

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2012

Present: Thomas Aguinaga (via video-conference), Richard Dier, Craig Girard, Dawn Hamilton, Duane Joslin, and Jeremy Sunderland - Committee Members
Linda Dier, Yolanda Hutson (via video-conference), and Connie Lapin – Guests
Diane Ambrose, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Martha Lopez

I. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Jeremy Sunderland, chair, at 7:17 p.m.

II. Public Input

Connie made the following announcements:

- A. The Arc keeps track of how legislators vote on bills in comparison to their position on those bills. Connie shared with the committee that Senator Darrell Steinberg ranked very high as well as Senators Carol Liu, Mark Leno, and Mark DeSaulnier.
- B. Marty Omoto recently reported in his newsletter that the Brown Administration is responding to U.S. Senator Harkin's request for an update on California's implementation of the 1999 "Olmstead Decision." This decision requires states to take steps to avoid unnecessary or unjustified institutionalization of people with disabilities, mental health needs, the blind, and seniors. California Health & Human Services Agency Secretary Diana Dooley sent a 24-page document outlining California's efforts. The Harkin request was sent on June 22nd to all 50 state governors following the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pension Hearing on Olmstead compliance.
- C. Connie shared a photo from a local newspaper of her husband Harvey and her congratulating Senator Fran Pavley on defeating her Republican opponent in the recent election.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Several changes were made to the agenda.

M/S/C (C. Girard/D. Joslin) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of October 17th Meeting

The minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Revisit the Definitions/Priority System Section of the Committee's Policies

Action: This agenda item was deferred to the next committee meeting in January.

B. Annual Family Program Fee

1. Review draft memo supporting the June 30, 2013 sunset

As requested at last month's meeting, the committee was presented with a draft letter for legislators to support the sunset of the annual family program fee on June 30th. George stated that the governor will be releasing his draft budget for FY 2013-14 in January and it may not even mention extending the annual family program fee. As such, George felt it was prudent to not send the letter to remind legislators that the annual family program fee is scheduled to sunset.

Action: The committee would like to revisit this issue at their next meeting in January, after the governor's proposed budget is released.

2. ARCA's activities related to supporting the sunset

(This agenda item was not discussed.)

C. Establishment of a NLACRC Facebook Page

This was discussed at last month's committee meeting.

Action: Dawn and Jeremy will forward ideas for what a NLACRC Facebook page would look like to Michele and Sara and they will investigate what the center would need to do in order to replicate it.

D. Outcome of Recommendation to Support Proposition 30

As announced at last week's board meeting, per the committee's request, the Executive Committee gave approval to take a formal position to support Proposition 30. A press release was written and was posted on the center's website and sent out in an e-mail blast. Copies of the press release were provided to everyone present. Proposition 30 passed!

E. List of Family Support Groups

Per the committee's request at last month's meeting, information about local family support groups were downloaded from the center's website and printed out for the committee.

Action: Connie will forward her resource list of family support groups to Jennifer so she can share it with the committee.

F. Discussion re: Next Legislative Breakfast

Ideas for possible topics for the next Legislative Breakfast included:

1. New developments in autism treatment and services.
2. "Beyond Proposition 30" – our system is fragile.
3. The need for flexibility from regulations and statute.
4. Identify a legacy for Assembly Member Bob Blumenfield in his last year.
5. The continued erosion of the provider community.

Action: The committee will revisit ideas for a topic for the next breakfast at their next meeting in January, once the governor's proposed state budget has been released.

**G. Report on ARCA Legislative Committee Meeting
&**

H. Legislative Update

The committee held a conference call today and Craig Girard joined in. The Legislative Analysts' Office has projected a \$2 million deficit for the regional

centers' budget for FY 2013-14 (significantly less than prior years) and have projected a *surplus* for the regional center's budget in FY 2014-15. It is anticipated that the governor will release his proposed state budget on Thursday, January 10th. ARCA wants to sponsor a bill that would restore the Early Start program. The committee wants to revisit the 2008 paper on "The Underfunding in the Regional Center Operations Budget." The committee also discussed bringing back a bill to keep the money from the sale of developmental center land in DDS's budget. ARCA will have a "Capitol Briefing Day" on Wednesday, January 16th; Assembly Member Jim Beall has agreed to host the event for new legislators. ARCA's annual Grass Roots Day has tentatively been scheduled for either February 20th or 27th. The legislators will take their spring break from March 21st through April 1st.

- I. **Board Audit:** Does the center's training and information plan include a sufficient variety of training and communication methods to reach all of the center's constituents? Yes.
- J. **Board Audit:** Are the methods identified in the center's training and information plan in line with our organizational principles? Yes.

Michele announced that the center, in conjunction with the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy, will be presenting 4 free seminars on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in January, February, March, April, and May in 2013. The seminars will be on various subjects and will all be held at Sam's Café at New Horizons in North Hills. Information about the seminars was provided to everyone present.

K. Thanking the Community for their Support of Proposition 30

Because Proposition 30 passed, the regional center system will not be hit with a \$50 million budget reduction this fiscal year. As recommended at last week's board meeting, the board wants to let our community know what the passage of Proposition 30 means to us and to thank those who voted for it. The board wants a simple, general, factual, positive message sent.

Action: Michele will ask Sara to draft a brief 1-page thank you letter. Once finalized, the letter will be sent to the governor, community leaders, and legislators, posted on our website, and sent out in an e-mail blast.

L. Visits with New Legislators

Once the holidays are over, board members and staff should meet with our newly elected legislators to introduce ourselves, try to garner their support, and start a relationship with them. Board members will be assigned to legislators in their area.

Action: Staff will come up with an action plan for visiting legislators and present it to the committee at their next meeting in January.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

- A. Minutes of November 20th Meeting

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

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

- B. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 16th (no December meeting)

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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