# Regional Community Advisory Committee (RCAC)
## Region 1 – Antelope Valley, Palmdale, Lancaster, Santa Clarita
### Committee Summary

**L.A. Care Family Resource Center – Palmdale**
2072 E. Palmdale Blvd., Palmdale, CA 93550

**Friday, February 21, 2020**
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
<th>STAFF/MANAGEMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Lourdes Caballero</td>
<td>Pamela Harris</td>
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<td>Maria Teresa Caballero</td>
<td>Rut Hernandez, Vice-Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Calzada</td>
<td>Mandie Henry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manuela Castaneda</td>
<td>Marsha Diana Jackson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniela Castillo</td>
<td>Russell Mahler, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Angeles Cruz</td>
<td>Adriana Martinez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irene Cuevas</td>
<td>Pedro Martinez</td>
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<td>Nicole Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Maria Mayoral</td>
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<td>Alicia Flores</td>
<td>Maria Teresa Rabaja</td>
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<td>Lupe Gálvez</td>
<td>Roger Rabaja</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rita Gamboa</td>
<td>Marcia Ramos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Gonzalez</td>
<td>Antonia Rodas</td>
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<td>Maria del Carmen Gutierrez</td>
<td>Caroline Ruano</td>
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(P) present  (E) excused  (U) unexcused

## MEETING SUMMARY, DISCUSSION AND FOLLOW UP

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February 21, 2020 - RCAC 1 Meeting Summary

DRAFT
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENDA ITEM</th>
<th>LEAD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>Kristina Chung, Field Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</td>
<td>Russell Mahler, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Russell Mahler, Chair, called the</td>
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<td>meeting to order and asked everyone</td>
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<td>to introduce themselves.</td>
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<td>• Nicole Fitzgerald read the meeting</td>
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<td>ground rules.</td>
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<td>• Kristina Chung, Field Specialist,</td>
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<td>reviewed the meeting folder and the</td>
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<td>agenda for today’s meeting.</td>
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<td>The health topic for today’s</td>
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<td>meeting is Vaping.</td>
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<td>II.</td>
<td>Kristina Chung, Field Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUSINESS</td>
<td>Russell Mahler, Chair</td>
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**Approval of Agenda & Summary**
- Mr. Mahler asked the committee members to review today’s agenda.
- The agenda was approved as presented.
- Mr. Mahler asked the committee members to review the December 2019 meeting summary. Members were reminded to review the agenda and summary before the RCAC meetings.
- The meeting summary was approved as presented.

**ECAC Report & Board of Governors (BOG) Report**
- Committee members who attended the ECAC and Board of Governors (BOG) meetings gave a report on the following:

**January 2020 ECAC Report (Valerie Small)**
- Information on the durable medical equipment process was shared. If a member is waiting for a custom or rehab chair, the provider is able to provide a basic power wheelchair at no charge. L.A. Care has determined that we have sufficient providers to accommodate these requests and they should not take longer than 5 days. If the provider does not meet their 5-day turnaround to repair a wheelchair, L.A. Care encourages members to file a grievance.
- The Appeals & Grievance Department reported on the analysis of appeals and grievances for 2018-2019.
- SB 104/Medi-Cal Expansion
  - Beginning January 1, 2020, Medi-Cal will expand full scope coverage to the low-income young adult population, between the ages of 19 and 25, regardless of their immigration status, if they meet all other eligibility requirements for the Medi-Cal Program.
  - Full – scope Medi-Cal means they can access health services for free or at low cost, including preventive services – like annual check-ups, dental care and medication.
- CalFresh Update – Work Requirements
  - In December 2019, the Trump Administration finalized a rule tightening work requirements for CalFresh. The rule will go into effect on April 1, 2020 and would apply to adult food stamp applicants without children.
Under the new rule, states would be subject to narrower criteria to waive a requirement that able-bodied adults without dependents work at least 20 hours a week to retain their SNAP benefit.

Currently, most California counties (including Los Angeles) have received waivers through August 31, 2020. However, the new rule will make it significantly harder for counties to continue to receive waivers as waivers may only be given in areas with an unemployment rate higher than 10%.

**February 2020 ECAC Report (Daisy Torres Cruz)**

- There have been improvements in transportation services for members after changing the transportation vendor to *Call the Car*. The previous vendor was Logisticare. More members are using the transportation services and arriving at their appointments on time.
- At the February 2020 Board meeting, Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD, Dean of Charles Drew University College of Medicine, presented information on diversity among medical school students. L.A. Care’s *Elevating the Safety Net* Program encourages diversity in the medical field.
- Public Charge Update
  - The proposed changes to the Public Charge rule has now been permitted to proceed.
  - The effective date for application of the Public Charge Rule is 2/24/2020.
- RCAC 6 Motion – Stipend Increase
  - The motion from RCAC 6 to raise the stipend amount for all RCAC meetings has been moved to the April ECAC meeting. The motion will be taken back to all 11 RCACs for discussion during the February and March RCAC meetings.
- Aunt Bertha provided a presentation on their services. Aunt Bertha in contracted by L.A. Care to provide a database of free and low cost community resources to the community.

**January 2020 Board of Governors (BOG) Report (NO MEETING)**

**February 2020 Board of Governors (BOG) Report (Eliana Torres)**

- An update on Public Charge was provided. The Supreme Court decided to proceed with the changes effective April 24, 2020.
- Information on the Coronavirus was shared with tips on prevention.
- Charles Drew University presented on the need for diversity among medical students, particularly among black and Latino students.

**ECAC Meeting Attendance**

- Adela Guadarrama will attend the March 11, 2020 ECAC meeting at L.A. Care Health Plan from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Maria Trujillo will attend the April 8, 2020 ECAC meeting at L.A. Care Health Plan from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**BOG Meeting Attendance**

- Maria Lourdes Caballero will attend the March 5, 2020 BOG meeting. This meeting is a placeholder and Board Services will notify staff is the meeting will take place. If the meeting does not take place, Maria Lourdes will be asked to attend the April 2, 2020 meeting.
- Maria Teresa Caballero is scheduled to attend the April 2, 2020 BOG meeting at L.A. Care Health Plan from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. If Maria Lourdes attends the April meeting, then Maria Teresa will be asked to attend the May 7, 2020 BOG meeting.

**CO&E REPORT:**

**Code of Conduct/Standards of Behavior**
- Members received the Code of Conduct and Standards of Behavior training.
- The Code of Conduct must be reviewed by all staff, advisory members, volunteers or any vendors associated with L.A. Care Health Plan. It outlines the laws and regulations that L.A. Care must follow in order to conduct business. The following items were reviewed:
  - Laws, regulations and L.A. Care policies
  - Ethics and Integrity
  - Use and Security of L.A. Care Property and Systems
  - Social Media
  - Public Meetings
  - Fraud, Waste and Abuse
  - Workplace Behavior
  - Violations
  - Reporting
  - Resources
- Standards of Behavior are rules that all members must follow as part of their membership in the RCACs. They include personal responsibilities, policies and procedures for advisory committees and conflict of interest.
- After the training, all members signed and received a copy of the *Certificate of Receipt and Understanding.*

**Member Stipend Increase**
- **Background/History of Stipends**
  - Since the inception of the RCAC’s, L.A. Care Health Plan has provided a stipend to offset cost associated with member participation at meetings/events. Offset cost is defined as receiving money to cover cost members may have had to pay out for services (example: childcare and mileage) for attending an L.A. Care meeting/event.
  - The amount that L.A. Care Health Plan stipends members is $70.00 for RCAC meeting and $50 for BOG, ECAC, trainings, and conferences. This amount can be issued in form of a grocery gift card or check for RCAC meetings and checks for all other meetings, trainings or conference.
  - All members upon joining the RCAC are asked to complete a W-9 to verify eligibility to receive a stipend.
  - This stipend amount is tracked monthly by the L.A. Care Health Plan Finance Department. At the end of the calendar year, members who have received more than $599 in checks or gift cards for attending L.A. Care meetings and events will receive a **1099 form.** A 1099 form is issued as a requirement by the Internal Revenue Services (IRS). For many RCAC members, it is important to stay under $599 to...
ensure that their public benefits are not impacted. It is the members’ responsibility to track the total amount that they receive from L.A. Care. L.A. Care’s Finance Department is only responsible for sending the 1099 form if the member goes over $599.

- **RCAC 6 Motion**
  - Currently, there is a motion at ECAC from RCAC 6 asking that L.A. Care Health Plan consider increasing the stipend amount provided to RCAC consumer members.
  - It was determined by ECAC that this motion be taken back to the RCACS for input.
  - Rut Hernandez, Vice-Chair, suggested that L.A. Care form a separate finance department, for member stipends. Idalia De La Torre, Supervisor, stated that because L.A. Care processes many payments, this is not possible. Members were also reminded to keep in mind that if you are asking for an increase, you have to justify why an increase is needed.
  - The voting is as follows:
    - 13 members were in favor of the increase.
    - 4 Members were not in favor of the increase.
    - Those that were in favor of an increase suggested an increase of $5 or $10.

**2020 Advocacy Day in Sacramento**
- The deadline for members to submit their interest profile was Friday, January 31, 2020.
- CO&E staff will be reviewing interest profiles and the group selected will be notified by the beginning of March 2020.
- Those selected to attend will be required to attend two (2) mandatory trainings scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2020 and Thursday, June 11, 2020.
- Advocacy Day in Sacramento is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2020.

**2020 Board of Governors (BOG) Election**
- All RCAC members received an application for the L.A. Care Board of Governors election by mail. Only RCAC members who are interested in being elected as the nominee for either the Consumer or Consumer Advocate seat representing L.A. Care consumers should submit an application and a candidate statement no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2020.
- Individuals running for either of the BOG seats and who have submitted an application will have the opportunity to introduce themselves as a running candidate at the RCAC meeting. In order to be placed on the agenda, members must notify the assigned Field Specialist before the meeting takes place. Each candidate will have 3-5 minutes to speak and the time is determined based on the number of candidates present at the meetings.
- The election will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at St. Anne’s Conference Center.

### III. GET UP & MOVE

- Members took a 15-minute stretch break.
IV. REGIONAL ISSUES

- Members discussed the following issues with Wesley Clinics
  - Canceled appointments
  - Long wait times to get an appointment
  - Referrals to Obgyns that are not in network
- Members voted and there was a consensus to bring forth the motion regarding Wesley Clinics to the March ECAC.

V. RCAC/COMMUNITY WORK PLAN

- **2020 Transportation Aid Partnership** – CO&E is requesting the assistance of RCAC members to identify CBO’s in their assigned RCAC for the Transportation Aid Partnership. The Partnership will support programs that provide transportation services for medical appointments, job/work force development, etc.

- **Breast Cancer Outreach** – This year, RCAC members will be trained on Breast Cancer Awareness. The training will be given by the Health Promoter program. The training will not be done during a RCAC meeting but CO&E staff will identify a date outside of the scheduled RCAC meeting for all RCAC members to participate.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- There were no future items discussed.

VII. MEETING EVALUATIONS

- Members were reminded to complete and turn in the meeting evaluation included in their packets.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- The listing of CVS Minute Clinics and their services was passed out.
- The MLK Community Healing and Trauma Prevention Center flyer was passed out. For questions or a calendar of programs, call (323) 568-8732 or email MLKHealingCenter@ph.lacounty.gov.
- L.A. Regional Food Bank distributes food every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 10am -1pm at the Greater Good New C.O.G.I.C. located at 5840 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90002. For more information, call Arlando Hill at (323) 234-6733.
- The Antelope Valley Food Pantry distributes food every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 10am – 12pm at 44226 10th Street West, Lancaster, CA. For more information, contact Karina Lopez at (661) 942-4719, ext. 131 or klopez@avph.org.
- Antelope Valley Health Neighborhood will have their 2nd Annual Women’s Forum on Thursday, March 5, 2020 from 12-4pm at Antelope Valley Partners for Health (44226 10th Street West, Lancaster, CA). To register, log onto to www.eventbrite.com/e/antelope-valley-health-neighborhood-womens-forum-tickets-94201010759. For more information, email avhealthneighborhood@gmail.com.
- A flyer on Medi-Cal and Denti-Cal benefits was passed out.
X. ADJOURNMENT

The next RCAC 1 meeting will be on **Friday, April 17, 2020** from **10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** at L.A. Care’s Family Resource Center – Palmdale (2072 E. Palmdale Blvd., Palmdale, CA 93550).

Submitted by: _____________________________________________
Kristina Chung, *Field Specialist*

Approved by: _____________________________________________
Russell Mahler, *RCAC 1 Chair*