

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2017

Present: Orli Almog, Shelly Briggs, Mariela Feldman, Cynthia Fernandez, Michelle Heid, Sharoll Jackson, Kristin Laurino, Scott Shepard, and Wayne Tashjian - Committee Members

Kim Rolfes, Malorie Lanthier, Anna Polin, Jenny Dao, Erin Broughton-Rodriguez, Evelyn McOmie, Erica Beall, Dr. Arpi Arabian, Dr. Jesse Weller, Arsho Garlanian, George Stevens, and Jennifer Kaiser – Staff

Marisol Yribe, Joel Smollett, Brooke Akana, Rachel Scarbury, Nick Vukotic, Victoria Greenwood, Devin Letzer, Erik Elliott, Leticia Leon, Nikisia Simmons, Chelsea Rivera, Andrea Lemus, Rebecca Holik, Jessica Horton, Don Lucas, Rachel Hofman, Ken Lane, Zida Behan, Jon Francis, Edith Garcia, Dominique Johnson, Tiki Thompson, Linda Cobuzzi, Debra Dinielli, Claire Moynihan, Adam Stokes, Ralph Stokes, Rebecca Lienhard, Christian Depaz, Dana V. Andrews, Bob Myatt, Tina Castro, Maria Ortiz, Bob Erio, Pat Knight, Victoria Berrey, Theresa Quarry, Diane Geary, Kristine Cu, Sonia Ojeda, Kathleen Sturkey, Chris Bratzel, and Riva Kestenbaum - Guests

Absent: Fredlyn Berger, Deborah Cutter, Eleshia Johnson, Staci Jordan, Jenni Moran, and Marina Pink

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Michelle Heid, VAC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input

A. The Family Focus Resource Center is going to be holding many summer activities; please see the schedule provided on the information table. Also, the FFRC will be holding their annual Special Needs Resource Fair on Sunday, October 22nd. Please visit the FFRC after this meeting for a tour of their office and to see all of their resources.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item VII.B. Legislative Actions was added to the agenda.

M/S/C (S. Jackson/W. Tashjian) To approve the agenda as modified.

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

M/S/C (S. Shepard/M. Feldman) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Executive Director's Report (George Stevens)

- A. Parking: The building owner no longer wants people parking in the open space parking lot. All guests must parking in the multi-level parking structure just east of the building. If you park in the open lot you risk getting towed.
- B. Dr. Jesse Weller: George introduced Dr. Weller, who will be taking Susana Gil's position when she retires as one of the center's three directors of consumer services.
- C. AB 279 (Holden): This is the bill that will enable service providers to be funded for the local minimum wage increases, until the state minimum wages catch up with them. George thanked everyone who wrote letters and made phone calls to legislators in order to get the bill out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The battle is 1/3 of the way won! The bill will now go to the Senate and then to the governor.
- D. Behavioral Services: Language is coming that will require every child with Medi-Cal who also receives behavioral services to transfer to managed care. We are working on developing a process for this. Arpi Arabian added that the center is about 90% done with the transition of consumers who use behavioral services to managed care plans.
- E. State Budget: We are expecting the state budget to be approved on June 15th (the deadline). Also, the budget is supposed to be available to the public 3 days prior so we expect to be able to see it on June 12th. We do know that money will be included in the regional center budget to address service disparity; we need to make sure that everyone is being service equally and equitably.
- F. CMS Final Rule: The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) final regulations, or rules were to be implemented by March 2019. For some reason, the implementation date was pushed back to March 2022. But our center will continue to move forward to make sure our programs comply with the CMS final rule.

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

- A. New HIPAA Requirements: Changes were made to the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS's) contract with the regional centers to include the new, stricter HIPAA regulations. Kim and Malorie Lanthier gave the VAC a presentation on how providers will be affected by these changes, which includes mandatory training of their staff, tighter deadlines for reporting privacy breaches, and a for the destruction or return of consumer records.

VI. Community Services Director's Report (Erica Beall for Yolanda Bosch)

- A. Community Integrated Employment (CIE) & Paid Internship Program (PIP): Erica gave the VAC a presentation on how these 2 programs will work. Any providers interested in utilizing these programs must have a sub-code added to their vendorization.

VII. Brief Committee Business

- A. NLACRC Facebook Page: Michele reported that NLACRC's new Facebook page has lot of good information on it including upcoming events and trainings. Please visit it and like it – and urge others to do so too! The Facebook page currently has 1,800 likes and we want to make that number grow!

B. Legislative Actions!

1. Write and call Senator Scott Wiener, chair of the Senate Human Services Committee. Urge him to support and pass AB 279 when it comes before his committee:

Senator Scott Wiener (916) 651-4011
State Capitol, Room 4066, Sacramento, CA 95814

2. Write and call Senator Ricardo Lara, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Urge him to support and pass AB 279 when it comes before his committee.

Senator Ricardo Lara (916) 651-4033
State Capitol, Room 5050, Sacramento, CA 95814

3. Write and call Senator Holly Mitchell, chair of the Senate Budget Committee. Urge her to include funding for restoration of social recreation programs and the removal of the cap on respite services for people with developmental disabilities.

Senator Holly Mitchell (916) 651-4030
State Capitol, Room 5080, Sacramento, CA 95814

4. Spread the word to families to write letters and to call Senator Holly Mitchell. Share what the restoration of social recreation programs and removal of the respite services cap will mean for their families. If families participated in social recreation in the past what did this mean for them and their loved ones?

VIII. Agenda Item for the Next Board Meeting

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

- A. Minutes of the June 1st VAC Meeting

IX. Announcements/Public Input

- A. Annual Board Dinner: The annual Board Dinner will be held Saturday, June 24th (Hyatt) and we will be honoring Scott Shepard & Wayne Tashjian for their 6 years of service on the VAC. Michele publicly thanked Scott and Wayne for the contributions they have made.
- B. Next Meeting: Thursday, August 3rd (full meeting)
- C. Richard Kaley provided information about his company Colony-West and the services it provides. They are especially adept at helping agencies secure worker's compensation and state unemployment insurance. For more information, he can be reached at rkaley@colonyh-west.com.

X. Committee Work

- A. Early Start Services (Fredlyn Berger, chair)
- B. Behavioral Services Collaborative (Mariela Feldman, chair)
- C. Self-Determination Program (Michele Heid, chair)
- D. Adult Services: CMS/WIOA (Eleshia Johnson & Scott Shepard, chairs)

Due to the late hour, some of the break-out groups did not meet.

XI. Adjournment

Michelle adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

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Executive Assistant

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