

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2017

Present: Orli Almog, Fredlyn Berger, Shelly Briggs, Mariela Feldman, Cynthia Fernandez, Michelle Heid, Sharoll Jackson, Eleshia Johnson, Staci Jordan, Jenni Moran, Marina Pink, and Scott Shepard - Committee Members

Erik Elliott, Ralph Stokes, Victoria Greenwood, Claire Moynihan, Dolly Wauls, Alona Yorkshire, Leticia Leon, Marisol Yribe, Saeda Farah, Aminta Garcia, Danielle Sheehy, Jason Trevino, Maria Ortiz, Lizeth Corral, Sonia Ojeda, Debra Dinielli, Lori Sivazlian, Linda Cobuzzi, Michael Stephens, Don Lucas, Rebecca Holik, Rose Hernandez, Lori Shepard, Nick Vukotic, Pat Knight, Riva Kestenbaum, Claudia Wonger, Moira Letzer, Rafael Calbajal, Mandy Flower, Uju Okeke, Tiki Thompson, Tanya Brustinov, Dana Kalek, and Jason Trevino - Guests

Kim Rolfes, Arpi Arabian, Erica Beall, Arsho Garlanian, Evelyn McOmie, Yolanda Bosch, Royce Romelius, Venus Khorasani, Anna Polin, and Erin Broughton-Rodriguez, and Jennifer Kaiser - Staff

Absent: Deborah Cutter, Kristin Laurino, and Wayne Tashjian

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Michelle Heid, VAC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input - There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item III.B. was deferred until next month's meeting and item VI.A. was added to the agenda.

M/S/C (J. Moran/E. Johnson) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from the January 5th VAC Meeting – *Deferred*

IV. Executive Director's Report (Kim Rolfes for George Stevens)

- A. VAC Volunteers to give Presentations to the Board: The Board of Trustees is interested in learning more about regional center funded programs and are looking for VAC members to give a presentation on their program at the March 8th, April 13th, and May 10th board meetings. The presentations should only last about 20 minutes.

Action: Fredlyn Berger will give a presentation at the March 8th board meeting, Sharoll Jackson will give a presentation at the April 13th board meeting, and Scott Shepard will give a presentation at the May 10th board meeting. *[Fredlyn's presentation was later moved to the June 14th board meeting as a board presentation was already scheduled for March 8th.]*

- B. The Governor's Proposed State Budget for FY 2017-18: The budget projects the total community caseload at 317,283 consumers and \$6.4 billion has been identified for the services and supports needed for consumers living in the community. Kim provided the following highlights from the proposed budget:

1. Additional dollars for caseload growth and utilization.
2. Full funding of regional center office rental costs.
3. Continuation of ABX2-1 funding.
4. \$77.2 million to cover the state's minimum wage increases.
5. \$53.5 million decrease for developmental center spending.
6. The proposed trailer bill language includes:
 - The development of enhanced behavioral supports with secured perimeters to serve consumers with complex needs.
 - Consumer participation in the paid internship program (PIP).
 - Updated service rates for supported employment and vouchered community-based training services that increased under ABX2-1.
 - Give the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) the authority to issue policy directives in advance of emergency regulations to align stat requirements with the CMS final rules.
 - Reporting of employment outcomes by regional centers.
 - Broadening the use of community placement plan (CPP) funds to be used to develop services and supports for consumers already living in the community.

- C. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA): Eileen Richey is retiring from her position as executive director of ARCA, effective February 24th. Amy Westling will be serving as the interim director until a new one is found.

- D. Behavioral Health Treatment: Dr. Arpi Arabian reported that the center has transitioned about 70% of its consumers who use behavioral services to the managed care plans. There is still some confusion with Health Net who wants our consumers to enroll rather than transition; which is a much more intensive process. If anyone is having an issue like this with Health Net, please have them contact Arpi so she can assist them. Arpi expressed her appreciation to service providers who are helping to get the family consents signed. Also, requests for adaptive skills are being handled on a case-by-case basis.
- E. DDS Dashboard: DDS has its regional center dashboard up and running on their website. The dashboard includes information from all 21 regional centers.
- F. ABX2-1 Funding: Service providers who were given ABX2-1 money must complete a form on how they spent that money and submit it to DDS by October 1st. The form has been drafted and is under review. As soon as it is finalized, we will share it with our service providers.
- G. L.A. County Minimum Wage Increases: Trainings will be held for providers with DDS set rates and those with negotiated rates. Health and safety waivers are no longer available as DDS does not see this as a health and safety issue. The center's legislative consultants, Steve Miller and Michelle Heid, are working with Senator Holden to create legislation to address the L.A. County minimum wage increases and their impact on our providers. The bill has been drafted and its number is AB 279. Please go to your legislators and let them know that you support Holden's bill. The state minimum wage won't catch up with the L.A. County minimum wage until 2020, so we need to help get this bill passed!

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

- A. NLACRC's Budget: We are projecting a surplus in our purchase of service (POS) budget (\$676,000) for the first time in years, although in the worst case we are projecting a \$6.5 million POS deficit.
- B. Confidential Client Information: The Department of General Services is developing contract language to protect confidential client information which will result in requiring service providers to take additional steps to secure their data.
- C. 1099 Forms: Were mailed out at the end of last month.

- D. FY 2014-15: DDS is closing out this contract year, so service providers with any remaining bills from that FY must submit their bills for payment ASAP; the absolute deadline is February 7th.
- E. Independent Audits and Reviews: Service providers must submit copies of the independent audits or reviews to NLACRC 9 months after their fiscal year ends. Reminder notices will be going out to those providers whose audits/reviews are past due. Also, service providers who have a clean audit/review in 2016 can now go 2 years without having to have an audit/review conducted.

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

- A. CMS Final Rule: The self-surveys will be piloted among 20 of our service providers. If you are selected, please complete the survey and make sure that you find the instructions to be clear. The questions will remain the same, but the surveys are being piloted to make sure the instructions are easy to understand and easy to follow.
- B. Annual Program Evaluations: There are now only 5 to 10 evaluations that are still due; 30 day notices will be sent to them shortly.
- C. Residential Provider Trainings: Trainings for our residential providers start this month in the San Fernando and Antelope Valleys. Each month, the trainings will focus on a different topic. Continuing education credits are available. Please go to the center's website for more information.
- D. 637 Proposals: The center is pursuing 637 proposals for several projects. One of them will be for a difference in staff ratios when a staff member needs to take a break.
- E. Requests for Proposals (RFPs): Proposals for the open proposal period for general resource development are due by Wednesday, February 15th.
- F. CPP Proposals: We are currently reviewing the proposals that were submitted, once that is done, interviews will be held.
- G. New Staff Positions: We will soon be hiring for a CMS manager and an employment specialist.

- H. Community Integrated Employment (CIE) and PIP: We just received additional information from DDS on both of these programs. Please go to the center's website for more information.

VII. Brief Committee Business

- A. Early Start Services: Fredlyn Berger reported that the VAC had eliminated the Early Start services break-out group in order to form groups to work on the implementation of the CMS final rule and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). These are very important topics, but Fredlyn talked about the importance of Early Start services and how research shows that when children 0-3 receive adequate services early in life, they do better as they grow up. Fredlyn would like the Early Start services group to be reinstated as a VAC break-out group. After brief discussion, the VAC agreed.

Action: The VAC would like to merge the CMS/WIOA break out group with the Adult Services break out group, and reinstate the Early Start Services break out group.

M/S/C (S. Shepard/J. Moran) To present the proposed changes to the VAC Priority Issues for FY 2016-17 to the Board of Trustees for their approval.

It was reported that the Family Focus Resource Center will begin holding monthly Early Start service meetings for families at all 4 of their locations.

VIII. Agenda Item for the Next Board Meeting

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

- A. Minutes of the February 2nd VAC Meeting
- B. Approval of Changes to VAC Priorities for FY 2016-17

IX. Announcements/Public Input

- A. Legislative Training: Michelle Heid announced that a legislative training will be held on Saturday, February 18th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Tierra del Sol's Van Nuys campus at 6851 Lennox Avenue. This is a great opportunity for providers, consumers, family members, and others to learn a practical, hands-on approach to talking with elected officials. For more information or to

RSVP, please contact Steve Miller at (818) 540-5275 or by e-mail at Steve.sj.miller@gmail.com. Fliers for this event are on the information table.

- B. State Staff Program: Alona Yorkshire from The Adult Skills Center (TASC) reported that DDS sent her agency a letter encouraging them to participate in the state staff program. This program allows a service provider to use staff who formerly worked in a developmental center at no cost for the first year.
Action: Alona will forward the DDS letter to Jennifer Kaiser who will e-mail it to the VAC.

- C. Next Meeting: Thursday, March 2nd (full meeting)

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

- A. Behavioral Services Transition (Mariela Feldman, chair)
B. CMS Final Rule/WIOA (Eleshia Johnson, chair)
C. Self-Determination Program (Michele Heid, chair)
D. Adult Services (Scott Shepard, chair)

XI. Adjournment

Michelle Heid adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m. and the committee broke into their workgroups for individual discussions.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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