

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2023

Present: Andrew Ramirez, Brian Gatus, Cathy Blin, George Alvarado, Nicholas Abrahms, Rocio Sigala, Sharmila Brunjes – Committee Members

Lizeth Chavez, Evelyn McOmie, Vini Montague, Gabriela Eshrati, Lilliana Windover, Cristina Preuss, Clarence Foster, Donna Rentsch, Malorie Lanthier, Erica Beall– Staff Members

Jordan Feinstock - NLA Board Member, Leticia Garcia - NLA Board Member, Azucena Bustillos- Interpreter, Jasmine Barrios- Minutes Services - Guests

Absent:

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Andrew Ramirez called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

II. Public Input

No public input

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/ A. Quiles) To approve the agenda as presented

B. Approval of Minutes of November 16th Meeting

M/S/C (R. Sigala/G. Alvarado) To approve the November 16th Meeting Minutes as presented

IV. Committee Action Items

A. Strategic Plan Focus Area Review – Andrew Ramirez

Per recommendation from the last Board Meeting, the Committees are being asked to review the Focus Areas of the Strategic Plan, and identify items that can be used to create priorities for the Committee. Items pre-determined as potential Committee priorities by Andrew Ramirez and Evelyn McOmie have been highlighted in blue. Items identified to the Committee will be sent to the Executive Committee for implementation. The document will be sent to the Committee as a live document that can be annotated by Committee Members in real-time. Committee Members are being asked to make their edits to the document by February 24, 2023. Committee Members

can call Board Support for any issues that may arise.

- B. Discussion to Commence Hybrid Meetings – Evelyn McOmie
The Committee was asked to consider hosting hybrid meetings or to continue with virtual meetings only. Considerations were made for both sides.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/N. Abrahams) To continue virtual meetings only for the Consumer Services Committee meetings for through the remaining fiscal year.

V. Committee Updates

- A. Self-Determination Program Report Update - Gabriela Eshrati
Gabriela Eshrati reviewed the SDP Report as presented in the packet.

As of February 1st

Participants have completed Orientation: 580

Total number of budgets that are certified: 202

Total number of budgets that are in the certification process: 2

Total number of spending plans in progress: 3

Total number of PCP's completed: 197

Total number of participants that have opted out of SDP after enrolled: 1

Total number of Inter-Regional Center Transfers (out):2

Total number of participants that have fully transitioned into SDP with approved spending plans and active SDP IPPs: 168

On December 30, 2022; the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) provided an update regarding the continuation of services when a budget year has ended and there is no new budget or spending plan. The directive states that Regional Centers are to continue funding for services either by extending budget year (if they have unused funds) or continuing the same budget.

SDP Local Advisory Committee Board Liaison - the duties for this open role was submitted to Board Support to be sent to Board Members to solicit interest.

Gabriela also reported that NLA has recently transitioned 11 individuals in January, noting that some FMS providers are now accepting new clients. She will send a list of the names of the FMS providers to the Board and an update on the process.

- B. Monthly Consumer Competitive Employment Report - Vini Montague
Vini reviewed this report as presented in the packet that compares months in regards to consumers who are competitively employed.

Residence Type- total increase of 9 consumers within all residence types

Ethnicity- increase of 3 Asian consumers, 2 Black/African American consumer, 7 Hispanic consumers and -4 White consumers. Total increase of 9 consumers within all ethnicities.

- C. Intake Data by Location Update - Evelyn McOmie
This report was made at the Committee's request to break out the Intake Data by age, per Valley. Evelyn presented the sample as presented in the packet. The actual data is being compiled and this report will be reviewed with the Committee along with the quarterly reports.
- D. Transportation Services Shortage Update – Evelyn McOmie
Evelyn reported is reviewing an RFP from a viable agency from Ventura County. Interviews are being held the last week of February and the referral is being reviewed by the Executive Committee.
- E. Consumer Onboarding Policy Steering Committee Update -Evelyn McOmie
In addition to the current revision of the Onboarding Policy, the workgroup has created an interactive roadmap that shows onboarding steps that has links to additional information and 45-second videos to help guide consumers/families. A QR code was also created for the flyer that brings visitors to the interactive map.
The completed iterations of the Onboarding Policy, the roadmap and survey will be presented to the Board once completed.
- F. 2nd Quarter Consumer Diagnostic Report - Evelyn McOmie
Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.
As of December 31, 2022, NLA has served 30,295 consumers for the quarter. Data is broken down by locations, diagnostic elements.
- G. 2nd Quarter Consumer Diagnostic Report by Age – Evelyn McOmie
Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.
- H. 2nd Quarter Consumer Intake report - Evelyn McOmie
Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.
This is the previous iteration of the report and shows the total number of intake services from the quarter.
- I. 2nd Quarter Exceptions Report - Evelyn McOmie
Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.
- J. 2nd Quarter Appeals Report – Evelyn McOmie
Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.
It was noted that the number of NOA's sent in Q1 (665) was significantly lower than the number of NOA's sent in Q2 (862). Evelyn will look into the specifics of this and will report back.
- K. 2nd Quarter NOAs Reports by Ethnicity/Age, etc. - Evelyn McOmie
Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.
- L. 2nd Quarter 4731 Report - Evelyn McOmie
Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.
- M. 2nd Quarter Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) Report - Evelyn McOmie
Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.

N. Board Audit: Has the Board properly referred service standard issues to this committee

VII. Chief Consumer and Community Services Officer Report - Evelyn McOmie

FMS AB637 (SPD) Status Update - The proposal has been submitted to DDS and is still under review. There have been no response questions submitted to NLA thus far, Evelyn will provide updates as they become available. DDS informed NLA that they were looking for a statewide solution.

VIII. Meeting Action Item Review

A. Committee Action Log

IX. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the Committee's section of the next Board Meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the February 15th Meeting
- B. Strategic Plan Focus Area Selection

X. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

- A. Committee Attendance Log
- B. Committee Critical Calendar
- C. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 19th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Leticia Garcia asked for clarification on the process for addressing urgent Committee business under the new bi-monthly format. Lizeth Chavez shared that urgent matters could be diverted to the Executive Committee or as an alternative, the Consumer Services Committee can decide to hold an emergency meeting for urgent business. This item will be added to the agenda for the next Executive Committee Meeting to review this process if it has not already been addressed, Lizeth will confirm this information.

George Alvarado shared that there will be a paint sale at Happy Ace Hardware in Encino during the weekend of November 19th-20th.

- D. Public Input

Cathy Blin asked for recommendations for a dentist who takes wheelchair patients.

Rocio Sigala recommended a CIE Clinic on CIA and Paid Internship opportunities to increase number of employed consumers.

Jordan Feinstock shared that he felt that hybrid meetings are a way to increase networking with potential employees and shared resources.

XI. Adjournment

Andrew Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by:
Minutes Services

