

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

Meeting Minutes
June 14-15, 2016

Members Attended

Rene Rodriguez
Kara Ponton
Sara Desumala
Rick Hodgkins
Matthew LaGrand
Marica Dinkelspiel
Eugenia Jones
Lisa Utsey
Esther Kelsey
Deaka McClain

Member Absent

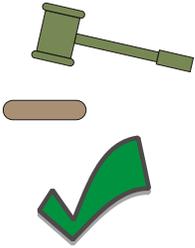
Yvonne Kluttz

Others Attending

Stephanie Johnson
Nicole Patterson
Marcia James
Gina DeLaO
Heather McDavid
Karen Shrawder
Megan Hellam
Christine Hager
Palmira Leyle
Rachelle Gomez
Briana Raphael
Megan Hellam
Dianne Person
Ebenezer Ampah
Katie Hornberger
Shelton Dent
Rapone Anderson
Timothy Schmiz
Rachel Long
Bill Allen
Stephanie Giordano

June 14, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER**



Kara Ponton, 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** (Rick Hodgkins), **seconded** (Matthew LaGrand), **and carried to approve the agenda with the changes.**
- c. The minutes of the May 2015, CAC meeting were reviewed. **It was moved** (Matthew LaGrand), **seconded** (Rene Rodriguez), **and carried to approve the minutes with changes.**



2. **BUDGET UPDATE**

Shelton Dent, from DDS came to the CAC to update them on the DDS budget.

- Shelton talked about the budget highlight for DDS. He told the CAC that DDS received a \$480.7 million increase for the following;
 - ❖ \$11.0 million will be used for regional centers to implement plans to reduce differences in the delivery of services to underserved people, and to provide bilingual pay differences.
 - ❖ \$4.5 million will be used for regional centers to oversee implementation of recommendations and plans to reduce differences in the provision of

services to underserved populations, and to lead competitive integrated employment activities at the local level.

- ❖ \$3.0 million will be used for DDS resources to contract for a rate study addressing the sustainability, quality, and transparency of community-based services.
- ❖ \$34.3 million will be used for:
 - ✓ 5% rate increase for Supported Living and Independent Living.
 - ✓ \$16.4 million for a 5% rate increase for Respite.
 - ✓ \$13.9 million for a 5% rate increase for Transportation.
 - ✓ \$294.8 million will be used to provide an increase of approximately 7.5% for direct care staff wages.
 - ✓ \$17.3 million will be used to provide an increase of approximately 2.5% for provider administrative costs.
 - ✓ \$10.9 million will be used to restore the hourly rate for Supported Employment to \$34.24; an increase of \$3.42 per hour.
- ❖ \$29 million will be used for paid internships and competitive integrated employment incentives.



3. NATIONAL CORE INDICATOR

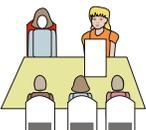
Bill Allan and Stephanie Giordano came to talk to the CAC about the National Core Indicators and to ask for the CAC's input on some new questions for the NCI surveys.

- (NCI). NCI is one tool that DDS uses to monitor the performance of the developmental disabilities service system as well as the performance of our twenty-one regional centers in providing services and supports for people with developmentally disabilities.
- The NCI surveys are conducted through in-person interviews with adult consumers every three years and consumers who have moved out of a developmental center to the community every year. NCI surveys are conducted by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Surveys collect data on consumer and family satisfaction, quality of services, and personal results.
- DDS CAC was asked by DDS to vote on the following new questions that they would like to see in the User Friendly Report. They talked about each question and did some voting on some of the questions.



4. VOTING TRAINING

Katie Hornberger and Christine Hager from Disability Rights of California came to talk the CAC about their rights and responsibilities when it came to voting. they also talked about how important it is to vote if you want to see something change government or even stay the same.

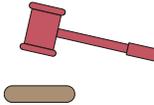


5. CAC MEMBER REPORTS

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, Eugenia Jones, Kara Ponton, Marcia Dinkelspiel, Rick Hodgkins, Matthew LaGrand, Esther Kelsey, and Lisa Utsey

June 15, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER



Kara Ponton, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

- a. General announcements were made.



2. NATIONAL CORE INDICATOR CONTINUE

The voting continued from day one on the new questions that they would like to see in the User Friendly Report. They voted on questions like;

❖ Home

- ✓ Do you like your home or where you live? (*Do you like living here?*)
- ✓ If In-between or No: What *don't* you like about where you live?
- ✓ Would you like to live somewhere else?

- ✓ Do people let you know before they come into your home? (*Do they ring the doorbell or knock first and wait for an answer?*)
- ✓ Do people let you know before coming into your bedroom?
- ✓ Do you have a place to be alone in your home? (*Can you have time to yourself?*)

❖ Work

- ✓ Do you have a paid job in the community?
- ✓ If No, ask: Would you like to have a job in the community?
- ✓ Do you like working there?
- ✓ Would you like to work somewhere else? (*Would you like a different job instead of this one?*)
- ✓ Do you go to a program or workshop (program or center where other people with disabilities work)?
- ✓ Would you like to go more or less to the workshop (program or center)?
- ✓ Would you like to go more or less to the workshop (program or center)?
- ✓ Do you take classes, training, or do something to help you get a job or a better job?
- ✓ Do you volunteer?

❖ Feeling Afraid or Alone

- ✓ Are there any places where you feel afraid or scared?
- ✓ If you ever feel afraid, is there someone you can talk to?

- ✓ Do you have friends you like to talk to or do things with?



3. WORKING AND BENEFITS

Karen Shrawder and Megan Hellam from DR came to the CAC meeting to talk to them about Social Security disability benefits, what happens to your benefits when you go to work and resources and programs to help them.

- What is Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - ❖ Needs Based
 - ❖ Resource Limits: \$2,000
 - ❖ Paid from tax revenue
 - ❖ Payment varies with income, work incentives, etc.
 - ❖ Medicaid (Medi-Cal)
- What is Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
 - ❖ Insurance Program
 - ❖ Work history
 - ❖ Paid from Title II Trust Fund
 - ❖ Monthly payment depends on average lifetime earnings
 - ❖ Medicare
- They talked about how people can work and receive some cash benefits and keep their Medi-Cal/Medicare

- They talked about if you work and receive benefits you do have responsibilities to Social Security.
 - ❖ When you are working, tell Social Security
 - ❖ How much you make
 - ❖ How many hours you worked
 - ❖ Keep receipts for anything you pay for that you need for work
 - ❖ Keep all the letters you receive from Social Security
 - ❖ Keep copies of your pay stubs and anything you give to Social Security
- Resources
 - ❖ DB101.org: calculators, California-specific information
 - ❖ SSA Redbook: ssa.gov/work
 - ❖ WISE (Work Incentive Seminar Events)
 - ✓ www.chooseworkttw.net
 - ❖ DOR
 - ✓ www.dor.ca.gov



4. **REGIONAL CENTER OVERVIEW**

Rapone Anderson and Rachel Long came to talk to the CAC and give an overview of the Regional centers (RC) and what they do and to tell the CAC what to do if they are having problems with services.

Rapone Anderson let the CAC know the RC provide assessment of eligibility and help plan, access, coordinate and monitor the services and supports that are needed because of a developmental disability.

Some of the services and supports provided by the regional centers include:

- Information and referral
- Assessment and diagnosis
- Counseling
- Lifelong individualized planning and service coordination
- Purchase of necessary services included in the individual program plan
- Resource development
- Outreach
- Assistance in finding and using community and other resources
- Advocacy for the protection of legal, civil and service rights
- Early intervention services for at risk infants and their families
- Genetic counseling
- Family support
- Planning, placement, and monitoring for 24-hour out-of-home care

- Training and educational opportunities for individuals and families
- Community education about developmental disabilities

Rachel Long talked about what to do if they are having problems with services and want to complaint.

1. your complaint should be made to the director of the regional center from which you receive services from. If you live in a state developmental center, you should complain to the director of that developmental center.
2. If you are not satisfied with the action taken or proposed by the regional center/developmental center director, you may, within 15 working days, send your complaint in writing to the Director of the Department of Developmental Services.
3. The Director will, within 45 days of receiving your complaint, issue a written decision and send a copy of the decision to you, the director of the regional center or developmental center, and/or, to the service provider.



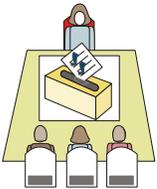
5. **TRAVEL CLAIM PAPERWORK**

Nicole Patterson took some to talk to the group about travel paperwork.

- Room receipts—make sure you get a room receipt with a \$0 balance at the bottom. If you have a roommate, please write their name on the receipt.

- Parking receipts need to be for the least expensive and they will check and make sure that you parked in the least expensive option.
- Rental cars-need rental car agreement (pink paperwork) and a receipt when you return the vehicle. If you don't have both of these papers you will owe money.
- Support claim – how facilitators get paid for providing support for the member. You have to put in dates and what you worked on and where you were. You are approved for 2 hours per month. You must get pre-approved by Ebenezer if you will need more than 2 hours per month of support time.
- Shuttle- if the hotel offers free shuttle you must use the free hotel shuttle. The only exception is if you need accessible transportation.

Get an envelope to mail in the paperwork and receipts.



6. **CAC OFFICER ELECTIONS**

The election was held for Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.

- The CAC elected Kara Ponton as Chairperson, Rick Hodgkins as Vice-Chairperson, and Matthew LaGrand as Secretary.

7. **COMMUNITY ASSIGNMENTS**

CAC members were asked to work on the following:



1. **Leadership DVD and Guide**

- a. Do one presentation in your area on any of the CAC publications.



2. **Feeling Safe Being Safe(FSBS)**

Do a FSBS presentation in your area. The link is:

<https://dds.ca.gov/ConsumerCorner/fsbs/>



3. **Groups in your Areas**

- a. Talk to your groups about the budget highlights
- b. Share the voting information that DRC talked about.
- c. Share the Benefits and Working information that DR talked about.
- d. Share with your group what NCI is and the new questions that could be added to NCI surveys.



9. **END OF MEETING**

Kara Ponton, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.