

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021

Present: Gabriela Herrera, Nicholas Abrahms, Cathy Blin, David Coe, Jennifer Koster, Alma Rodriguez, Rocio Sigala, Christina Cannarella – Committee Members.

Sharoll Jackson – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative

Leticia Garcia, Ana Quiles - Guests

Shelly Hash, Nancy Gallardo- Interpreters

Evan Ingber, Ruth Janka, Michele Marra, Ana Maria Parthenis-Rivas, Cristina Preuss, Kim Rolfes, Dr. Jesse Weller, Jennifer Williamson, Jazmin Zinnerman, Dr. Michael Fernandez, Gabriela Eshrati, Evan Ingber, Alan Darby, Liliana Windover – Staff Members

Seth Tanner, Minutes Services

Absent: Jennifer Siguenza, Deshawn Turner

I. Call to Order & Introductions

At 6:07 p.m., Christina Cannarella called the meeting on behalf of Gabriela Herrera, committee chair.

II. Public Input

Ana Quiles requested to add two additional agenda items to the agenda. IV. F: discussion of ways to disseminate the eligibility and intake process training by Dr. Antonio, and IV. G: adoption of a project plan format for projects or initiatives that impact consumer services.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda – Page 1

To add the following agenda items to the agenda:

- 4F. Diagnosis and Eligibility Training by Dr. DeAntonio
- 4G. Project Plan for Consumer Services

M/S/C (R. Sigala/D. Coe) To approve the agenda as revised.

B. Approval of Minutes of October 20th Meeting – Page 2

M/S/C (D. Coe/J. Koster) To approve the October 20th minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Self-Determination Program Report (Dr. Weller) – Page 8

A report was provided to this committee. Some of the highlights are as follow:

1. We currently have 65 approved spending plans, 16 spending plans in project, 346 participants that have completed the orientation, 81 certified budgets, 81 PCPs completed.
2. NLACRC was recognized by DDS for being the number one regional center in the State with the most enrolled applicants in the self-determination program.
3. NLACRC received funding for two positions and they will be allocated to the San Fernando and Antelope Valleys.
4. SDP Workbook was released on September 30th.
5. The next SDP Local Volunteer Advisory Committee will take place on December 8th at 5:30 pm.

B. Monthly Consumer Competitive Employment Report (Kim) – Page 11

A report was presented regarding the total number of working age consumers within the NLACRC area with no employment at 9,597. 17.62% of consumers within the NLACRC area were competitively employed in October if 2021. Two positions to assist in efforts for competitive employment had been requested.

C. Revised Service Standards – *Page 13*

The committee reviewed revised language and formatting of information in the service standards. The timeline after committee approval includes presentation of the revised standards to the board of trustees in January of 2022 for approval and a subsequent approval of the policies at the department level.

The early start program, formerly section XI was moved up to section III to make it more visible to the community. No content changes were made to the early start program language.

In section V, educational and vocational services, provisional eligibility, paid internship Program (PIP) and competitive integrated employment (CIE) payments were altered to match DDS language. Statutory framework for service standards was added for CIE and PIP.

Also, an education note was added that “service coordinators” or “language service coordinators” be made available for IEP meetings at the family’s request. It was noted that transitional IEP and exit IEP both would need those services to help find appropriate vocational opportunities and receive the guidance to appropriate resources.

Item B was altered to state 4.9 to 22 years of age.

Action Item: Dr. Weller was to update the age range to match other instances and clarify that services are available “to 22 years of age”.

In section V, language was added to include community colleges in the scope.

In section IV, family supports and living arrangements, day care language changed to include funding for employment in the home as well as for activities that would lead to employment, such as schooling.

The social/recreation activities, section IX., were struck from the new proposal and integrated into support services, section IV. A new paragraph had been added in Section IV to allow for a more flexible, inclusive scope of service for camping, social recreation, and nonmedical therapies to be used as family supports and to let families know that these were available for family supports. For example, camp was viewed not only as a family

support but as a form of social recreation, interaction, and daycare as appropriate for family needs, which supports the Center's mission and values of providing very individualized and person-centered services.

Action Item: Dr. Weller to update the PowerPoint presentation to add participant directed FMS providers.

M/S/C (J. Koster/C. Cannarella) To approve the revised service standards including further recommended revisions to the educational and vocational service standards.

Committee reviewed the updated Employment Priorities for FY 2021-2022 that included the addition to support individuals in obtaining and maintaining competitive employment opportunities and/or internships.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/C. Blin) To approve the Committee FY2021-22 Priorities as amended.

D. Outreach Plan for Social Rec, Camp Other – Page 71

NLACRC's outreach plan for informing the community of the availability of camp, social recreation, educational services and nonmedical therapies is due to the department on December 15th. Training for service coordinators was to be completed to let families know of the expanded opportunities. Information was to be disseminated to support groups. Additionally, the service should be explained as part of IPP meetings, and family support and camp social recreation would be added to IPP signature elements. All trainings would incorporate the restored camping, social recreation and other services information.

It was discussed that background information should include adults, but this was geared toward children 3 to 17 years of age. Outreach efforts would include local school districts. The committee brainstormed other avenues for communication including Peach Jar.

Dr. Weller was to take this to the board in January.

E. Board Audit: Review the center's mission, vision, and values statement to determine if the center is providing adequate guidance in establishing consumer services policy - Page 73

Dr Weller stated that the work on the outreach and strategic plan outlined above would help people with developmental disabilities by creating a community that was more inclusive and person-centered to empower individuals to be active in their supports and services per the values and vision statement of NLACRC.

F. Diagnosis and Eligibility Training by Dr. DeAntonio

It was proposed that the December townhall be on eligibility criteria and the intake process and made available to all community members. The townhall recording was to be posted via bulletin and YouTube for those who cannot access it during the scheduled time.

For individuals declared ineligible and reapplying, evaluations would not need to be conducted again, as only new information would be needed.

M/S/C (L. Garcia/ N Abrahms) To have a townhall on December 16th regarding Diagnosis and Eligibility presented by Dr. DeAntonio.

Action Item: To add December 16th Townhall to agenda for next CSC committee in January 2022 for those individuals who are not able to attend town hall on the 16th.

G. Project Plan for Consumer Services

M/S/C (L. Garcia / C Cannarella) To institute a project plan format for increased transparency and accountability for projects and initiatives that impact consumer services.

V. **Chief of Program Services Report** (Jesse Weller)

Dr. Weller reported on a series of events that will take place during the next two months. He concluded by informing members and guests of a mandatory inclusion initiative training from November 29 through December 8. Common and shared language surrounding inclusion would be the goal.

VI. **Board Meeting Agenda Items**

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the January 12, 2022 board meeting agenda:

A. Minutes of the November 17th Meeting

- B. Service Standards
- C. Project Plan for Consumer Services

VII. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 19th at 6:00 pm, via Zoom (December is dark)

No public Input

VIII. Adjournment

Gabriela, committee chair adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Submitted by:

(*) *Liliana Windover*

Executive Admin. Assistant

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

