorrow: NLACRC is hosting a breakfast to thank our legislators for supporting the increased funding for our system. The breakfast will be held tomorrow morning at Sam's Café in North Hills. Please

join us to help express our appreciation to our legislators!

D. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 5th, at 9:30 a.m. (full meeting)

X. Committee Work (The committee breaks into their workgroups)

A. Select Chairs for the 3 New Groups: The chairs were selected (see below).

1. Implementation of CMS Final Rule/WIOA (Eleshia, Chair)
2. Implementation of the Behavioral Services Transition (Mariela, Chair)
3. Implementation of the Self-Determination Program (Dolly, Chair)
4. Adult Services (Scott, Chair)

Action: Scott Shepard invited the guests to participate in any of the break-out group discussions.

XI. Adjournment

Scott adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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