North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 6, 2018

**Present:** Orli Almog, Fredlyn Berger, Suad Bisogno, Deborah Cutter, Bob Erio, Mariela Feldman, Cynthia Fernandez, Sharoll Jackson, Dana Kalek, Jenni Moran, and Sonia Ojeda - Committee Members  
Kim Rolfes, Evelyn McOmie, Arsho Garlanian, Arpi Arabian, Sonja Chapman, Erin Broughton-Rodriguez, George Stevens, and Jennifer Kaiser – Staff  
Sharon Weinberg, Chaghig Koulajian, Christian DePaz, Gabriela Rojo-Sanchez, Brian Otchis, Lily Handley, Teresa Rathsam, Susie Pittman, Dennis Rutnam, Donna Lane, Alona Yorkshire, Terrence Carson, Diane Geany, Maria Ortiz, Claire Moynihan, Haley Rhyne, Saeda Farah, Alexandra Rivera, Lauren Bishop, Hal Kirklin, Ralph Stokes, Fred Rockwood, Lori Sivazlian, Linda Cobuzzi, Yolanda Bosch, Nikisia Simmons, Leticia Leon, Jon Francis, Alisha Turner, Darrell Bunch, Michele Linares, Annie Cox, Victoria Berrey, Idris Danesi, Tanya Brustinov, Kendra Espinoza, Scott Shepard, Allan Batalla, Lizeth Corral, Jessica Ochoa, Erica Beall, and Steve Miller - Guests

**Absent:** Staci Jordan, Kristin Laurino, Don Lucas, Marina Pink, and Nick Vukotic

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

Sharoll Jackson, VAC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:33 p.m. and introductions were made.

**II. Public Input**

**A.** Terence Carson, from 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. HIPAA compliance can be expensive and challenging, but after discussions with the service provider community, they now offer a new suite of low-cost service options including train the trainer, policies and forms, risk assessment, and use of a secure mobile cloud. Terence can be reached at tcarson@hipaasap.com and his website is getstarted.hipaasap.com.

**B.** Victoria Berrey, from the Family Focus Resource Center (FFRC), made the following announcements:

1. A free screening of the film, “Intelligent Lives” will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12th, at CSUN. The film stars 3 pioneering
young adults with intellectual disabilities who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college, and the workforce. Dan Habib, the filmmaker, will lead a discussion after the film. To register, go to www.IntelligentLivesFilm.eventbrite.com.

2. The FFRC’s annual special needs resource fair will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at CSUN on Sunday, October 21st. The fair usually has over 1,000 attendees and the exhibition spaces do sell out. Fliers for the event were made available.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item VIII.B. was added to the agenda.

M/S/C (J. Moran/M. Feldman) To approve the agenda as amended.

B. Approval of Minutes from the August 2nd VAC Meeting

M/S/C (S. Ojeda/D. Kalek) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Executive Director’s Report (George Stevens)

A. Behavioral Health Transition: Dr. Arpi Arabian gave an update on the transition of behavioral health services for consumers without an autism diagnosis from the regional center to a managed care plan. We have transitioned 102 of the 300 consumers who were originally identified for transition and are working on the others. An additional 113 consumers were then identified for transition and we will be sending letters to their families shortly to notify them of the pending change. Arpi encouraged providers to work with families to make sure they submit their signed consent forms to us so we can move forward with their transition.

B. Community Engagement: Steve Miller announced that he and Michelle Heid were hired by the center 3 years ago to begin educating our community on how to get more involved legislatively. The developmental disability community, when organized, could be a huge voting force. We have an election coming up in just 2 months and we need to prepare ourselves and others for it. Steve and Michelle will be posting factual non-partisan articles in the center’s “news you can use” bulletins. Please feel free to share these articles with your staff, consumers, families, and friends!
C. **Candidates’ Forums:** Steve also announced that 2 candidates’ forums on the following dates and times and fliers for these events will be going out shortly:

1. Thursday, October 11th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (The Centre in Santa Clarita)
2. Thursday, October 25th, 6-30-8:30 p.m. (New Horizons in North Hills)

D. **Bridge Funding:** The Southern CA regional center directors and the LA Coalition have been working with Senator Holden to have the $25 million bridge funding used for high cost areas. Unfortunately, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is working with the Developmental Services task force on how to distribute it. With matching federal funding, the bridge funding will come to nearly $40 million.

E. **Burns & Associates’ Rate Study:** Now that the deadline for completing the rate survey has passed, we need to prepare ourselves to respond to the study when it comes out in March. We need to continue to make our case for much needed rate increases.

F. **Self-Determination:** The center has almost 300 names of consumers who have are on our interest list. It will be the responsibility of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to select consumers to fill our 183 spots for the 3-year pilot later this month. They will make their selection looking at composition to make sure the consumers selected adequately represent the center’s catchment area. As such, after a short review, we have found that we need more consumers who are African-American for our pilot. We are still waiting to receive guidelines on how the regional centers should implement the program from DDS.

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!** Community integration training programs were our highest expenditure for last fiscal year – we are #1 in the state!

B. **Visitor Badges:** The center will begin issuing visitor badges starting October 1st.

C. **NLACRC Budget:** The center received its intent letter form DDS for our FY 2018-19 budget in the amount of $473.8 million. We will not know whether
we will be projecting a surplus of deficit until we complete and submit our first purchase of service expenditure projection (PEP) to DDS in December.

VII. Community Services Director’s Report

A. **Vendor Fairs:** The center will be holding vendor fairs on the following dates and locations:

1. **Tuesday, September 11**<sup>th</sup> (adult/transition-day programs/supported living services/supported employment) **SFV office**
2. **Thursday, September 13**<sup>th</sup> (adult/transition-crisis management/behavior services/in-home respite/individual & family training/adaptive skills/environmental accessibility) **SFV office**
3. **Tuesday, September 25**<sup>th</sup> (Early Start and school age-infant development program/home health agency/behavioral respite) **SFV office**
4. **Wednesday, October 17**<sup>th</sup> (all ages and above services) **AV office**

We still have opening spots for those who want to register. These fairs are a great opportunity for you to share information about your services and for service coordinators to have the opportunity to meet you. You can find the registration information on the center’s website; 1 ticket per vendor for a table for 2.

B. **Risk Mitigation:** The center is planning to hold a training/workshop on risk mitigation. More information to come.

C. **Home & Community-Based Services Specialist:** Sonja Chapman has been hired as the center’s new HCBS specialist. She can be reached at SChapman@nlacrc.org.

D. **Annual Program Evaluations:** Service providers should submit their annual program evaluations to NLACRC by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Some service providers thought the deadline for submission was November 1<sup>st</sup>; Arsho Garlanian confirmed that the deadline was September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Action:** Per the VAC’s request, Arsho will send a reminder to the center’s service coordinators reminding them to provide information needed by vendors to assist them in completing their evaluations.

VIII. Committee Business
A. **VAC’s Approved Priorities for FY 2018-19 – Attachment**

1. Early Start services.
2. School age services.
3. Adult services - including the implementation of the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services’ (CMS') Final Rule, the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA), and transportation issues.
4. Implementation of legislative changes - including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), mandated reporting, zero tolerance, cyber insurance, etc.

There was some discussion about what issues the Early Start break-out group should be discussing. The answer was any and all pending issues that involve Early Start services.

**Action:** George will ask Dr. Jesse Weller, consumer services director for Early Start & school age, and Elisa Hill, consumer services manager for Early Start & school age, to regularly attend the VAC’s Early Start break out group meetings.

B. **Person-Centered Planning** (Cynthia Fernandez)

Easter Seals’ now has an enhanced approach to person-centered philosophy in light of the transition to focus on community integration. Amber Carey, from Easter Seals, is available to provide trainings on their person-centered planning approach to the vendor community. Would the VAC like to have her come to a future VAC meeting and provide a training?

**Action:** Cynthia will send information about Amber Carey, the trainer, to Jennifer who will forward it to the VAC, for their review.

**Action:** The VAC will talk about a possible person-center training at the next VAC meeting.

All Individualized Program Planning (IPP) participants should know and support the person-centered philosophy and services should be delivered with that philosophy in mind.

IX. **Agenda Item for the Next Board Meeting**

The following item was identified for the VAC’s section of the September 12th board meeting agenda:
A. Minutes of the September 6th VAC Meeting

X. Announcements/Public Input

A. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 4th (full meeting)

XI. Group Photo of the VAC for NLACRC’s Website

A group photo was taken of the VAC to post on the center’s website.

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

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

XIII. Adjournment

Sharoll Jackson adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m. and the break-out groups began their individual meetings.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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