

**South Central Los Angeles Regional Center Advocates Advisory Committee**

**May 23 , 2022**

**AAC Meeting Minutes**

**Members in Attendance**

Caycee Ricketts  
Dora Trotter  
Renard Stanford  
Ana Torres  
Andrew Sanchez  
David Zaldivar  
Carol Erby  
Suzanne Paggi (NLARC)  
Renee Henderson (ARC)  
Linda Butler (WRC)  
Esther Kelsey (WRC)  
Wesley Witherspoon (WRC)  
Todd Rubien(WRC)

**Others Attending**

Desiree Boykin (Advocate)  
Kimberly Rodgers (Advocate Specialists)  
Nicole Patterson DDS -Client Advocate

**Members Absent**

Alan McDowell  
Raul Munoz  
Atayvia Roberts  
Kecia Weller (WRC)  
Ascary Navarro  
Elizabeth Hedenberg (WRC)  
Sean Davison  
Alex Phoung (ELARC)

## **1. Call meeting to Order**

- a. Caycee Ricketts (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 months April and May
- d. The Purpose of the AAC was said and stated by our AAC President Ms. Caycee Ricketts. The Ground Rules were read by our AAC Treasurer Renard Stanford
- e. Self- Advocates talked about what they are doing for the upcoming holiday, Memorial Day weekend
- f. We are using Zoom as a means to communicate with one another and also hold our meetings during this time

## **2. Topic: Dating and Marriage**

- a. Mrs. Nicole Patterson from DDS talked about dating and marriage. Nicole has dated individuals who are disabled. She has been married for 15 years and has a teenage daughter.
- b. Mrs. Patterson asked the AAC members about their status if they would like to share if they are in a relationship or desire to be in a relationship. Majority of the Self- advocates responded, some where in a relationship. Some self-advocates were single and only looking for friendship.
- c. Mrs. Patterson advised to know your non-negotiables and what your are willing to give. She said it's the era of 2022, and it is ok for a woman to ask a man out.

In the matter of who pays for the date, in Mrs. Patterson's opinion, whoever asks the person out on the date should pay for the date.

- d. Pay attention to Red flags, when you see them, you should avoid them.
- e. Abuse is never okay, please call your local Regional Center.
- f. The first date should be fun, no pressure, just talk and get to know your date. Try not to overshare information.
- g. Nicole and her husband David share the same core values. They both believe that it is helpful to go to counseling before the getting married is great. It works if both parties are willing to try.
- h. Do a background check before you are engaged.
- i. It does not matter who makes the most money in the relationship.
- j. Try to make sure it is 50/50 with both parties getting what they need. No relationship should be one-sided.

k. It is ok to put yourself out there and date when your ready.

### **3. Old Business**

a. Mr. Garrett Ackerman presented on Meeting on his program called Rumi, which is a service that pairs adults with developmental disabilities another adult with similar interest. The main location and office is in Minnesota.

b. The roommates which are also direct support staff, help with the roommates, and with tasks to make sure the roommates pays their bills on time.

c. Rumi has one success story that they were able to move an individual into another apartment that individual wanted in a different location.

d. Mr. Ackerman answered all the questions from the Self- Advocates.

### **4. Announcements**

a. Our next meeting is June 27, 2022, from 10:00am-12pm on Zoom

b. Stay safe and stay healthy

c. WRC CAC will be having a travel meeting on May

### **5. End of the meeting**

a. Renard Stanford (AAC Treasurer) adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm. Thank you for your support

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