

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center Advocates Advisory Committee April 25, 2022

AAC Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance

Renard Stanford
Dora Trotter
Ana Torres
Alan Mc Dowell
Sean Davison
Carol Erby
Suzanne Paggi (NLARC)
Alyssa Jackson (WRC)
Linda Butler (WRC)
Esther Kelsey (WRC)
Wesley Witherspoon (WRC)
Todd Rubien(WRC)
Alex Phoung (ELARC)

Others Attending

Desiree Boykin (Advocate)
Kimberly Rodgers (Advocate Specialists)
Garret Ackerman Rommi
Nowana Buchana (WAF)
Maxine (Helping Hands)

Members Absent

Caycee Ricketts
Penelope Rodriguez
Dominique Young
Raul Munoz
Atayvia Roberts
Kecia Weller (WRC)
Ascary Navarro
Elizabeth Hedenberg (WRC)

1. Call to order

- a. Renard Stanford (AAC President) called the meeting to order at 10:03 am
- b. Everyone introduced themselves for this meeting
- c. ACC members approved both the agenda and the meeting minutes for the month March
- d. The Purpose of the AAC was said stated by our AAC Treasurer Renard Stanford. The Ground Rules were read by our AAC Treasurer Renard Stanford
- e. Self- Advocates express what Autism Awareness/ Acceptance month means to them . AAC members wore blue.
- f. Advocate Desiree Boykin gave the ARCA Grass Roots Report she stated Advancement Officer Kiara Lopez, herself and board members Raul Munoz, Mrs. Illona Hendrick, Ms. Karina Andrade and Mrs. Diana Huerta. We able to speak to all 13 delegations on zoom. Our team talking points was AB 2378 (Irwin) Adults with developmental disabilities seeking employment. Another talking point was rates in hiring more Service Coordinators and Direct Support . Vendor s can pay their staff and keep giving quality service .
- f. We are using Zoom as a means to communicate with one another and also hold our meetings during this time

2. Topic: Housing

- a. Mr. Garrett Ackerman presented on Meet My Rommi a service that pairs adults with developmental disabilities another adult with similar interest. They have another office in Minnesota.
- b. The roommates also direct support staff helps with they roommates with tasks and making sure they pay their bills on time.
- c. Rommi has one success they were able to move an individual in another apt that individual wanted in a different location
- d. Mr. Ackerman answered the questions Self- Advocates had.

3. Old Business

- a. Mr. Wesley Witherspoon is the Consumer Advocate at USC Children's Hospital. He gave us a presentation on being safe community.
- b. Mr. Witherspoon explain How to safe in the community in using public transportation
- c. Mr. Witherspoon How do I stay safe when I take the bus? (How many of you take the bus?) {What do you do to keep safe when taking the bus?"

- d. Plan and use safest, most direct route to your destination.
- e. Wait for buses at bus stops that are well-lit and have a lot people waiting.

- f. Do not wait alone at bus stops, train stations, or taxicab stands. If you have to wait alone, make sure you have a flashlight & whistle with you. When you take a bus, try to sit near the bus driver.

- g. When you get off the bus, look at the people that are getting off with you. Make sure that you are not being followed once you get off the bus.
 - i. If you think you are being followed walk into the first public place you see.

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- j. Make sure that before you go out somewhere you tell someone you trust three things:

- l. Tell them where you are going.

m. Tell them who you are going with.

n. Tell them what time you expect to be back home.

o. If you are going to be late coming home, call the person you trust and let them know how late you will be.

2b. Being Safe in the Community

a. Mr. Witherspoon also talk about walking in the community

b. Walk around in areas you know. Don't carry too much money or wear expensive things. Travel in a group. Don't stare at anyone.

c. Mr. Witherspoon also mention the importance of You want to let others know where you are because everything can happen. Some people who don't tell people where they are going disappear, never to be heard from again. You tell your family, friends, roommates, or neighbors where you are going.

d. AAC members gave the stories on be safe in the community. Mr. Witherspoon ask all questions AAC members had.

4. Announcements

a. Our next meeting is May 23, 2022 from 10:00am-12pm on zoom

b. Stay safe and stay healthy

5. End of the meeting

a. Renard Stanford (AAC Treasurer) adjourned the meeting at 11:00. Thank you for your support

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