

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2019

Present: Marianne Davis, Anna Hamilton, Sharoll Jackson, and Caroline Mitchell – Committee Members
Arnulfo Jackson and Ed Vukotic – Guests
Maria Bosch, Sheila Calove, Evan Ingber, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and Jesse Weller – Staff Members

Absent: Melissa Ferman, Angelina Martinez, and Jeremy Sunderland

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Anna Hamilton, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Once a quorum of members were present, item IV.G. was added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended.

B. Approval of Minutes of the October 17th Meeting

C. Approval of Minutes of the November 20th Meeting

Once a quorum of members were present, the minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. State Council NCI Postcards – Family Survey (Ruth Janka)

The National Core Indicators is a nationwide project whose purpose is to establish benchmarks for best practices. Currently, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, who heads up the NCI project in our state, sent out postcards looking for people to interview in order to collect data. Unfortunately, they received a very low response rate. The State Council has asked the regional centers to help them by asking their service coordinators to encourage family

members to complete them. NLACRC was happy to help them comply with their request.

B. 2nd Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report

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 251 requests and 6 were denied. The highest number of exceptions fall into the following categories:

1. Personal assistance for an adult (51 granted)
2. Individualized day program (43 granted)
3. Personal assistance for a minor (36 granted)
4. 1:1 support for a day program (25 granted)
5. 1:1 support for a residential program (25 granted)

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, 2 exemptions were approved and none were denied. Both exemptions were for educational services.

1. Environmental Modifications – *Deferred*

C. 2nd Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report

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

1. Eligibility: 496 Notices of Action were sent and 13 were returned (appealed).
2. Service: 402 Notices of Action were sent and 9 were returned.
3. Hearings: 3 fair hearings were held:
 - 1 eligibility hearings (denied)
 - 2 service hearings (1 dismissed and 1 pending)

D. 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, 2016. Of the 26,140 consumers that the center serves, the diagnosis breakdown is as follows:

1. Intellectual Disability: 8,849
2. Autism: 11,046
3. Cerebral Palsy: 561
4. Epilepsy: 247
5. Other developmental disability: 1,207
6. Status 0, 1, 2: 4,230

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. Although most of the consumer diagnoses are fairly stable, consumers with autism have increased nearly 23% since July 1, 2016.

E. Self-Determination Program Update

Out of the 184 NLACRC consumers selected by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to participate in the program, 8 have opted out, 3 of those 8 opted out because they were moving out of our area. Out of the 173 remaining participants, the geographical breakdown is as follows: 99 from the San Fernando Valley; 44 from the Santa Clarita Valley; and 30 from the Antelope Valley. We are currently recruiting for a self-determination program supervisor, resource developer, and service coordinators. We are still waiting to receive training materials from DDS.

F. Monthly Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report

Maria Bosch reported that the center's goal for this fiscal year is to place 7 consumers out of large facilities and into the community: 1 consumer at acute crisis at Southern Star; 1 consumer at Porterville Developmental Center, 4 consumers at Canyon Springs, and our last remaining consumer at Fairview Developmental Center. Unfortunately, none of these placements have been made because they were slated to move into homes run by Acres, and all placements to Acres have been suspended by DDS due to many serious incidents that have occurred at their homes.

G. LAUSD Strike

Jesse Weller gave an update on the center's activities since the LAUSD strike began on Monday. NLACRC used Everbridge, the center's emergency response system, to identify consumers that may be impacted by the strike and then contacted them letting them know they could reach out to us if they needed any

help; this message went out in English and in Spanish. After this outreach effort, 137 consumers wanted help and staff followed up with each of them. Jesse concluded his report by saying that NLACRC has a strong partnership with LAUSD.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the February 13th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the January 16th Meeting
- B. 2nd Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report
- C. 2nd Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report
- D. 2nd Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report
- E. Self-Determination Program Update

VI. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

- A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

Anna 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 20th

VII. Adjournment

Anna Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

