



**Regional Community Advisory Committee (RCAC)
Region 6 - Compton, Inglewood, Watts, Gardena, Hawthorne - Committee Summary**

L.A. Care Family Resource Center - Inglewood
3111 W. Century Blvd., #100, Inglewood, CA 90303

Thursday, August 17, 2017

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM

MEMBERS: 23

STAFF/MANAGEMENT

| | | | | | | |
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| Olivia Avalos | (P) | Irene Romero | (P) | Barbara Moore, Community Partner | (E) | Frank Meza, <i>Field Specialist, Community Outreach & Engagement</i> |
| Evangalina Cantero | (P) | Mary Romero | (P) | Marilyn Harris, Community Partner | (E) | Hilda Herrera, <i>Liaison, Community Outreach & Engagement</i> |
| Salma Diaz | (P) | Mary Smith | (P) | Lillian Rucker, Community Partner | (E) | Auleria Eakins, <i>Manager, Community Outreach & Engagement</i> |
| Brigitte Green | (P) | Irma Torres | (P) | Bryan F. Gaines, Community Partner | (E) | Idalia De La Torre, <i>Supervisor, Community Outreach & Engagement</i> |
| Celia M. Hernandez | (P) | Maribel Villa | (P) | | | Miguel Casillas, <i>Health Navigator, L.A. Care Health Plan</i> |
| Edith Moreno | (P) | Dove S. Pinkney | (P) | | | <u>GUESTS/PUBLIC</u> |
| Maria E. Nuñez, Vice Chair | (P) | Andria McFerson, Chair | (P) | | | Joy Langford, <i>Field Representative, Office of Assembly Member Autumn R. Burke</i> |
| Alba Perez | (P) | Celia Juarez | (P) | | | |
| Hilda A. Perez, Board Member | (P) | Carrie Broadus, Community Partner | (E) | | | |
| Virginia Renaud | (E) | Janet H. Canterbury, Community Partner | (E) | | | |

**Attendance: 17 Members, 0 Community Partner , 0 Providers, 3 Public, 5 Staff
(P) present, (E) excused absence, (U) unexcused absence, (R) removed**

| | AGENDA ITEM | SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AND FOLLOW-UP |
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| I. | WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Andria McFerson, RCAC Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. Everyone introduced themselves. ▪ Frank Meza asked everyone to review the RCAC meeting “Ground Rules” and asked for volunteers to read a few of the points. ▪ Frank Meza asked a RCAC member to read L.A. Care’s “Mission Statement” to the group. |
| II. | BUSINESS Approval of Agenda & Meeting Summary Andria McFerson, <i>Chair</i> | <p><u>Approval of Meeting Agenda & Summary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The agenda for August 17, 2017 was approved as presented. ▪ The summary for June 15, 2017 was approved as presented. <p><u>ECAC Meeting Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. McFerson provided an update from the July 12, 2017 ECAC meeting. <p><u>Chief Medical Officer Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Richard Seidman, MD, MPH, L.A. Care’s new Chief Medical Officer attended the meeting and reported on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Innovative Program (E-Management): New technology that enables primary care physicians to connect to a psychologist to assist the member better with services. ○ Practice Transformation Network: A grant that allows 3,000 clinics to sign –up (not all are part of L.A. Care’s network) to hire coaches that will assist them to improve services for their members. The coaches will assist with transforming practices to be more modern with technology and provide better services to their patients. ○ NCQA (National Committee for Quality Assurance): The preliminary scores for L.A. Care improved from last year. L.A. Care needs to continue to work on improving member experience scores as those continue to be low. <p><u>Government Affairs Update</u></p> <p><u>Senate Health Reform Bill</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On June 22nd, Senate Republican leaders released a draft of their health care bill called “<i>Better Care Reconciliation Act</i>” or BCRA. BCRA was released as a discussion draft to allow the Senate Republicans to identify their specific “demands” of what they wanted included in the effort to undo key provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). |

Highlights of the Bill:

- BCRA provides deeper cuts to Medicaid than the House-passed bill called the *American Health Care Act (AHCA)*.
- It provides less help in the form of subsidies and tax credits for low-income and middle class families who are purchasing their health care coverage through the marketplace. It could mean higher deductibles and increased out-of-pocket costs because tax credits would be based on skimpier plans.
- Like AHCA, BCRA allows insurers to charge older people five times more based on age.
- It removes funding for women’s health providers like Planned Parenthood and makes certain essential health benefits like maternity coverage and contraceptive coverage optional.
- The Congressional Budget office (CBO) found that BCRA will result in 22 million more Americans losing coverage in 2026 than under the current ACA.
- Senate Republicans had hoped to vote on the bill the week of June 26th, however the bill faced resistance and they did not have the votes to pass a bill. Therefore, the vote will be delayed until after Congress returns from its July 4th recess in order for the Senate Republicans to try to re-write the bill and get a new analysis from the CBO office. This will give the Republicans more time to see if they can get the needed votes to pass the bill before bringing it back to the floor for a formal vote. As a reminder, if the BCRA does pass the Senate, it will be sent to the House for a vote as well, before it can be passed into law.

SB 562 – Single Payer Health Care Update

- On June 23, 2017, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon announced that SB 562 would not advance to a policy hearing in the Assembly. The goal of SB 562 was to create a single-payer plan, operated by the state government, which would guarantee coverage for all California residents, regardless of immigration status, with no premiums, co-payments or other out-of-pocket costs.
- Assembly Speaker Rendon said he supported the concept but called the bill “woefully incomplete” and said that it would stay in the Assembly Rules Committee “until further notice”. As the bill did not address financing or operational structure issues, it is highly unlikely the bill will be brought back for consideration this year. However, based on the unknown future of federal health care reform, it is highly likely that discussions of single-payer will continue.

State Budget Update

▪ **Full Restoration of Adult Dental and Vision Benefits**

Beginning on January 1, 2018, adult Medi-Cal recipients will have access to full dental services. This

- restoration of benefits will cover gum treatments, rear root canals and partial dentures. Currently, adult Medi-Cal recipients only receive some dental services.
- No sooner than January 1, 2020, adult vision services will be fully restored for adult Medi-Cal recipients to include frames and lenses (currently, for most Medi-Cal recipients, only the eye exam is a Medi-Cal benefit). However, the state budget language states that the funding must be available for the restoration to be implemented. On a related note, AB 1092 (Cooley) passed out of the Assembly and is in the Senate. AB 1092 fully restores the adult vision benefit to include one pair of eyeglasses every two years. L.A. Care has a support position on this bill.
 - All RCAC members received a copy of the Government Affairs report in their packet.

ECAC Ad-Hoc Committee – Meeting Effectiveness

- The ECAC Ad-Hoc Committee – Meeting Effectiveness presented their recommendation to ensure effective meeting at ECAC that included the following:
 - **Agenda Items and Time:** All agenda items will have a time allotment. The time allotted will include time for questions and answers.
 - **ECAC members and the public:** Both will be allowed to speak for 2 minutes. If time is limited, the Chair will notify them that time allowed to speak has been reduced to 1 minute. Both will only have the opportunity to ask one question or provide one comment.
 - **Comment Cards:** We will continue to use comment cards and will be numbered in order received. If a question/comment was not answered due to time, members and the public can write the question/comment on an Index cards and staff will follow-up.
 - **Pilot and Training:** The recommendations will be pilot during the September ECAC meeting. An educational sheet with the meeting process will be created to distribute to ECAC and the public.

Frank Meza, *Community Outreach & Engagement*

Operating Rules for the Community Advisory Committees and Executive Community Advisory Committee of L.A. Care Health Plan

- The motion to approve the revisions to the Consumer Advisory Operating Rules did not pass.
- The majority of ECAC members voted against the motion and a list of how each ECAC member voted was provided to the RCACs for their reference.
- Staff will keep the RCAC updated on what the next steps are.

Letter from L.A. Care CEO, John Baackes

- L.A. Care CEO, John Baackes, provided a letter to all RCAC members to inform them of his commitment to keep them informed about L.A. Care’s efforts to ensure the voice of the two million Medi-Cal members is being heard in the ongoing health care debate.

- Mr. Baackes talked about the current proposals from Congress, which go beyond repeal and replace, or even repair of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The proposals would impact all 74 million Medicaid beneficiaries across the nation, and not just those who gained Medi-Cal coverage under the ACA.
- L.A. Care, along with nine other Medicaid health plans from across the nation, recently sent a letter to the Senate's leadership urging all U.S. Senators to carefully consider the changes they are contemplating. They also gave several compassionate alternatives to the severe cuts being proposed.
- RCAC members were encourage to contact their Field Specialist if they had any additional questions.

2017 RCAC Fall Conference

- The 2017 RCAC Fall Conference scheduled for Friday, September 22, 2017 was cancelled.
- Board Member, Hilda Perez shared her concerns about the conference being cancelled and felt this would lose the momentum in terms of RCAC members being able to engage with other members about the 2017-2018 Work-Plan projects focus.
- Members were informed if they have additional questions to contact Auleria Eakins or Francisco Oaxaca, and their phone numbers and extensions were provided for their reference.

Legislative District Office Information

- Hilda Herrera provided all RCAC members with a personalized information sheet with their assigned Assembly Member and Senator based on their home address.
- The document provided information of the legislators district office address and phone number for their reference, and a photo so they familiarize themselves with their local representatives.
- The information provided will help members when they need to contact their local legislators and advocate for issues that impact their community.

ECAC Meeting

- Maribel Villa was not in attendance and was not able to provide a report from the July 12, 2017 ECAC meeting.
- ECAC did not meet in August and will resume their regularly scheduled meeting on September 13, 2017 at L.A. Care Health Plan.
- Dove Pinkney will attend the September 13, 2017 ECAC meeting at L.A. Care Health Plan.
- Evangelina Cantero will attend the October 11, 2017 ECAC meeting at L.A. Care Health Plan.

Board of Governors Meeting

- Evangelina Cantero attend the July 26, 2017 Board of Governors meeting at L.A. Care Health Plan. Ms. Cantero provided a short report about Brilliant Corners who received funding from L.A. Care to help support the Homeless population and the services they receive.

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Board of Governors did not meet in the month of August, however will resume on September 7, 2017, which will be the Board Member Retreat at the California Endowment. RCAC members will still have an opportunity to attend the meeting and staff will coordinate their participation. ▪ Dove Pinkney will attend the September 7, 2017 Board of Governors meeting at the California Endowment. |
| III. | GET UP & MOVE <i>Group</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All RCAC members took a 5 minute break. |
| IV. | REGIONAL ISSUES <i>Group</i> | <p><u>Member Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCAC members were encouraged to bring member issues to the RCAC meetings. Mr. Meza provided sample questions to help members identify potential issues, and emphasized on the importance of bringing issues forward. ▪ RCAC Member raised issues with regards to the services she received from her specialist during her follow up appointments. Member will speak to Health Navigator and document issues she experienced for L.A. Care to follow up. ▪ Member inquired on what the appropriate wait times are for appointments with your Primary Care doctors and Referral to Specialist. Mr. Meza informed the member about the information sheet that will be reviewed by everyone that specifically talks about wait times to see your doctor or specialist. ▪ Frank Meza provided RCAC members with the L.A. Care Members Services toll free number, and encouraged members to speak to the Member Relations Navigators who are present at all RCAC meetings and available to speak with them about issues or concerns they may have. <p><u>Informational Hand Out - “How Long Should I Wait for My Appointment”?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A document was provided to all RCAC members to help guide them on what the time frames are when scheduling appointments with their doctor or when they visit an Urgent Care Center. Other visits or appointments include: Emergency Services, First Prenatal Visits, and Routine Specialty Care. • In addition, if members have trouble making appointments they were encourage to call the service phone numbers listed on the bottom of the sheet. |
| V. | COMMUNITY AFFAIRS <i>Group</i> | <p><u>Health Topic - “Complementary & Alternative Medicine”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A handout was distributed to everyone. <p><u>Autism Benefits with L.A. Care Health Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Torhon Barnes, Manager, Behavioral Health Department presented on what is covered by L.A. Care for Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children with Autism/ASD have a developmental disability that may or may not impair functioning in one or more of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Socialization/Social Interactions with Others ➤ Verbal and Nonverbal Communication ➤ Repetitive Behaviors ➤ Problem Behaviors ▪ Members were encouraged if they feel their child may have Autism to communicate that information to their Primary Care physician immediately so they are able to provide additional support for treatment and referral to the nearest Regional Center to their home. ▪ If the member is 2.5 years of age or older the caregiver should contact the home school for special education eligibility assessment as well. ▪ Torhon also provide additional information and the steps taken when a member needs to request a Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) or Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services from L.A. Care Health Plan. ▪ Mr. Torhon encouraged members to call L.A. Cares Behavioral Health Department for any questions or assistance with regards to Autism Services and Benefits. |
| VI. | RCAC/COMMUNITY WORK-PLAN <i>Group</i> | <p><u>Work-Plan 2016/2017</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ APLA Health is scheduled to hold their Health Fair event geared to support the “Oral Health Initiative Sponsorship” event on August 19, 2017 at the Gleicher/Chen Health Center located at 3743 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles CA 90016 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. ▪ The health fair is aimed to engage the underserved population in South Los Angeles to improve community health outcomes, and highlight the importance of oral health and prevention. ▪ Flyers were mailed to all RCAC members with anticipation and extra copies were made available for members who want to continue to promote the event. ▪ All RCAC members were encouraged to invite their friends and families to the event. All RCAC members are required to attend. |
| VII. | FUTURE AGENDA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No future agenda items were presented. |
| VIII. | MEETING EVALUATIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCAC members were given 5 minutes to complete the meeting evaluation. |

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| IX. | PUBLIC COMMENTS <i>General Public</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Andria McFerson provided information about an upcoming community event hosted by United Hood Nation taking place on Friday, August 17th from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the COS Community Center at 8039 South Vermont, Los Angeles, CA 90044. |
| X. | ADJOURNMENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm. ▪ The next RCAC 6 meeting will be on Thursday, October 19, 2017 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at the L.A. Care Family Resource Center in Inglewood located at 3111 W Century Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90303. |

Respectfully Submitted by
Frank Meza, *Field Specialist*

Approved by:
Andria McFerson, *Chair* _____

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Approved by:

~~Andria McFerson, Chair~~

Maria Elena Nunez
MARIA ELENA NUNEZ