

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2012

Present: Thomas Aguinaga (via video-conference), Richard Dier, Dawn Hamilton, Duane Joslin, Martha Lopez, and Jeremy Sunderland - Committee Members
Linda Dier and Yolanda Hutson (via video-conference) – Guests
Lawrence Burton– Vendor Advisory Committee Representatives
Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and Kim Rolfes – Staff Members

Absent: Craig Girard

I. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Jeremy Sunderland, chair, at 6:46 p.m.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

A new IV.A. was added to the agenda; the other agenda items in that section were re-numbered accordingly. Also, a new item IV.I. was added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from the September 19th Meeting

The minutes were approved as presented

IV. Committee Business

A. The Sunset of the Annual Family Program Fee (Kim Rolfes)

At last week's statewide administrators' group meeting, the subject of the annual family program fee (AFPF) came up. This is an annual \$200 fee assessed to all families of consumers 0-18 years of age that do not have Medi-Cal. The fee went into effect July 1, 2011 as part of the trailer bill language and it is anticipated to sunset on June 30, 2013, unless the legislature decides to extend that date. The statewide administrators recommended that the AFPF fee should sunset, as scheduled, for many reasons, including:

1. Some families have refused to continue receiving services due to the AFPF. For those consumers who do not receive the services they need at a younger age, they may need additional or more intensive services once they become adults.
2. Implementing the AFPF is another unfunded mandate and creates an additional administrative workload for regional center staff, who are already over-burdened with work.
3. The cost of mailing out notices, providing pre-addressed mailing envelopes to families, and tracking the receipt of the AFPFs, has an impact on the statutory 15% administrative cost cap based upon how the cost of implementing the AFPF is allocated.
4. The fee was instituted to save a projected \$3.6 million in FY 2011-12 and another \$7.2 million in FY 2012-13. So far, the actual amount of fees assessed is just \$2.7 million statewide and only \$620,000 of this money has actually been collected. Currently, the proposed savings from the AFPF are not being realized.
5. Assessing a fee is contrary to entitlement and to the Lanterman Act and is counter to the provision of services.
6. The fee is creating a barrier between consumers and services.
7. The fee creates a conversation with our families that is inconsistent with our mission statement.

Kim brought this issue to the committee to determine if they wanted to consider taking an action to support the sunset of the AFPF on June 30, 2013, as scheduled in statute.

M/S/C (D. Joslin/R. Dier) Kim will draft a memo, for the committee's review at next month's meeting, advocating for the sunset of the annual family program fee scheduled for June 30, 2013. The memo will be addressed to Terri Delgadillo (director of the Department of Developmental Services), Diana Dooley (secretary for the California Department of Health and Human Services), Governor Jerry Brown, legislators who serve the center's catchment area, and legislators who serve in important positions (to be determined by staff). The memo will include all of the reasons the fee should sunset as stated above.

Action: Michele will bring this issue up at the next ARCA Legislative Committee meeting.

Action: Michele will report back at next month's meeting on what ARCA is planning to do to advocate for the sunset of this fee (if anything).

Action: Jeremy will share this information with his fellow ARCA delegates at their meetings later this week.

B. Committee's Approved Priority Issues for FY 2012-13

The board approved the committee's priorities for this fiscal year. Copies of the approved list of priorities were provided to the committee for their information and reference.

C. Review Committee Action Log from FY 2011-12

All of the actions taken by the committee last fiscal year were recorded. Copies of the log listing these actions were provided to the committee for their review and information. The action logs are provided to each board committee at the beginning of each fiscal year for their review as the logs show each committee's work product. If very few actions were taken, that should tell the committee that more actions should be taken. The action log is also provided so the committee members can review it and make sure that all of the actions they wanted taken were taken.

D. Revisit the Definitions/Priorities of the Committee's Policies – *Deferred*

E. Report on Candidates Forum and Voter Education/Registration Event

Many of the committee members present attended the event and thought it was great! The event was well-attended (even though it was held at the same time as the second presidential debate) and included the participation of 8 candidates who are running for local senate and assembly seats. Yolanda Bosch was a great moderator. The planning committee did a great job organizing the event. Information about the event will be posted on the center's website and thank you letters will be sent to each of the candidates who participated.

Action: Per the committee's request, Sara will post the names of the candidates who participated and their e-mail addresses on the center's website and encourage people to thank them via e-mail.

There was discussion on how to make the next forum even better, such as finding ways to get even more people to come and participate and the inclusion of discussion on any pertinent propositions.

Dawn stated that formal events are great, but she would also like to see the center provide a way for families to discuss similar matters and concerns online, by perhaps establishing a Facebook page for the center.

Action: Michele will explore the possibility of establishing a Facebook page for the regional center.

Action: Michele will bring information to next month's committee meeting on family support groups that have been established.

Action: Dawn will spend some time reviewing the center's website and provide specific feedback on it to Michele.

F. Review Themes from Past Legislative Breakfast/Next Year's Theme

A list of the themes from the past 27 breakfasts was copied for the committee. Michele explained the process for organizing the breakfasts. The committee identifies a theme (a relevant, current topic), a work group is established to work out the speakers, legislators are invited, and fliers are distributed. The breakfasts have almost always been held at Sam's Café at New Horizons in North Hills. Last year, our breakfast was held at the same time as another legislative event, which affected our attendance. We are doing our best to make sure that doesn't happen again. The following suggestions were made by the committee for the next legislative breakfast:

1. Invite influential legislators, not just the ones who serve the center's catchment area.
2. Consider "fair pay for fair work" (adequate wages for direct care staff) as a possible theme.
3. Linda Dier stated that many times consumers are not able to come to the legislative breakfast because they may be working or at a day program. Linda suggested that family members who come to the breakfast bring a framed picture of their consumer with them and put it on their table. Everyone thought this was a really good idea.

Action: Possible themes for the next legislative breakfast will be discussed again at next month's meeting.

G. Legislative Update

1. Committee Notebooks

Sara had prepared to provide copies of bills and other legislative information to the committee. The committee felt that it was too much work for Sara and too much paper!

Action: Sara will e-mail legislative update materials to committee members who have e-mail. She will continue to copy information for those committee members who do not have e-mail or the ability to copy information on their computers (Duane and Thomas).

Sara reported that all of the bills that were important to this committee were chaptered (signed into law).

Action: Sara will e-mail a list of frequently used legislative terms to the committee and will mail them to Duane and Thomas.

2. ARCA Legislative Committee

Michele stated that she and Sara are both members of the ARCA Legislative Committee and Craig Girard attends those meetings as well. The committee's recent activities include:

- Reviewing potential 2013 ARCA-sponsored legislation.
- The restoration of the Early Start program.
- Eligibility for services: Let regional centers re-evaluate at any age.
- Reviving a bill to implement an Employment First policy for California.
- Reviewing the implementation of SB 946 (insurance coverage for behavioral services).
- Supporting Proposition 30 which is tied to the \$50 million trigger.

Discussion ensued about Proposition 30 and how the center could support it. As a nonprofit agency, we can't tell people how they should vote. However, we could provide information about the proposition and what would happen if it didn't pass.

M/S/C (J. Sunderland/D. Hamilton) The committee recommends that the Executive Committee take action to support Proposition 30 on behalf

of the board. If they agree to do that, information about the proposition will be posted on the center's website, sent out in an e-mail blast, and letters sent to the Los Angeles Times and Daily News.

H. Board Audit Question: Are there sufficient financial and human resources available to carry out the center's training and information plan?

Michele said yes, sufficient financial and human resources are in place to carry out the center's training and information plan.

I. Overview of Community Trainings

Part of our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Office of Client Rights' Advocacy (OCRA) is to partner with them to coordinator community outreach efforts. Last fiscal year, the outreach efforts were focused on the Antelope Valley area. This fiscal year, the outreach efforts will be focused on the San Fernando Valley. The following workshops will be held:

1. Special education basics (part one) which will be held twice, once in English and another in Spanish.
2. Special education (part two) held in English with Spanish translation available.
3. In-Home Support Services (IHSS) and legislation that could have an impact on the developmental disabilities system.
4. Legislation that impacts consumers and families to include information regarding SB 946 and the transition to managed care.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following agenda items were identified for the November 14th board meeting:

- A. Minutes of October 17th Meeting
- B. Report on Candidates Forum and Voter Education/Registration Event

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

Jeremy asked the committee members to please complete evaluations after the meeting and submit them to him with any comments.

B. Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 20th

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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