

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

July 20, 2016

**Present:** Shant Kotchounian, Oscar Mejia, Caroline Mitchell, Debra Newman, Curtis Wang, and Tamar Witmer – Committee Members

Maria Bosch, Susana Gil, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

**Absent:** Adelina Castellanos, Jessica Gould, Michelle Heid, Erika Hernandez, and Meagan Miller

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

George began the meeting at 6:08, but the meeting was officially called to order at 6:19 when a quorum of members was present. Introductions were made.

**II. Public Input** – There was no public input.

**III. Consent Items**

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes of May 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting

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

**IV. Committee Business**

- A. Annual Committee Orientation

George reviewed the following committee-related documents with those present. Committee members should become familiar with these documents as they outline the purpose of the committee and the responsibilities of the committee members:

1. Policies and Procedures
2. Board Audit Section
3. Core Values for Policy Development

B. Election of Committee Chair

Jessica Gould served as committee chair last fiscal year, but as she was not present, the committee didn't know if she was interested in continuing to chair the committee this fiscal year. Caroline Mitchell expressed interest in chairing the committee if Jessica didn't want to.

**M/S/C** (D. Newman/T. Witmer) To have Jessica Gould continue to chair the committee this fiscal year if she is interested; if she is not interested, Caroline Mitchell will serve as chair. [*Jessica later expressed interest in continuing to serve as chair.*]

C. Meeting Schedule for FY 2016-17

Copies of the meeting schedule were provided. The committee will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. 10 times per year (the committee does not meet in December or June).

D. Committee's Critical Calendar for FY 2016-17

Copies of the committee's critical calendar were provided. The calendar lists actions that will be taken each month by the committee. Jennifer uses the calendar to put together the monthly committee meeting agendas to help keep the committee on track with their activities.

E. AB 1606: Participation in the Development of a Performance Dashboard

Several sections of AB 1606 will affect the regional center. One of the sections requires the Department of Developmental Services to implement a plan to monitor, evaluate, and improve the quality of community-based services through the development of a "performance dashboard" with the help of stakeholders (including regional centers). The dashboard will include:

1. Recognized quality and access measures.
2. Measure to indicate the movement toward compliance with the federal home and community-based services waiver rules.
3. Measures to evaluate the changes in the number of consumers who work in competitive integrated employment.
4. The number of complaints referred to DDS.
5. The number of administrative fair hearings held, separated by eligibility and service issues.

George would like the assistance of this committee to help develop data points on how we are meeting these 5 points; further discussion about this will be held at next month's committee meeting.

F. Priorities for FY 2016-17

The committee reviewed the committee's 5 priorities for last fiscal year and decided to change the first one only, as the lack of housing for consumers has become a significant issue for the center. The first priority will now be: "Develop accessible housing options throughout the center's service area."

**M/S/C** (T. Witmer/D. Newman) To present the committee's proposed priorities for FY 2016-17 to the Board of Trustees for approval.

G. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report

The **exceptions** report lists requests from consumers and families for services that are outside of the center's service standards and whether those services were approved or denied. During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of last fiscal year, the center approved 358 requests and denied only 4.

The **exemptions** report lists requests made for services that have been suspended or reduced as a result of the trailer bill language. The report showed that during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, 2 exemptions were requested and both were approved.

H. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report

Copies of the report were provided to the committee for their review. The report showed diagnostic information about the center's consumers each quarter since July 1, 2013. Of the 22,829 consumers that the center serves, the diagnosis breakdown is as follows:

1. Intellectual Disability: 8,655 (4.39% increase since July 1, 2013)
2. Autism: 8,748 (**31.93% increase**)
3. Cerebral Palsy: 536 (1.9% increase)
4. Epilepsy: 238 (7.69% increase)
5. Other developmental disability: 1,087 (17.13% increase)
6. Status 0, 1, 2: 3,565 (21.05% increase)

George noted that consumers who have more than 1 disability are put into the category of their primary diagnosis.

I. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report

During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY 2015-16:

1. Eligibility: 320 Notices of Action were sent and 7 were returned (appealed).
2. Service: 95 Notices of Action were sent and 11 were returned.
3. Hearings: 5 fair hearings were held:
  - 3 eligibility hearings (1 denied, 1 dismissed, 1 decision pending)
  - 2 service hearings (1 dismissed, and 1 partially granted)

J. Self-Determination Program Update (Debra and Ruth)

Debra announced that she recently attended the first statewide self-determination advisory meeting. The group discussed the status of the waiver that is being submitted by DDS to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in order to obtain federal funding for the program. DDS had submitted the waiver application to CMS some months ago, but CMS returned the application to DDS along with a list of nearly 100 questions that DDS needed to respond to. At this point, it looks like DDS will be ready to resubmit the waiver application to CMS sometime in September; at that point, CMS will have 90 days to review and hopefully approve the waiver. Once the waiver is approved, DDS and the regional centers can begin their plans to implement the program.

For the knowledge of the new committee members present, Ruth explained that the self-determination program is a new service delivery model that is intended to give participants more flexibility, choices, and control over decisions regarding their services. In fact, participants will be given their own budget, will have a fiscal intermediary, and have the freedom to use service providers not vendored by the center. However, there will still be parameters that participants will need to adhere to as far as service selection is concerned. The center has already begun gearing up for the program's implementation.

K. Monthly Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report

Copies of the June 2016 CPP report were provided. Maria Bosch reported that the center's goal for last fiscal year was to place 10 consumers out of the

developmental centers and into the community. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, the center exceeded its goal by placing a total of 13 consumers into community living settings.

## **V. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the August 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the July 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- B. Self-Determination Program Update
- C. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report
- D. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report
- E. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report
- F. Approval of the Committee's Priorities for FY 2016-17

## **VI. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input**

- A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Submitted by:

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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