

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2021

Present: Nicholas Abrahms, Christina Cannarella, Jennifer Koster, Sylvia Brooks Griffin, David Coe, Alma Rodriguez, Jennifer Siguenza, Cathy Blin – Committee Members.

Sharoll Jackson – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative

Jeremy Sunderland, Leticia Garcia, Angelina Martinez, Ana Quiles, Suad Bisogno, Michelle Heid -Guests

Emmanuel Gutierrez, Evan Ingber, Sara Iwahashi, Ruth Janka, Michele Marra, Ana Maria Parthenis-Rivas, Cristina Preuss, Kim Rolfes, Dr. Jesse Weller, Jennifer Williamson, Jazmin Zinnerman, Dr. Michael Fernandez, Gabriela Eshrati, Sandra Rizo – Staff Members

Absent: Gabriela Herrera, Rocio Sigala, Deshawn Turner

I. Call to Order & Introductions

At 6:01 p.m., the Executive Director asked for a committee member volunteer to chair this meeting in absence of Gabriela Herrera, committee chair. Nicholas Abrahms volunteered to chair the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Public Input

Committee members would like to see information on the new booster shot vaccine via a News You Can Use blast.

Dr. Fernandez attended a webinar and provided comments on the COVID-19 booster vaccine availability.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Revised Agenda

M/S/C (J. Siguenza/D. Coe) To add “Update on booster vaccine for Johnson & Johnson recipients” as item IV.M. on the agenda and approve as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of July 21st Meeting

M/S/C (C. Cannarella/D. Coe) To approve the July 21, 2021 minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Blueprint (Presentation)

Dr. Fernandez presented on NLACRC's Blueprint for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative. NLACRC is partnering with Inclusion Counts to assess our current state of diversity, equity and racial-justice.

The Chief of Program Services went over the various components of our contract with Inclusion Counts, which should be signed and finalized soon. Once contract is signed, the implicit bias training content/curriculum will be sent to DDS for approval as statute requires DDS approval in order to meet the new mandate. Contract components will take approximately 6-9 month to complete with a start date of September 2021, and we will begin with empathy interviews and listening sessions.

B. Committee FY2021-22 Priorities

Committee Priorities for this FY 2021-22 were reviewed, and recommendations were made to amend/add priorities as agreed upon by committee members.

M/S/C (J. Koster/S. Brooks) To amend priorities as agreed upon by committee members for new fiscal year 2021-2022.

C. Committee Action Log FY 2020-21

Committee members were informed that the intent of this action log is to share the various actions/motions that have taken place.

D. Participant Directed Services

1. Consumer Services Committee requested NLACRC to advocate for a rate increase to Participant Directed Services Community-based day services

This is a service category for rate increase under the rate study, and advocacy will be coming from the Burns Study by April 2022.

E. July 2021 Consumer Employment Data

First employment report as of the end of July 2021 shows every individual that is competitively employed. This report will be generated monthly.

There was a recommendation to add another version of the report by

“residence type”. This additional report will be added going forward, starting with next month’s report.

F. Monthly Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) Report

The monthly CRDP report was shared/reviewed with this committee. Report was included in committee packet on page 15.

G. Self-Determination Program Report

The SDP report was reviewed with this committee. SDP is now open and available for everyone. A copy of this report was included in committee packet on page 17.

H. Aging Adult Services and Supports Update

We are continuing our effort in hiring and have been recruiting for this position. We currently have five external candidates.

I. Consumer Services Committee Meeting Timeframe (proposal to extend).

It was recommended that for now, the timeframe for this committee remain as we look for ways to streamline for efficiency. A suggestion was made to allocate presentations at the end of the agenda.

J. Reinstatement of Social Recreation/Camp Services

NLACRC is revising the current Service Standards to incorporate the reinstatement of Social Recreation/Camp Services as part of the new Trailer Bill Language. NLACRC is also consulting with the Department and other regional centers for consistency in implementation.

K. Quarterly Exception & Exemption Report – Proposed updates to report

At one of the previous Consumer Services Committee meetings, it was suggested to streamline the data that is reported on the Quarterly Exception/Exemptions report. Authorization of Personal Assistance services is common practice now, and thus, rarely considered exceptional in the practice of service coordination. As such, it is recommended that this service type be removed from the Exceptions Report. This will also support streamlining the approval process as this will allow for funding authorizations to be approved at the Case Management Director level. We will also revise the quarterly

exception/exemption report to remove suspended services as these exemptions no longer apply to these service types now that regional center's authority to purchase camp, social recreational services, educational services and alternative nonmedical therapies has been reinstated.

L. Quarterly Diagnostic & Notice of Action (NOA) Reports

Recommendation and discussion to change the format of the Quarterly Diagnostic and NOA reports as some of these reports contain the same data presented in different ways.

A recommendation was to add "what is an Exception /Exemption" and to eliminate the raw data on the NOA report and in its place, add a graph for age group. We will look into this and will report back at next meeting.

Another recommendation was to present the CRDP report on a quarterly basis vs. monthly.

M/S/C (L. Garcia/S. Brooks) To present the CRDP report on a quarterly basis vs. monthly.

M. Update on booster vaccine for Jonson & Johnson recipients

Committee members were informed that we currently don't have information on a booster vaccine for Johnson & Johnson. As we learn more, information will be provided.

V. Chief of Program Services Report (Jesse Weller)

Chief of Program Services gave his report which touched on topics for upcoming Town Hall meetings (Vaccine equity & Hesitancy – August 18, 2021, Transition Age Services – August 19, 2021), the Different Thinkers, Different Learners training series upcoming dates, update on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative, and monthly groups.

VI. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the September 9, 2021 board meeting agenda:

A. Minutes of the August 18th Meeting

VII. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

- A. Legislative Training: Tuesday, September 14th at 6:00 pm.

The legislative training will be held in lieu of the Consumer Services and Government/Community Relations Committee Meetings.

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

- C. September 14th ARCA Academy at 6 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

Nicholas adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m. in absence of committee chair (G. Herrera).

Submitted by:

Sandra Rizo

Executive Admin. Assistant

