

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2020 – **Via Zoom**

Present: Orli Almog, Erica Beall, Suad Bisogno, Catherine Carpenter, Bob Erio, Mariela Feldman, Cynthia Fernandez, Sharoll Jackson, Dana Kalek, Ken Lane, Don Lucas, Jenni Moran, Sonia Ojeda, Kevin Shields, and Nick Vukotic - Committee Members
Many NLACRC staff and service providers were also present via Zoom.

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Sharoll Jackson, VAC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

II. Public Input – There was no public input

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

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

B. Approval of Minutes from the April 2nd VAC Meeting

M/S/C (J. Moran/M. Feldman) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Executive Director’s Report (Ruth Janka)

A. California Department of Public Health (CDPH) COVID-19 Update

1. Confirmed cases 58,815 and 2,412 deaths.
2. COVID-19 positive hospitalized 3,369/1,157 ICU.
3. Suspected COVID-19 hospitalized 1,253/231 ICU.

NLACRC	Statewide
21 confirmed cases	201 positive; 20 deceased
31 negative	Employees: 7 regional center; 60 service provider
22 pending test results	

B. Governor’s Office – Reopening California Update – Stage 2

Friday, May 8th, we enter Stage 2 of the reopening. Lower risk businesses such as retail (bookstores, florist, sporting goods stores) via curbside pick-up.

Offices, seated dining in restaurants, shopping malls and schools are not included in early stage 2. Does not include offices, seated dining at restaurants, shopping malls or schools. State working with school districts to determine how best and safely to reopen. Counties can choose to continue more restrictive measures in place based on their local conditions. State expects some counties to keep their more robust stay at home orders in place beyond May 8th. Counties can move more quickly through Stage 2, if they attest that they meet the state's readiness criteria. Counties must create and submit a readiness plan which the state will make publicly available.

1. Stability of Hospitalizations
2. Personal Protective Equipment Inventory
3. Health Care Surge Capacity
4. Testing Capacity
5. Contact Tracing Capability
6. Public Health Guidance in Place

C. Child Care Funding

The administration has created an additional 20,000 limited-term child care slots for lower-income families and launched a new portal to help connect parents with 28,611 local child care options.

D. Overtime Funding for Social Workers

Overtime funding for social workers to allow outreach to vulnerable adults – conducted outreach to over 173,000 at-risk older Californians who are IHSS recipients.

E. Expanded California's Farm to Family Program¹

Farm to Family partners with 41 food banks serving all 58 counties, and handles the logistics of packaging the food and communicating with food banks. Distributed 14.5 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables in March, 18 million pounds of food in the first 3 weeks of April; targeted to donate 21 million pounds in May.

¹ California's Farm to Family program is a partnership between the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California Association of Food Banks to facilitate food donations from farmers and ranchers by supporting food production, processing and distribution of the food supply chain.

F. Expanded Cal Fresh Benefits

Participation in CalFresh increased by 140%; recipients will receive the maximum benefits for the month of May.

G. Expanded Emergency Benefits Transfer program (EBT)

Families with children eligible for free or reduced price meals are eligible to receive additional support thanks to the Pandemic Emergency Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT). California Department of Social Services has identified roughly 3.8 million children who could qualify, and each eligible child could receive up to a total of \$365 in P-EBT benefits. Also, EBT recipients can now order online from Amazon and Walmart.

H. Workers Compensation for workers who contract COVID-19 while on the Job

The Governor signed an [executive order](#) that creates a time-limited rebuttable presumption for accessing workers' compensation benefits applicable to Californians who must work outside of their homes during the stay at home order.

I. Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1 Hearing – May 4, 2020

DDS Director (Nancy Bargmann) reviewed all of the actions taken in response to COVID-19 to continue to serve consumers and families. During the question and answer session, she was asked about concerns from RCs, she reported that initially the technology needed to shift to remote work and services, concerns for our system include eligibility assessments, services for children leaving Early Start while school is closed; supporting providers to adapt; supporting families who care for individuals with highly complex needs; congregate living arrangements or settings; safely accessing services; RCs remain engaged with the department. RCs have pivoted using technology, RCs are making sure they are responsive to families and looking to sister RCs for best practices. Assembly Member Arambula recognizes technology has been a positive outcome though may not necessarily be a replacement.

J. Authorization to pay for Absences under the State Of Emergency

DDS authorization dated March 12th; the authorization does not have a set expiration date.

1. Billing and Ability to receive payment
2. Documentation of absences/non-participation due to COVID-19

3. How long can Service Providers to expect continued funding from DDS for absences

K. Surge Capacity

Thank you to all of the providers who have worked with us to build surge capacity, greatly appreciated.

L. NLACRC Activities Information

1. NLACRC updated it's website to make it easier to navigate and find information
2. Family Support Groups are meeting virtually – check our website for information
3. New Consumer and Family Orientations, Supported Living Orientations, and SDP Informational Meetings will be held virtually

M. DDS Directives

1. Regional Center Messaging to Local Communities during COVID-19 Outbreak (May 1, 2020)
2. COVID-19 Resources for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (May 1, 2020)
3. Training Resources for Residential Service Providers Hiring Direct Support Professionals (April 16, 2020)
4. Guidance for Residential Facility Payments and Rates, Vendor Audits, HCBS Info, RBT Certification, CIE and Parental Fees (April 15, 2020)
5. Extension of Waivers, Modifications and Directives due to COVID-19 (April 2, 2020)

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

A. NLACRC's Budget

The center's operations budget for FY 2019-20 is \$55,978,293 and the purchase of service (POS) budget is \$499,080,326 for a total budget of \$555,058,619. We are projecting a deficit in our POS budget of \$2,820,913, which will be resolved by future allocations from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). We

have seen an increase in in-home respite and home health requests due to the health crisis.

B. NLACRC's Audited Financial Statement & Tax Return

Have been approved by our board and posted on our website.

C. Upcoming Audits:

1. DDS Medicaid Waiver Audit: August 2020
2. Windes Financial Audit: October 2020

D. Return to Work

NLACRC would like to begin holding brainstorming session with service providers on how they plan to return to work. After discussion with the VAC, the following action was taken.

Action: The center will hold brainstorming sessions with 5 service provider groups: Early Start; individualized services; day programs & community-based programs; SLS/ILS; and residential.

All providers will be given the opportunity to join in any of the discussions which will be held via Zoom. More information to come!

E. E-Billing

To enhance security, DDS required service providers to change their passwords in order to access the e-billing system. If you didn't change your password, you will have to contact NLACRC get change that password and regain access.

F. Additional Check Runs

The center is providing an additional POS check run on May 27th and June 1st for service providers due to the COVID-19 situation

VI. Chief of Program Services Report (Jesse Weller)

A. Intakes

The center is still fully operational although most staff are off site. We are still accepting new applications for services.

B. Family Support Groups & Orientations

Are still being held, although remotely. We held a new family orientation last night and it was very well attended. Our SLS orientation will be held Thursday, May 21st via Zoom.

C. Residential Placements

At this time, all residential placements must be approved by DDS.

D. Self-Determination Program (SDP) Update

We have recruited 4 SDP specialists, 2 assigned to the San Fernando Valley office, 1 in Santa Clarita, and 1 in the Antelope Valley office; we have also hired a SDP supervisor who is located at the San Fernando Valley office. The monthly SDP Local Advisory Committee continues to meet; usually on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The next one will be held Thursday, May 21st, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom; more information can be found on our website.

E. CalFresh

The Family Focus Resource Centers continue to work with consumers and families through the application process so they can receive CalFresh benefits.

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

A. SB 81 Status

This bill provided 326 rate increases: 22 on hold pending information from DDS; 18 in process; and 124 rate letters pending. Please contact Arsho Garlanian with any questions at AGarlanian@nlacrc.org.

B. Center for Disease Control (CDC)

A link to the CDC has been posted on our website. The CDC continually updates their information so it a good place to get the most current information.

VIII. Community & Legislative Educators' Report (Michelle Heid/Raquel Armendariz)

Michelle Heid reviewed their updated report with those on the call. For a copy of her report or further information, you can contact Michelle at MHeid@abpathways.com

IX. Committee Business

A. Nominees for FY 2020-21 VAC Chair

Only 1 nominee was recommended.

M/S/C (J. Moran/S. Bisogno) To nominate Sharoll Jackson to continue to serve as VAC chair next fiscal year.

B. Update on Employment Committee (Suad Bisogno/Erica Beall)

This group met virtually on April 28th and had good participation. The committee still needs representation from the Department of Rehabilitation and would benefit from their partnership. The committee is working on a priority document that, when done, they will present to the VAC for their review and input.

C. Update on DS Task Force Meetings (Erica Beall)

The Service Equity & Accountability group met, but not the other groups.

X. 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 representatives listed gave reports on the meetings they attended. For further information please go to NLACRC's website where all of the approved meeting minutes are posted under the "Governance/ Board of Trustees/Approved Meeting Minutes" tab.

XI. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

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

- A. Minutes of the April 2nd VAC Meeting
- B. Minutes of the May 7th VAC Meeting

XII. Announcements/Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, June 4th, at 9:30 a.m.

XIII. Adjournment

Sharoll adjourned the Zoom meeting at 11:31 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

[vacmin.may7.2020]

