

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2020

Present: Nicholas Abrahms, Ivette Arriaga, Dena Bogrow, Christina Cannarella, Leticia Garcia, Gabriela Herrera, Sharoll Jackson, Caroline Mitchell, Claudia Picerni, Ana Laura Quiles, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang (all via Zoom) - Committee Members
Orli Almog, Vendor Advisory Committee Representative (via Zoom)
Marianne Davis (via teleconference) and Anna Hamilton, Board Members (via Zoom)
Michelle Heid, Legislative Educator (via Zoom)
Emmanuel Gutierrez, Evan Ingber (via Zoom), Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, Cristina Preuss, and Jesse Weller – 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
- B. Approval of Minutes of the February 19th Meeting

The agenda and minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Committee Business

- A. Report on CalTASH Conference (Jesse)

Jesse, in conjunction with CSUN, gave a presentation at the Cal-TASH conference in Sacramento on purchase of service disparities and on the FETA disparity project on strengthening access to regional center services. The conference was attended by consumers, advocates, regional center leadership, and others. This conference is held each year and will be held in Los Angeles next year. It was a very good conference and Jesse highly recommended attending it.

B. Proposed Policy: Older Adult Services & Supports

The Vendor Advisory Committee's adult services workgroup spent the last year drafting a service and supports policy for consumers 45 years and older. The draft policy is being brought here for this committee's review and recommendation for board approval. Copies of the draft policy were provided. Jesse reported that before this policy can go forward to the board, NLACRC staff need additional time to review for the operational components. Jesse reported a revised policy will come back to the committee once we get through the COVID-19 pandemic.

C. Monthly Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) and Community Placement Plan (CPP) Report

The center has placed 3 consumers out of large facilities and into community placements since July 1, 2019; there are 7 more pending transition. The center has no more consumers living in Fairview, Lanterman, or Sonoma Developmental Centers. We do have 15 consumers still at Fairview Developmental Center, but it is in their secure treatment program, which are court-ordered placements. As the development centers are almost all closed, this report will no longer be called a CPP report, it will be a CRDP report.

D. Self-Determination Program (SDP) Update

On March 2nd, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) sent a notice to regional centers about \$1,492,593 in funding that is coming to the regional centers to support their implementation of the SDP; NLACRC portion is \$109,258. DDS has identified the following priority areas for the funding:

1. Recruitment and training of independent facilitators.
2. Joint training for participants, families, regional centers, and local VACs.
3. Support or coaching in making the transition to the SDP.
4. Assistance with spending plan development.
5. Orientation support, which would include costs for speakers/presenters, development of modification of materials, etc.
6. Collaborative groups/workshops to foster ongoing, shared learning and problem-solving opportunities.

Tomorrow's SDP meeting has been canceled due to the coronavirus.

E. Person-Centered Planning Information (Jesse)

Leadership staff were planning on attending Tri-Counties Regional Center's local trainings, but those trainings have been postponed due to the coronavirus.

F. Board Audit: Does any action impact the availability or quality of services?

Yes. The regional centers are under-funded in their operations budgets and so are unable to hire enough service coordinators to meet the required caseload ratios.

V. **Chief of Program Services Report** (Jesse Weller)

A. Coronavirus

We are getting requests from families for additional services (e.g. respite, personal assistance, day care) because the schools have closed and their children are home.

Most of our service coordinators are now working remotely from home and we are looking to see what other staff can work remotely. They have access to their files through our secured system. The fact that we moved forward to go paperless and scan all of our documents has really been beneficial in this regard. The center has posted all kinds of information about the virus on our website to keep our community updated. Ruth Janka and Kim Rolfes are not at the meetings tonight because they are on a statewide conference call with the regional center directors and DDS. A question was raised as to how respite care providers will get paid now that they are out of work.

Action: Jesse will get more information and report back.

Orli reported that as a service provider, she has heard nothing from NLACRC regarding the coronavirus.

Action: Jesse will follow-up on this.

VI. **Board Meeting Agenda Items**

The following item was identified for the committee's section of the April 7th board meeting agenda:

A. Minutes of the March 18th Meeting

VII. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

- A. Anna Hamilton asked what the status of special education was since LAUSD has closed the schools.

Action: Cristina will follow up on the and forward information to Anna Hamilton; this may be a good project for our newly hired parent mentor.

- B. Caroline Mitchell reported that her aunt passed away this morning at 5:30 a.m. The committee members gave her their condolences.

- C. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 22nd, at 6:00 p.m. (4th Wednesday)

VIII. Adjournment

Caroline adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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