

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2015

Present: Dorothy Daniels, Debra Newman, Lou Paparozzi, and Tavia Wooley – Committee Members
Michelle Heid – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Tanner Scharch – Guest
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, Kim Rolfes, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Myriam Jovel, Sean Stalbaum, and Angela White

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Tavia Wooley, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Several items were added to the agenda.

M/S/C (D. Daniels/D. Newman) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of November 19th Meeting

M/S/C (D. Daniels/D. Newman) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Legislative Update

1. Report on Meeting with Senator Fran Pavley re: SB 577 (Kim Rolfes)

Kim recently met with Senator Pavley to ask her questions about SB 577 and to let her know that the center would like to be one of the pilot centers. Unfortunately, Senator Pavley's attention wasn't on SB 577, it was on self-determination. She had been told that NLACRC was not on

schedule with implementing the program. She had additional concerns about NLACRC as well, including a provider who wasn't getting referrals and that the center not doing adequate outreach. She concluded the meeting by stating that she no longer planned to participate in our annual legislative breakfasts, as she didn't believe it was the best use of her time. In the past we have had an excellent relationship with the senator and she's been a big supporter of the regional center. Kim shared copies of a letter she plans to send to Senator Pavley responding to her concerns.

2. ARCA Grass Roots Day: Wednesday, April 15th (Sacramento)

This is an annual event that the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) arranges, where each regional center sends a small team of representatives to the State Capitol to meet with legislators to discuss with them an issue identified by ARCA. NLACRC usually sends Michele Marra, as the staff lead, plus a board member, consumer, and service provider. The participants are usually chosen based upon their familiarity with the topic of discussion. The team members leave the afternoon before and have a dinner briefing session with ARCA staff. The next day, they meet with different legislators every half hour or so for a total of 10 or 11 visits. We will be asking for volunteers to serve on our team and the team members are selected by the board president. More to come!

3. Legislative Training

Rick Rollens and Daniel Servino (ARCA staff) are offering trainings to regional centers on "Local Legislative Advocacy Plans and Strategies." If the committee would like to have this training, it would be held on February 18th, in lieu of the Consumer Services and Government/Community Relations Committee meetings currently scheduled for that evening.

Action: The committee would like to ask the Executive Committee to approve Michele making arrangements for ARCA staff to come to the regional center on February 18th to give board members, Vendor Advisory Committee members, Consumer Advisory Committee members, and staff a legislative training.

Action: If the Executive Committee agrees, a "meet and greet" will be held with ARCA staff at 5:00 p.m. prior to the 5:30 p.m. legislative training.

B. Draft Social Media Policy/Guidelines

Per the sub-committee's request, Michele is putting together a board policy on how the center's Facebook page will work. A draft of the policy will be presented to the sub-committee soon, and will be presented to this committee in March.

Action: Sara will send Michele a list of regional centers that have Facebook pages.

C. Committee begins developing a strategy that encompasses the purpose and intent of the board's Service Provider & Elected Representative Visit policy for implementation next fiscal year.

We generally use the board's priority issues as our framework for our visits with legislators and also for our legislative breakfast topics. This year, the focus is service provider rates. Copies of the board's policy on service provider and elected representative visits and its accompanying framework for strategy implementation were provided to the committee for their information.

Action: Tavia asked that the board policy and its framework for strategy implementation be included in the next board meeting packets for the board's information and so they remember that it is the whole board's responsibility to interact and develop relationships with our local legislators.

D. Purchase of Service (POS) Variance Community Meeting

We have posted the center's POS variance data on our website as required by statute. We will be scheduling the center's public meeting in a few weeks. We will be making every effort to hold the meetings at a time when it would be convenient for most people to attend (afternoon and evening). Historically, we have very low turnout at meetings like this. George added that the only solution he sees to address any perceived POS variance would be for regional centers to be adequately funded so they can hire the service coordinators they need so staff can spend more time with their consumers to better identify resources and services for them.

E. Special Olympics World Games

Due to the late hour, Sara had to leave the meeting. But Michele explained to the committee that there are 2 ways to support the Special Olympic World Games that will be held in the Los Angeles area this summer. The first requires a large

commitment of time and training. The second is to become what they call “fans in the stands.” A captain is identified who organizes a group of people who go to an event to cheer on the athletes. This seems like the best option for us. More to come!

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee’s section of the February 11th Board of Trustees meeting:

- A. Minutes of January 21st Meeting
- B. Service Provider and Elected Representative Visit Policy & Framework for Implementation

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

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

- B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 18th

VII. Executive Session

M/S/C (D. Daniels/D. Newman) To go into executive session at 8:47 p.m. to be updated on union activities.

VIII. Adjournment

Tavia adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant