

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (Via Zoom)
February 7th, 2024

Present: Pamela Aiona, Bill Abramson, Destry Walker, Jennifer Koster, and Juan Hernandez – Committee Members

Alex Phuong, Yaneth, Santos Rodriguez, Kristine Mosteiro, Lesly Forbes, Albert Feliciano, Minutes Services - Guests

Christina Preuss, Kimberly Visokey – Staff

Absent: George Alvarado

I. Call to Order & Introductions

J. Hernandez called the meeting to order at 3:11 pm, and introductions were made by all committee members, staff, and guests.

II. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (J. Hernandez/L. Forbes) To approve the Agenda. Motion **passed**.

B. Approval of Minutes from January 3rd, 2024 Meeting
Two typos were found: a misspelling of George's last name, and in part 3, the letter C, ORKA was abbreviated incorrectly.

M/S/C (J. Hernandez/L. Forder) To approve the January 3rd, 2024 minutes. Motion **passed**.

III. Committee Business

A. Flyer Update- Kristine M. DEIB

K. Mosteiro shares the first version of the revised CAC (Community Advisory Committee) flyer, highlighting upgrades in graphics, added dates, and a QR code for easy scanning. Two versions are presented – one with a

white background and another with a purple background. Feedback is sought from the participants.

B. Abramson expresses a preference for the white background for better readability, while J. Hernandez appreciates the effort and leans towards the white background as well. Hernandez suggests that the graphic in the middle lacks representation of the community and suggests adding elements like a person in a wheelchair or using special devices to reflect diversity better. L. Forbes agrees with the idea of including individuals with physical challenges, emphasizing inclusivity. Juan also suggests adding text to the QR code section to guide individuals on how to use it, considering not everyone may be tech-savvy.

The discussion shifts to promoting the flyer, with J. Hernandez suggesting involving the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) to share it among vendors for increased attendance. C. Preuss mentions plans for mass mailing to attract new committee members and participants. J. Hernandez supports the idea of involving vendors and expresses readiness to attend vendor meetings to promote the committee. The hope is to increase attendance, especially when in-person meetings become feasible post-pandemic.

K. Visokey inquires about future updates to the flyer, and K. Mosteiro confirms that it will be updated and shared with relevant team members soon.

Action Item: K. Mosteiro will go forward with the white background for the flyer

Action Item: K. Mosteiro will add instructional text to the QR code

Action Item: K. Mosteiro will add more representation to the flyer, such as including people with disabilities

Action Item: C. Preuss will share the flyer with the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC)

B. CAC Goals Update

J. Hernandez addresses the next agenda item, the update on CAC (Community Advisory Committee) goals. There's a brief discussion about locating the updated goals in the meeting packet. C. Preuss mentions not finding them but suggests Kimberly might have a copy. K. Visokey volunteers to find and share the updated goals.

While Hernandez acknowledges that the goals are not currently in the packet, C. Preuss confirms that the presented goals were reviewed and approved during a board meeting. Kimberly assured that she would locate the document.

C. Preuss acknowledges the absence of the goals in the packet and proposes sending them to the participants after the meeting. B. Abramson supports this idea, and K. Visokey suggests moving on to the next agenda item while she locates the document for later discussion.

Action Item: K. Visokey will send out the board-approved CAC goals packet to the committee.

C. Meeting update – Meetings will be held virtually via Zoom for the remainder of the Fiscal Year.

J. Hernandez announces that the meetings will continue to be held virtually for the remainder of the year due to a combination of COVID-19 concerns and the need for technology updates in the meeting rooms. The decision is influenced by recent issues with audio during the last attempt at a virtual meeting, prompting the need for room upgrades to support hybrid-style meetings. Once the technological improvements are in place, the committee anticipates returning to a hybrid meeting format.

B. Abramson acknowledges current technology challenges, expressing the hope that, in the future, the committee might return to in-person meetings. Juan Hernandez agrees but highlights the widespread adoption of online platforms like Zoom, making it more convenient for many participants. He

also mentions the ongoing challenges posed by different COVID variants, making a complete return to in-person meetings less likely.

D. Training/Presentation Update – Cristina P.

C. Preuss takes over, explaining that the training schedule aligns with the fiscal year, starting in July and ending in June. She outlines the planned trainings, including one by Albert Feliciano on reporting of use in February, emergency preparedness in March, a postponed presentation by the Department of Mental Health in April, adult protective services in May, and legislative education in June.

J. Hernandez acknowledges potential confusion due to the fiscal format but assures that the details are available. He briefly discusses the recent committee meeting, highlighting the approval of a course related to their operations and announcing C. Preuss as the interim director following Ruth Jinka's departure. He expresses hope for a qualified replacement and emphasizes the challenges of the interim deputy director role.

J. Hernandez touches upon contractual matters discussed in the meeting and transitions to the topic of awkward representation. C. Preuss confirms that there are scheduled trainings with the Office of Clients Rights, including financial awareness in March, client rights in June, voting rights in September, and fair hearings in December.

E. OCRA Quarterly Public Presentations update

F. Reporting abuse presentation- Albert F state council

The presentation by Albert Feliciano focuses on the topic of mandated reporting, particularly in the context of individuals working in professions obligated to report abuse or neglect. Albert, an advocate with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, LA Office, emphasizes the importance of understanding and fulfilling the responsibility of mandated reporting. He covers aspects such as who is mandated to report, the types of abuse that must be reported, signs to look for, and the reporting process. Albert also highlights the need for maintaining confidentiality throughout the

reporting process to protect the dignity and rights of the individuals involved.

A brief Q&A followed the presentation where A. Feliciano clarified that as a mandated reporter, he is legally required to report any suspicion or evidence of abuse, regardless of the victim's wishes. The discussion also touched upon the role of psychologists and other professionals as mandated reporters. Additionally, the importance of reporting even minor suspicions was emphasized, highlighting the legal obligation to report any potential abuse or neglect. The session concluded with a participant requesting the presentation to be shared in the chat.

IV. Identify Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

- A. Minutes from the February 7, 2024 Meeting
 - K. Visokey mentions specific action items, including updating the flyer based on committee recommendations for the March 6th meeting. Additionally, they plan to send out the approved flyer to the VAC chair and committee members, incorporating it into the March VAC agenda. K. Visokey also mentions sending the board-approved CAC goals to the committee. These action items are summarized as key tasks for the upcoming activities.

V. Announcements/Information/Public Input

- A. Abilities Expo
 - J. Hernandez informs the group about the Abilities Expo happening on March 15 at the convention center, which provides information on programs and services not only for physically disabled individuals but also for those with cognitive disabilities. He recommends attending, emphasizing that there are resources for everyone, including low-income housing, utilities, and job training. The discussion includes details about registration, transportation, and potential attendance by group members, with B. Abramson expressing interest but also noting the need to coordinate transportation logistics. Contact information exchange for coordinating attendance is also discussed, with members suggesting using the chat for sharing details. The conversation concludes with plans for the event and well wishes for a participant in a Boeing Tournament.
- B. Next Meeting March 6, 2024 (3pm)
- C. Attendance Sheet

There's a query about a missed meeting in August 2020, and Christina Preuss assures they will check the minutes for clarification.

Action Item: C Preuss will check the minutes following a query about a missed meeting in August 2020

D. DDS Training

C. Preuss shares information about upcoming webinars by the Department of Developmental Services on home and community-based services requirements. C. Preuss requests K. Visokey to email the flyer to participants for registration details. The webinars are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, with recordings available for those unable to attend. The conversation concludes with gratitude for the information shared.

Action Item: K. Visokey will email the DDS flyer to participants with registration details.

VI. Adjournment

J. Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 5:11 pm.

Submitted by:

Kimberly Visokey

Executive Administrative Assistant

(The majority of these minutes are taken from the Minutes Service submission and reviewed/edited as presented herein by NLACRC staff.*

