

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (Via Zoom)
March 1st, 2023

Present: Pamela Aiona, Jennifer Koster, Bill Abramson, and Suzanne Paggi – Committee Members

Alex, Destry Walker, Lesly Forbes, Elizabeth, Isai Rosa, Rani Narula-Woods, Michael Cortez, Jesse Leon - Guests

Jose Rodriguez, Yaneth Parvool, Robert Dhondrup, Chris Whitlock, Cristina Preuss, Lizeth Chavez, Arkaz Vardanyan, and Cesar Cuevas – Staff

Absent: Cynthia Somano

I. Call to Order & Introductions

J.Koster called meeting to order at 3:03 pm and introductions were made by all committee members, staff, and guests.

II. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (J.Koster/S.Paggi) To approve the Agenda.

B. Approval of Minutes from February 1st, 2023 Meeting

M/S/C (J.Koster/S.Paggi) To approve the Minutes as presented.

III. Committee Business

A. CAC Chair Report

J.Koster stated that transportation and housing were discussed at the last meeting. No further information.

B. Presentation – Jesse Leon, Rani Narula-Woods, Michael Cortez (Metro)

The three presenters are in Community Relations at Metro. J.Leon discussed the ESFV LRT Project occurring in the San Fernando Valley and then covered the Community Leadership Council, which fosters community-based dialogue and opportunities arising from the project. J.Leon may be contacted at 818-701-384. R.Narula-Woods spoke about Metro Micro, a ridesharing service offered by Metro. M.Cortez covered the Low-Income Fare is Easy program, which provides transportation assistance to low-income individuals in LA County. More information on any of these topics can be found on Metro.net.

C. In Person Meetings

C.Preuss stated that surveys have been given to attendees of other public meetings to assess the interest in returning to in person meetings. The board committee members are open to the idea. J.Koster stated that a hybrid model can be good for attendees, and most in attendance agree with this suggestion. This topic will be discussed the following month for review.

Action item: J.Rodriguez and C.Cuevas will develop a survey to assess attendees' interest in in-person meetings.

- D. CAC Webpage Follow up – Suzanne Paggi
S.Paggi corresponded with C.Whitlock to build upon the information in the webpage. Per L.Chavez, the board does not need to approve the summary of the CAC on the webpage.

Action item: C.Whitlock and R.Dhondrup will meet with S.Paggi to discuss adding more information to the CAC webpage.

- E. Monthly Training/Presentation update
J.Rodriguez reviewed the upcoming calendar meetings and confirmed the presenters for these meetings.

Action item: L.Chavez and committee members will meet to discuss an ARCA presentation in the future.

- F. Topics for Quarterly Public Presentations
J.Rodriguez is looking for topics that the consumers are interested in that can be promoted to the community. The topics of interest would be different and separate from the existing calendar's topics. Housing and caring for pets were suggested.

Action item: J.Rodriguez will complete a schedule for quarterly public presentations. Participants should contact Jose to provide ideas.

IV. Identify Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

- A. Minutes from the March 1st, 2023 Meeting

V. Announcements/Information/Public Input

- A. Next meeting: April 5th, 2023
B. Committee Attendance
J.Rodriguez reminded everyone that attendance is tracked. S.Paggi announced that she will be stepping down from her position of vice chair.
C. 2023 NLACRC Life After High School

J.Rodriguez presented the flyer for “Life After High School,” an event that provides resources to consumers. The event will take place on March 16th, 2023. The vendors for NLACRC, as well as LAUSD, will be present to discuss the services they offer. R.Dhondrup mentioned an event taking place on March 13th that will provide resources for digital information.

D. Abilities Expo

J.Rodriguez reminded everyone of the upcoming Abilities Expo event.

VI. Adjournment

J.Koster adjourned the meeting at 4:49 pm.

Submitted by:

Cesar Cuevas

Administrative Assistant

