

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2020

Present: Orli Almog, Erica Beall, Catherine Carpenter, Deborah Cutter, Bob Erio, Mariela Feldman, Cynthia Fernandez, Sharoll Jackson, Ken Lane, Sonia Ojeda, Kevin Shields, and Nick Vukotic - Committee Members

Jose Rodriguez, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Evelyn McOmie, Lisa Mayti, Sheila Calove, Giselle Melik-Jahanian, Olga L. Ruiz, Sonja Chapman, Stephanie Margaret, Erin Broughton-Rodriguez, Mone Masa, and Nancy Salyers – Staff

Richard Dier, Idris Danesi, Gerald Jones, Aleta Andrews, Ute Escorcia, Faith Kincaid, Ziad Alsibai, Chary Hallan, Dolly Wauls, Ralph Stokes, Limoras Chiprut, Luciana Chemelnilcer, Michelle Heid, Sharon Weinberg, Vincent Van Antwerp, Erik Flores, Alona Yorkshire, Dennis Rutnam, Kenny Ha, Claire Moynihan, Kevin Clark, Gerald Jones, Katherine Farren, Tanya Shirley, Andrea Devers, Gabriela Sanchez, Ingrid Rushing, Lorri Hubert, Cheryl Keehne, Debra Dinielli, Linda Cobuzzi, Lisa Peterson, Cindy Kozlowski, Tara Estrella, Glynda Givens, Maria Ortiz, Harry Bruell, Debra Donovan, Alisha Turner, Kate Sheldon, Nicholle Cash, Stephani Anderson, Debra McCurry, Christian Depaz, Alexandra Riviera, Kelly Reyes, Dana Hart, Pat Knight, Haley Rhyne, Deborah Stovesand, Olga Reyes, Cal Enriquez, Jessica Garrido, Betty Walkes, Oswald Walkes, Andrea Lemus, Scott Cross, Lizeth Corral, Lori Resnick, Jon Francis, Emily Owens, Saeda Farah, Leticia Leon, and Annie Cox - Guests

Absent: Suad Bisogno, Dana Kalek, Don Lucas, and Jenni Moran

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Sharoll Jackson, VAC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input

Jose Rodriguez, NLACRC consumer advocate, reported that we are reaching out to invite consumers to the monthly Consumer Advisory Committee and Self-Advocacy Group meetings. CAC meetings are generally held on the 1st Wednesday of the month 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; they discuss a variety of topics and then lunch is provided. Self-Advocacy Group meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, Jose can be reached at JRodriguez@nlacrc.org.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (O. Almog/M. Feldman) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from the November 7th VAC Meeting - Attachment

M/S/C (O. Almog/M. Feldman) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Executive Director's Report (Ruth Janka)

A. NLACRC's Budget: We received our A-3 allocation from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The allocation includes funding for the self-determination program and our community placement plan (CPP).

B. Lanterman Coalition: They have just released their proposed multi-year strategic plan to restore health, safety, and opportunity for Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Copies of it were made available on the information table.

C. Legislative Hearings: The legislature is reconvening in January after a long recess. Two important hearings will be held this month:

1. Wednesday, January 22nd at 10:00 a.m. – Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health & Human Services will meet and discuss the rate study.
2. Tuesday, January 28th, at 1:30 p.m. – Assembly Select Committee on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities will meet

All legislative hearings are recorded and are available for viewing in real time or later. Beginning in 2020, Cal Channel is no longer available to watch hearings, they are available on the Senate or Assembly websites.

D. Governor's Proposed Budget for FY 2020-21: The governor should be releasing his proposed state budget for next fiscal year sometime tomorrow.

E. Rate Study: DDS submitted a service provider rate study to the Legislature in March 2019. Subsequently, DDS received comments from hundreds of stakeholders. With the release of the Governor's Budget tomorrow, DDS will be posting a summary of comments received, along with their responses to these comments and any necessary and appropriate changes to rate models contained in the rate study. This information can be found on DDS website: www.dds.ca.gov.

- F. Service Provider Rate Increases: DDS has received approval for federal funding so the center can proceed with processing the rate increases retroactive to January 1, 2020.
- G. Minimum Wage Increases: Effective January 1, 2020, the minimum wage has increased to \$12/hour for companies with 25 employees or less and \$13/hour for companies with 26 employees or more. Service providers may be eligible for a rate increase to compensate for these increases depending upon how their rate was originally set. Please contact the community services department with any questions.
- H. DDS's Southern CA Monitoring Team: The team is being established and their offices will be at the former Fairview Developmental Center. The team will focus on increased monitoring and oversight of regional centers and service providers.
- I. DDS Website: DDS has a new website. Not all information has been transferred as yet to the new site, but the archived site is still available.
- J. Developmental Services Task Force: A total of 158 people from across the state have been selected as members of the DS Task Force; 42 on the actual task force and the remaining people will service on one of the task force's 5 workgroups. which are:
 - 1. Community Resources Workgroup
 - 2. Oversight, Accountability and Transparency Workgroup
 - 3. Safety Net Workgroup
 - 4. Service Access and Equity Workgroup
 - 5. System and Fiscal Reform Workgroup

A list of the participants selected has been posted on DDS's website; many of them are from the NLACRC community!
- K. Purchase of Service Disparity Proposals: DDS is due to respond to the proposals submitted to them sometime this month.

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

Kim was not present to give a report.

VI. Chief of Program Services Report (Maria Bosch for Jesse Weller)

- A. Forensic/_CPP Matters: Please see Maria Bosch with any related matters until the center is able to recruit someone to fill the position left vacant by Megan Mitchell; she can be reached at MBosch@nlacrc.org.
- B. Supported Living Services Policies & Procedures: Have been posted on our website.
- C. Parent Mentors: Both part-time parent mentors have been hired! Victoria Girard will be serving families in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys and Selene Salcedo will be serving families in the Antelope Valley. More information about this program has been posted on our website.
- D. The Family Empowerment Team in Action (FETA): This program uses MSW students from CSUN to provide outreach to families who are not using regional center services. They are also developing micro-videos on the importance of IPP meetings and how to prepare for them, and school age, transition, and adult services in both English and Spanish.
- E. Community Coffee Events: We continue to hold these events at various service provider locations. If you would like to host a community coffee, please contact Jesse's administrative assistant Sandra Rizo at SRizo@nlacrc.org.
- F. Cafecito Entre Nos Events: These events are community coffees for Spanish-speaking families and are held every second Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m. 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.
- G. CalFresh: We continue to partner with the Family Focus Resource Center (FFRC), DDS and the Department of Social Services (DSS) to implement this program. The inter-agency agreement has been signed and we will do our best to reach out and connect eligible consumers to the program. We are providing workshops to help people to enroll. Please contact Victoria Berrey at the FFRC if you are interested in hosting an informational event at your location; she can be reached at Victoria.Berry@csun.edu.
- H. Self-Determination Program: DDS conducted a second round of consumer selections to fill the vacancies left by consumers who were originally selected, but who later decided not to participate. Forty-six more NLACRC consumers were selected: 8 from the AV; 9 for the SCV; and 29 from the SFV. Orientation and informational meetings are being held at all 3 of our

offices. We will be sending our service coordination staff a survey to identify any barriers or issues with enrollment or implementation. The Self-Determination Advisory Committee continues to meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at one of the center's 3 offices. The next one will be held Thursday, January 16th, at our SFV office.

- I. DS Task Force System and Fiscal Reform Workgroup: Will be holding their first meeting next week, but it will be a closed meeting.

VII. Community Services Director's Report (Evelyn McOmie)

- A. HCBS Provider Survey: DDS hired a company called Evolution Consulting (OIG Compliance) to implement the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) provider survey, which they plan to release soon and will likely be due (from all providers) by the end of March. DDS plans to provide trainings via webinars and NLACRC will be here to help assist any providers needing help.
- B. Health & Safety Waivers: The waivers have been submitted to DDS and we expect to hear back from them sometime in February. A new process for submitting health and safety waivers is coming; trainings will be provided in early spring and the information will be posted on our website.
- C. Electronic Visit Verification (EVV): DDS is holding a conference call on Monday to discuss the EVV roll out by county; the deadline has been extended to January 1, 2021.
- D. Supplemental Rate Increases: We are working to process 500 rate increases for providers.
- E. IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate: Decreased from 58 cents/mile to 57.5 cents/mile on January 1, 2020.
- F. Special Incident Reports (SIRs): We have posted information on our website explaining what information should be included in any SIRs that service providers submit to the center. We will be holding SIR trainings in late February.

VIII. Legislative Advocacy Report (Michelle Heid)

Michelle provided everyone with a written copy of her report, which covered the following topics:

- A. 25th Congressional district special election
- B. NLACRC grass roots visits
- C. Legislative calendar
- D. Bills
- E. Rate study and associated rate models
- F. DS Task Force
- G. Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP)
- H. Split roll property tax initiative to amend Proposition 13
- I. Upcoming community events:
 - 1. LA Loves Film: Bringing filming to businesses in the West Valley
 - 2. State Council meeting (January 28)
 - 3. San Fernando Valley open house with Supervisor Sheila Kuehl (February 27)
 - 4. VICA officeholders dinner with Assembly members Tom Lackey and Jesse Gabriel (March 13)
 - 5. The Arc California's 13th annual developmental disabilities conference (April 27-29)

Please contact Jennifer Kaiser if you would like a copy of Michelle's report at JKaiser@nlacrc.org.

IX. Committee Business

- A. Update on Employment Committee (Erica Beall)

The Employment Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting will be held at the end of January or the beginning of February. The committee has been discussing the following employment-related topics:

- 1. Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)
- 2. Paid Internship Program (PIP)
- 3. Resolving issues with the Department of Rehabilitation
- 4. DS Task Force
- 5. Annual reporting requirements
- 6. Job development and discovery
- 7. The benefit of sharing success stories
- 8. Transition planning

X. Reports from the VAC Priority Issue Work Groups

- A. Early Start Services (Dana Kalek): Dana was not present to give a report.

- B. School Age Services (Mariela Feldman): The group met with Dr. Jesse Weller to discuss goals the group should be working on.
- C. Adult Services (Bob Erio for Jenni Moran): The group has been focusing its discussion on what resources should be developed for consumers 45 years and older.
- D. Implementation of Legislative Changes (Sharoll Jackson): The group did not meet in December, but they have been working with the Department of Mental Health on common goals.

XI. Report on Board Committee Meetings

- A. Administrative Affairs (Kevin Shields)
- B. Board of Trustees (Sharoll Jackson)
- C. Consumer Services (Orli Almog)
- D. Government & Community Relations (Orli Almog)
- E. Nominating (Cathy Carpenter)
- F. Strategic Planning (Erica Beall & Nick Vukotic)

The VAC members identified provided reports on the meetings they attended. Minutes from the NLACRC board meetings and minutes from all of its subcommittee meetings are posted on the center's website under the "Governance/ Board of Trustees/ Approved Meeting Minutes" tab.

XII. Open Issues for Discussion

- A. Sharon Weinberg from Free To Be Programs asked for an update on FACT who has assumed the duty of representative payee services for NLACRC consumers. Ruth reported that the transition from the center providing this service to FACT was projected to take about 18 months, however, the Social Security Administration (SSA) reported to the center that they do not have the staff resources to support the 18 month transition timeline and reported that the SSA can only support transitioning approximately 20 consumers per month to FACT starting in April 2020. Therefore, NLACRC is now on a 6 year transition plan rather than an 18 month transition plan. Sharon asked what the process was for new consumers.

Action: Ruth will have Dr. Jesse Weller follow up with Sharon to provide her with this information.

- B. Alona Yorkshire from The Adult Skills Center (TASC) announced that the DS Task Force's first Safety Net work group meeting was held with new membership on December 12th. The main focus was to establish the work group's priorities. There will be a final report summarizing the meeting but the focus areas were: new services for children (prior safety nets focused on adults primarily from DCs); preventative services; increased reliance on data collection; specialized day services; increasing crisis team effectiveness and response (instead of police or 911 involvement); and increasing staff retention and competence.

XIII. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

The following items were identified for the VAC's section of the January 15th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the November 7th VAC Meeting
- B. Minutes of the January 9th VAC Meeting

XIV. Announcements/Information/Public Input

- A. Next VAC Meeting: Thursday, February 6th (break out groups will meet)

XV. Adjournment

Sharoll announced that today is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day! You can celebrate in many ways, invite officers to your program for a breakfast question and answer session with consumers or send a group note of appreciation to your local police station. Sharoll then adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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