

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2019

Present: Adam Breall, Marianne Davis, Sharoll Jackson, Caroline Mitchell, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang – Committee Members
Angelina Martinez – Board Member
Maria Bosch, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, Megan Mitchell, Cristina Preuss, Jesse Weller, and Leonard Wilson, Jr. – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Caroline Mitchell, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

A new Item IV. was added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from the August 21st Meeting

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

IV. Executive Session (union contract negotiations)

M/S/C (M. Davis/C. Wang) To go into executive session at 6:12 p.m.

The executive session ended at 6:23 p.m. and the meeting resumed.

V. Committee Business

A. Approved Priority Issues for FY 2019-20

The Board of Trustees approved the committee's 4 priority issues for this fiscal year at the September 11th board meeting:

1. Oversee the implementation of the self-determination program consistent with statute, Medicaid waiver, and regulations.
2. Monitor purchase of service disparity within the provision of services.
3. Ensure that the center provides services that are in compliance with Medicaid waiver, statute, and regulations.
4. Monitor the center's caseload ratios.

B. 1st 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 1st quarter of this fiscal year, the center approved 271 requests and denied only 1.

The exemptions report lists requests made for services that have been suspended or reduced as a result of the trailer bill language for respite. The report showed that during the 1st quarter, the center approved 5 requests and denied 0.

Jesse will be removing exceptions for the Early Start co-pays because the regional center is allowed to cover those costs now. In addition, Jesse discussed the concept of personal assistance on the current report as part of routine program planning.

C. 1st 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, 2017. Of the 27,004 consumers that the center serves, the diagnosis breakdown is as follows:

1. Intellectual Disability: 8,885
2. Autism: 11,637 **(an increase of 18.15% since July 1, 2017)**
3. Cerebral Palsy: 563
4. Epilepsy: 251
5. Other developmental disability: 1,237
6. Status 0, 1, 2: 4,431

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.

D. 1st Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report

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

1. Eligibility: 620 Notices of Action (NOAs) were sent and 16 were returned (appealed); 9 additional hearings were requested from NOAs sent in previous quarters.
2. Service: 267 Notices of Action were sent and 10 were returned; 4 additional hearings were requested from NOAs sent in previous quarters.
3. Hearings: 9 fair hearings were held:
 - 3 eligibility hearings (1 denied, 1 dismissed and 1 pending a decision)
 - 6 service hearings (1 granted, 3 partially granted, 1 denied, 1 dismissed)

There were questions about what types of services were typically denied. Jesse responded by reporting that the center cannot provide services to people who solely have mental health issues. Also, children with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) can be served by the center until they turn 3, but then they do not qualify for Lanterman Act services because FAS is not a qualifying condition for services.

E. Monthly Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report

The center's goal for this fiscal year is to place 1 consumer out of Fairview Developmental Center, 5 consumers out of Porterville Developmental Center, and 3 consumers out of Canyon Springs, for a total of 9 community placements. To date, 1 consumer has been placed and the other 8 are pending transition.

1. Residential Program Types: In follow-up for information requested at the last committee meeting, Maria provided the committee with information on the many types of residential services that are available for consumers. The majority of our consumers (22,264) live with their family or guardian.

F. Self-Determination Program (SDP) Update

Maria Bosch gave the report in Sheila Calove's absence. NLACRC has 183 SDP slots, with 156 of those slots filled; 27 consumers have withdrawn from the program for a variety of reasons. 130 of the 156 consumers have attended the mandatory orientation, so we only have 23 more to go. We continue to offer orientations and are even offering to have them 1 on 1 for those people who

cannot make it to an orientation at our offices. The orientation deadline is November 15th. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be selecting additional consumers to fill those slots left open by consumers who withdrew from the program next month. They will focus on consumers over 40 years of age, siblings of consumers already in the program, self-determination advisory committee members or their family members; and will also consider ethnic diversity. Also, we are providing a second phase of SDP training to our staff that is more “hands on.” We have 3 financial management service providers vendored, but do not have any person-centered planning service providers vendored as yet. We continue to hold monthly informational meetings on the SDP. The next SDP advisory committee meeting will be held tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. at the center’s Antelope Valley office.

G. Person-Centered Planning (Sara)

At the last committee meeting it was reported that information on person-centered planning would be presented to the committee this month. Michele Marra reported that staff are still in the process of collecting that information but will present the information to this committee soon.

H. “Westside Jam” Follow-up

The idea of NLACRC holding an event similar to Westside Regional Center’s “Westside Jam” was not well-received by the Vendor Advisory Committee or their guests at this time. They need to focus their energy on the rate study and improving service provider rates.

I. DDS Supplemental Service Provider Rate Increases

At the last committee meeting, a request was made for information about which service providers received rate increases and which did not. Copies of the Department of Developmental Services’ (DDS’s) supplemental rate increases from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021 were provided and reviewed. The information showed which providers received an increase, but did not include information about which providers did not.

Action: Jesse will provide the committee with information about which providers did not receive a temporary rate increase at next month’s committee meeting.

J. Public Charge Rule

On August 14, 2019, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a final rule related to public charge in the Federal Register. According to DHS, the rule would not take effect until October 15, 2019. Additionally, many organizations have indicated they will file lawsuits challenging the legality of the rule. (A New York court issued a national injunction.) Thus, even after publication, legal challenges could delay implementation. Here are a few important points regarding the public charge rule:

1. The new rule interprets a provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) pertaining to inadmissibility. The inadmissibility ground at issue says a person is inadmissible if they are likely to become a public charge. This law only applies to individuals seeking admission into the United States or applying for adjustment of status. This provision of the law does not apply to all immigrants.
2. Public charge and this rule do not apply in the naturalization process, through which lawful permanent residents apply to become U.S. citizens.

The implementation of this rule could impact people's ability to access regional center services and the CalFresh program. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is aware of this rule and sent information about it to the regional centers last week. The regional center executive directors and chief counselors have it on their agendas for discussion. We are keeping this on our radar and will continue to keep the committee updated on any developments.

VI. Chief of Program Services Report (Jesse Weller)

- A. Saddleridge Fire: The center closed its San Fernando Valley office last Friday due to the local fires. We used our Everbridge system (emergency response system) to reach out to our consumers, families, staff, and service providers with updates and to find out if they needed any assistance. We also had staff go to evacuation centers to offer information and assistance, if needed. As with any emergency, staff met afterwards to review the actions that were taken to see if any improvements could be made during future events.
- B. Parent Mentor Program: After a long time of trying to hire a full time parent to help other parents navigate the regional center system, we changed that position to 2 half-time positions (20 hours per week); 1 for the San Fernando Valley office

and 1 for the Antelope Valley office. Jesse was happy to announce that the center has hired the parent mentor for the San Fernando Valley office; her name is Victoria Girard and she is bilingual.

- C. NLACRC Purchase of Service (POS) Disparity Committee: The Integrated Community Collaborative/Intregadoras (ICC) is part of our POS disparity project; they reach out to families who are struggling and do their best to connect them with any needed regional center services.
- D. Cafecito Entre Nos Events: These events are community coffees for Spanish-speaking families and are held every second Thursday at 11:00 a.m.; we had 25 families attend one last month – even families from outside of our catchment area attended. These events are held in the San Fernando and Antelope Valleys and are a great way to receive information from our community and to have a dialogue. The last one was held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 10th, at our Antelope Valley office. The next one will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 14th, at our San Fernando Valley office.

VII. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the October 23rd board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the October 16th Meeting
- B. 1st Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report
- C. 1st Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report
- D. 1st Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report

VIII. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

- A. Marianne Davis announced that the Family Focus Resource Center will be holding their 7th Annual Special Needs Resource Fair at CSUN on Sunday, October 20th.
- B. Caroline Mitchell is a volunteer for the Safe Place for Youth (SPY) program in Venice Beach. They are having a garden party potluck this Saturday night from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. This is a great event for families and their kids as there will be lots of entertainment – including a silent disco!

- C. Jeremy Sunderland announced that he is taking his family to the Dorothy Chandler pavilion this Saturday to see “The Light and the Piazza” which features an ingénue who has a developmental disability. The last performances will be held this weekend.
- D. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 13th, at 6:00 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

Caroline adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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