

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2017

Present: Pam Aiona, Lesly Forbes, William Rayber, Ben Segel-Evans, and Adam Stokes – Committee Members
Elizabeth Lyons, Steve Miller, and Rosa Zevallos – Guests
Jennifer Kaiser – Staff Member

Absent: Melissa Ferman and Jacob Freeman

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Pam Aiona, CAC chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and introductions were made. Everyone sang “Happy Birthday” to Lesly and William who both have birthdays this month.

2. Public Input - There was no public input.

3. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item 4.C. was removed from the agenda. The agenda was approved as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of the April 4th Meeting

The minutes were approved as presented.

4. Committee Business

A. Legislation and Self-Advocacy (Steve Miller)

Steve Miller and Michelle Heid were hired by NLACRC as legislative outreach and education consultants. He came to today’s meeting to talk with the CAC about legislative advocacy. Legislators and others should not be making decisions about people with developmental disabilities without

their input. It is very important for consumers to find their voice and know how to talk with their local legislators. Steve told the CAC about Ed Robert, an individual who was living in a developmental center and had to fight to get let out so he could live in the community. Ed Robert then became an independent living advocate and dedicated the rest of his life to teaching the importance of people learning how to advocate for themselves. All of the CAC members present have registered to vote. Steve stated that at a recent election less than 1 in 5 people voted; how do we can more consumers involved and voting? There is strength in numbers! Talk with your peers and encourage them to register to vote if they haven't – and explain how important it is for them to advocate for themselves and to become legislatively active.

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

1. The American Care Act: If this bill passes and replaces the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) the state will lose billions of dollars it will cut health benefits for people with disabilities. It will be voted on by the Assembly tomorrow and if it passes, will go to the Senate.

Action: Call your local legislators and tell them to vote no on the American Care Act!

2. AB 279 (Holden): This bill would help our service providers by getting them funding to cover the local minimum wage increases.

Action: Call your local legislators and ask them to support AB 279!

3. Access Services: Liz reported that Access picked her up at 4:30 a.m. for an Easter sunrise service!
4. Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA): Liz reported that the MTA is working with the Sheriff's department to make transportation safer. They are also testing a new wristband that would replace using a card. Liz was wearing one of the wristbands and she really liked it!

5. CalChannel: William reported that you can watch meetings being held at the State Capitol by watching the CalChannel.

C. Training/Presentation Calendar for FY 2016-17

An emergency preparedness training is pending for next month's CAC meeting.

D. Event Calendar

The committee has 2 events on their event calendar:

1. A turtle and tortoise show in Woodland Hills on Saturday, May 20th (\$3.00).
2. A legislative advocacy training at NLACRC's Oakdale office on Wednesday, May 31st (free).

Action: CAC members should encourage the consumers they know to attend the legislative advocacy training on May 31st.

Liz shared copies of a "Free Fun for Families" booklet that was provided by the County of LA by using a Golden State Advantage Card. The Golden State Advantage card is California's electronic bank transfer (EBT) card. It is similar to a bank debit card that provides a way for you to spend your food and/or cash benefits when your monthly benefits are deposited into your EBT account. You can use your EBT card at any store or ATM that displays the Quest[®] mark in California and throughout the United States.

F. Review Agenda for Board of Trustees Meeting (Jennifer)

Jennifer provided highlights of the next board meeting which will be held on Wednesday, May 10th, at the center's Oakdale office.

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

The following item was identified for the CAC's section of the May 14th board meeting:

A. Minutes from the May 2nd Meeting

6. **Announcements / Information / Public Input**

A. CAC Attendance Sheet: Updated attendance sheets are always mailed with the meeting packets. CAC members cannot miss 3 meetings in a row or 5 meetings in a 12-month period.

B. Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 6th, at 2:00 p.m.

C. William announced that he and his girlfriend Mindy Owings are going to be married in June!

7. **Adjournment**

Pam adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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