

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2016

Present: Jun Antonio, Jessica Gould, Marcia Leija, Caroline Mitchell, Debra Newman, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang – Committee Members
Mary Jo Fernando – Board Member
Michelle Heid – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Diane Ambrose, Susana Gil, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, George Stevens, and Jessica Whitney – Staff Members

Absent: Bridget Moss

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jessica Gould, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input

Mary Jo Fernando reported that this will be her last time attending this meeting because she is terming off the Consumer Advisory Committee and will no longer be serving as its chairperson. The new chair will be Daniel Garcia.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

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

B. Approval of Minutes of the April 20th Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Quarterly Program Closure Report

A summary on NLACRC's program closures was provided to the committee. The majority of program closures were due to the non-submission of the required DS 1891 forms, but most of the remaining closures were due to financial/rate issues.

Fiscal Year	Program Closures	Consumers Impacted
2015-16 (so far)	90	139
2014-15	23	78
2013-14	14	112
2012-13	11	77
2011-12	20	1,096
2010-11	4	47
2009-10	6	133
2008-09	8	138
Total:	176	1,820

B. Self-Determination Program Update (Debra)

1. Draft Flier for IPP Meetings: Copies of the draft flier were provided to the committee and reviewed. This is a simple informational flier that will be given to our consumers and families to make them aware of the self-determination program. The flier will be professionally translated into Spanish.
2. Next Advisory Group Meeting: Thursday, May 19th, at 7:00 p.m. (Antelope Valley office).
3. Staff Training: Training on the program has been provided to all of the center's case management staff. We have not received the official training materials from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) as yet, so staff were just trained on the basics of what is in statute.
4. Outreach: The center's new self-determination specialist is busy meeting with various advocacy groups to tell them about the program and create interest. She is also asking them to pass the information on to others who may be interested.
5. Participants: NLACRC will have 174 initial participants in the program and already have 86 consumers who have shown interest. George noted that DDS will be responsible for selecting the participants, not NLACRC.
6. E-Newsletter: The center has created an e-newsletter that will be updated and sent out on a quarterly basis.

7. Federal Waiver: DDS has nearly completed responding to the many questions that the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) had regarding the original waiver they submitted. Once DDS has finalized that, they will post it on their website for the required 30 day comment period before sending it to CMS for approval.

C. 3rd Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report

During the 3rd quarter of FY 2015-16:

1. Eligibility: 299 Notices of Action were sent and 6 were returned (appealed).
2. Service: 133 Notices of Action were sent and 14 were returned.
3. Hearings: 8 fair hearings were held:
 - 4 eligibility hearings (3 denied, 1 decision pending)
 - 4 service hearings (2 denied, 1 dismissed, and 1 decision pending)

D. Office of Client Rights Advocacy (OCRA) Summary of Cases and Outreach

The OCRA sent George a written summary of their activity from September 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016. Copies of the summary were provided to the committee for their information. During this period, the OCRA opened 237 new cases, which is a 14% increase from the 2013 cases handled between April 1 and August 15, 2015. Approximately 46% of the callers were of Hispanic/Latino descent. In addition, over the last 6 months, the number of intakes from the monolingual Spanish-speaking community, regarding education issues, doubled from the last reporting period of April 1 through August 15, 2015. Breakdowns of the types of cases they addressed were included in the summary.

E. Monthly Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report

Copies of the CPP report were provided and Diane reviewed the information with the committee. The center's goal for this fiscal year was to place 10 consumers out of the developmental centers and into the community. As of April 30th, the center had placed 12 consumers into the community, exceeding our goal by 2. In addition, we plan to find additional placements before the end of the fiscal year. Also, the report showed that the center had 0 consumers living at Sonoma Developmental Center (DC), 16 consumers at Fairview DC, 4 consumers at Canyon Springs DC, and just 3 in the general treatment area of Porterville DC.

F. Approval of FY 2016-17 Committee Critical Calendar

Copies of the draft critical calendar were provided to the committee and reviewed. The calendar includes important activities for the committee to complete next fiscal year. The critical calendar is used to develop the monthly committee meeting agendas.

M/S/C (D. Newman/J. Sunderland) To approve the committee's critical calendar for next fiscal year as presented.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the June 8th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the May 18th Meeting
- B. Self-Determination Program Update
- C. 3rd Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report
- D. Quarterly Program Closure Report

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, July 20th (no June meeting)

C. Governor's May Revise

George reported that the governor just released the May revise of his proposed state budget for FY 2016-17. The only additional funding included in his budget was for utilization and growth. Our service providers will just have to sit tight and wait for the revised rate plan that is to be submitted in 2019.

VII. Adjournment

Jessica adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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