North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 7, 2018

Present: Orly Almog, Fredlyn Berger, Deborah Cutter, Bob Erio, Mariela Feldman, Cynthia Fernandez, Michelle Heid, Sharoll Jackson, Kristin Laurino, Don Lucas, Jenni Moran, Marina Pink, and Nick Vukotic - Committee Members


Absent: Mariela Feldman and Staci Jordan

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Michelle Heid, VAC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input

A. Terence Carson, of Strategic Technology Solutions, announced that his company provides viable solutions to get service providers into HIPAA compliance and ongoing support to keep them up to date with any changes. He also introduced Joshua Preston who is working with him. Terence can be reached at tcarson@hipaasap.com and Joshua can be reached at jpreston@hipaasap.com. Their website is getstarted.hipaasap.com.

B. Jimmy Lifton announced that he has an 8-week program to prepare people for jobs in the move/TV industry called “Reel People.” The program was originally designed for veterans, but now they began including young adults with autism and the program has been very successful for them! For more
information, contact Jimmy at (310) 922-8588; their website is reelpeopleLA.org.

C. Victoria Berrey, from the Family Focus Resource Center, made the following announcements:

1. The FFRC has lots of information about summer activities for consumers and their families.
2. The FFRC is now taking sign-ups for their annual special needs resource fair which will be held at CSUN on Sunday, October 21st. The fair usually has over 1,000 attendees and the exhibition spaces do sell out.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (J. Moran/F. Berger) To approve the agenda as presented.

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

M/S/C (J. Moran/S. Jackson) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Executive Director's Report

George Stevens gave the following reports:

A. Michelle Heid: George began his report for thanking Michelle Heid for serving on the VAC for the past 6 years and for chairing the VAC for the last 3 years. Michelle did an outstanding job as VAC member and chair.

B. Self-Determination: Breaking news: the feds have approved the state’s waiver application for the self-determination program. We will share additional information with our service providers as it becomes available.

C. State Budget: In a last-minute change, it looks as though social recreation and camp will not be restored. And despite major funding surpluses, it looks like the uniform furlough schedule will take effect in 1 year. The only good news is that it looks like the $25 million in one-time bridge funding for service providers, requested by Assembly Member Chris Holden, will be approved.

D. Behavior Health Treatment (BHT) Transition: BHT may include but are not limited to applied behavior analysis, behavioral interventions, or parent
education. Effective August 1st, 2018, Medi-Cal managed care plans are required to cover medically necessary BHT services for all members under the age of 21, even without the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Medical necessity for BHT will need to be determined and recommended by a licensed physician and surgeon or a licensed psychologist. For NLACRC consumers, the transition to Medi-Cal managed care funding of medically necessary BHT services for consumers under the age of 21, even without a diagnosis of ASD, will take place starting August 1st, 2018. NLACRC will assist with the transition by providing copies of relevant records and documentation to families’ managed care plans with their signed consents. Families will receive a notice from their managed care plan 60 days before the transition begins and another notice will be sent 30 days before the final transition. NLACRC is working with the managed care plans and behavioral service providers to make for a successful transition of services.

V. Deputy Director's Report (Ruth Janka) – Ruth was not present to give a report.

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

A. Fun Fact: Out of the 4 age groups, which has grown the fastest over the last 10 years: Early Start, school age, transition, or adult? The answer is the highest growth rate was in adult services – it has doubled in the last 10 years!

B. NLACRC Budget: The center’s operations budget is $50.2 million with no surplus or deficit projected. The purchase of service (POS) budget is $410.1 million with a projected deficit (in the worst case) of $2.5 million and a surplus of $1.2 million in the best case. Kim reported that the center will not have to borrow and payments to providers will be made without delay.

C. Cal-ABLE: California has posted a request for proposals for a new program manager for its ABLE program.

VII. Community Services Director's Report (Yolanda Bosch)

A. 637 Proposals: The term “637” refers to a bill number that was passed several years ago allow DDS to waive a regulation(s) in order for a regional center to provide a needed service. The center will be developing two 637 proposals:

1. Speech & Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs): Elisa Hill explained that the need exists for service providers to be able to provide speech therapy to consumers through the use of SLPAs. However, Title 17 only allows the use of licensed speech pathologists to provide speech therapy.
2. **Community-Based Integrated Support Services:** Alona Yorkshire explained that the need exists for individualized services to support our consumers with complex medical and/or behavioral support needs in order to fully access integrated community settings and achieve competitive integrated employment. This proposal was developed involving several of our service providers who need this support to find employment for some of their consumers.

A public meeting for both 637 proposals will be held at the center’s main office on Wednesday, June 13th, from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.

**M/S/C** (F. Berger/D. Cutter) To support the 637 proposal on the use of SLPAs.

**M/S/C** (S. Jackson/K. Laurino) To support the 637 proposal for community-based integrated support services.

B. **Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)/Paid Internship Program (PIP):** Templates have been made available on the information table. Any questions about the CIE or PIP programs should be directed to Danny Castanon at (818) 534-5029 or DCastanon@nlacrc.org.

C. **Vendor Fairs:** The center will be holding more vendor fairs this fall; sign-ups will be available on EventBrite in August:

1. **San Fernando Valley Office:**
   - Tuesday, September 11th (Adult) 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
   - Thursday, September 13th (Adult) 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
   - Tuesday, September 25th (School Age) 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

2. **Antelope Valley Office:**
   - Wednesday, October 10th (Early Start & Adult) 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

D. **Burns & Associates’ Rate Study:** It is very important for all of the center’s providers to complete a survey. Burns & Associates and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be using the data from the survey to help develop a new rate structure. The deadline for survey submission is Friday, July 6th. *(The deadline was later extended to Friday, August 3rd).* Webinars on how to complete the survey have been posted on NLACRC’s and DDS’s websites. Also, you only need to complete the part of the survey that pertains to your service code(s). If you haven’t yet received a survey from Burns & Associates there is a link you can follow to the survey.
Action: Yolanda will e-mail the survey link to Jennifer and she will e-mail it to the service providers on her e-mailing list.

Rebecca Lienhard stated that her agency’s recent financial statements don’t reflect the last 2 minimum wage increases. John Brauer asked if the deadline could be extended by at least a couple of weeks.

Action: Yolanda will follow-up on Rebecca’s and John’s inquiries.

E. New Community Services Supervisor: Venus Rodriguez-Khorasani has just taken the position of community services supervisor. She has worked in the community services department for several years and has been with the regional center even longer.

VIII. Committee Business

A. Legislative Update: Although it looks like social/recreational services won’t be restored and the uniform furlough schedule will be supported, it doesn’t hurt to call your legislators today to support the restoration of social/recreational services, support the elimination of the uniform furlough schedule, and supporting Assembly Member Holden’s $25 million in bridge funding.

B. Local Grass Roots Legislative Visits: Appointments are being made for this year’s visits with our local Assembly members and Senators.

C. Candidates’ Forum: The center’s candidates’ forum was held last week and was a huge success. All 4 of the candidates running for the 39th and 45th assembly districts were there along with over 100 participants. Luz Revas won the election for the 39th district and Jess Gabriel won the election for the 45th district. These legislators represent a large part of the center’s catchment area. If you are in the 39th or 45th district, please thanks them for participate in the forum and congratulate them on their win!

IX. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

The following items were identified for the VAC’s section of the June 13th board meeting agenda:

A. Minutes of the June 7th VAC Meeting
B. Support for Both 637 Proposals
X.  Announcements/Public Input

A.  Next Meeting:  Thursday, August 2\textsuperscript{nd} (no July meeting)

B.  Annual Board Dinner:  Saturday, June 23\textsuperscript{rd}
   (Honoring Michelle Heid, Shelly Briggs, and Elesbia Johnson!)

XI.  Committee Work  (The committee breaks into their workgroups)

A.  Early Start Services (Fredlyn Berger)
B.  School Age Services (Mariela Feldman)
C.  Adult Services (Jenni Moran)
D.  Implementation of Legislative Changes (Sharoll Jackson)

XII.  Adjournment

Michelle adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser
Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant