

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Present: Gabriela Herrera, Alma Rodriguez, David Coe, Rocio Sigala, Jennifer Koster, Nicholas Abrahms, Cathy Blin, Sharoll Jackson – Committee Members

Lillian Martinez, Jeremy Sunderland, Ana Quiles – Guests

Ruth Janka, Cristina Preuss, Jesse Weller, Jennifer Williamson, Kimberly Bermudez, Jazmin Zinnerman, Michael Fernandez, Gabriela Eshrati, Alan Darby, Lilana Windover, Natalia Langarica, Lizeth Chavez – Staff Members

Isabel Romero, Lucy Paz - Interpreter
Dolly S. - Minute Services

Absent:

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Gabriela Herrera Chair called the meeting to order noting a quorum had been met.

II. Public Input

Ana Quiles commented on the Purchase of Service meeting the day before and conveyed that Dr. Weller and Cristina Preuss did an amazing job and that every question was consistently answered. People left feeling heard and respected.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Amended Agenda

M/S/C (D.Coe/A.Rodriguez) To Amend the Agenda as discussed.

Gabriela requested to include item 4.A.1. Self Determination Orientation

B. Approval of Minutes of the February 16th Meeting

M/S/C (D.Coe/A.Rodriguez) To Approve the Minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. **Self-Determination Program Report** – Jesse Weller

Jesse presented the March 1st report for the Self Determination report. There are 109 budgets that are certified, 13 budgets in the certification process, 92 spending plans, and 17 spending plans in process. The ethnic diversity of the

participants includes: 49 individuals are white, 21 are Hispanic/Latino, 7 multicultural, 6 Asian/American, and 9 African American or black. The SDP LVAC are currently reviewing best practices for SDP implementation and will propose how to allocate additional funding from DDS.

There was a request for an additional graph to display over time the number of budgets that are certified and the total number of budgets that are in the certification process by month. There was discussion about the request and potential variability, as some people enter the program and some may drop off.

Action: Jesse will amend the current report provide a graph with number of budgets that are certified and the total number of budgets that are in the certification process by month.

1. Jesse spoke about an issue about an individual who was unable to register for orientation. This created an unfortunate impact and delayed from participation. They are looking into their registration process and instead of having a centralized email they are looking at individuals registering for orientation themselves via Zoom. They are testing the link to see if it is efficient and will report back on updates.

An additional example was provided on how a Spanish speaking family to sign up for the Spanish orientation and there was no return email. The barrier there is that the Spanish one is offered once a month. She thinks a self registration is a good idea.

There was an inquiry asked about adding another orientation time in the evening to accommodate people who work during the day.

Gabriela asked if the orientations could be recorded and have it available for access at all points in time. If there are questions, they could email.

Action: Jesse will check availability on evening Orientation sessions.

Action: Jesse will check on a recurring zoom link for easier access and automatic registration for the Orientations

Action: Jesse will confirm with DDS on Orientation videos for Self-certification.

B. Monthly Consumer Competitive Employment Report – Alan Darby

Alan Darby discussed the findings from the Monthly Consumer Competitive Employment Report.

During the last meeting, there was a request to present the information in this report by various age groups in order to assist in identifying additional needs or opportunities for increasing consumer employment. Those age groups are:

- 14-17 years
- 18-25 years
- 26-45 years
- 46-59 years
- 60 years and older

This report is almost completed and will be ready for the next meeting.

The consumer competitive employment report shows every individual that is competitively employed in NLA's catchment area for age ranges 18-77 years old and for all competitively employed consumers and for working age consumers with no employment ages 18-59. This report is presented in two forms - by residence type and by ethnicity.

For the Month of February 2022, the total number of all competitively employed consumers and working age consumers with no employment was 11,832. In that number, the total number of competitively employed consumers in NLA's area was 2,144 – which is 18.12% of all working age consumers. This is a slight % increase from January's total which was at 17.71%

The total number of working age consumers within NLA's area with no employment was 9,688.

C. Town Hall Schedule Discussion – Jesse Weller

Jesse provided notice that NLACRC is seeking to have a Town Hall Schedule for 2022 that will allow for additional planning and notice to the community. Jesse solicited feedback from the committee.

Gabriela suggested that consumers need help when transitioning to adulthood and expressed the need for these services to continue. Ana Quiles emphasized continuous support from parents and noted their success stories and testimonials are helpful to new parents. She recommended adding a parent panel for a session on life after high school and using them for four different stages of life. It can be included in the consumer family guide and be matched with specific age groups. Lillian recommended to follow the same format as the consumer family guide.

Cristina Preuss added about a similar format with parents at the Festival Educational. She stated that adding a parent perspective works very well.

Rosie suggested adding a college aspect as many parents would benefit from what is available at the college or vocational level.

Ruth added an idea for a potential topic for discussion an individual's right under the Lanterman Act. She also discussed parents needing information for an IPP that can be provided before high school graduation and in the fall. Gabriela suggested adding information on the process as a whole for discussion on the

15-day decision process.

Recap: Social Recreation, Transition Services Life after High school with a parent panel, Other age services, Notice of Action and 15-day decision process timeline, and how to prepare for an IPP.

An additional request was received to address recourse when situations arise where families do not receive follow up. There was a discussion about contacting the Supervisor or On Duty Specialist to help assist for time sensitive requests or for follow up.

D. Purchase of Service Data 20/21 – Jesse Weller

There is a request to rearrange the data regarding Ethnicity and diagnoses to be more user-friendly and give a comparison to help inform their work with the help of the recommendation. Jesse also recognized updates to the website and spoke about the request for a matrix-based action plan to ensure issues are properly addressed.

There was a request for NLACRC to provide the committee the whole report and the results prior or immediately following the submission to DDS, as there might be more recommendations. It was suggested that the minutes and the results are important to be included.

E. Workforce Employment Specialist/Service Access Grant – Jesse Weller

Two specialist positions were requested for approximately \$176,000 and DDS awarded \$90,000. DDS will only give one position (which may include two part time positions) for \$90,000 for 12 months. There will also be an employment hotline available. They are targeting to have the contract opening April 1st. Once the contract is signed, the project plan will have specific timelines.

Ana noted that it takes time to make something impactful and suggested creating a taskforce of specialized people in this arena could help jump start the process. He also noted there is an outreach plan and can look into the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce for small businesses. The job description and requirements were discussed.

V. Deputy Director Report – Jesse Weller

Jesse announced that there is an annual Autism resource Fair Saturday April 2 from 10- 2 pm, location TBA. S Parent and Family Support Specialists are being recruited.

NLACRC has filled the position for the Enhanced Service Coordinator Supervisor, Santos Rodriguez.

All NLACRC staff will be trained in Implicit Bias and Microaggressions. staff at the policy steering committee meeting is scheduled for March 24th that is meeting to develop a policy on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

VI. Board Meeting Agenda Items

- A. Minutes of the March 16th Meeting

VII. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 20th at 6:00 p.m.

No public input was provided.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Gabriela Herrera adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Submitted by:

(*) *Lizeth Chavez*

Executive Administrative Assistant

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