

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2023

Present: Cathy Blin, George Alvarado, Nicholas Abrahms, Rocio Sigala, Curtis Wang, Anna Hurst, Michael Costa, Sharmila Brunjes, Alma Rodriguez, Vivian Seda, – Committee Members

Evelyn McOmie, Vini Montague, Lilliana Windover, Cristina Preuss, Malorie Lanthier, Donna Rentsch, Ruth Janka – Staff Members

Lillian Martinez - NLA Board Member, Ana Quiles - NLA Board Member, Dolly Sharma- Minutes Services - Guests

Absent: Erica Beall

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Evelyn McOmie called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

The Committee Members introduced themselves to the group

II. Public Input

No public input

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda
M/S/C (C. Wang/ A. Hurst) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes of April 19th Meeting
M/S/C (S. Brunjes/R. Sigala) To approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed with abstentions from Anna Hurst, Curtis Wang, and Michael Costa

IV. Committee Business - Evelyn McOmie

A. Annual Committee Orientation
As this is the first Committee Meeting of the FY, Evelyn reviewed the below Orientation information as presented in the packet. The Committee will be

responsible for reviewing and understanding these requirements for service to the Committee.

1. Policies and Procedures
2. Bylaws Statement
3. Board Audit Section
4. Action Log for FY22-23

M/S/C (R. Sigala/C. Blin) To continue meeting on a bimonthly schedule for FY23-24.

B. Review and Approve Committee's Priorities for FY23-24

At the start of each FY, the Committee is responsible for determining the priorities for the Committee. After lengthy discussion, the following priorities were agreed upon in the determined order for the Committee.

1. Propose strategies for increasing access to services in the Center's communities, including participation in alternative nonresidential services delivery.
2. Address disparities by developing strategies to increase POS expenditures within families of color.
3. Propose and advocate for reduced caseload ratios that will result in effective service coordination for unique populations such as self-determination and consumers/families who are not accessing the services authorized in their Individual Program Plans (IPPs).
4. Monitor progress in the implementation of the center's self-determination program.
5. Monitor service delivery for compliance with Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver, statutory and regulatory requirements.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/C. Wang) To approve the revisions to the FY23-24 Committee List of Priorities

The revisions will be noted in the document and Evelyn will email the final draft to the Committee once completed for review and electronic vote to approve.

C. Volunteer to Serve as Committee Chair

Evelyn explained that there is an open vacancy for Committee Chair and

opened the floor for self-nominations. The following Committee Members nominated themselves for consideration: George Alvarado, Rocio Sigala and Curtis Wang.

After voting via Zoom chat, Rocio Sigala had the majority number of votes at 5 and is now confirmed as Committee Chair for FY23-24.

V. Committee Action Items

A. Strategic Plan Focus Area for Committee Update

Evelyn shared that the agreed upon priorities for the Committee will be reviewed once all Committees have determined priorities to ensure no duplication or conflicts. All priorities will also be reviewed to ensure that they address a specific focus area for NLA's Strategic Plan.

B. Accessibility of Consumer and Family Guides Update

The current Consumer and Family Guide is in circulation in both physical and online formats. Revisions are being done currently, to add information related to Social Rec and coordinated family support. Physical guide booklets will also be printed in-house as a more cost-effective measure.

C. SIR Final Disposition Update

Evelyn reported that this document has been finalized and report outs will take place biannually at the Board of Trustees Committee meeting.

D. Intake Onboarding Workgroup Update

The final update on this item was reviewed at the May Committee Meeting and no further action is required for this item.

E. Early Start IDEA Part C Service Standards Draft

Evelyn reviewed the draft as presented in the packet. Revisions were made to include definitions for native language as it relates to evaluations and assessments of the individuals. The verbiage indicates that native language will be considered and arranged for individuals who need interpretation services. It was noted that this draft considers Federal Guidance and is not reviewed by any legal entity.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/G. Alvarado) To approve the revisions for the draft of the Early Start IDEA Part C Service Standards for presentation to the Board.

F. Revise Committee Critical Calendar - (POS Data Semi-Annual Report)

Evelyn reviewed the calendar as presented in the packet. The Committee is being tasked to determine if the POS Semi-Annual Data Reports will be presented in November or to be emailed to the Committee for electronic vote

in August. The data would typically be presented in September; however, Board training will be held in lieu of the September Committee Meeting.

Leticia Garcia recommended that updates from the Disparity Committee Report be added to the Critical Calendar, as determined in a previous meeting. It was also determined that the POS Semi-Annual Data would be presented to the Disparity Committee for biannual updates to the Committee listed on the Critical Calendar.

Ana Quiles suggested that a vote on this report be held off until the full Committee report review later in the agenda, Item B under Committee Report Updates.

VI. Committee Report Updates

For this section of the meeting Evelyn reviewed each report and shared its relevance to the Committee. For each item, the Committee thoroughly reviewed and discussed the necessity and frequency of each report. The final determinations are as follows:

A. DDS POS Annual Report for FY21-22

60 days after POS public meeting, NLA is required to submit a formal response to DDS. This submission includes the presentation, attendees, comments, questions, recommendations, and survey responses for the most recent POS public meeting.

B. POS Data Semi-Annual Report/ Disparity Committee Reports

This document was reviewed as presented in the packet. Malorie Lanthier shared that at the last Disparity Committee, there was discussion surrounding data breakdown. Malorie reorganized this information to reflect high, medium, and low POS. The data is also categorized by ethnicity. Color coding was also added to show above cap average (green) and below cap average (red). After discussion, the Committee determined to waive the review of the POS Annual Report in lieu of a report out from the Disparity Committee on a quarterly basis. In addition, the data being collected from the 240-case Pilot Group will be presented to the Committee for further review.

The Disparity Committee Report out will be added to the Critical Calendar on a quarterly basis and the POS Data Semi-Annual report will be removed from the Critical Calendar.

C. Self-Determination Program Report

Gabriela Eshrati reviewed the SDP Report as presented in the packet.

As of July 1st

Participants have completed Orientation: 659

Total number of budgets that are certified: 288.

Total number of budgets that are in the certification process: 6.

Total number of spending plans in progress: 59

Total number of PCP's completed: 225.

Total number of participants that have opted out of SDP after enrolled: 2.

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: 229

1. SDLVAC Board Liaison Report

Gabriela shared that there is a vacancy for an SDLVAC Committee Member nominated by NLA and in addition, a vacancy open for the SDLVAC Board liaison role. Anyone who is interested in serving can email selfdetermination@nlacrc.org. The SDLVAC requested that a Committee Member from their Committee be sent to serve on the NLA Board as a Board Liaison. It was noted that the Board liaison, even if nominated by the SDLVAC, would be required to be a Board Member that has gone through the Nominating Committee process. Gabriela noted that there have been a few SDLVAC members who have applied for Board Membership but were not selected. Ana recommended that interested parties apply at the next open application session. Ruth suggested the possibility of a SDLVAC member serving on the Board as a non-voting member. This would allow the member to be able to participate in meeting discussions that pertain to Self-Determination.

After discussion, 3 options were identified as a potential solution:

1. SDLVAC Members who are interested, can apply for Board Membership
2. SDLVAC to meet with Rosie Sigala on a monthly basis to discuss information that needs to be relayed to the Board.
3. Set up an annual presentation to the Board on an annual basis

While a Board liaison is being selected, Rocio will attend the SDP subcommittee meetings. Current areas of concern noted by the SDLVAC include 099 Vendorizations. The Committee is concerned that the insurance requirement set by NLA will be a barrier.

D. Monthly Consumer Competitive Employment Report

Vini Montague reviewed this information as presented in the packet. For May, there were 1,470 Competitively employed consumers. In June, there were 1,482 consumers. This reflects percentages of employed consumers at 11.29% in May and 11.34% in June.

The Committee made the determination to keep the information on Consumer Competitive Employment by Ethnicity (pg. 242) for tracking progress and to eliminate reporting related to age breakdown. The data will be reviewed on a biannual basis.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/C. Blin) To approve the presentation of the data on Consumer Competitive Employment by Ethnicity on a biannual basis.

E. Intake Data by Location Report

Evelyn McOmie reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

May Intake Case Total:955

Over 120 Days:52

% Over 120 Days: 5.45 %

June Intake Case Total: 916

Over 120 Days: 17

% Over 120 Days: 1.86 %

The Committee made the determination to continue to review this report on a quarterly basis.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/G. Alvarado) To approve the presentation of the Intake Data by Location Report on a quarterly basis.

F. 4th Quarter Consumer Diagnostic Report

Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.

As of June 30, 2023, NLA has served 31,536 consumers for the quarter. Data is broken down by office location and diagnostic elements. The Committee made the determination to review a report that is comprised of 247-248 (with a grand total tally) on a biannual basis. A revision will be made to remove the graph.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/C. Blinn) To approve the presentation of the revised Consumer Diagnostic Report to be presented to the Committee on a biannual basis.

G. 4th Quarter Consumer Diagnostic Report by Age – Evelyn McOmie

Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.

Age 3-9: 6,694

Age 10-13: 3,543

Age 14-17: 3,239

Age 18-24: 4,500

Age 25-40: 5,888

Age 41-64: 2,841
Age 65 and older: 722
Total: 27,427

The Committee made the determination to combine the data with the information from the Consumer Diagnostic Report to be presented on a biannual basis.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/C. Blin) To approve the presentation of the Consumer Diagnostic Report by Age combined with the Consumer Diagnostic Report for review on a biannual basis.

H. 4th Quarter Consumer Intake Services Report

Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.
Total Intake Services for the Quarter: 1,712

The Committee made the determination to no longer review this report as the information is covered sufficiently in other reports.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/S. Brunjes) To approve the removal of the 4th Quarter Consumer Intake Report Services from Committee review.

I. 4th Quarter Exceptions Report

Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.
There were 80 exceptions that is broken down by type of service request that went to exception.

The Committee made the determination to no longer review this report.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/S. Brunjes) To approve the removal of the 4th Quarter Exceptions Report from Committee review.

J. 4th Quarter Appeals Report

Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.
There were 24 appeals filed in this quarter. There were 11 Fair Hearings held, 6 were denied, 1 was granted, 3 were dismissed and 1 appeal is pending a final decision. Voting on this item is combined with J and L under Item L.

K. 4th Quarter Appeals by Ethnicity/Office

Evelyn reviewed this report as presented in the packet.
This is the same data in the previous report, broken down by ethnicity and office location. Voting on this item is combined with J and L under Item L.

L. 4th Quarter NOAs Reports by Ethnicity/Location/Services/Age Range

This report is combined with items J and K.

The Committee made the determination to remove the reports on page 254-259. Page 261 will remain with addition of the current and previous quarters reflected in the report. Services and eligibility comparisons will be added to page 261 for review on a biannual basis.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/C. Blinn) To approve the removal of the pertinent reports on pages 254-259 and to revise page 261 to report that data for the current and previous quarter and to include services and eligibility comparisons to be presented on a biannual basis.

M. 4th Quarter 4731 Report

Malorie Lanthier reviewed this report as presented in the packet.

After review and discussion, the Committee determined to continue to review this report on a biannual basis. Considerations will be made to review this data on an annual basis in future.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/C. Blinn) To approve the review of this report on a biannual basis with consideration open for an annual review in future.

N. 4th Quarter Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) Report

Porterville Developmental Center (Secured Treatment)

Total Number of NLACRC Consumers: 11

Specialized Residential Facility (SRF): 3

Enhanced Behavioral Support Home (EBSH): 1

Canyon Springs: 2

Community Placement Deferred: 5

•Canyon Springs (State Operated Facility)

Total Number of NLACRC Consumers: 1

Specialized Residential Facility (SRF): 1

STAR (Acute Crisis Facility)

Total Number of NLACRC Consumers Placed: 0

Referrals Pending: 1 (for STAR)

Institute of Mental Deficiency (IMD), FY 2021/22

Total Number of NLACRC Consumers: 4

Specialized Residential Facility (SRF): 1

Level 4 Group Home: 1

Community Placement Deferred: 2

The Committee made the determination to no longer review this report.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/C. Blin) To approve the removal of the CRDP Report from Committee review.

O. Final Disposition Report

Evelyn reviewed the report as presented.

The Committee made the determination to review this report on a biannual basis at the Board of Trustees Committee.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/C. Wang) To approve the review of the Final Disposition Report on a biannual basis at the Board of Trustees Committee.

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

FMS AB637 (SPD) Status Update - NLA was approved by DDS to use the FMS Model under Service Code 490. NLA is waiting for DDS to issue the subcode needed to identify bill payor. Vendorization processes have begun and will be ready as soon as the subcode is issued. More information will be relayed as it becomes available.

VIII. Meeting Action Item Review

- A. Revise the Committee Priorities for FY23-24 and email to the Committee for electronic vote (Evelyn McOmie).
- B. Revise the Committee Critical Calendar to remove the POS Semi-Annual Report and to add the Disparity Committee Report out on a quarterly basis. (Evelyn McOmie)
- C. Compile data related to the 240 Pilot Families in the Enhanced Coordination Unit for presentation at the next Committee Meeting. (Evelyn McOmie and Gabriela Eshrati)
- D. Gather information on the 659 individuals that have completed SDP Orientation and determine barriers to joining the SDP Program. (Gabriela Eshrati)
- E. Revise each report to reflect the revisions that were determined by the Committee (Evelyn McOmie)

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 July 19th Meeting

- B. DDS Purchase of Service (POS) Annual Report for FY 2021-22
- C. Committee Priorities for Next FY 2023-24

X. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

- A. Committee Attendance Log
- B. Committee Critical Calendar
- C. Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
- D. Public Input

Evelyn reminded the Committee that the August Committee Meeting will be deferred to September to allow Committee Members to attend the mandatory Board Training.

XI. Adjournment

Evelyn McOmie adjourned the meeting at 10:09 p.m.

Submitted by:

(*) *Hailey Lauderdale*
Executive Administrative Assistant

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

