

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2024

Present: Suad Bisogno, Dana Kalek, Alex Kopilevich, Octavia Askew, Sharon Weinberg, Joe Agnew-Navarro, Andrea Devers, Daniel Ortiz, Jaklen Keshishyan, Masood Babaeian, Erica Beall, Lisa Williamsen, Cal Enriquez
Cristina Preuss, Evelyn McOmie, Vini Montague, Arshalous Garlanian, Donna Rentsch, Emmanuel Gutierrez, Marine Topushyan, Kimberly Visokey – **Staff Members**
Michelle Heid – Legucator, Joseph Tartaglia – Minute Services – **Guests**
Other than panelists, there were 90 other attendees.

Absent: Vahe Mkrtchian, Catherine Carpenter

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Suad Bisogno, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. Public Input

Public input was given.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (D. Oriz / A. Kopilevich)

B. Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2024

Action item: Update the meeting minutes as discussed:

- On page 2, "trader bill" should be "trailer bill."
- On page 3, 2nd paragraph should say "support", not "supportive."
- On page 5, 1st paragraph should say HCBS, not HBCS
- On page 5, 6th paragraph, "N Level 4l," not "N Level 41."
- On page 5, the spring save the date is for Tuesday, April 30th. It's supposed to be in the AV and May 7th and 8th in the San Fernando Valley.
- On page 9, under adult services, it should say "SSA" instead of "SAA."

M/S/C (D. Kalek / M. Babaeian) To approve the Minutes presented with corrections.

IV. Executive Director's Report – Cristina Preuss

Legislative:

On March 21st, some of them were able to virtually attend some of the hearings with regards to developmental disability services. Some of the staff from the Department of DDS were there to present different topics. One of them was on the HCBS final rule. They also talked about the master plan. The strategic committee that has the agenda is being posted, and they're going to start meeting to discuss the purpose of the plan and how they are going to include individuals from the community and different stakeholders to make sure that everybody's voice is included.

There was also a conversation about a new template for the Individualized Program Planning to become more standardized across all the 21 regional centers. This is something that has been in the works. And the reason for this is to improve the way the data is collected and to improve the way our families and our communities receive this document. That it will be more clear and more efficient for everybody that receives the services. Also to continue working with the service access and equity grants. There were quite a few individuals that have received the grants and so it is working with the regional centers to ensure that families understand where they are, who they are, and what services and support they can provide. There was also conversation with regards to the delay on the rate model and how that impacts the lives of everyone.

It's important that not only once a year we are there with the legislators, but that an ongoing conversation happens with the legislators that we have locally in the in our catchment area. So that they really understand and learn about our system and the impact that any of the changes and the decisions that they make has on our communities, providers, and families.

There was a conversation with regards to the Trailer Bill language with regards to the in-person meetings as some advocates feel that remote meetings should continue. Other entities feel that they should not. So, there's still conversation happening because both sides of the table bring their feedback with regards to why. It was all about collaboration and about making sure that individuals in the team for the client were included. Even if they were not physically in the same room when there was an IPP meeting. There will be more information to come with regards to whether this will be continued.

There was a conversation about ensuring that families also know about the Self-Determination program that Senator Menjivar is heading. There were conversations on the table as far as how they can improve and how those bills can pass.

Department of Developmental Services

The provisional eligibility has been expanded beyond children of the ages 3 and 4. This program was established a couple of years ago and it was for those children after the age of three that did not necessarily have an eligibility, but they still needed to monitor their development, and they were done with early start at the age of three. And so now what has happened is that this eligibility has been expanded for children under the age of 3 for those children that come into early start. They may already be showing some signs that there will be a disability or a delay. We are working with the department on the process of the guidelines that our clinical team will need to take in consideration when they are reviewing those intake reports and developmental evaluations that our early start providers complete for us. There will be more information to come on that. There will be some information on our website.

The Early Start manager also will be meeting with all our early start providers to provide guidance with regards to how this will look and what are some of the criteria that we're looking for. Our service coordinators will be receiving training about what this entails, and what conversations will have to happen with our families because there's some services that could now be provided with regards to family support.

DDS Direct Service Professional Training Stipend Program:

We continue to encourage providers to participate in this.

Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA):

We continue to collaborate with ARCA as they continue to advocate and be part of all those meetings and hearings representing the voices of our community. They want to make sure that they are advocating for equitable and sustainable regional center operations. That has been on the table for many years. We're hoping that the funding methodology gets investigated to support the regional centers. Also ensuring that there's no delay on the rate for the providers and to promote more efficient coordination for the regional centers. So, they've been working behind the scenes with some of the individuals from different levels of the regional centers to provide more uniform systems so that when families transfer from one regional center to another there won't be as much discrepancy or as much confusion, and that we are all looking and assessing the same way. So, assessment tools are being looked upon and then we will be provided with more information as it comes along. The new fiscal year will bring a lot of improvements to our system.

Center Operations:

We had our Purchase of Service public meeting on March 26 and March 27th. We had a wonderful attendance from individuals from the community. We had opportunity to collect their verbal feedback as we had some breakout rooms

after the presentation. We also still have our survey on our website for those individuals that couldn't attend or didn't have an opportunity to share during the meeting. We will include their feedback in our report to the department.

ARCA Grass Roots:

I was very privileged, along with a group of eight individuals, to attend the ARCA grassroots event on April 1st and April 2nd in Sacramento. We were very happy that we were able to visit and share our stories and share our voices and be well received by all the legislators and their aides. And it was nice to see the rest of the community from across the state that we all come hand in hand to kind of be the voices for everybody else in our communities from top to bottom from the state of California.

Staffing Data—Current Status:

We are having virtual recruitment fairs that we are doing in connection with People Scout, which is a recruitment agency that we are utilizing. And so yesterday, today, and tomorrow they are interviewing. There are panels, and so we're hoping that we will have new employees coming on board to decrease the caseloads for our employees, so that there will be no vacancies. There are 24 new employees that will start next week on April 8th. As of March 31st, we have 663 employees within our organization.

With regards to the leads, we have what we titled Lead Trainer Consumer Service Coordinators and we're still recruiting for that position. We currently have four that have been hired. Their role is to provide training support to all those new individuals that we're bringing into case management because we understand that the service coordinator role is very complex. We want to make sure that these leads are available to train them, to answer questions, to be a role model, and to attend those meetings to guide them to start with a good foundation. We have a total number of 15 positions and so we are recruiting right now to expand those numbers. If you know anybody that is looking to become a service coordinator or would like to join our organization, please encourage them to check on our website as we have other positions. Not just service coordinators. But we also have other positions available.

Tuition Reimbursement Status:

There have been 8 approved. We're encouraging our employees for professional growth to take advantage of this opportunity as these will help them to move forward in other opportunities within the workplace.

Introducing Deaf Specialist:

Starting this month, I want to introduce different departments to the community because I feel that we don't do highlights as much internally. So, this month I wanted to introduce our deaf specialist, Ted Horton-Billard III. His role is to support the expansion of the deaf services resources, to provide trainings to regional center staff, which he has been doing on an individual

basis. He has been attending our unit meetings, so he's been meeting individually with the teams, providing resources, providing educational information as far as what to do when you do have a family or a client that needs some support because of different hard of hearing conditions. He also coordinates with DDS with regards to statewide efforts to improve our system. State Agency-wide, his role is to support all the individuals or families who are hard of hearing and have a developmental disability as well. He wants to make sure that everybody knows, especially our vendor community, if you do have an individual that we are serving that has the condition of hard of hearing, please make sure that they have his information. He will be more than happy to provide consultation, provide resources and work with the teams. His e-mail is in my report so that you can contact him at any time.

Consumer Statistics:

As of this week, we have 36,661 consumers, so we are growing.

NLACRC's Calendar of Events:

We have a lot of classes that we are providing for our clients, for our families and of course, through our family focus Resource Center. There's quite a lot of support groups that also are available for our families.

We just received information that there is a great opportunity for families, providers, and everyone that wants to attend the Tools for Transformation Conference. It will take place on April 12th from 8:00 to 3:00 in Culver City.

Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel has the Day of Community event, the day to volunteer. This will happen on April 14. They asked us to publicize. If you would like to volunteer to help in the community, they will have an event at Pierce College.

V. Deputy Director Officer's Report – Evelyn McOmie

IFSP Training Manual:

The IFSP training manual for Early Start is in the pilot stages. It will be launched to all Early Start staff by next month. This project will allow for a very similar parallel training path and access tools.

Training:

All case management staff will soon be engaging in person centered IPP training and there is also an additional 60 staff members currently going through language training this month. Simultaneously, staff is closely approaching the conclusion of training on diversity equity and inclusion. Additionally, training for onboarding parents, AKA Parent University, is going to begin the pilot phase at the end of this month. This will provide a platform of information to families in an innovative way.

Internal Assessment Tools:

We're continuing to work on updating our internal assessment tools, and revisions are in progress. I am now personally working with the IT team and to that point to land the vendor portal that we have all been waiting for. I will provide an update by August on the vendor portal.

I am now meeting with Community Services, Case management and Accounting every two weeks. We have a work group going on to move through those admissions agreements that are causing a backlog or a delay in reimbursement for vendors. So, we are moving those through and identifying where the delay may be. So many of you may be contacted directly by either a supervisor or manager or director if there is an admissions agreement signature pending for the final stages of processing.

Introduction of the new case management supervisors and the specialist units:

This is a tabled action item, but it is at the forefront. When we have our first one in-person we will have all our supervisors and our new management staff present for an old-fashioned meet and greet.

One of our focuses continues to be streamlining our processes, pushing through, making sure that we attend to be backlog of payments that are pending with vendors. And I know that there has been much progress done there. And as well as educating our staff and continuing to provide them with the tools and training that they require. Especially now that we are bringing in a larger number staff for the organization.

VI. Chief Financial Officer's Report – Vini Montague**Audited Financial Statements:**

The audited financial statements for fiscal year 2023 are posted on our website. It was an excellent audit. There were no findings. There were some recommendations from the auditor having to do with signatures and time frames.

Tax Return:

A draft of the tax return, Form 990, will be presented to administrative affairs this month and then it will be presented to the board next month for final approval before it is posted on the website.

The ICF Lag Funding:

It is a priority to process ICF lag payments to the ICF facilities during the interim for the transition to managed care. So far 8 million in ICF lag payments have been made to providers. The requirement is to pay service providers within 10 days of receipt. Per DDS' guidance there is a requirement that the service provider wait for 30 days after the service date to bill regional

centers. For example, if you're billing for the service month of February, wait 30 days and then submit your billing and payment will be made within 10 days of receipt.

Staffing in accounting:

Jonathan Estrada is in a customer support role in accounting. His job is to close out outstanding authorization issues or address the issues as quickly as possible to bring resolution to all of the issues. Evelyn mentioned that there is a meeting between community services case management and accounting to resolve those issues. In between those meetings Jonathan also continually follows up and he checks in with case management to see where they're at. If something's pending with them, he follows up with the service provider. He's working with all of the departments to coordinate and to resolve the issues as quickly as possible. There is also a vacancy in the office assistant position that would assist Jonathan with tracking the issues, follow-up emails, follow-up phone calls.

4 accounting individuals are starting in April and there are five additional vacancies to be filled. That's all in the efforts to support or better support service providers. There are a few new positions in that staffing plan to better support you.

Rollover Planning:

June 30th is the close of our fiscal year. The process of planning rollover process has begun. Typically, after the rollover in July, the authorizations are printed and sent out. If you are a larger provider that has a long list of authorizations, if you would like a list of your authorizations in Excel format you can contact your accounting Rep and an Excel file with a listing of all your authorizations will be provided to you.

VII. Community Services Director's Report – Arshalous Garlanian

DSP Training Stipend:

There is a DSP training stipend program for providers and for DSP's that are interested in completing this training. There's a \$625 stipend and \$150 reimbursement for providers. That program is set to close June 30th, 2024.

Rate Reform:

DDS is preparing for full implementation of rate reform. There are workgroups established to review the various service codes and billing codes to finalize before they publish directives to the regional center.

Coordinated Family Supports:

The link for the monthly vendor incentive payments has come in. The department has a standardized reporting tool for the incentive payments and that is to be submitted directly to the department. The department will review

and notify the regional centers for the regional center to be able to reimburse the providers. The link is in the packet.

Service provider directory:

This is a statewide project, separate from what Evelyn mentioned. The statewide project is something that the department is working on. It is scheduled to be launched in the spring or summer of 2024. DDS and the regional centers are working closely to prepare training materials and publications and instructions on that process. This is going to be a multi-phase project with the first phase being registration and data validation for service providers. DDS is looking to offer incentive payments for service providers that complete this first phase of this project. More information to come.

Direct support professional 2023 workforce survey:

This is the third year that the department is collecting data from service providers as it relates to service support professionals. Registration opened April 1st and data collection will begin May 1st and ends at the end of May. The data collection for the survey must be submitted to the program by June 30th.

HCBS Final Rule Compliance:

As of today, 45% of service providers are in compliance. Community services staff is meeting with providers to ensure compliance. Technical assistance is being provided for those that need the support. There are office hours every Thursday at 2:00 PM. HCBS specialist David Ramos is available to help answer any questions by the providers and provide resources.

Training service provider training opportunities:

North LA offers a variety of different training courses to the service provider community. The next Person-centered thinking are May 7th and 8th. This is in person at the Chatsworth office. There is a \$500 incentive for those that attend and complete the PCT training. This is an incentive by North LA. David Ramos has more information.

There is a self-guided learning module program through open future learning for those that are interested. Please reach out to David for more information. And as Cristina shared, the deaf and hard of hearing specialist Ted Horton-Billard will be hosting a deaf sensitivity training for providers on April 30th from 10:00 to 12:00. If you're interested in attending, please register for the training.

Vendorization Maintenance Reminder:

All changes to insurance, org chart, address, or any information like that, please make sure to notify community services. These are regulatory requirements that all service providers are required to complete.

Vendor Support Forum:

The next vendor support forum will be May 14th from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. That information will go out through News You can Use.

Vendor Fair:

Registration opens today. One is in the Lancaster office on Monday, April 30th from 10:00 to 2:00. One will be in the Chatsworth office on May 7th and 8th.

Employment Services:

Reminder to submit outstanding PIP workbook claims and CIE requests to CIE&PIP@nlacrc.org

An employment specialist has joined the team. He is meeting our providers and learning all about employment services.

NLACRC Hosting Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Online Training for Individuals Served, Families, and Vendors on April 23, 2024, 10AM – 2PM

There is a new service called coordinated career pathways. They plan to publish requests for vendorization starting next week. DDS is hosting information sessions for the regional centers, more information should be published for service providers by the end of next week. This new program has Career Pathway Navigator and a Customized Employment Specialist position, which answers of the struggles in identifying a service code that meets that type of service.

Resource development:

Request for Proposal (RFP) - Community Placement Plan/Community Resource Development Plan (CPP/CRDP) RFP for the CPP/CRDP projects awarded by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for the 2023-2024 fiscal year has closed and they are working through the applications.

Request for proposals for HCBS compliance funding. Projects are listed on the website.

We continue to request for vendorization to the various services that we are trying to increase. One of the things identified is money management services. Please reach out to resource development.

Reminder for those that have the electronic visit verification, EVV system. The department continues to host office hours and also does various in person trainings and office hours in person throughout the state. Information can be found in the packet.

Quality Assurance:

NLACRC is hosting a restricted healthcare condition planning. Medication administration and universal precautions training for service providers that will be April 24th and it will be virtual.

VIII. Legislative Report – Michelle Heid**The ARCA Grassroots Day:**

This happened on April 1st and 2nd. ARCA drafts the talking points. Request to not delay the provider rate reform and the budget request letter that went along with that was discussed. AB 2002, which is the Blue envelope program was also discussed. There was some minor discussion on the family program fee and the cost participation sharing

We met with all fourteen of our state legislators. We split up into groups. There were two to four or five participants from our teams during all the meetings. Some of the meetings are shared with other regional centers too, so at times, there may have only been one or two from north LA. The group did a phenomenal job representing the regional Center and all of the services that are provided. The group did a great job coordinating their talking points and working together to ensure that everyone was able to have their voice heard during the meetings. A lot of enthusiastic participation from your vendor representatives during the entire trip.

Responses needed:

If you can or cannot make a meeting when an e-mail is sent out, please respond quickly, and say whether you can or can't make it.

Legislative Update

The Spring Recess has come and gone with legislators spending the last week of March in their districts and resuming the session April 1st. This is a busy time in the legislature as bills are heard and budget negotiations are in full swing. Members of the legislature are grappling with a state budget deficit which is estimated to be from \$38-73 billion. Solutions discussed include proposed cuts such as delaying the final phase of the provider rate increase and using \$12.2 billion of the state's "rainy day fund". There have been some positives for our community including the Chair of Senate Budget Subcommittee #5 (Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor and Transportation), Senator Aisha Wahab agreeing to all the cuts proposed in Budget Sub #5 to save the rate reform delay proposed in Budget Sub #3. Additionally, Assemblywoman Stephanie Nguyen (D10), sent a Budget Request Letter to the Chairs of the Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees requesting that the service provider rates not be delayed. The

letter is being circulated in the Legislature and more signatures are being added every week.

During a recent NLACRC grassroots visit with Assemblywoman Laura Friedman, she agreed to add her signature and shared that for members who do not sit on the Budget committee or relevant subcommittees, this is one of the only ways to make their priorities known and she was happy to add her name to these efforts. During a visit with Assemblywoman Irwin, the group from NLACRC thanked her for having already signed the letter and had a robust discussion about the impact of these cuts to our community along with other challenges and successes. The Legislature's work will continue as there are over two dozen budget and oversight hearings scheduled next month where creative solutions will continue to be discussed. Our community's continued advocacy will be critical throughout the budget discussions this year to avoid devastating cuts to our system. During our meeting with Assemblywoman Friedman, she indicated that the current state budget deficit might lead to deficits in future years as well and encouraged us to continue our advocacy efforts. Both Assemblymembers Irwin and Friedman encouraged us to meet with key committee chairs and members including those listed in the report who are in the NLACRC catchment area.

Legislature Budget Committee Hearings

The Assembly and State Senate budget subcommittees have been hard at work discussing the Governor's January Budget and addressing the large state budget deficit.

Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 on Human Services: 2/28/2024

The Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 on Human Services convened on February 28th, 2024 for an informational hearing to learn more about the Developmental Services system, its budgetary and service needs and the Californian's who are served under the promise of the Lanterman Act. A panel of department experts and executives provided testimony and answered poignant questions from Chair Assembly Member Dr. Corey Jackson and committee members. The \$1 billion cut in funding proposed by Governor Newsom to delay the final implementation of provider rate reform was recognized as a move that would further destabilize our fragile system. Hundreds of advocates from the developmental disability community were in attendance to emphasize opposition to the proposed delay in funding. Chair Jackson went on the record to state his and the committee's opposition to the Governor's proposal. As the Legislature is tasked with closing the budget deficit and looking at myriad ways to reorganize, cut, and delay funds, Chair Jackson attested that his committee would be very concerned if any DDS monies were to be reverted to the General Fund as opposed to redirected to other areas where there is still progress in this system to be made. "If these funds were planned to be used for this community, we would like to see those

funds continue to be used for this community." An excerpt of his positive support for our community can be watched at the following link: <https://youtu.be/oRdi7xMqhVE?si=EITQszAWCcqVCEc9>. The full hearing can be viewed at the link above, with the DDS portion beginning at around the 40-minute mark.

Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services: 3/21/2024

On March 21st, 2024, the Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services held a hearing to learn more about the status of recent initiatives by the Department of Developmental Services, the Master Plan for Developmental Services, and the proposed provider rate reform delay. The Committee was also interested in access to services, service provider capacity, and how DDS is working toward ensuring that all providers are in compliance with the HCBS Final Rule. The robust agenda includes a lot of detailed information about items in the 2023-24 Budget Act Trailer Bill Language that included several statute changes to improve consistency, equity, and oversight in the regional center system. Victor Duron, Director of the Master Plan for Developmental Services, and DDS Director Nancy Bargmann answered questions posed by Chair Menjivar regarding the priority of provider rate reform, perhaps sitting in the shadow of the priority of the Master Plan. Director Bargmann shared that the administrative costs related to the Master Plan were previously allocated to strategic planning and that they do not anticipate further funding requests related to the Master Plan. After hearing testimony from the Legislative Analyst's Office discussing the Governor's proposal to delay provider rate reform for one year, a delay of \$1 billion in funding, Senator Menjivar shared that her colleague and Chair of Senate Budget Subcommittee #5 on Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor and Transportation, Senator Aisha Wahab agreed to all the cuts proposed in Budget Sub #5 to save the rate reform delay proposed in Budget Sub #3. Senator Menjivar tasked the Department of Finance with coming up with better answers as to why things that have been promised to the Human Services sector for years, things that actually impact people's quality of life, are being cut. She affirmed that not continuing to invest in initiatives that are well underway will cost more in the future, and reactive cost-cutting is actually the more expensive option. Hear Chair Menjivar share this heartfelt news at time stamp 3:58:40 at the hearing link in the report.

Shrink the Shortfall - Early Action Budget Plan

Senator Mike McGuire, President pro Tempore and Senator Scott D. Wiener, Chair of the Budget and Fiscal Review Committee released an early action budget plan titled "Shrink the Shortfall" in an effort to make ends meet and solve the huge deficit California faces in this budget cycle. While the plan does not answer the estimated \$38-73 billion shortfall, the Senate plan shrinks that down to a more manageable \$9-24 billion problem. Governor

Newsom praised the proposed action which included using \$12.2 billion of the state's "rainy day fund" as the Governor had suggested. The plan outlines proposed budget cuts or delays based on Senate Budget Subcommittee, with Sub #3 on Health and Human Services taking the second largest hit, behind Sub #5 on Public Safety/Transportation/Labor. Only one item for DDS was included in this early action plan, with the Senate agreeing with Governor Newsom's proposal to delay the \$10 million Preschool Inclusion Grant program by one additional year. The Shrink the Shortfall Plan is just a plan for now.

Budget hearings continue and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas said, "The Assembly is committed to a deliberative, transparent budget process that protects hard-working Californians. I appreciate our partnership with Governor Newsom and pro tem McGuire to finalize this preliminary and initial budget package in early April, which is an important first step. But the Assembly's budget work continues, including more than two dozen budget and oversight hearings scheduled next month. There are tough choices on the horizon, which is why our process is so critical. I extend considerable gratitude to Budget Chair Jesse Gabriel and our subcommittee chairs — and the entire Caucus — for their dedication, collaboration and accountability."

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2024/03/20/california-leaders-reach-agreement-to-address-budget-gap/>

Assembly Members Rally for Provider Rate Implementation

Assemblywoman Stephanie Nguyen (D10) sent a Budget Request Letter to the Chairs of the Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees that oversee Human Services requesting that the service provider rates scheduled to be implemented on July 1st, 2024 not be delayed as proposed in Governor Newsom's 2024-25 Budget Proposal. At last count the letter has been signed by 32 Members of the Assembly and during a NLACRC Grassroots visit with Assemblywoman Laura Friedman she agreed to add her signature as well.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2024/03/01/governor-newsom-proclaims-developmental-disabilities-awareness-month/>

Governor Newsom issued a proclamation on March 1st, 2024 declaring March 2024 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. "California is proud to join states around the country raising awareness about the many ways in which people with intellectual and developmental disabilities contribute to strong, diverse communities across our state. This March, we shine a light on the work underway to drive inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and reaffirm our collective commitment to breaking down the barriers they face in connecting to the communities where they live." The Governor notes the unique-to-California Lanterman Act and its promise of supports and services for the developmental disability community. He also shares excitement about the

development of the Master Plan for Developmental Services and the continued implementation of a more equitable, person-centered, and data-driven system that includes quality services and accountability based on positive outcomes for persons served. Read the proclamation at the link above.

Advocacy Efforts Against Delaying Provider Rate Increases

The \$1 Billion delay in provider rate increases put forth by Governor Newsom in his 2024-25 Budget Proposal has spawned quick advocacy efforts across the state. The Arc of California has called for the disability community to share testimony at the legislative budget hearings about the personal impact these delays would have, the acute staffing crisis and growing waitlists for services as regional center caseloads continue to grow. The Lanterman Coalition has put together an Outreach Toolkit with sample communications and social media graphics that can be used to spread the word to family, friends, and colleagues about this important issue and make sure our voices are heard as the Legislature continues to look for solutions to the budget deficit.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uQn07IMgaT4WIOP-T07aHqgc6Z8SA-7X>

IX. Committee Business

A. Expectations for Minutes Services

Cristina reported that Minutes Services' role is to be present during the meeting to take notes of any action items and summarize the information that is presented. At the end of every committee, there is a time when Minutes Services gives input to make sure that they took down all the actions and to see if there's anything that needs to be added.

Suad added that her goal is to help the next chair and allow for some streamlined processes to support them. It helps to make sure that a recap is given of all the action items and to make sure there are next steps for them.

B. VAC Chair / Alt Chair Nominations

The board has now approved the role of an alternative chair for every committee. Volunteers/nominations are open for the alternate chair position.

Jaklen Keshishyan volunteered for the alternate chair position.

Alex Kopilevich volunteered for the VAC Chair position.

Jodie Agnew-Navarro volunteered to chair the Early Start Committee.

If anyone else is interested, email Suad. This will be voted on next month.

- C. In-person transition meeting

The board has requested that meetings continue to be virtual. However, there will be an in-person transition meeting, as there's going to be new committee members coming in, and old committee members going out. This will be hosted by North LA, so most likely at the Chatsworth office. This can be breakfast or lunch, as food will be provided.

Action: Suad will send out an email to determine dates and times.
- D. Legislative Grassroots

Jaklen shared that everyone did their job so well and stepped in and shared their unique perspective. Suad added they got to partner in many of these meetings with other regional centers.
- E. Draft letter to next ED – *On Hold*
- F. Back to Basics

The issues have been identified and a workgroup is now actively working through the problems and getting them resolved. If there are still unresolved issues with things from 2021-2022 come August, then one-on-one meetings will be held to see what the specific issues for those backlogs on admissions agreements are.
- G. Review of the Critical Calendar
- H. Open Issues for Discussion

No issues.
- X. **Committee Work Group Reports**
 - A. Early Start Services (Dana Kalek): The referrals are increasing. There is an early start partner symposium that's happening in Berkeley on July 17 and 18. They are working to keep the rates model delay from going through as that would have a negative financial impact and create a waitlist for families. Next meeting is May 16 at 9:00 AM.
 - B. School Age Services (Cal Enriquez)— An item that came up was deciphering between crisis intervention versus behavior intervention services. How that process works in terms of identifying consumer being in crisis intervention mode on the service needs.

- C. Adult Services (Suad Bisogno & Erica Beall) – The next VAC meeting for the adult Services Work group is May 6th at 11:00 AM. If you are interested in attending that meeting, please e-mail Suad.

XI. Board Committee Reports

- A. Administrative Affairs (Andrea Devers – VAC Representative) – Nothing to report
- B. Consumer Services (Erica Beall – VAC Representative) – Nothing to report
- C. Government & Community Relations (Jodie Agnew-Navarro – VAC Representative) – Nothing to report
- D. Nominating (Suad Bisogno—Committee Member): Nothing to report
- E. Strategic Planning (Daniel Ortiz – Committee Member) – Nothing to report

XII. Review of Meeting Action Actions (Item Owner and Due Date)

- A. Vendor Advisory Committee Action Log –
 - 1. The minutes from March 7th will be revised as per Section III. B
 - 2. Suad will send out an email to determine dates and times for the In-Person Transition Meeting
 - 3. The Jenny Retsinger Award winner will be announced in June.
 - 4. Add the critical calendar to all agendas to make sure that they don't lose track of anything that has time sensitive deadlines.
 - 5. Add to the next VAC Agenda a Vote on VAC Chair and Alternate Chair
 - 6. Review and approve the critical calendar for next fiscal year
 - 7. Select a date for the in-person transition meeting

XIII. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

- B. Minutes of the March 7th Meeting

XIV. Announcements / Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.
- B. Committee Attendance
- C. If anyone is working with an individual who needs some assistive technology to help them obtain a job and they're not eligible for funding, or you're seeing trends of types of assistive technology that people need to help them on their journey to employment, send Erica Beall an email and they might be able to get some resources.
- D. Review of Committee Attendance

XV. Committee Work Group Information

A. Early Start Services (Cana Kalek)

For meeting schedule and information

Contact: Dana Kalek – dkalek@cdikids.org

Next workgroup meeting: May 16 at 9:00 AM

B. School Age Services (Cal Enriquez)

For meeting schedule and information

Contact: Cal Enriquez – Call.Enriquez@aveanna.com

Next workgroup meeting: TBD (via Zoom)

C. Adult Services (Suad Bisogno & Erica Beall)

For meeting schedule and information

Contact: Suad Bisogno – Suad@irioc.org

Next workgroup meeting: May 6th at 11:00 AM.

XVI. Adjournment

Suad adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Submitted by:

Kimberly Visokey

Executive Administrative Assistant

(The majority of these minutes are taken from the Minutes Service submission and reviewed/edited as presented herein by NLACRC staff.*

