

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes – Via Zoom
April 22, 2020

Present: Nicholas Abrahms, Ivette Arriaga, Dena Bogrow, Christina Cannarella, Leticia Garcia, Gabriela Herrera, Sharoll Jackson, Claudia Picerni, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang - Committee Members
Marianne Davis – Board Member
Orli Almog- Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Raquel Armendariz and Michelle Heid – Legislative Educators
Maria Bosch, Evan Ingber, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, Kim Rolfes, and Jesse Weller – Staff Members

Absent: Caroline Mitchell

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jeremy Sunderland called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m., in Caroline Mitchell’s absence, and roll call was taken.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

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

B. Approval of Minutes of Minutes from the March 18th Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Coronavirus Update

1. How respite providers are being paid: Responding to a question posed at last month’s meeting, Jesse reported that respite workers who continue to work, continue to get paid.

B. 3rd 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 3rd quarter of this fiscal year, the center approved 191 requests, approved alternate services for 12, and denied 2.

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 3rd quarter, the center approved 0 requests, approved an alternative service for 0, and denied 0.

C. 3rd Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report

Copies of the report were included in the meeting packet. During the 3rd quarter:

1. Eligibility: 644 Notices of Action (NOAs) were sent and 18 were returned (appealed); 5 additional hearings were requested from NOAs sent in previous quarters.
2. Service: 187 Notices of Action were sent and 4 were returned; no additional hearings were requested from NOAs sent in previous quarters.
3. Hearings: 3 fair hearings were held:
 - 1 eligibility hearing (dismissed)
 - 5 service hearings (3 granted, 2 denied)

D. 3rd Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report

Copies of the report were provided to the committee for their review, which showed diagnostic information about the center's consumers each quarter since FY 2017-18. Of the 27,365 consumers that the center serves, the diagnosis breakdown is as follows:

1. Intellectual Disability: 8,924
2. Autism: 12,119 (**an increase of 23.05% since July 1, 2017**)
3. Cerebral Palsy: 565
4. Epilepsy: 263
5. Other developmental disability: 1,245
6. Status 0, 1, 2: 4,249

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. Tracking this information helps the center stay aware of what our consumer base looks like and what resources we may need to address in the future.

Action: Ruth will obtain clinical data from Dr. Carlo DeAntonio, the center's director of clinical services, and report back to the committee.

E. Monthly Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) Report

This goal for this fiscal year is place our last remaining consumer at Fairview Developmental Center, 5 remaining consumers out of Porterville Developmental Center, and 2 consumers out of Canyon Springs. All 8 consumers are pending transition, but are in a stall due to the coronavirus pandemic. All admissions have been halted, except to the secure treatment area at Porterville, which are court-ordered placements. We keep in communication with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on a daily basis.

F. Self-Determination Program Update

We have hired 2 new SDP specialists (1 for the San Fernando Valley office and the other for the Santa Clarita Valley office) who will start work next month; we continue to recruit for an SDP specialist for the Antelope Valley office. We have 168 consumers eligible for the SDP. The monthly SDP Volunteer Advisory Committee met last Thursday (via Zoom) and it was very well attended.

G. Proposed Policy: Older Adult Services & Supports – Deferred

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

A. New Parent/Consumer Orientation

We are working on how to best hold our new parent/consumer orientations via Zoom.

B. Family Focus Resource Center

The FFRC continues to do great work for our consumers and families. They have been busy connecting them to the CalFresh program and work with our parent support groups.

C. Cafecitos

Cafecitos continue to be held.

D. Orientation Materials

Sara Iwahashi is working to post orientation materials online. A question was brought up on how consumers and families access information if they don't have a computer or laptop.

Action: Jesse agreed that providing information virtually is challenging for some consumers and families and will share this feedback with the center's Disparity Committee.

Action: Ruth will bring this to the attention of education advocates and find out if they provide devices to consumers and families.

Dena reported that the fair housing website has a lot of protections and resources available; the website can be found at housingrightscenter.org.

VI. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the May 13th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the April 22nd Meeting
- B. 3rd Quarter Exceptions/Exemptions Report
- C. 3rd Quarter Appeals/Hearings Report
- D. 3rd Quarter Consumer Diagnosis Report

VII. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 20th, at 6:00 p.m. (via Zoom)

VIII. Adjournment

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

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

[csmn.apr22.2020]

