

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2020

Present: Nicholas Abrahms, Dena Bogrow, Christina Cannarella, Leticia Garcia, Gabriela Herrera, Sharoll Jackson, Caroline Mitchell, Claudia Picerni, Ana Quiles, Jeremy Sunderland (via telephone), and Curtis Wang - Committee Members
Marianne Davis – Board Member
Orli Almog – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Arnulfo Jackson – Guest
Michelle Heid – Legislative Educator
Maria Bosch, Sheila Calove, Evan Ingber, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, Cristina Preuss, and Jesse Weller – Staff Members

Absent: Ivette Arriaga

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

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

B. Approval of Minutes from the January 22nd Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Monthly Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) and Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report: The center has placed 1 consumer in FY 2019-20, but is in the process of placing 10 more. The center currently has 15 consumers still living at Porterville Developmental Center. However, they are in the secure treatment facility at PDC which is a court-ordered placement for people awaiting criminal proceedings of are deemed too dangerous for placement in the community. The center also has 2 consumers living at Canyon Springs, but they

had a “meet and greet” earlier this month by RESCARE and acceptance for their community placement is pending.

- B. Self-Determination Program (SDP) Update (Sheila): Because we had so many new board members present, Sheila explained what the self-determination program is and how it began. We currently have 192 consumers enrolled, 13 have completed their person-centered plans, 3 have completed their budgets, and 4 have certified budgets. The next orientation will be held in the morning of March 2nd (AV office) and the next informational meeting will be held in the afternoon of March 2nd (AV office). The next monthly SDP advisory group meeting will be held February 20th at 7:00 p.m. (AV office); Michelle Heid is the chair of that group.
1. Staff Survey Results: Staff were asked to complete a survey on how the transitions were going for those consumers entering the SDP; we wanted to find out if there were any barriers or issues and also wanted to identify any further trainings that would be needed.
- C. Person-Centered Planning Information (Jesse): The center has an orientation process for all new staff. We have just developed a new module for it on person-centered planning. Our current staff receive quarterly trainings and person-centered planning will be an upcoming training topic.
1. Tri-Counties Regional Center’s SDP Workbook: Tri-Counties RC has a SDP workbook that has a very good section in it on person-centered planning. They were also kind enough to allow us to create our own SDP workbook based on theirs, which will be done in English and in Spanish. Tri-Counties RC holds regular trainings on person-centered planning for their community and have opened up some spots in those trainings for NLACRC leadership.
- D. Board Audit: Has the board properly referred service standard issues to this committee? Ruth explained that each regional center has their own service standards. These standards outline what services we can provide. Anytime a change needs to be made to the service standards, those changes are brought first to this committee and discussed before they go to the board for approval. Once the board approves any service standard changes, they then need to be submitted to DDS for their review and approval. Jeremy didn’t understand why the center needed DDS’s approval in certain situations, like when another regional center is already providing a service that we want to begin providing.

Action: Jennifer will provide Jeremy with the Welfare & Institutions Code section that pertains to DDS's approval of regional center service standards.

V. Chief of Program Services Report (Jesse Weller)

- A. Disparity Committee: The committee continues to meet monthly and includes members of our staff and representatives from the Family Focus Resource Center and the Interagency Coordinating Council. The committee meets to identify ways of helping to increase consumers and families' access to regional center services.
- B. Cafecito Entre Nos: The most recent cafecito was held on February 7th at our Antelope Valley (AV) office. We had about 35 people in attendance!
- C. Aprendiendo Entre Nos (Learning Amongst Us): This group was an offshoot of the cafecitos and is a forum for discussing and learning about various topics, issues, and training needs for our Spanish-speaking families. The families themselves identify the discussion topics.
- D. Grupo de Hombres (Men's Group): This is another offshoot of our cafecitos and will provide a forum for our Spanish-speaking Dads. It will be held twice a month, once at the AV office (in the morning) and once at the SFV office (in the afternoon).
- E. CalTASH Conference: CalTASH will be holding a conference early next month in Sacramento and Jesse plans to attend along with members from our Family Focus Resource Center.

Action: Jesse will give a report on the conference at next month's committee meeting.

- F. Staffing Updates: We are actively recruiting for the following positions: community placement plan (CPP) manager; CPP nurse; and self-determination supervisor. Emmanuel Gutierrez was promoted to the CPP manager position and will begin his new position on March 2nd.
- G. Trailer Bill Language (TBL): The center has finalized its IPP agreement form (as required in TBL) and began implementing it on January 28th. This form is like a receipt for IPP meetings; it identifies the agreed upon services and supports, frequency/duration, projected start date, and provider if known. We have also added additional signature lines to accommodate more participant names.

- H. Parent Mentors: We have hired both parent mentors who are helping consumers and families connect with services and navigate the regional center system. One parent is at our AV office Tuesday through Friday, and the other parent is at our SFV office Monday through Thursday. The parent mentor program is working well.
- I. CalFresh: An inter-agency agreement has been established between the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Department of Social Services. The regional centers will be helping by increasing awareness of the program and helping consumers to enroll; workshops are coming soon. It was noted that school children who enroll in CalFresh become eligible for free school lunches.
- J. Early Start Group: The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) has an Early Start discipline group that will hold its next meeting on February 25th at Alta California Regional Center in Sacramento; Jesse and Cristina Preuss will be attending that meeting.

VI. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following item was identified for the committee's section of the March 11th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the February 19th Meeting

VII. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

- A. Van Conversions: A question was brought up about why the center will pay for a van conversion, but not for a converted van. Ruth explained that statute prohibits regional centers from purchasing vehicles and once a vehicle is converted, the funds would then be purchasing a vehicle albeit converted. Any van eligible for a conversion must have at least 5 years of life left.
- B. Waiting Lists: A concern was raised about how ambulatory consumers can be placed in a program right away, but consumers who use wheelchairs or who have other support needs are put on waiting lists. Ruth explained that this is due to a lack of resources and the discretion of programs to choose which referrals will be accepted. Resource development specific to this group of individuals should be explored once we secure data regarding the number of individuals without day services.

- C. Successful Placement! Marianne announced that her youngest daughter was is being placed in a very nice independent living facility with close access to her daughter's college and the placement comes with attendant care. She is very grateful to the regional center for this placement.

- D. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 18th, at 6:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

Caroline adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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