

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2013

Present: Bob Erio, Rick Clemens, Annie Cox, Sienna Greener-Wooten, Michelle Heid, Jonathan Istrin, Pamela Jacobson, Ken Lane, Jenni Moran, Scott Shepard, Wayne Tashjian, Gay Wane, and Asilia “Dolly” Wauls - Committee Members

George Stevens, Jennifer Kaiser, Sarah Staley, Erica Beall, Ruth Zepeda, Tory Gross, Anna Polin, Nikisia Simmons, and Kim Rolfes - Staff

Rhonda Bunnin, Ana Hernandez, Jasmine Venegas, Melody Goodman, Nancy Parelskin, Mike Culver, Mariela Feldman, Victoria Berrey, Danielle Gregory, Dan Merrell, Cheryl Keehne, Doug Pascover, Donnette Springman, Anthony Jenkins, Arcelia Berleson, Jill Morton, Samuel Ramos, Cynthia Fernandez, Linda Dobuzzi, Debra Dinielli, Victoria Onwualu, Christie Sotelo, Brooke Akana, Adrianna Gracias, Andrea Lemus, Maribel Galvan, Shellie Bader, Olga Reyes, Shellie Bader, and Katina Kirk-Powe - Guests

Absent: Roy Jensen, Rebecca Lienhard, and Marina Pink

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jenni called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and introductions followed.

II. Public Input

Victoria Berrey announced that the Family Focus Resource Center is holding a Special Needs Resource Fair at CSUN on Saturday, November 23rd, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please let your clients and families know. Also, more exhibitors are needed, if interested please call (818) 677-6854.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (G. Wane/M. Heid) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from October 3rd VAC Meeting

The first sentence in Section V.D. should read, “Kim Rolfes announced that Joan is leaving the center to pursue her interests in another *state*.”

M/S/C (P. Jacobson/D. Wauls) To approve the minutes as modified.

IV. Volunteer Driver Programs (VDPs) (Melody Goodman, Area Board 10)

Melody explained that this program pays volunteer drivers a small mileage reimbursement fee in exchanged for driving people who do not have other transportation to doctor appointments, errands, or other community activities. This program has been successful serving seniors for years and is a model that could be easily replicated for people with developmental disabilities and could potentially provide another sorely needed transportation option. There are 3 types of VDPs:

- A. A rider selects a volunteer driver from among family/friends they already know and trust. The driver uses his/her own car.
- B. The program recruits, trains, and matches volunteer drivers with riders.
- C. A volunteer driver drives a program vehicle.

For more information about the VDP, please contact Melody at melody.goodman@scdd.ca.gov or at (818) 543-4631. She is happy to meet one-on-one with anyone interested to give them a more in-depth overview of the program.

V. Executive Director’s Report (George Stevens)

A. NLACRC’s Budget:

1. Purchase of Service (POS): We won’t have a clear picture of our financial projections for this year until we complete our first Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) which is due to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) next month. But based on our current POS allocation and our actual prior year POS expenditures, we are anticipating that we will be reporting a significant POS deficit for FY 2013-14. However, DDS is required to cover our POS costs, so George isn’t worried.
2. Operations: DDS issued the signed E-2 intent letter to regional centers. The center’s E-2 allocation will include the \$1.926 million that was omitted from our E-1 allocation in error. This delay in operations funding has kept the center from being able to implement its staffing

plan to hire additional services coordinators to meet the required caseload ratios.

B. Legislation: The governor recently signed many bills into law including several that will have an impact on regional centers, including:

1. SB 367: Requires cultural and linguistic competency training for regional center board members, annually reviewing the performance of the regional center director, and post on the regional center's website information regarding the training and support provided.
2. SB 555: Translation of Individual Program Plans (IPPs) and Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs). We are in the process of developing an implementation plan for this; it will have a significant workload impact for our service coordinators.

VI. Community Services Report (Kim Rolfes and Erica Beall)

A. Minimum Wage Increase: A law was just passed that will increase the minimum wage from \$8/hour to \$9/hour in 2014 and from \$9/hour to \$10/hour in 2016. DDS is aware that this increase will have a dramatic effect on our service providers and has requested information from vendors to help them project what the increased costs will be. More to come.

B. U.S. Department of Labor Announcement: A press release has been issued that provides information about minimum wage and overtime protections that are being extended to direct care workers. This will go into effect on January 1, 2015.

C. Unanticipated Program Changes: Community Care Facilities (CCFs) can seek unanticipated program change funding from DDS in the following cases:

1. Mandated service adjustments due to changes in, or additions to, existing statutes, laws, regulations, or court decisions.
2. Emergency relocations as required to protect the health and safety of consumers.

The CCF must submit their request to DDS and the vendoring regional center 60 days from the date the change occurred. This applies to CCFs providing services in the following service codes: 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, and 805.

- D. The Affordable Health Care Act:** DDS is aware that “unanticipated rate increases” are addressed in regulations.
- E. Transportation Issues:** The City of Los Angeles has been sending letters to our providers requiring them to adhere to specific transportation rules when transporting consumers for non-medical reasons. They are requiring that their vehicles be permitted and the drivers trained. They are threatening to arrest people and assess fines to those who do not follow their rules.
- F. Request for Proposals (RFP):** In January, the center will be issuing an RFP for a transportation broker service. We are looking for an agency who will review the center’s transportation invoices for accuracy.
- G. Workers’ Compensation:** State law requires residential providers to carry workers’ compensation insurance. We still have 18 residential service providers who have not submitted proof. We had to give the names of these providers to the Department of Industrial Relations who will be paying a visit to these providers.
- H. 2011 Audits/Independent Reviews:** We have sent 30-day notices to the remaining 8 providers who have not responded to our telephone calls and prior letters requesting copies of their 2011 audits/independent reviews. They need to either act or appeal. We are required to take action up to closing their facility and de-vendoring them. This is an unfortunate action that we have to take. We will begin moving consumers and stop referrals as they are not complying with vendorization requirements.
- I. Service Provider Portal:** Please test the new portal and provide us with any input.
- J. 2013 Annual Statements:** A summary of each consumers’ services and costs are being mailed out.
- K. Vendorization Closures:** Next month, we will be contacting all of the service providers who haven’t provided services in the last 2 years. We will close their vendorization unless they ask us not to.
- L. Wellspring Security Breach/Media Announcement:** One of our providers, Wellspring, closed their doors unexpectedly in March 2012 and didn’t secure their offices. Due to the size of the security breach, the Office of Civil Rights conducted an investigation. They reviewed all of the actions we took afterwards and have asked that we print a media announcement in all

of our local newspapers. We have done so and the announcements will be printed in all of our local papers today.

M. Community Placement Plan for FY 2013-14: Early next month, a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be posted on our website for 8 projects:

1. 4 specialized residential facilities
2. 2 day programs
3. 1 supported living service
4. 1 crisis support service

An applicant' conference will be held Monday, January 13th, at 9:00 a.m. (for the residential facilities and day program) and at 1:30 p.m. (for the supported living and crisis support services).

N. County of Los Angeles Public Health Office: Has issued an order that licensed facilities workers must either have a flu vaccination or wear a mask while working with patients.

VII. Brief Committee Business

A. CAHF Cost of Living Increase: Jonathan reported that he is working on a 1-page bullet point list and will share it with everyone at the next VAC meeting.

VIII. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting

The following items were identified for the November 9th board meeting agenda:

A. Minutes of the November 7th VAC Meeting

IX. Announcements/Public Input

A. Next Meeting: Thursday, January 9th, at 9:30 a.m. (no meeting in December)
Please note that the VAC moved their January 2nd meeting to January 9th.

X. Committee Work

The committee broke into their workgroups for individual discussions.

(Discussion topics: Proposed phasing out of subminimum wages and realistic service provider costs)

- A. Early Start/Prevention Services
- B. Children's Services
- C. Adult Services
- D. Mental Health Issues (meets on the last Thursday of each month).
Gay noted that Thanksgiving falls on the last Thursday in November, so the meeting was moved up a week.
- E. Employment First (Bubble Groups)

XI. Adjournment

Jenni wished everyone happy holidays and adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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