

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2022

Present: Orli Almog, Erica Beall, Kimberly Bermudez, Catherine Carpenter, Bob Erio, Kenny Ha, Dana Kalek, Alex Kopilevich, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Don Lucas, Daniel Ortiz, Kevin Shields, Nick Vukotic, Cal Henriquez – **Committee Members**

Ruth Janka, Liz Chavez, Jesse Weller, Fred Rockwood, Cathy Robinson, Chantelle Crown, Nancy Salyers, Gabriela Eshrati, Alan Darby, Sandra Rizo, Evelyn McOmie, Marlene Vargas, Omar Gonzalez, Jennifer Williamson, Silvia Haro, Stephanie Margaret, Venus Rodriguez-Khorasani – **Staff Members**

Michelle Heid-Legucator, Hannah Ross -Minutes Services, Gil Villalobos – Interpreter, and approximately 80 Service Providers - **Guests**

Absent: Jenni Moran

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Ruth Janka called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

II. Public Input

No public input

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (A.Kopilvech /J.Agnew-Navarro) To approve the Agenda as presented. The Agenda was approved.

B. Approval of Minutes of May 5th Meeting

M/S/C (E.Beall /D.Kalek) To approve Minutes of the May 5th Meeting as presented.

IV. Executive Director's Report – Ruth Janka

COVID-Related Updates – As of May 23, 2022, current hospitalizations are at 419, positivity rate is at 2.97%. The CDC is recommending a booster dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 years old, to be given at least five months after their first vaccine set. DDS directive was received today that extends all of the former directives, there were no changes.

Non-COVID Related Updates- NLACRC is replicating the On-duty Specialist Unit from the San Fernando Valley office to the Antelope Valley office. There will be 4 Specialists total; 2 hired, 2 in recruitment to provide access to a live person in the event that families cannot reach their Service Coordinator.

The Emergency Response Program is a joint partnership between DDS and the California Foundation for Independent Living Center to implement a program to distribute batteries to individuals who live in high-risk fire areas. Individuals are prioritized by Tier 2 and Tier 3 fire areas and DDS will make emergency go-kits will be available via supplybank.org to individuals living in high-risk wildfire areas as well as a Public Safety Power Shuttle. As part of the Emergency Response Program, an educational campaign will be launched called Feeling Safe, Being Safe, in preparation for wildfire season.

Presumptive eligibility - NLACRC is working on evaluating individuals for transition to an IPP or to regular eligibility under the Lanterman Act. The majority of individuals that have been assessed have been made eligible. There have been some issues reaching families, and an increase in cancellations and no-shows to appointments.

Camp, Social Recreation and Non-Medical Therapies – Community Services is working with 5 potential Social Recreation service providers to develop their service design descriptions. After approval, providers will be allowed to submit their vendor applications and go through the process to be screened. The YMCA as well as park and recreation department in all three locations to develop social recreational programs and are waiting for a response.

The Town Hall schedule for 2022 has been established by Case Management. In July, an Employment Town Hall will be held where Consumer panelists will share about their experience. Beginning in September, there will be Age Group specific Town Halls each month with Parent/Consumer panelists to discuss their experiences.

An RFP was put out for Community Resource Development and there were 24 entities that came to the Informational Meetings. Of the 24 entities, 2 proposals were received for Specialized Residential Facilities and of the 2 proposals, neither qualified due to failure to provide financial statements. One requirement for providers is to disclose financial statements to prove that they are financially solvent before they are able to receive RFP awards. In light of this, Community Services has reached out to 2 former awardees who have agreed to submit proposals to develop 2 Facilities. No proposals were received for the Mobile Crisis Service.

Language Access and Cultural Competency- The goal of this plan is to identify documents that would be translated in the various languages of the area and identifying orientations that should be provided in various languages to meet the needs of the community and to conduct regular and periodic language assessments and will develop a Language and Cultural Profile of the community. This will be monitored by the department with progress reports every April and October.

Cultural Competency Training- Bridging Voices is a Cultural Competency and Plain Language Consultant who recently hosted a Language Justice Training to provide the staff with practical skills that can address these issues.

Staffing - The Parent Family and Support Specialists have both been onboarded. San Fernando Valley specialist, Maria de Jesus started in mid-April. In Antelope Valley, Cynthia Sanchez fills this role and is currently being trained. Introductions to the Board of these Specialists will be scheduled for July. The Emergency Management Coordinator position has four external candidates who have been approved for assessment. This position will liaison between the Regional Center, the community and the Department to coordinate operations during an

emergency event. There is one internal and one external candidate for the Guest Services Specialist position. DDS is creating a group for Guest Service Specialists across the State to meet and navigate the system to support Regional Centers. 1 Participant Choice Specialists position has been filled in San Fernando Valley and there are three external candidates applying for the 2 additional vacant positions in Antelope Valley.

Self Determination – As of May 1st, 103 individuals have fully transitioned into the program, 471 participants have completed Orientation and there have been 123 Certified Budgets with an additional 18 budgets currently in progress and 20 approved Spending Plans.

SDP Volunteer Local Advisory Committee – there was a meeting on May 19th that was held in a hybrid format with options to attend in-person and via Zoom. During the meeting, a hacker infiltrated the system and disrupted the meeting. IT will be working with staff for training on how to handle these types of situations. The Committee will continue to meet on a monthly basis.

V. Chief Financial Officer’s Report – Alan Darby

Expenses for April 2022 - \$57,873,778.

YTD Expenditures- \$529,606,082

Projected Annual Expenditures - \$691,003,065

The Administrative vs. Direct Allocation Report percentage should be below 15% annually, currently at 14.6%

VI. Deputy Director’s Report – Jesse Weller

Town Hall: What is an IPP and IFSP? & How to Prepare for Meetings

SDP Local Volunteer Advisory Committee Meeting was held May 19th at 7pm, in-person as well as on Zoom.

Inclusion, Equity and Diversity Board Policy developed. This policy is to support efforts in the areas of Service Access to Equity and training related to Inclusion, Equity and Diversity in the workplace and within the community. This policy includes an acknowledgment of the existence of inequities and Vision and Mission statements that are aligned with the Strategic Plan. A list of definitions has been included for better readability and understanding of commonly used abbreviations.

The policy requires quarterly training for staff on Inclusion, Equity and Diversity policies that will also be available to service providers and members of the Vendor Advisory Committee, with training topics that will be based on feedback from the community. Quarterly and annual status updates will take place and will be aligned with updates to the Strategic Plan to look at metrics and evaluate progress and to ensure that all present and future policies are in alignment consistent with the values of NLACRC.

VII. Community Services Director’s Report – Evelyn McOmie

The NLACRC Community Services team is in the process of contacting and sending provider documentation for to validate of compliance and/or initiate remediation plans. Last week service

providers identified as being in compliance received validation forms via email (HCBS compliance at NLACRC email- if you are a provider who received the form you are required to submit it by June 22nd). For those requiring Remediation plans you will be receiving the email Monday 6/6 and have till July 22 to submit the completed form. Evelyn advised if assistance was needed to email a community services staff to HCBScompliance@nlacrc.org

Information for Social Recreation, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Request for Vendorization (RFV). Nine (9) relevant service codes have been posted with relevant information on how to submit a proposal to become vendored for the following; Socialization Training Program (028), Communities Activities Support Services (063), Social Recreational Program (525), Specialized Recreational Therapy (106), Art Therapist (691), Dance Therapist (692), Music Therapist (693), Recreational Therapist (694), Camping Services (850). There are no start-up funds associated with these projects. Additionally, these projects will be posted until the resource need is met.

Community Services Department has rolled out a one-page addendum for service providers currently required to implement EVV, to update their program design. To receive a copy of the EVV Addendum please email Resource Development at resourcedevelopment@nlacrc.org. In conjunction with the specialized Provisional Eligibility Program (PEP) unit has rolled out a one-page addendum to update program designs for vendors who are interested in providing services to individuals deemed provisionally eligible for regional center services and their families.

VIII. Legislative Report – Michelle Heid

As part of the Governor's May Revise, \$185.3 million are being allocated to promote workforce stability, \$22.5 million for a three-month DSP training and internship program, \$30 million for tuition reimbursement program for Regional Center Service Coordinators pursuing advanced degrees and Health and Human Services. The revise also includes \$59.1 million for provider rate adjustments in response to January 1, 2023 rate wage minimum wage increases. There's also a proposal to suspend the annual family program fee and family cost participation program through December 31, 2022. Senate and Assembly Leaders also announced a deal on a final budget agreement to modernize the Core Staffing Formula with additional increases in subsequent years and to accelerate rate increases for Service Providers, to update the rates every 3 years in alignment with inflation.

IX. Committee Business – Ruth Janka

A. Jynny Retzinger Award

This is an award from NLACRC that is given to a Service Provider nominated for their legislative advocacy work. The award was presented to Erica Beall with Modern Support Services who is also a former NLACRC staff member. Erica was honored to be recognized.

B. Goals for next Fiscal Year

Committee agreed to review in August meeting to discuss the Goals for the next Fiscal year as some Committee members shared that the meeting has felt to be more of NLA reporting out then members taking actions and being more involved. Topic to be reviewed at August meeting.

C. Draft Critical Calendar FY22-23

Ruth reviewed the items on the Critical Calendar as presented in the packet. Committee has

decided to defer to August meeting with recommendations on workgroup meetings and report outs.

X. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the Committee's section of the June 8th Board Meeting Agenda:

- A. Minutes of the June 2nd Meeting
- B. Jynny Retzinger Award

XII. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, August 4th at 9:30 a.m. (Full Meeting)
- B. No Public Input

XI. Committee Work Group Information

- A. **Early Start Services** (Dana Kalek)
July 21st, 2022 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Contact: Dana Kalek – dkalek@cdikids.org
- B. **School Age Services** (Cal Enriquez)
June 7th, 2022 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Contact: Cal Enriquez – cenriquez@accreditednursing.com
- C. **Adult Services** (Suag Bisogno & Erica Beall)
June 7th, 2022 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Contact: Suad Bisogno – suad@irioc.org
- D. **Legislative Issues and Advocacy** (Open)

VIII. Adjournment

Ruth Janka adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Submitted by:

(* *Lizeth Chavez*)

Executive Admin. Assistant

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