

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

June 7, 2016

**Present:** Pam Aiona, Mary Jo Fernando, Lesly Forbes, Daniel Garcia, Hillary Marides, William Rayber, and Adam Stokes – Committee Members  
Nina Daily, Katrina, Gerry Robles, Monica Rodriguez – Guests  
Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser and Jose Rodriguez – Staff Members

**Absent:** All present

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**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**

- A. Sara announced that NLACRC will soon have a Facebook page and Twitter account and she is looking for photographs of consumers to post on the Facebook page. Anyone interested should submit their photographs to Sara.
- B. NLACRC along with the Office of Client Rights Advocacy will be providing free seminars this summer; all of the seminars will be provided in both English and Spanish. The seminars will be held at Sam's Café at New Horizons in North Hills.

1. Understanding the Developmental Disability Services System

- Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (English)
- Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Spanish)

2. In-Home Support Services (IHSS)

- Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (English)
- Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Spanish)

**3. Consent Items**

- A. Approval of Agenda  
B. Approval of Minutes of May 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

The agenda and minutes were approved as presented.

#### 4. **Committee Business**

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

1. Report on Access Services Meeting: Liz Lyons was not present to give a report on the recent Access Services meeting.
2. Housing Committee Meeting: The center's Housing Committee has been disbanded. Housing issues will now be assumed by the center's Strategic Planning Committee.
3. Reports on Legislative Visits: Mary Jo reported that her group met with a representative of Senator Fran Pavley's office and it was a good meeting. She told the representative why the regional center was important to her, which included her ability to have supported living services. Unfortunately, Senator Pavley's term is ending and she is not running again. Mary Jo thought Henry Stern would be a good candidate to take her spot.
4. Reports on Job Fairs
  - Jose went to the recent job fair that was held at North Valley Occupational Center; and some of the companies there were hiring on the spot!!
  - Hillary went to a job fair at CSUN. Job fairs are a great option if you are looking for a job.
5. LA Metropolitan Transit Authority: Metro is changing the way they board people who use wheelchairs. They are willing to give a demonstration if enough people show up (10 people with wheelchairs or more).

**Action:** Mary Jo will suggest to the board that Metro be invited to the center's Lanterman Act anniversary party later this year to give demonstrations on their new boarding technique for people who use wheelchairs.

##### B. Report on LA Care Meeting

Hillary reported that an election was held at the last LA Care meeting; Wilma Balou was elected chair and Hillary was elected vice-chair. Their terms will begin in November. One of committee's biggest issues is the importance of healthy eating.

C. Travel Guide Review

Jose provided copies of the CAC's draft travel guide. The following suggestions were made:

1. A photo of the CAC should be printed on the front of the guide.
2. Travel tips for people with walkers or wheelchairs should be included.

**Action:** CAC members should submit any other ideas or changes on the travel guide to Jose and he will present a revised draft at the next CAC meeting.

3. Updated Event Calendar

The CAC's event calendar had 2 events listed:

- Concerts on the Green: from June to August at Warner Center Park in Woodland Hills.
- Independence Day Hiring Spree (job fair): June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 am. To 1:00 p.m. at Zev Yaroslavsky Center, 7555 Van Nuys Boulevard, Van Nuys.

4. Review Agenda for June 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees Meeting: Copies of the agenda for this month's board meeting were provided and Jennifer reviewed it with them. The highlights of the meeting will be the election and re-election of board, Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC), and CAC members for the new fiscal year which starts July 1<sup>st</sup>.

5. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Accounts: The ABLE act became law in 2014. It allows people with disabilities to save up to \$100,000 in a special account without risking their Social Security and other government benefits. However, before these new accounts could be opened, each state had to pass their own legislation to establish regulations for the accounts. Nebraska and Ohio are the first states to offer ABLE

accounts and will do so at the end of this month! Jennifer will keep the CAC posted on when the ABLE accounts will be available in California.

G. Information re: NLACRC Annual Board Dinner: Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>

Each year in June, the board holds a dinner to recognize the outgoing members of the board, VAC, and CAC. This year, the dinner will be held at the Hyatt hotel in Valencia. Each CAC member is invited and can bring a guest. The center will provide transportation to the hotel and back home if needed. Formal invitations will be sent out soon.

H. CAC Training/Presentation Calendar for Next Fiscal Year

The CAC added the following trainings/presentations to their calendar for next fiscal year:

1. July: The CAC doesn't meet
2. August: Annual CAC orientation
3. September: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (by the Department of Rehabilitation)
4. October: Safety (by the Red Cross)
5. November: Annual CAC holiday luncheon
6. December: The CAC doesn't meet

**Action:** Presentations for the CAC meetings in 2017 will be identified at future CAC meetings.

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

The following item was identified for the committee's section of the June 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes from June 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting

**7. Announcements / Information / Public Input**

- A. CAC Attendance Sheet

Copies of the CAC's attendance sheet are always included in the meeting packet. CAC members cannot miss 3 meetings in a row or more than 4 meetings in a 12-

month period. Jennifer congratulated the CAC on their excellent attendance. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in a row where all 7 members have been in attendance!

B. Next CAC Meeting: Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. (no July meeting)

## 8. **Adjournment**

Mary Jo adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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