

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2016

Present: Orli Almog, Fredlyn Berger, Shelly Briggs, Deborah Cutter, Mariela Feldman, Cynthia Fernandez, Michelle Heid, Sharoll Jackson, Staci Jordan, Kristin Laurino, Jenni Moran, Marina Pink, Scott Shepard, and Wayne Tashjian - Committee Members

Rita Mkhitarian, Rebecca Holik, Rebecca Lienhard, Leticia Leon, Judith Vargas, Shreda Powell, Gail Lasker, Dolly Wauls, Manfred Rodriguez, Victoria Berrey, Debra Dinielli, Linda Cobuzzi, Cyndi McAuley, Joel Smollett, Mandy Flower, Rafael Carbajal, Sarah Blitzstein, Shayna Nagel, Rachel Hofman, Ken Lane, Claudia Wenger, Ella Waine, Bob Erio, Maria Ortiz, Michael Stephens, Ralph Stokes, Alexandra Rivera, Victoria Greenwood, Frank Saito, Nick Vukotic, Tanya Brustinov, Taguki Artunian, Tessa Graham, Theresa Quarry, and Kendra Espinosa – Guests

George Stevens, Jennifer Kaiser, Arsho Garlanian, Kim Rolfes, Arpi Arabian, Erica Beall, Anna Polin, Erin Broughton-Rodriguez, Sarah Cox, and Evelyn McOmie – Staff

Absent: Eleshia Johnson

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Michelle Heid, VAC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input

- A. HaMercaz will be holding a special program for families raising children with special needs from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Sunday, September 25th, at the Skirball Center. RSVPs are required. Please call 1-866-287-8030 for more information or to register.
- B. The Family Focus Resource Center will be holding their annual resource fair on Saturday, October 29th. They are currently looking for exhibitors and sponsors. Please register early – last year there was a waiting list.
- C. Scott Shepard reported that a meeting for supported living providers will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13th, at The Adult Skills Center, 16600 Sherman Way #240, in Lake Balboa. They meet every 3 months. Please join us!

Michele Heid announced that NLACRC will be holding 2 candidates' forums; the first one will be held **Thursday, October 6th, at 6:30 p.m.** at the Santa Clarita Activities Center and the second one will be held **Tuesday, October 18th, at 6:30 p.m.** at Sam's Café at New Horizons (North Hills). Our system was started by concerned parents who desperately wanted services for their children with developmental disabilities. Since those early years, the regional center system has faced years of budget cuts and service reductions. We need to get consumers and families involved in the system again and understand how to advocate. Our area is losing 2 of its current senators, Fran Pavley and Carol Liu, who have been champions for our system. We want whoever takes their places to know that the developmental disabilities system has a dynamic force of advocates behind it. We want to make sure there is standing room only at these 2 events. Fliers for the forums are available on the information table. Please spread the word and encourage your consumers, families, staff, and others to attend. These candidates need to see our numbers!

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (W. Tashjian/M. Feldman) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from the August 4th VAC Meeting

M/S/C (S. Jackson/C. Fernandez) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Executive Director's Report (George Stevens)

A. Public Meetings: The center is holding 2 public meetings to present our draft 2017 performance contract and to present proposals to received ABX2-1 funding to promote purchase of service (POS) equity. The first meeting was held last night at our Antelope Valley office and the second meeting will be held at our main office at 6:30 p.m. George gave examples of some of the ABX2-1 funding proposals that will be presented and encouraged anyone interested to attend the meeting.

B. NLACRC Budget: The center's operations budget is currently \$48,136,603 and the POS budget is \$376,552,063. We will not have a forecast of any deficit or surplus in the POS budget until we complete our first Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) and submit it to the Department of Developmental Services

(DDS) in October or November. The budget for this fiscal year does include additional funding for 20 new positions: 17 Medicaid waiver positions, a disparity specialist; an employment specialist, and a CMS specialist.

Michelle Heid stated that, speaking of CMS, we need people to participate on the VAC's CMS/WIOA work group. If interested, please sign-up on the sign-up sheet.

Action: The adult services workgroup will meet with the CMS/WIOA group after today's VAC meeting.

1. C-1 Allocation: Although we have received our advances from DDS, we have not received our first allocation as yet.
 2. ABX2-1 Funding: DDS reduced the amount of funding we had been promised for increasing staff wages and benefits.
 3. FY 2013-14 Year End Report: FY 2013-14 has been closed out and service providers can no longer submit bills to the center for reimbursement for that period.
- C. The New Oakdale Office: The center's main office will begin moving to 9200 Oakdale Avenue in Chatsworth beginning September 19th, with the final phase of the relocation on September 30th. We should be fully moved in and ready for business on Monday, October 3rd. It is best to use NLACRC's private entrance to reception which is located on the Prairie Avenue side, otherwise if you enter from the main entrance from the Oakdale Avenue side, you will need to sign in with the building security to gain access to our reception area. The center will be holding an open house on a Saturday sometime in November in conjunction with a Lanterman Act 50th anniversary celebration (more information to come!).
- D. Behavioral Health Treatment Transition: Dr. Arpi Arabian reported that the center continues to move consumers with behavioral health treatment to the managed care plans. It is still uncertain at this point whether or not adaptive skills will also be transitioned to the managed care plans because not all consumers who use adaptive skills use behavioral services; we are awaiting instructions from DDS.

- E. Developmental Centers: There are currently 964 consumers remaining in the developmental centers statewide; NLACRC has only 34 – we're almost there! The center will be releasing its FY 2016-17 community placement plan request for proposals shortly; please check the center's website for details.
- F. Facebook Page: NLACRC now has a Facebook page! It will serve as another tool to provide outreach and information to our community. Please go on it and invite your friends to like us! Please help us spread the word.

V. Chief Financial Officer's Report (Kim Rolfes)

VI. Community Services Director's Report (Kim Rolfes for Yolanda Bosch)

- A. ABX2-1 Rate Letters: We are preparing and processing rate letters, as they relate to ABX2-1, for all eligible service providers. We are increasing service provider rates at the same time the rate letters are mailed to service providers so that service providers are receiving the ABX2-1 funding as soon as possible. We ask that service providers please sign and return the rate letters quickly. If there are any questions about the rates reported in the rate letter, please contact Arsho Garlanian at (818) 756-6241 or at AGarlanian@nlacrc.org.
- B. DDS Internships and Competitive Employment: Information about this will be going out shortly!
- C. Local Ordinances regarding Minimum Wage and Paid Sick Time: We have held two (2) webinars to provide information to eligible service providers in order to seek a regulatory unanticipated rate increase process to comply with local ordinances. As soon as NLACRC has more information from DDS regarding the statutory health & safety waiver exemption process to comply with local ordinances, NLACRC will conduct trainings for providers that must use the Health & Safety Waiver Exemption process to seek a rate increase to comply with local ordinances.
- D. Annual Family Statements for 2016: Are going out in November.
- E. Zero Tolerance for Consumer Abuse or Neglect: The center's policy on this will be sent out to providers in November. Please review the policy with your staff.
- F. California State Auditors: NLACRC was one of the regional centers randomly selected for an in-home respite audit. The audit was conducted in June and the auditors have been doing some follow-up since then. The following timeline has been established:

1. September 14th: Pre-exit meeting to discuss any findings.
2. September 28th: Exit meeting.
3. October 5th: Draft report is made available.
4. October 11th: Our input on the draft report is due.
5. October 25th: The final report is made available.

Vendor self-assessments may be a finding.

VII. Brief Committee Business

There was no committee business identified for discussion, but Michelle Heid did remind everyone of the following dates which were mentioned earlier during this meeting:

- A. Thursday, September 1st at 6:30 p.m. – The center’s performance contract & POS equity public meeting (NLACRC’s main office in Van Nuys).
- B. Tuesday, September 13th at 1:30 p.m. - Supported living services meeting (TASC, 16600 Sherman Way #240, Lake Balboa).
- C. Wednesday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m. - NLACRC Board of Trustees meeting (NLACRC’s main office in Van Nuys).
- D. Monday, September 26th at 10:00 a.m. – NLACRC Antelope Valley vendor forum (NLACRC’s Antelope Valley office).
- E. Thursday, October 6th, at 6:30 p.m. – NLACRC’s 1st Candidates’ Forum (Santa Clarita Activities Center).
- F. Tuesday, October 18th at 6:30 p.m. – NLACRC’s 2nd Candidates’ Forum (Sam’s Café at New Horizons, North Hills).

VIII. Agenda Item for the Next Board Meeting

The following item was identified for the VAC’s section of the September 14th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the September 1st VAC Meeting

Michele stated that the board meetings are open to the public and encouraged other service providers to attend.

IX. Announcements/Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 6th, at 9:30 a.m. (Oakdale Office, Chatsworth)

X. Committee Work (The committee breaks into their workgroups)

- A. Behavioral Services Transition (Mariela Feldman, chair)
B. CMS Final Rule/WIOA (Eleshia Johnson, chair)
C. Self-Determination Program (Michele Heid, chair)
D. Adult Services (Scott Shepard, chair)

XI. VAC Group Photo for NLACRC's Website

The VAC assembled for a group photo in the lobby.

XII. Adjournment

Michele adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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