

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (Via Zoom)
May 3rd, 2023

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

Destry Walker, Odalys Dominguez, Desiree Boykin, Alex, Wilmary Torres - Guests

Jose Rodriguez, Chris Whitlock, Cristina Preuss, Juan H. and Cesar Cuevas – Staff

Absent:

I. Call to Order & Introductions

P.Aiona called meeting to order at 3:09 pm and introductions were made by all committee members, staff, and guests.

II. Consent Items

- A. Approval of Agenda - *Deferred.*
- B. Approval of Minutes from March 1st, 2023 Meeting - *Deferred.*

III. Committee Business

- A. CAC Chair Report - *Deferred.*
- B. Presentation – Suzanne Paggi
S.Paggi presented on the importance of being a good self-advocate. She described the qualities that a self-advocate should have. She also led a conversation surrounding the participants’ own definition of self-advocacy, and they shared personal examples of self-advocacy in their life. Many participants contributed to the discussion.
- C. Office of Clients’ Rights Advocacy – Wilmary Torres
W.Torres delivered a presentation for the Office of Clients’ Rights Advocacy (OCRA), its purpose, and the type of services it provides support with for consumers. She shared a list of self-advocacy trainings that are provided through OCRA. All services are provided at no cost. She described the process of seeking services and provided other resources that would be available to assist consumers for issues that OCRA cannot handle. The online staff directory for OCRA can be accessed at:
<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/ocra>. The contact information for

W.Torres is (213) 213-8118 and Wilmary.Torres@disabilityrightsca.org for any questions, comments, or concerns.

- D. In Person Meetings Update – *Deferred.*
- E. Informal Meetings (July and December) Virtual or in Person – *Deferred.*
- F. CAC Webpage Follow up – Juan Hernandez
J.Hernandez provided an update on the CAC webpage’s progress. He shared the layout of the webpage and encouraged participants to provide their input.
- G. Monthly Training/Presentation update - Jose Rodriguez
J.Rodriguez reviewed the training calendar and described upcoming presentations.
- H. Topics for Quarterly Public Presentations – Jose Rodriguez
J.Rodriguez reviewed the upcoming presentations and confirmed the schedule.
- I. Board Recruitment
J.Rodriguez reviewed this information.

IV. Identify Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

- A. Minutes from the May 3rd, 2023 Meeting

V. Announcements/Information/Public Input

- A. Next meeting: June 7th, 2023
C.Whitlock encouraged everyone to share their success stories with the regional center; he will provide the link to J.Rodriguez where participants can share their stories. J.Rodriguez will share the link with everyone in attendance.
S.Paggi shared a flyer for the Self-Advocacy Board Meetings, which take place every first Thursday of the month via Zoom.
- B. Attendance Sheet
- C.

VI. Adjournment

J.Koster adjourned the meeting at 4:35 pm.

Submitted by:

Cesar Cuevas
Administrative Assistant

