

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2017

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

Yolanda Bosch, Arsho Garlanian, Kim Rolfes, Arpi Arabian, Erica Beall, Sarah Cox, Erin Broughton-Rodriguez, Jenny Dao, Jennifer Kaiser, and George Stevens – Staff

Alona Yorkshire, Kelly Grimes, Stefanie Mangoue, Nately Corleto, Jessica Nestelroad, Victoria Berrey, Mayra Ceballos, Erin Elliott, Suad Bisogno, Martha Rodriguez, Dana Andrews, Nikisia Simmons, Jason Trevino, Maria Ortiz, Ralph Stokes, Barbara Stephens, Haley Rhyne, Ziba Behan, Stephanie Medina, Sonia Ojeda, Breeanne Burriss, Bob Erio, Caleb Logan, Jr., Ken Lane, Leticia Leon, Dana Kalek, Kathleen Sturkey, Chris Bratzel, Nick Vukotic, Audrea Lemus, Chelsea Rivera, Tyler Ternus, Lori Shepard, Pat Knight, Cyndi McAuley, Karin Leissner, Lisa Szilaggi, Emily Owens, Lori Sivazlian, Debra Dinielli, Linda Cobuzzi, Teresa Falio, Daisy Pineda, Victoria Greenwood, Anthony Jenkins, Rebecca Holik, Tanya Brastinov, Tag Artunian, Idris Denisi, Devin Letzer, Rachel Hofman, Don Lucas, Sarah Blitzstein, T. Quarry, Jessica Gould, Denise Redwood, Tina Castro, Sonni Bendetson, and Joel Smollett - Guests

Absent: Shelly Briggs and Deborah Cutter

I. Call to Order & Introductions

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

II. Public Input

A direct support professional training (DSPT) will be held here at the regional center on Friday, May 5th, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. The training will cover the recent changes to DSPT, including reports from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), California's Department of Education (CDE), and Service Hub. Please RSVP before April 28th to: vowens@sbceo.org.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (J. Moran/F. Berger) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from the March 2nd VAC Meeting

M/S/C (J. Moran/M. Feldman) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Executive Director's Report

George Stevens gave the following reports:

A. Consumer Growth: We currently have 1,500 consumers in intake, 563 in Early Start and 935 regular. Our service system needs to expand to serve the increasing number of consumers, but service provider rates continue to be a big issue.

B. AB 279 (Holden): This bill would cover the local minimum wage increases for our service providers until the state minimum wage catches up with it. It is imperative that we support this bill and get it passed. Michelle Heid added that **letters supporting this bill should be sent to Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, State Capitol, Room 2114, Sacramento, CA 95814.** Please send letters yourself and then get your friends, colleagues, family members, and consumers to send support letters. George added that we need to track this bill every day until it reaches the governor's desk. Rebecca Lienhard, executive director of Tierra del Sol Foundation added that they are sending out a survey monkey to help assess the impact of the minimum wage increases on service providers.

Action: Rebecca Lienhard will send a link to the survey monkey to Jennifer Kaiser who will forward it to the Vendor Advisory Committee.

C. Purchase of Service (POS) Equity Meetings: The center recently held 3 community meetings to talk about how our POS dollars are spent. When looking at the data, there does not seem to be any disparity, except when you isolate the people who are living at home. We will be looking more closely at that data.

D. Budget Funding for Developmental Centers: DDS is transferring \$27 million out of the regional center POS budget and into the developmental center budget, call the money a "surplus." Michelle Heid added that this is probably due to the decertification of Sonoma Developmental Center, which keeps it from receiving federal funding. It currently costs \$716,000 per consumer per year to live in a developmental center! We need to let our legislators know

that there is no surplus in the regional center POS budget and we need to keep those dollars for consumers living in the community. **Letters can be sent to:**

1. Senator Richard Pan, chair, Senate Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, State Capitol, Room 5114, Sacramento, CA 95814.
2. Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula, chair, Assembly Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, State Capitol, Room 5155, Sacramento, CA 95814

E. NLACRC Board Meeting: Will be held here on Thursday, April 13th (not the usual Wednesday) due to Passover.

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

A. A Community Options Fair: Will be held Sunday, May 21st, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Fairview Developmental Center in Costa Mesa.

B. Disaster Planning for the Whole Community: Two events called "Getting it Right California" will be held:

1. Tuesday, June 6th: Hilton Hotel in Irvine, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
2. Thursday, June 8th: Hilton Doubletree in Sacramento, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, you can contact Jessica Justus at Jessica@disasterstrategies.org.

C. NLACRC's Tax Return and Audited Financial Statement: Have been accepted by our Board of Trustees and have been posted on our website.

D. NLACRC's Budget: The center's operations budget is currently just over \$49 million with no surplus or deficit projected. The purchase of service (POS) budget is nearly \$376.8 million deficit between \$1.6 and \$6.5 million.

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

A. ARCA Grass Roots Day: We sent 2 teams to Sacramento for ARCA Grass Roots Day visits with legislators at the State Capitol on April 5th. Yolanda thanked Eleshia Johnson and Scott Shepard for being the service provider representatives on our teams. All in all, the teams met with 9 different legislators on that day.

- B. Statewide CMS Meeting: Yolanda attended a statewide Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) meeting last week. Apparently, 900 service providers submitted proposals totaling \$200 million for the \$15 million DDS has offered to help providers come into compliance with the CMS final rule. NLACRC had 3 providers who will be awarded \$661,000 for their proposals, but we don't know who those providers are as yet.
- C. CMS Self-Survey: All regional center providers must complete the self-surveys. DDS needs the information to find out where providers are in regards to their compliance with the CMS final rule. DDS will be sending out a pilot survey to a select number of providers just so they can assess if the survey is easy to understand and to complete; 16 of our providers have been selected to complete the pilot survey.
- D. Community Integrated Employment (CIE) & Paid Internship Program (PIP): We are still waiting to receive direction from DDS. We have 4 providers who have applied to participate in these programs. Yolanda thanked them for the motivation and their patience. Yolanda provided copies of draft flow charts that her department developed for providers to follow to receive incentive funding for the CIE program and the contract approval process for CIE addendums. Yolanda emphasized that consumers' IPPs must reflect their desire for employment before the job search begins.

VII. Brief Committee Business

- A. Purchase of Service (POS) Equity (Julie Eby-McKenzie, SCDD)

This agenda item was deferred as Julie was not present to give her report.

- B. Re-Election of Michelle Heid to serve as VAC Chair for FY 2017-18

M/S/C (J. Moran/S. Jackson) To elect Michelle Heid to serve as VAC chair again next year.

- C. Ideas to Address Immigration Issues affecting Consumers and Families

Many of the center's consumers and families are afraid to come to the regional center and go to programs because of the recent round ups by Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers. In addition, we share a parking lot with the Homeland Security office across the street. The center is working with the Family Focus Resource Center (FFRC) to bring someone in to talk about immigration and what we can say

to our consumers and families to make them feel more at ease and understand that we are safe places. Eleshia added that the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) also has good resources for this issue.

D. Community Integrated Employment (Scott Shepard)

Scott emphasized how important it is to encourage people to apply for this program and provide employment opportunities for our consumers. And with the incentive payments, it's a win-win situation for providers and consumers! It also supports our Employment First policy and will get our consumers out of poverty.

VIII. Agenda Item 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 March 2nd Meeting
- B. Minutes of the April 6th Meeting
- C. Election of FY 2017-18 VAC Chair: Michelle Heid

IX. Announcements/Public Input

- A. ET*TA is holding a free transition planning parent training from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25th, at Councilmember Bob Blumenfield's office, located at 19040 Vanowen Street in Reseda. To RSVP, please contact Suad Bisogno at suad@etta.org.
- B. An employment services course will be held at the Verdugo Workforce Development Center in Glendale from May 10-12 and from June 22-23, 2017. There is a nonrefundable registration fee of \$600, but it is a national ACRE certificate course. For more information or to register, please contact MHammmis@griffinhammmis.com.
- C. A support group for families of children with special needs will be held on Tuesday mornings and evenings for 7 weeks starting May 2nd. To register or to get more information, please contact HaMerczaz@jfsla.org.

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 4th (full meeting)

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

- A. Early Start Services (Fredlyn Berger, chair)
- B. Behavioral Services Transition (Mariela Feldman, chair)
- C. Self-Determination Program (Michele Heid, chair)
- D. Adult Services: CMS/WIOA (Eleshia Johnson & Scott Shepard, chairs)

XI. Adjournment

Michelle adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m. and the committee broke into their workgroups for individual discussions.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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