

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2014

Present: Daniel Becerra, Jessica Gould, Duane Joslin, Debra Newman, and Tavia Wooley
- Committee Members
Eric Leh – Board President
Connie Lapin and Jennifer Pecor – Guests
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Jeremy Sunderland

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Duane called the meeting to order for Jeremy Sunderland, chair, at 6:52 p.m.

II. Public Input

A. “Restraint & Seclusion Prevention” Bill

Connie provided copies of a press release on this bill to the committee. If passed, this legislation would provide federal protections for students by prohibiting abusive seclusion and restraint use in schools. She urged the committee to support this bill.

B. Senior & Disability Action Position on Mandatory Training Proposal

Connie provided information on this proposal to the committee. Members of the SEIU have submitted this state ballot initiative for mandatory training and a wage increase for In-Home Support Services (IHSS) workers. They need to get 555,000 signatures of California voters in order for it to qualify. This proposal includes 75 hours of mandatory training for IHSS workers. If this proposal qualifies for the ballot, Connie thinks the committee should oppose it.

C. Self-Determination Program

Connie announced that The Autism Society of L.A. County has developed a frequently asked questions (FAQ) and facts sheet on the self-determination program.

D. The Lanterman Coalition

The Lanterman Coalition consists of 16 major stakeholders in the developmental disabilities system. They wrote a letter to the Governor on the concerns they have regarding the new minimum wage increase and overtime rules. They also sent copies of the letter to key legislators in the state.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (T. Wooley/D. Becerra) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from the January 15th Meeting

M/S/C (T. Wooley/D. Becerra) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Legislative Update

Sara provided the committee with copies of their updated bill file. The committee is currently tracking 39 state and federal bills. Sara reviewed the bill file with the committee. The deadline for new bills to be introduced is February 21st; lots of new bills are expected to be introduced.

1. Team Visits with Local Legislators

Sara provided the committee with a list of the 7 legislators that have been targeted for visits in February and March. The list also included the names of the team members. Each team includes a staff lead, a board member, a consumer, and a service provider. Michele asked the committee members to please try to be flexible with the visit dates, as they are difficult to schedule.

2. SB 946 Implementation Hearing (March 4th in Sacramento)

The Senate Select committee on Autism and Related Disorders will hold an informational hearing on SB 946 (health care coverage for autism services) that went into effect on July 1, 2012. The hearing was called by Senator Darrell Steinberg to gather information on the accomplishments,

functions, applications, and performances of the bill. They will specifically be looking at four areas:

- Access to care
- Assessment and treatment
- Fiscal implications
- Benefits and challenges

B. Draft a Strategy for the Service Provider and Legislative Representative Visits Policy for Implementation in FY 2014-15

Part of the committee's policy states that the committee will develop a strategy that encompasses the purpose and intent of their policy for the next fiscal year. The board's legislative strategy has already been put in place:

- The restoration of the Early Start program
- Addressing the inadequate rates given to our service providers
- Pushing for a viable wage for direct support professionals

C. Update on Legislative Breakfast: Friday, April 11th

The board approved the committee's them for this year's breakfast: "Direct Support Professionals: The Unsung Heroes of our Community." Letters have gone out to our local legislators inviting them to the breakfast and "save the date" postcards have also been sent out.

Jennifer Pecor reported that at this month's Vendor Advisory Committee meeting, she announced that the Legislative Breakfast planning committee was looking for providers to help sponsor the making of a video that would be shown at the breakfast. The video is going to cost \$5,000. Jennifer happily announced that 17 providers have offered to help pay for the video!

1. Approval of Flyer
2. Admittance Fee for the Breakfast

In the past, the board had decided to charge guests slightly more than the cost of the breakfast to help offset event costs. Sam's Café is now charging us \$10 per breakfast, which is what we charge our guests. Do we want to increase the admittance fee?

M/S/C (J. Gould/D. Newman) To recommend that the Executive Committee take action, on behalf of the board, to keep the admittance fee for the Legislative Breakfast at \$10 per person.

D. Annual Legislative Training Session: Wednesday, April 23rd

Each year, the center holds a legislative training session to help prepare board members, Vendor Advisory Committee members, consumers, and staff for their meetings with legislators. The training will be held in lieu of the Consumer Services and Government/Community Relations Committee meetings in April.

E. ARCA Grass Roots Day Visits (Sacramento): Wednesday, March 12th

Each year, ARCA makes arrangements for regional centers to send representatives to Sacramento to visit with legislators at the State Capitol. Michele reported that this year's team members are herself, Eric Leh, Rebecca Lienhard, and Jenean Glover and her daughters. Their 2 talking points will be the restoration of the Early Start program and provider rates.

F. NLACRC's Grass Roots Week Visits

Arrangements will be made for teams to visit our local assembly members and senators in the spring.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the March 12th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the February 19th Meeting
- B. Updated Committee Bill File
- C. Report on ARCA Grass Roots Day Visits: Wednesday, March 12th
- D. Report on Team Visits with Local Legislators
- E. Legislative Breakfast: Friday, April 11th (Sam's Café)
- F. Annual Legislative Training Session: Wednesday, April 23rd
- G. Annual Grass Roots Week Team Visits (in the Spring)

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Jessica reported that the college classes that she took on early child development included lots of special education components. She was happily surprised.

B. Sara provided flyers for the following events:

1. NLACRC's community meeting on purchase of service expenditure data: Tuesday, March 25th, at 2:00 p.m. (at NLACRC).
2. "Passport to Adulthood" annual transition fair: Wednesday, March 19th, at 6:00 p.m. (Santa Clarita Activities Centers).
3. Community hike with Councilmember Felipe Fuentes: Saturday, February 22nd, at 8:45 a.m. (Hansen Dam ranger station).
4. Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian's free health care forum: Saturday, March 1st, at 10:00 a.m. (El Radil Church, North Hills).
5. Family Focus Resource Center's workshop on "Transition from Early Intervention to Pre-School:" Friday, March 14th, at 9:30 a.m. (at NLACRC).
6. The Inclusion Institute's seminar on "Understanding Special Education Due Process:" Saturday, March 8th, at 10:00 a.m. (Glendale Public Library auditorium).

C. Complete Meeting Evaluations

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

D. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 19th

VII. Adjournment

Duane adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

