North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes**  
January 17, 2018  

**Present:** Melissa Ferman, Jessica Gould, Pat Grayson-DeJong, Michelle Heid, Ismael Maldonado, Lillian Martinez, and Meagan Miller – Committee Members  
Sharroll Jackson – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative  
Steve Miller – Guest  
Maria Bosch, Sheila Calove, Jamie DeWitt, Evan Ingber, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and Jesse Weller – Staff Members  

**Absent:** Manuel Alfaro, Erika Hernandez, and Reinwick Pole  

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**  
Jessica Gould, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and introductions were made.  

**II. Public Input –** There was no public input.  

**III. Consent Items**  

A. **Approval of Agenda**  

   Items V.E. and V.F. were incorrectly numbered.  

   **M/S/C (M. Miller/L. Martinez)** To approve the agenda as modified.  

B. **Approval of Minutes of November 15th Meeting**  

   **M/S/C (L. Martinez/M. Miller)** To approve the minutes as presented.  

**IV. Committee Business**  

A. **NLACRC’s Mission, Vision, and Values Statement – Questions?**  

   The center’s mission, vision, and values statement was reviewed at the last meeting and members were asked to bring up any comments or questions they may have at this meeting. No questions or comments were made.  

B. **DDS Letter re: NLACRC’s Respite Policy**
The Board of Trustees approved changes to 3 of the center’s service standards at the October board meeting and those changes were submitted to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for their review and approval. We received a letter from them in late December. They did not address the changes to 2 of the standards but did want the following additional changes made to the respite services section of the Family Supports & Living Arrangements Standard:

1. An expanded definition of what would constitute an exception to the policy.
2. A statement that the center will only consider services, such as in-home supportive services, a generic resource when that service meets the family’s respite needs.

**Action:** Ruth will amend the Family Supports & Living Arrangements service standard to include these 2 recommended changes and will present those changes to this committee at next month’s meeting.

**C. 1st Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report**

Copies of the report were provided and reviewed. During the 1st quarter:

1. **Eligibility:** 311 Notices of Action were sent and 13 were returned (appealed).
2. **Service:** 238 Notices of Action were sent and 2 were returned.
3. **Hearings:** 7 fair hearings were held:  
   - 3 eligibility hearings (all 3 denied)  
   - 4 service hearings (1 granted, 1 partially granted, and 2 dismissed)

Spikes in the number of notices sent are usually the result of a change in statute, such as the behavioral services transition to managed care plans.

**D. 2nd Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report – Deferred**

**E. 2nd Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report**

Copies of the report were provided to the committee for their review. The report showed diagnostic information about the center’s consumers each quarter since July 1, 2015. Of the 24,787 consumers that the center serves, the diagnosis breakdown is as follows:
1. Intellectual Disability: 8,764
2. Autism: 10,091
3. Cerebral Palsy: 552
4. Epilepsy: 237
5. Other developmental disability: 1,172
6. Status 0, 1, 2: 3,971

Status 0 are clients in intake, Status 1 are clients in Early Start (at risk), and Status 2 clients are children over 3 that have been found eligible for regional center services. There is an especially high number of consumers with autism in the Santa Clarita Valley because there are a lot of children living there – as opposed to the Antelope Valley where mainly adult consumer live.

F. 2nd Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report – Handout

The exceptions report lists requests from consumers and families for services that are outside of the center’s service standards and whether those services were approved or denied. During the past quarter, the center approved 484 requests and none were denied. The highest number of exceptions fall into the following categories:

1. 1:1 support for a day program (86 exceptions granted)
2. Personal assistant for an adult (63)
3. Individualized day program (52)
4. Co-payment for behavioral health treatment (46)
5. 1:1 support for a residential program (44)

The exemptions report lists requests made for services that have been suspended or reduced as a result of the trailer bill language. The report showed that during the past quarter, 7 exemptions were approved and none were denied. Five of the 7 exemptions were related to respite services that exceeded the service cap; the cap was removed effective January 1st.

G. Self-Determination Program Update (Ruth)

DDS plans to re-submit the federal funding waiver to the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) by January 31st. If CMS accepts the waiver application as submitted, the center could begin the program as early as this April. Ruth was selected to serve on a statewide self-determination work group to talk about what individualized budgets, quality assurance, and rates should look like under the self-determination program. The center will begin holding
informational meetings on the self-determination program each month at all 3 offices. In the meantime, staff are in the process of being trained, fliers continue to be provided at IPP meetings, and the center’s Self-Determination Advisory Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis.

H. Monthly Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report (Jamie) - Handout

The center’s goal for this fiscal year is to move 9 consumers out of large facilities and into the community, as follows:

1. 6 consumers out of Fairview Developmental Center, thereby moving all remaining NLACRC consumers residing there and completing our portion of the closure process for that developmental center.
2. 2 consumers out of Porterville Developmental Center.
3. 2 consumers out of Canyon Springs.

As of December 31st, the center has placed 2 consumers out of Fairview and 2 out of Canyon Springs. Jamie reviewed the remainder of the report with the committee pointing out the challenges in developing the right resources for these consumers and getting them up and running.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee’s section of the February 14th board meeting agenda:

A. Minutes of the January 17th Meeting
B. 1st Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report
C. 2nd Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report
D. 2nd Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report
E. DDS Letter re: NLACRC’s Respite Policy
F. Self-Determination Program Update

VI. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

Jessica asked the committee members to please complete their evaluation forms after the meeting and submit them to her with any comments.
B. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 21st, at 6:00 p.m.

VII. **Adjournment**

Jessica adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Submitted by:

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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