

Department of Developmental Services (DDS)  
Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC)

Meeting Minutes  
November 8-9, 2011

Members Attended

Rene Rodriguez  
Michael Cornejo  
Robert Taylor  
Cindy White  
Michelle Gordon  
Krisi Franzone  
Pattie Simpkins  
Sue Ann Hankensiefken  
Joseph Flanagan  
Lisa Krueger  
Tracey Mensch  
Eduardo A. Zapata  
David Oster  
Marcia Dinkelspiel

Member Absent

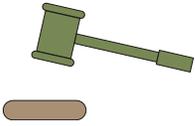
Eugenia Jones

Others Attending

Lisa McCaslin  
Colleen Deck  
Nicole Patterson  
Kathleen Ozeroff  
Heather McDavid  
Mark Starford  
Carol Risley  
Timothy Schmitz  
Jesse Padilla  
Darcy Jean Foddrill  
David Miklas  
Christine Hager  
Rosa Zapata  
Edward White  
Sue Ware  
Lisa Cooley  
Thomas Hamlett  
Jose Contreras  
Lois Cissell  
Jennifer Allen  
Bill Allen  
Stephanie Giordano  
Rachel Long  
Oscar Rosales  
Jana Chapman-Plon  
Tammy Eudy  
Mark Hutchinson

**November 8, 2011**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**



Cindy White, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.



- a. Everyone introduced themselves.
- b. The agenda was reviewed and no changes were made. **It was moved (Sue Ann Hankensiefken), seconded (Pattie Simpkins), and carried to approve the agenda with no changes.**
- c. The minutes of the February 2011, CAC meeting were reviewed. **It was moved ((Michelle Gordon), seconded (Tracey Mensch), and carried to approve the minutes with no changes.**



**2. COORDINATOR OF CONSUMER SERVICES REPORT**

Nicole gave a report on what she has been doing for the past six months:

- She helped work on the personalized Legislative Binders for each member. She let the members know they were completed and they will get their binders during the second day of the meeting.
- She let the CAC members know that she received a letter from Sam Durbin, stating he has decided not to continue with his membership on the CAC.

**3. NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS (NCI)**

National Core Indicators (NCI) is the survey system that is replacing Life Quality Assessments.

- Why is California using NCI?
  - ❖ NCI is a systematic way of learning about the CA service system.
  - ❖ To find out about consumers' and families' satisfaction with their services.
  - ❖ To learn about how services and supports affect people's lives.
  - ❖ To learn how people are participating in their communities.
  - ❖ To help give the state information about how California is doing compared to other states.
  - ❖ To give DDS information about how the developmental service system is doing. Help DDS set priorities and goals to improve the system.
  - ❖ To give consumers and their families' information on how their regional center is doing.
  - ❖ Regional centers will be able to see how they are doing compared with each other.
  - ❖ To help put information together for budget requests and reporting on important issues.
- NCI Interviews
  - ❖ The interviews will take place at a person's home, or wherever the person would like it to be.
  - ❖ Every year, 400 people from each regional center will be interviewed.

People can choose if they want to be interviewed or not. The CAC took a look at the draft of the user-friendly NCI assessment report. After viewing the report, the CAC had some ideas on how they felt it could be even easier to understand.

#### 4. **BUDGET UPDATE**

Mark Hutchinson gave an update on how the proposed budget may affect people with developmental disabilities. He started by reminding the CAC of what DDS had done earlier that year to come up with savings.

- Eight workgroups were then put together of consumers, family members, service providers, advocacy organizations, and regional center representatives to tell DDS how to save money. The workgroups focused on these eight areas: Behavioral Services; Day/Supported Employment/Work Activity Program Services; Early Start Program Services; Health Care and Therapeutic Services; Independent and Supported Living Services; Residential Services; Respite Services; and Transportation Services. Each workgroup had two meetings each.
- After getting the information from eight workgroups and gathering other information from emails, letters and phone calls, DDS developed 13 savings proposals that were presented at three public forums, which were held in Los Angeles on May 5, 2011; Sacramento on May 6, 2011; and Oakland on May 9. Here are the reductions that came out of those meetings:
  - ❖ Regional centers will be making sure that consumers and families, who qualify under the 1915 (c) Home and Community-Based Services Waiver, are signed up for it. This will help regional centers receive more money from the federal government to buy services.
  - ❖ DDS contracts with a number of organizations for programs and projects which provide support, services, and technical assistance

- ❖ DDS is giving less money to Regional Centers for staffing, offices, and other programs.
- ❖ There will be changes on how the regional centers come up with the amount of money they pay some service providers.
- ❖ Some families, with children, that get regional center services, may pay a yearly fee based on their income.
- ❖ If a person lives in a residential home they like, and the services that they need changes. This will allow the person to stay in their home, even if their needs decrease. This will allow regional centers to pay a lower rate to the residential provider.
- ❖ Use funds through schools to get day services, work, independent living, and transportation for individuals in school when they are 18-21 years old and transitioning from school to community based work and activities programs.
- ❖ If people are living together and both get supported living services (SLS), they might be able to share the supported living services for some things.
- ❖ The SLS provider will not decide what services a person needs; that would be done during the individual program plan (IPP) meeting and supported by an independent assessment. Start new day services, which allow individuals to make choices about how many days they want to go to program; let people hire their own staff; and let day

- ❖ Have parents tell regional centers that behavioral services were provided when they were supposed to be; and let trained paraprofessionals (people who are not professionals that would be supervised by professionals) provide behavioral services.
- ❖ The Prevention Program will be moved from regional centers to Family Resource Centers and will only give information, resources, outreach, and referral for some families and infants who are not in the Early Start program.
- ❖ Make a transportation access plan at the IPP meeting to help people use public and community based transportation.

If the State of California can't reach their desired goal for savings, DDS will be facing another round of finding a way to make reductions; this is called a "trigger". Once the trigger is pulled, DDS will need to find more ways to save money. The triggers will also affect programs like In Home Support Services and funding for education. Mark shared with the CAC that DDS has been working to restore dental services for adults with developmental disabilities who receive regional center services.

## 5. **CAC PURPOSE AND REVIEW**



The CAC took time to refresh members on the purpose of the CAC.

- CAC Vision statement: My Life, My Way, this means that people with developmental disabilities in California will live their lives the way they want.
- The CAC Mission is to advise the DDS Director and her staff on issues involving policies, programs, legislation and regulations affecting services and supports to people with developmental disabilities.
- The CAC believes that people want:
  - ❖ to have a voice
  - ❖ to create ways to live in the community using natural support
  - ❖ information in ways they understand

## 6. **HOW IS THE CAC SET-UP (BYLAWS)**

What are bylaws? -The operating guide for a committee.

Bylaws describe:

- size of the group and how it will do work
- roles and duties of the officers
- rules for holding meetings and electing officers

The CAC focuses on three key articles in the CAC bylaws to talk about:

- Article 4- CAC membership is open to any person with a developmental disability who is a consumer of a regional or a developmental center and who:
  - ❖ is a member of a local people first or self-advocacy group
  - ❖ nominated by their people first or self-advocacy group
  - ❖ the DDS Director in consultation with the CAC Chair selects the members
  - ❖ the CAC has no more than 15 members
  - ❖ 2 of 15 members are from developmental centers

- Article 6- CAC officers are made up of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Officers will be elected by a majority of members. They serve for one year.
  - ❖ Chairperson will:
    - ✓ Lead all meetings
    - ✓ Represent the CAC in the public
    - ✓ Consult with DDS to prepare meeting agendas
    - ✓ Appoint sub-committees
  - ❖ Vice Chairperson
    - ✓ Take the place of the chairperson when needed
- Article 7- The bylaws state meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the following months, February, May, August and November

The CAC talked about making some changes to Articles 6 and 7 of the CAC bylaws. This topic will be tabled for the next meeting.

## 7. **CAC FOCUS**

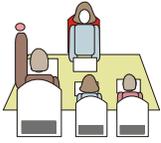
The CAC talked about what they would like their focus of CAC to be. The CAC was reminded of the four issues that were important to them at the last meeting in February that they wanted focus on:

- Employment
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Housing
- State Budget

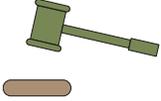
The CAC decided they would like to continue work on or learning about the four topics stated above with the add-of “facilitation training”.



8. The meeting adjourned for the day at 5:00 p.m.



**November 9, 2011**



1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Cindy White, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

- a. General announcements were made.



2. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Cindy appointed the 2011 nominating committee for the upcoming chair and vice-chair person elections in February. The committee members are Cindy White, Chairperson, Krisi Franzone, and Michael Cornejo



3. **NCI DVD**

The CAC was unable to view the NCI DVD at yesterday's meeting, so they decided to watch it today. After viewing the DVD, the CAC felt that this NCI DVD should be showed to the interviewer and interviewee as a training tool.

4. **FACILITATION AT CAC MEETING**

Mark talked to the CAC about facilitation and what it means; he also talked with the group about the importance of members creating their own plan with their facilitator to help their facilitator understand their needs, to better assist them in the meeting. The members were asked to take some time after the meeting to work on

making their plans with their facilitators by using the facilitation work sheets.

## 5. CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD/ TREATY)

Mark gave a more detailed overview of the CRPD.

- **Purpose** - find out what countries have to do to make sure people with disabilities have equal rights.
- **Basic ideas:**
  - ❖ People are free to make their own choices.
  - ❖ No one will be discriminated against.
  - ❖ People with disabilities have the same rights to be included in society as people without disabilities.
  - ❖ People with disabilities, including children, should be respected for who they are.
  - ❖ Everyone should have equal opportunities.
  - ❖ Habilitation and rehabilitation services
- **Basic Rights-**
  - ❖ To control money
  - ❖ To privacy
  - ❖ To accessible places and communication
  - ❖ To live independently in the community
  - ❖ To marry and have children
  - ❖ To education
  - ❖ To healthcare
  - ❖ To vote
- **This would help countries-**
  - ❖ Make laws to give people with disabilities their rights
  - ❖ Change bad laws
  - ❖ Make things accessible
  - ❖ Use technology
  - ❖ Combat stereotypes and prejudice



- ❖ Promote abilities
- **Advocating for the Treaty-**
  - ❖ “Live the Treaty” in your life
  - ❖ Promote the treaty in your community
  - ❖ Tell your elected officials about the treaty

The CAC went over some of the articles that are in the CRPD

- Article 7- Children with disabilities treated equally
- Article 9- Accessibility
- Article 11-Emergencies
- Article 12- Being treated equally by the law
- Article 19- Independent living/being a part of the community
- Article 27- Work

The CAC also started thinking about the rights they have now and what is important to them.

## **6. STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (SCDD)**

Carol Risley, the Director of SCDD, came to the CAC meeting to give an update on what the SCDD is working on and things that are coming in the near future. Carol told the CAC that SCDD is working on updating their website to make it more user-friendly. They have their own advisory committee of individuals who receive services; they are working on a leadership project. Carol also talked more about the dental services that Mark Hutchinson talked about the day before. She said the dental services are going to be restored for adults with developmental disabilities effective January 13, 2012, through the Medi-Cal Dental program. SCDD is also putting together a self-advocacy coalition; it will be made up of members of local advocacy groups from all over the state, she would like

have a member from the DDS CAC to also participate on the coalition.

## **7. CAC MEMBERS' REPORTS**

The following members gave reports on what they have been doing on behalf of the committee and their People First and/or local self-advocacy groups: Rene Rodriguez, Michael Cornejo, Pattie Simpkins, Krisi Franzone, Lisa Krueger, Michelle Gordon, Sue Ann Hankensiefken, David Oster, Marcia Dinkelspiel, Joseph Flanagan, Cindy White, and Tracey Mensch.

## **8. LEGISLATIVE BINDERS**

Lois Cissell and Nicole Patterson handed out the personalized legislative binders to each CAC member. The final binder included a list of public officials and contact information for government on all levels for each member. They went over the binders with the CAC and encouraged them to use the binders as a tool to help them become more involved in government on all levels.

## **9. COMMUNITY ASSIGNMENTS**

CAC members were asked to work on the following:



### **1. Leadership DVD and Guide**

- a. Do one presentation in your area on the Leadership DVD and Guides to a group you haven't done a presentation to yet.

## 2. Convention on the Right for Persons with Disabilities

- a. Complete the CRPD work sheet in the blue folder, that you received at the November CAC Meeting.
- b. Review the DVD and call Nicole for the PowerPoint.
- c. Do one presentation in your area on the CRPD.



## 3. Community Network

- a. Talk to your Service Coordinator about the new dental program that will be available to people that have regional center services.
- b. Connect with your State Senator and Assemblyperson; tell them how the budget cuts are affecting you.



## 4. Role of your Facilitator

Meet with your facilitator and complete the facilitation worksheet that was given to you at the November CAC meeting.



## 5. Department of Developmental Services

Please fill out the DDS consent forms and send them back in the return envelope provided, as soon as possible.



## 9. END OF MEETING

Cindy White, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.