

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
February 5, 2020

**Present:** Pam Aiona, Josefina Hernandez, Monroe Jones, and Cynthia Samano – CAC Members  
Pam Cota, Julie Eby-McKenzie (SCDD), Jason Girard, Gloria Gonzalez, Morris Milahman (TASC), Emigdia Rosales, Melinda Tannan, and Destry Walker - Guests

**Absent:** William Abramson, Lesly Forbes, and Caroline Mitchell

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**1. Call to Order & Introductions**

Cynthia Samano called the meeting to order, in Caroline Mitchell’s absence, at 11:00 a.m. and introductions were made.

**2. Public Input** (3 minutes) - There was no public input.

**3. Consent Items**

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes from the January 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The agenda and minutes were approved as presented.

**4. Committee Business**

- A. Presentation: CalABLE Accounts (Julie-SCDD)

With the passage of the federal A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, millions of Americans with disabilities have been empowered to reach a new level of control when it comes to achieving greater financial security. ABLE accounts are a new savings option that allow individuals, who became disabled before the age of 26, to save and invest in a tax-advantaged account, without jeopardizing their ability to collect SSI. In the past, individuals with disabilities didn’t have the freedom or flexibility to keep money in their own name, receive an inheritance, or even save to purchase much needed assistive technology. That’s because saving for the future meant the possibility of losing eligibility for programs like SSI or Medi-Cal. But, with CalABLE, a world with financial freedom, independence, and a better

quality of life are now at the fingertips of those with all types of disabilities. Eligible individuals throughout California, and nationwide, can sign up for a CalABLE account today and manage their money right on this website. The best part – up to \$100,000 deposited into a CalABLE account – won't affect eligibility for government programs. Julie gave the committee a comprehensive presentation on the benefits of applying for a CalABLE account and how to do it.

B. Training/Presentation Calendar for FY 2019-20

Copies of the CAC's updated training/presentation calendar were provided. The discussion topic for next month will be "your rights" which will be presented by Melinda Tannan.

C. Event Calendar

Copies of the updated event calendar were provided. Four events were listed, including NLACRC's legislative town hall meeting that will be held on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Bella Vida senior center in Santa Clarita. To RSVP please call (818) 778-5011.

D. Review Agenda for Board of Trustees Meeting

The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at the center's branch office in Santa Clarita. Copies of the agenda for that meeting were provided and reviewed. A presentation will be given on the center's Transparency and Public Information Policy.

**4. Identify Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting**

The following item was identified for the CAC's section of the February 12<sup>th</sup> board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes from the February 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting

**5. Announcements / Information / Public Input**

- A. CAC Attendance Sheet

Updated attendance sheets are always sent out with the meeting packets. Anyone

can attend the meetings but consumers who attend **4 CAC meetings in a row** become actual CAC members. So far, Bill Abramson, Pam Aiona, Lesly Forbes, Josefina Hernandez, Monroe Jones, and Cynthia Samano are official CAC members.

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m.

## 6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. and the group had lunch together.

Submitted by,

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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