

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2013

Present: Yolanda Bosch, Craig Girard, Jenean Glover Sharoll Jackson, Eric Leh, and Katie Mead – Committee Members
Duane Joslin – Board Member
Diane Ambrose, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, Kim Rolfes, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order

Yolanda Bosch, president, called the meeting to order at 8:12 p.m.

II. Public Input -- There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Revised Agenda

Item IV.A. was moved to become V.A. and Approval of Crossroads to Success contract became the new item IV.A.

M/S/C (K. Mead/E. Leh) To approve the revised agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from November 28th Meeting

The minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Committee Business

* **A. Approval of Contract with Crossroads to Success**

Crossroads will be providing our consumers with independent living services. The contract period is for 2 years and 2 months for a total contract amount of \$590,744.

M/S/C (S. Jackson/C. Girard) To approve the contract with Crossroads to Success, on the board's behalf.

B. NLACRC's Response to DDS's Board Composition Letter

As discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting, the center received a letter from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) thanking us for submitting our board composition survey and then telling us that we were out of compliance because our board did not completely reflect the ethnic characters of the community we serve (the Hispanic community is under-represented). This is the same issue they had with us last year. They want us to respond to them in writing, by December 14th. Copies of our response letter, dated December 12th, were provided to the committee.

C. DDS Proposed Regulations on Conflict of Interest

DDS recently released new regulations on conflict of interest. Copies of those regulations were provided to the committee.

D. Executive Director's Evaluation

1. President appoints a Negotiating Committee
2. President requests external compensation data from HR director

Action: Yolanda will appoint members to a Negotiating Committee.

Action: Michele will provide Yolanda with external compensation data.

E. Discussion re: Next Annual Board Retreat (Saturday, May 11th)

There was quite a bit of discussion regarding the board retreat, what it should consist of, where it should be held, or if it should be held at all. However, everyone agreed that if the retreat is held, participation should be mandatory. It was also agreed that any board nominees should be invited to participate as well.

Action: Jennifer will send the Executive Committee a list of all of the topics and trainings that were covered at previous board retreats for their review.

Action: The board retreat will be discussed with the full board at the next board meeting.

F. Finalize Agenda for the February 13th Board Meeting

The committee finalized the agenda for next month's board meeting.

G. Monthly Board Expenditures Report for FY 2012-13

Copies of the monthly report were provided to the committee. It was noted that \$9,500 has been set aside for the board retreat and the board dinner. The dinner generally runs between \$6,000 and \$7,000, which leaves about \$2,500 to \$3,000 for the board retreat.

* **H. Approval of Letter Opposing the ICF Rate Proposal (SPA 11-010B)**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) submitted a proposal (State Plan Amendment 11-010B) to seek a retroactive application of a new rate methodology retroactive to August 1, 2012. This proposal would place our intermediate care facilities (ICFs) in jeopardy of being able to continue providing services to our consumers. Our ICFs have been operating under a rate freeze since FY 2008-09 and have had to make every reduction in operating expenses possible without placing consumer care and services in jeopardy. This proposal could reduce their rates by up to 10%. A letter, opposing the ICF rate proposal, was drafted by the California Association of Health Facilities who sent it to all of the regional centers asking for their support. This support letter was presented to the Government & Community Relations Committee for their review and recommendation. The committee approved sending the letter but wanted it more personalized to better reflect the center's point of view. The revised letter was presented to the Executive Committee. As the letter is due tomorrow, we are asking the Executive Committee to approve the letter on the board's behalf.

M/S/C (S. Jackson/K. Mead) To approve the letter opposing the ICF rate proposal (SPA 11-010B).

* **I. Approval of Letter Supporting the Sunset of the Annual Family Program Fee**

Copies of the draft letter were provided to the committee for their review.

Action: It was decided to defer taking action on supporting the sunset of the annual family program fee pending further discussion by the Government & Community Relations Committee.

J. DDS's Response to our POS Deficit Letter

This agenda item was addressed by the Administrative Affairs Committee.

K. DDS's Approval of our Service Standards

DDS has approved the service standard changes that were approved by the board on September 12, 2012 and copies of their approval letter were provided to the committee. The service standards are now available for distribution and are in the process of being translated into Spanish.

L. ARCA's Draft Strategic Plan for 2013-15

Copies of ARCA's draft strategic plan were provided to the committee. ARCA has asked that regional center boards review the plan and provide them with any feedback before the next ARCA Board of Directors meeting on March 22nd.

Action: Jennifer will send ARCA's draft strategic plan to the board for their review and input prior to the next Executive Committee meeting. The plan, and any input received, will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Action: Jennifer will invite Jeremy Sunderland, ARCA Delegate, to next month's Executive Committee meeting to join in the discussion regarding ARCA's draft strategic plan.

V. Center Operations

A. Plan for Visits with Local Legislators

We will be meeting with only our new legislators at first, and will visit with all of them during Grass Roots Week. We delayed identifying our legislative platform until the governor released his proposed stated budget for next fiscal year. Now that his budget is out, we need to begin moving forward. The following suggestions were made for inclusion in the center's legislative platform:

1. Behavioral health services and the renewal of SB 946. Additional funds included in the governor's budget for co-payments and deductibles. This is poor legislation and it should sunset. It creates service barriers for our consumers and families and it's an erosion of the Lanterman Act.
2. Unintended consequences of cuts to the Early Start program and the reinstatement of those funds.
3. Supporting the sunset of the annual family program fee.

The committee also felt that we should provide the new legislators with the following information:

1. A 1-page fact sheet on regional centers.
2. A 1-page sheet outlining current issues we are facing.
3. Discussion regarding the renewal of SB 946 and potential legislation for co-payments and deductibles.
4. Legislation for “Employment First.”

B. Legislative Breakfast

The Government and Community Relations Committee has come up with a general theme for the next breakfast: “We’re not out of the woods yet/There is still more work to be done.” This theme could address such issues as:

1. The importance of rate increases for our providers, who are constantly facing increasing costs; the resulting program closures and the inadequate number of residential options for our consumers.
2. Restoring the Early Start program.
3. Supporting the sunset of the remaining 1.25% payment reductions to providers and regional center operations budgets.

The Executive Committee provided the following additional suggestions:

1. Identifying what we’ve lost over the years, due to the ongoing cuts to our budget, and what its impact has been.
2. The loss of consumer/family confidence that the regional center system will be there as a safety net for them in the future.
3. “Don’t let the sun set on The Promise.”

Action: The center’s platform for the board’s visits with legislators and the theme for the Legislative Breakfast will be discussed further at the next board meeting and will then be deferred back to the Government & Community Relations Committee.

C. New Training for Supervisors

We will now be providing our new supervisors with training, in addition to the new staff orientation process, on topics such as leadership and supervision expectations. This will start in February and current supervisors will all be invited to participate.

VI. Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Report

A. Report on January 17 & 18, 2013 ARCA Meetings

Yolanda provided the following highlights from the last ARCA Board of Directors meeting:

1. Terri Delgadillo, director of DDS, and Tresa Oliveri, ARCA president, were not present.
2. The governor's proposed state budget was reviewed.
3. There was discussion regarding whether or not insurance-covered behavioral health services should continue; only 9 centers voted for it, but due to absence and abstentions, it had enough votes to pass.
4. A lively discussion was held regarding the "Employment First" policy.
5. ARCA is looking for a sponsor for legislation that would change the 5th category eligibility criteria from "disabling conditions found to be closely related to mental retardation or requiring treatment similar to" to and requiring similar treatment to.
6. Regional centers want more transparency from DDS about how much money they will be getting and when.
7. Housing guidelines.
8. Legislation for housing development fund.
9. They voted to support the closure of the remaining developmental centers in California.
10. Golden Gate Regional Center presented a quality assurance report.

B. Next ARCA Meetings: March 21 & 22 (Sacramento)

VII. Announcements / Information Items

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

Yolanda asked the committee members to please complete evaluation forms after the meeting and submit them to her with any comments.

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 27th, at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

Yolanda adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

[ecmin.jan30.2013]

* Action Items

