

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (Via Zoom)
January 4, 2023

Present: Pamela Aiona, Jennifer Koster, Bill Abramson, and Suzanne Paggi – Committee Members

Alex, Elena Tiffany, Desiree Boykin, Azucena Bustillos-Interpreter - Guests

Jose Rodriguez, Lizeth Chavez, Arkaz Vardanyan, Nahid Abouzar, Kristine Mosteiro, and Cesar Cuevas – Staff

Absent: Cynthia Somano, Lesly Forbes, Dr. Michael Fernandez

I. Call to Order & Introductions

J.Koster called meeting to order at 3:08 pm and introductions were made by all committee members, staff, and guests.

II. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (J.Koster/S.Paggi) To approve the Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes from November 2, 2022 Meeting

M/S/C (J.Koster/P.Aiona) To approve the Minutes as presented.

III. Committee Business

A. Board of Trustees update

J.Rodriguez included this section so that board members can discuss how services have impacted consumers, as well as to discuss any new legislative or educational information that board members can distribute to this committee. J.Koster stated that transportation, employment, and housing are among the most important topics on which to focus moving forward.

M/S/C (S.Paggi/J.Koster) To add a Chair report to the Agenda.

B. Presentation

A.Vardanyan introduced himself as the new LGBTQ Specialist at NLACRC. His role is to provide guidance, education, and direct support to consumers and their families related to LGBTQ issues. He can also help consumers who do not necessarily identify as LGBTQ, but who may have issues related to sexuality or sexual health in general. He can be reached via phone or email.

- C. Finalized CAC Flyer
J.Rodriguez presented the finalized CAC flyer.
- D. Monthly Training/Presentation update
J.Rodriguez reviewed the upcoming calendar meetings and confirmed the presenters for these meetings.
- E. 2023 NLACRC Life After High School Fair
J.Rodriguez presented the flyer for “Life After High School,” an event that provides supportive resources to consumers. The vendors for NLACRC, as well as LAUSD, will be present to discuss the services they offer.
- F. Self-Advocacy Board of LA County (SABLAC)
S.Paggi presented on the SABLAC, whose goal is to teach people with developmental and/or physical disabilities about their rights and to promote self-advocacy. She stated that if anyone is interested in joining the board, they can reach out to her via email.

IV. Identify Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

- A. Minutes from the January 4th, 2023 Meeting

V. Announcements/Information/Public Input

- A. Next meeting: February 1st, 2023 at 3:00pm
- B. Announcements
K.Mosteiro and N.Abouzar introduced themselves as the new Outreach Language Specialists for the DEIB unit and offered their assistance for consumers who speak Tagalog and Farsi, respectively.
L.Chavez stated that the Board of Trustees extended board membership applications to February 15th, 2023. Members are being sought until February 15th. If anyone is interested, they should email boardsupport@nlacrc.org, Lizeth Chavez, or their consumer service coordinator indicating as such.

VI. Adjournment

J.Koster adjourned the meeting at 3:53 pm.

Submitted by:

Cesar Cuevas
Administrative Assistant

