

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2021

Present: Orli Almog, Erica Beall, Suad Bisogno, Kimberly Bermudez, Catherine Carpenter, Cal Enriquez, Bob Erio, Sharoll Jackson (Chair), Dana Kalek, Alex Kopilevich, Don Lucas, Daniel Ortiz, Olga Reyes, Kenny Ha, Kevin Shields, Jodie Agnew-Navarro - Committee Members

Absent: Jenni Moran and Nick Vukotic

Ruth Janka, Kim Rolfes, Dr. Jesse Weller, Evelyn McOmie, Stephanie Margaret, Dr. Michael Fernandez, Josie Dauglash, Liliana Windover, Cheryl Blizin, Anna Polin, Nancy Salyers, Sara Iwahashi, Cristina Preuss, Gabriela Eshrati, Fred Rockwood – NLACRC Staff

Approximately 109 Service Providers also participated on the Zoom call.

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Sharoll Jackson, VAC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

II. Public Input

- Jessica Gould, legislative consultant for the disability community shared information regarding her services. Jessica aims to make the legislative process understandable and provides 10 years of experience of guiding clients on the impact of their services on the disabled community in California. For more information, visit Jessica's site at <https://jgouldconsultation.com/>
- Mark Alteri, Service Provider for the Self-Determination Program (SDP), shared information regarding a website he has created for services providers or independent facilitators to set-up their profile and include information regarding their SDP services. For more information, visit Mark's site at <https://www.thecasdpnetwork.org/>

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (K. Shields/ A. Kopilevich) to approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from the June 3rd VAC Meeting

Under page 17, FY 2021-22 Priority Issues, Section IV, it was recommended to change the headline “Implementation of Legislative Changes” for “**Legislative Issues and Advocacy**” in order to match the name of the workgroup.

M/S/C (K.Shields/ A. Kopilevich) to update the headline “Implementation of Legislative Changes” under Section IV of the FY 2021-22 Priority Issues for “**Legislative Issues and Advocacy**”

M/S/C (S. Bisogno/A. Kopilevich) To approve the June 3rd meeting minutes as amended.

IV. Committee Chair Selection

Sharoll Jackson was nominated as the VAC Chair for FY 2021-22.

M/S/C (B. Erio/A. Kopilevich) To approve the nomination of Sharoll Jackson as the VAC Chair for FY 2021-22.

V. Executive Director’s Report (Ruth Janka)

A. Trailer Bill Language (TBL) - SB 136

A summary report was provided regarding the implementation and impact this year’s TBL will have in our system. Some of the language included in the TBL are as follow:

- o Remote Electronic IFSP meetings and early intervention services
- o Remote IPP meetings, if requested by consumer/parent
- o Group Homes for Children Special Healthcare Needs
- o Vendedored Group Homes Placements for consumers in Fostercare and Probation

- o Provisional Eligibility
- o Enhanced Language Access and Cultural Competency Initiative
- o Camping, Social Recreation, Education Services, and Alternative Nonmedical Therapies
- o Caseload Ratio Public Meeting requirement
- o Semi-Annual Reporting to DDS re: New CSC Hires (Oct 10 and Mar 10)
- o Service Provider Rate Increases
- o Out of State funding approval (extended timeframe)
- o DDS Contractor to evaluate disparity efforts
- o RC performance improvement indicators
- o DSP Pay Differentials
- o SDP – additional requirements
- o CIE/PIP

B. COVID-19

There is an increase in positivity rate in the LA County due to the Delta Variant. Current hospitalizations as of 08/04/21 are 1,242 cases with 20% of these cases in the Intensive Care Unit.

DDS is tracking status of individuals who have been vaccinated through regional center data entry into SANDIS. VAC members and attendees were asked for their support in this effort by asking individuals served and their families to provide their vaccination status to service coordinators.

C. Face to Face Visits and Health Screening

NLACRC is still conducting in person visits and in person meetings when requested. If a positive response is obtained during the health screening, the staff person will not enter the facility or home, and the visit will be scheduled.

D. Re-opening NLACRC's Facilities

With the increase of positivity rate due to the Delta Variant, NLACRC is reconsidering the opening of our offices to the public on September 1, 2021. A communication will be forthcoming regarding NLACRC locations opening to the public. DDS Directives

The following directives were recently extended by DDS:

1. 07/21/21 - Rescission of Directive Regarding Day Services for

Consumers at High Risk for Serious Illness due to COVID-19

2. 07/22/21 – Guidance regarding Reimbursement for Transportation Services for Alternative Non-Residential Services.
3. 07/29/21 -Extension of Waivers, Modifications and Directives due to COVID-19.

F. Technology Lending Library RFP

NLACRC has identified Easter Seals as the contractor to provide the technology services and is in the initial phases of contracting.

E. NLACRC Consumer's Statistics

The following consumer's statistics as of June 30, 2021 was shared with members of this committee:

- Early Start Consumers 4,299
- Non-Early Start Consumers 23,857
- Intake Individuals 748

As of June 2021 and in accordance with data received from DDS, NLACRC was in 100% compliance with the completion of the intake and assessment process for all our applicants. NLACRC will schedule a Performance Contract Public meeting at the end of September 2021, and will provide more information regarding our performance and progress toward the Center's performance contract goals.

VI. Deputy Director-Chief Financial Officer's Report (Kim Rolfes)

A. Fun Fact

The Center received an inquiry from DDS regarding its purchase of services expenditures due to the increase in personal assistance services, service code 062, over the five-year period of fiscal year 2017 thru fiscal year 2021. The increase of personal assistance expenditures, under service code 062, was primarily due to the following factors: (i) the increased need of personal assistance services due to COVID-19; (ii) increased communication to our community about the availability of personal assistance services; and (iii) an increase in the number of individuals receiving personal assistance services approximately 1,500 consumers served per month in FY2017 to approximately 3,200 consumers served per month in FY2021.

B. Financial Report (Kim Rolfes)

Kim reviewed the FY2020-2021 Financial Report for the service month of June 2021. The Center's projected B-4 operations budget allocation was \$60,249,199 and the Purchase of Service (POS) budget was \$589,993,295 for a total budget of \$650,242,494. The Center currently projects a POS surplus of \$ 21,799,123 and a small CPP deficit of \$580,127.

For FY2021-22, we received our preliminary contract in the amount of \$558.5M and our cash advances for FY2022. The Center did not need to borrow from our credit line because we received the cash advances prior to when the Center processed the POS payments to service providers.

C. Statewide RC Purchase of Service Expenditure Projection Report

As of July 10th, statewide it is reported that there is a \$363.9million surplus. Currently, all 21 regional centers are reporting a POS surplus, ranging from \$5.6 million (NBRC) to \$50.6million (SCLARC). NLACRC's surplus of \$21.8 million is the 6th largest surplus.

D. Special POS Check Runs

NLACRC will continue the special check runs. The next special check runs are scheduled on July 28th, August 26th and September 28th.

E. Operations Budget

- The center has started the process to secure a new CPA firm. Under statute, regional centers may only use the same CPA firm for 5 years in a ten-year period. The last year that Windes will be performing the Center's independent audit will be FY2020-2021.
- The Center currently has several audits in process. DDS is currently conducting the Center's two-year biennial audit of FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21. In addition, the Center is scheduled for our worker's compensation audit in September 2021, and our independent financial audit, that will be conducted by our CPA firm, is scheduled in October 2021.

F. Vendor Independent Reviews and Audit Compliance

The Center received a letter from DDS in May 2020 requesting each regional center to establish a plan to comply with the statutory requirement to collect service providers independent audit or review reports for Year 2019 and Year 2020. Service provider Year 2019 independent audit/review reports were due to the Center no later than September 30, 2020; and service provider Year 2020 independent audit/review reports are due to the Center no later than September 30, 2021. The Center submitted its plan to DDS in July 2021 and will be following up with service providers that have not submitted their Year 2019 independent audit/review reports that were due in September 2020. Under statute, it requires the Center to take an action, up to termination of the service provider's vendorization, for noncompliance with the statutory requirement to submit an independent audit/review report to the Center by the statutory timeline of within 9 months of the service provider's fiscal year end. The Center currently has outstanding audits/review reports that have not been submitted by some of our service providers for FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20. The Center's Community Services Department will be sending notices of this statutory requirement to service providers. Service providers were reminded that if the service provider's vendorization is terminated due to the failure to provide the independent audit/review report to the Center, it would affect all vendorizations under the service providers tax identification number. Service providers that receive the Center's written notice, were encouraged to submit their independent audit/review report to the Center to mitigate an action to terminate the service provider's vendorization(s) for noncompliance with the statutory requirement.

E. Staffing Updates.

Human Resources: The Center had 551 employees filled out of 624 authorized positions as of end of July 2021. Annualized turnover rate is 0.7%.

VII. Chief of Program Services Report (Jesse Weller)

A. Consumer Services Manager

Donna Rentsch, former Community Services Specialist and Consumer Services Supervisor, was promoted to Consumer Services Manager for our Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita Offices.

B. Town Halls

- The town hall on August 19th will be regarding Transition Age Services.
- A round table in collaboration with UC Davis Medical Center regarding Vaccine Equity and Hesitancy has been scheduled on August 18, 2021.
- We are also offering a series of webinar trainings in collaboration with Learning Rights Law Center. They are scheduled every 4th Tuesday of the month from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

C. National Core Indicators (NCI) Presentation

An NCI presentation regarding Child/Family Survey data will take place on Wednesday, August 11th at 6:30 pm during our Board Meeting.

D. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The Center has established a case management unit lead by Dr. Michael Fernandez, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Supervisor. We have created a blueprint in collaboration with a consultant to look at our policies, procedures, mission and vision statements, and training for our staff.

E. Self Determination Program (SDP)

- SDP is now open to any Lanterman consumers served by the regional center.
- NLACRC continues to conduct monthly informational meetings.
- As of today, we have 48 participants enrolled in this program
- The Center has finished the RFP process for contractors to support the implementation of the SDP; four awardees selected.
- The center received a directive on 07/07/21 from DDS stating that the regional centers can purchase initial person-centered planning services to assist participants as they transition into SDP.
- The next Self Determination Local Volunteer Advisory Committee meeting will be held on August 19, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

F. Placement Reviews

All questions regarding residential placements should be directed to Emmanuel Gutierrez, Case Management Supervisor.

G. Provider Updates

We recently had an Interagency Forum with residential providers in order to

collaborate with NLACRC staff during COVID-19. Any residential services providers who would like to join these forums, please contact Liz Chavez at the Center's Antelope Valley Office.

VIII. Community Services Director's Report (Evelyn McOmie)

A. DDS Rate Model Presentation

A presentation was provided regarding the DDS Rate Model Implementation. Some of the highlights included the following:

- Background
- Rate Model Report submitted by Burns & Associates
- Fixed Assumptions on Benefits & Wages
- Implementation in accordance with WIC, 4519.10(c)
- Increase percentage by service code
- Link to Rate Study:
<https://www.burnshealthpolicy.com/DDSVendorRates/>

B. AB 637 Proposal Presentation

A presentation was provided regarding the AB 637 proposal to change the rate model for Adult Residential Facilities for Person with Special Healthcare Needs (ARFPSHN). Some of the highlights included the following:

- History of ARFPSHNs
- Qualifying Personal Care Needs
- Special health Care Needs
- Service Provider Selection
- Why we need ARFPSHN Services
- Mandated Minimum Staffing
- Example of Fiscal Impact – Current
- Example of Fiscal Impact – Proposed
- The solution and next steps in proposal process

C. Governor's Orders

1. Health Care Worker Protections in High-Risk Settings

The Governor's office, under the California Department of Public Health issued an Order on July 26, 2021 regarding the following:

- In order to prevent COVID-19 further spread in hospitals, SNFs, high-risk congregate settings and other health care settings, limited and temporary public health requirements are necessary at this time.
- All facilities identified in this Order must verify vaccine status of all workers.
- Respirator or mask requirement.
- Testing requirements

This order shall take effect on August 9, 2021 and facilities must be in full compliance with this Order by August 23, 2021.

2. The following areas were also addressed during this report:

- PPE Eligibility
- Update regarding Resumption of Annual Inspections using the Compliance and Regulatory Enforcement (CARE) tools.
- CCL Weekly Licensee Assistance Survey
- CCL Informational Call Review Date: 08/11/21 at 1:00 pm
- Adult Day Program Infection Guidance
- Updated Facility Staff Testing and Masking Guidance
- Risk Mitigation Plan
- Quarterly/Annual Review Scheduled – Health Screening

IX. Legislative Report_(Michelle Heid)

Some of the highlights in Michelle's report are as follow:

- Highlights of the 2021/2022 State Budget
- Electronic Visit Verification
- Legislative Calendar
- DS Task Force
- Disability Thrive
- CalABLE Accounts
- Telehealth

- 2021 Recall of Governor Newsom
- American Recovery Plan Act

Refer to the following link for additional information:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MsasQMAJSs_oogdrYY022yrb_gV6ZzGv/view

X. Committee Business (Ruth Janka)

- Annual VAC Orientation: Review Policies & Procedures
The Policies and Procedures were reviewed with members of this committee
- FY 2021-22 VAC Meeting Schedule
A copy of the meeting schedule was provided to the members of this committee.
- FY2021-22 VAC Roster & Teams
A copy of the VAC roster was provided to the members of this committee.
- VAC Priorities for FY 2021-22
The VAC priorities for the current fiscal year were reviewed with members of this committee.

XI. Progress Reports from Service Provider “Return to Work” Groups

- Early Start (Dana Kalek)
Intake for Early Start has steadily increased. This group is looking at early start goals and providing more outreach. Concerns for new intake children under the age of 3 presenting with social anxiety were discussed.
- Licensed Site-Based Program
No report
- Community Based Program (Suad Bisogno)
Group met two months ago and discussed the changes under the Burns & Associates Rate Study.
- Independent Living/Supported Living Services (Kevin Shields)
Group stopped meeting. Anyone interested to continue this group, contact Kevin Shields.

- E. Individualized Services (Kim Rolfes)
A survey is currently being draft for parents.
- F. Residential Services
This group has joined forces with the Site Based Program. A meeting has been scheduled on August 12th at 10:00 am to discuss the PIN discussed previously by Evelyn McOmie.
- G. Transportation (Evelyn McOmie)
R&D, Keolis and STA continue to meet every other week. Day programs resuming services were asked to notify R&D with a minimum of two weeks in advance in order to request transportation services.

XII. Reports from the VAC Priority Issue Work Groups

- A. Early Start Services (Dana Kalek)
Information was provided by Dana under the Return to Work Group for Early Start.
- B. School Age Services (Cal Enriquez)
Group met on 08/04/21 to discuss issues about COVID, Health & Safety and the shortage of staff.
- C. Adult Services (Suad Bisogno & Erica Beall)
This group met early July and discussed the Burns & Associates Rate Study. Next meeting's discussion will be regarding housing for people with developmental disabilities. Group meets every other month.
- D. Legislative Issues and Advocacy (Sharoll Jackson)
Refer to Michelle Heid's link under Section IX of these minutes for more information on legislative issues and advocacy.

XIII. Report on Board Committee Meetings

- A. Administrative Affairs (Kevin Shields)
Bylaws were reviewed during the last Administrative Affairs committee.
- B. Board of Trustees (Sharoll Jackson)
 - Thank you letters were sent to several Senators for their legislative support and their partnership passing some of the bills.

- Board met in June and reviewed Bylaws, report on SDP, provided a director's report among other issues

B. Consumer Services (Ruth Janka)

The Chair for this committee was established. In addition, an orientation was provided to members of this committee. DDS Directives, quarterly reports, review of the AB 637 proposals and DDS directives among other topics were presented to this committee.

C. Government & Community Relations (Ruth Janka)

This committee did their orientation, review their board policy for our disability community. Some of the issues discussed during this committee were legislative update, town hall meetings, social media, etc.

D. Nominating (Bob Erio) - No Report

F. Strategic Planning (Erica Beall/Nick Vukotic/Ruth Janka)

This committee discussed their performance contract, proposed goals for FY2021-22, review NLACRC Strategic Plan, among other issues discussed during this meeting.

XIV. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meetings

- A. Minutes of the August 5th Meeting.

XV. Announcements/Public Input

Lety at R&D reported that transportation companies are following the safety protocol for COVID-19. They are in compliance with the federal, State and local counties.

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, September 2nd at 9:30 a.m.

XVI. Adjournment

Sharoll Jackson adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm.

Submitted by,

Liliana Windover

Liliana Windover
Executive Assistant

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