

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2012

Present: Thomas Aguinaga (via video-conference), Craig Girard, Katie Mead, Meredith Rimmer, and Jeremy Sunderland - Committee Members
Yolanda Bosch – Board President
Connie Lapin and Jason Nagle (via video-conference) – Guests
Salisa Wagner – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Jeremy Sunderland, chair, at 7:07 p.m. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input

- A. Connie provided the committee with information on the Hughes bill, which would repeal the requirement that school districts develop behavior intervention plans for disabled students with severe behavior problems. Connie is opposed to this repeal in the Hughes bill because the behavior intervention process protects students and teachers from dangerous behaviors and it keeps students in public schools and avoids costly private placements. Most importantly, it helps all students learn in a safe environment. A hearing on this bill will be held tomorrow.
- B. Connie reported that SB 946 established a task force to define behavior health treatments. Connie believes that whatever the task force comes up with will become law. She wants to make sure all evidence-based behavioral health treatment is included.
- C. Connie provided everyone with copies of the Autism Society of Los Angeles' response to the May Revise. Art Bolton, a member of the Lanterman Coalition and one of the original authors of the Lanterman Act, came to a recent meeting of the Autism Society and talked with them. He wants to start a developmental disabilities political action committee where each member would pay a fee of only \$20 per year.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Several items were added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of April 18th Meeting

M/S/C (C. Girard/J. Sunderland) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. L.A. City's Proposed Ordinance on Community Care Facilities

Cristofer Arroyo, from Area Board 10, came to last week's board meeting to inform the board about this proposed ordinance. Possible action on the ordinance was forwarded to this committee for their discussion.

M/S/C (J. Sunderland/C. Girard) To direct staff to draft a letter to the L.A. City Council telling them that we agree in principle with what they are trying to accomplish but outline our concerns on how this ordinance would affect our clients and violate their civil rights. The draft letter will be presented at the next Executive Committee meeting for review and approval.

- B. Strategic Planning Committee's Recommendation for a Candidates Forum
- C. Strategic Planning Committee's Recommendation for a Voter Registration/
Education Day

The Strategic Planning Committee recommended that the center organize a candidates forum and a voter education and registration drive prior to the November elections. They thought it was an especially good idea to do it this year because so many of the legislators representing the center's catchment area are terming out. The education part could include a list of legislators who have supported our system in the past by listing their voting record. Sara reported that the Secretary of State's office gave the center a PowerPoint presentation on how to register and vote, which was recently shown to our service coordinators as they plan to talk with their clients about registering to vote at their IPP meetings. Brian Winfield, from DDS, just sent out a survey to the regional centers about barriers to clients voting.

Action: Michele will publicize DDS's survey on the center's website.

Action: Sara will send out an e-mail blast regarding the survey.

M/S/C (M. Rimmer/K. Mead) To organize a candidates forum and a voter education/registration event that would be held on the same day prior to the November elections.

D. Legislative Update/Committee's Revised Bill File Report

Sara met with George and discussed how best to present legislation to the committee. Sara distributed notebooks which contain the bills but divides them into the following sections.

1. Bills that, if passed, would have a direct impact on services for consumers or would change the Lanterman Act.
2. Bills that, if passed, might have some impact on services for consumers.
3. Bills on ARCA's bill file that impact a broader population and may also impact consumers.
4. Trailer bills.
5. Full text of bills included in Section 1.

Action: The committee's policies and procedures should be included in the notebooks.

As the composition of this committee will change in the next fiscal year, the notebooks will be distributed to the new committee members.

Action: The notebooks should be provided to the new committee members prior to their first meeting in July so they have a chance to review the material prior to the meeting.

It is very important that the committee take action on the bills they are reviewing so staff can take action when needed.

E. Report on Legislative Activities:

1. ARCA's Grass Roots Day (Sacramento): Wednesday, April 18th

Michele reported that this year's team consisted of herself, Yolanda Bosch, Steve Miller, and Elizabeth Lyons. They had 4 talking points and met with 11 legislators at the State Capitol that day. Also, the legislators seemed much more responsive than in the past.

2. NLACRC's Legislative Breakfast: Friday, April 20th

The theme of this breakfast was, "The System Belongs to Us" and it focused on the importance of Early Start services, the success of supported employment, and ended with a consumer who is a senior, living on her own in her family home after her parents passed away. Yolanda did a great job of speaking on behalf of her son Mikey who benefited from Early Start services. The 16th annual Jynny Retzinger Community Service Award was given to Steve Miller on behalf of Tierra del Sol, which just celebrated its 40th anniversary. Ten legislative representatives and over 150 guests were present. Unfortunately, there were no actual legislators present as our breakfast conflicted with another one, which many had made a prior commitment to attend. We will do our best to make sure our breakfasts do not conflict with similar events in the future.

Action: Sara will contact Lyn Shaw at Assembly Member Bob Blumenfield's office and ask her if she is aware of any other legislative events that will be held at the same time as our breakfasts.

3. NLACRC's Grass Roots Week Visits

This event was organized differently this year. Each team member was given a notebook that contained information about the legislator they were going to see. Also, 2 designated staff members made the appointments for the teams, rather than leaving that up to the team lead. Appointments have been made and some of the visits have already been done.

The committee thanked Michele and Sara for all of the work they did with the legislative events!

F. Review and Approve Committee's Draft Critical Calendar for FY 2012-13

Copies of the committee's proposed critical calendar were provided to the committee for their review. Nothing but the dates have been changed.

M/S/C (C. Girard/J. Sunderland) To approve the committee's critical calendar for FY 2012-13 as presented. [Later in the meeting, an addition was made (see Section IV.I. below.)]

G. Festival Educaional

Sara reported that the center is planning this annual event in July for our Spanish-speaking families. This year, the event will be held at New Horizons.

Action: The center should advertise other events for our English-speaking families.

H. Vision Internet Report

The company who created our website, Vision Internet, would like to use the center's name in a press release for marketing purposes. Copies of the proposed press release were provided to the committee for their review. We were very happy with their service and with the way the website turned out. Would we be willing to do this for everyone we did business with? Probably not.

Action: Michele will send Vision Internet a thank you letter and let them know that they can use the center as a reference, but we do not want the center's name included in their press release.

I. Strategy for Implementing the Board's Service Provider and Elected Representative Visits Policy

The implementation part of this recently approved board policy states:

“The Government & Community Relations Committee will develop a strategy that encompasses the purpose and intent of this policy. Development of the strategy will take place in the current fiscal year for implementation in the upcoming fiscal year. Examples of types of events that will encompass this strategy are visits to service providers/elected representatives, participation in grass roots visits, attending a related non-profit agency's, organization's, or service provider's board meeting, etc.”

Action: Developing a strategy for implementing this policy will be added to the committee's critical calendar in the month of January.

Action: Michele will draft a strategy and e-mail it to the committee for their review and input.

J. May Revise

Copies of ARCA's analysis of the May Revise were provided to the committee and will be provided to all board members. George reviewed highlights from

their analysis. Yolanda said that the board needs to have a plan. No more cuts! Our providers are closing! Clients have health and safety issues! We need to mobilize. More aggressive behavior is needed. We need to identify board members or others who can go to Sacramento or see legislators at a moment's notice. George added that it is important that we work collaboratively with others to have a common voice – we don't want to cannibalize one another.

Action: Yolanda will work with George and then with board members to identify a date next week for a special board action meeting.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

- A. Minutes of May 16th Meeting
- B. Committee's Revised Bill File Report (circulate)
- C. Candidates Forum and Voter Registration/Education Day

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 18th (no June meeting)
- B. Complete Meeting Evaluations

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

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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