

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

**Present:** Jun Antonio, Jessica Gould, , Caroline Mitchell, Marcia Leija, Bridget Moss, Debra Newman, Sean Stalbaum, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang – Committee Members  
Mary Jo Fernando – Board Member  
Gerald Robles – Guest  
George Stevens, Diane Ambrose, Michele Marra, Sara Iwahashi, and Liliana Windover – Staff Members

**Absent:** All present

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

**II. Public Input** – There was no public input.

**III. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Agenda

Items IV.H and IV.I. were added to the agenda.

**M/S/C** (J. Gould/D. Newman) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of September 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

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

**IV. Committee Business**

A. Legislative Update

Sara provided the committee with copies of their updated bill file. Sara stated that the highlighted bills are the ones that our board has taken a position. AB 449, AB 643, AB 662, SB 11 and SB 324 were all chaptered. Governor Brown had until October 12<sup>th</sup> to sign or veto any bills. It was also noted that if the governor does not veto or sign a bill, that bill automatically becomes a law without his

signature. Sara also provided the committee with a list of 30 additional bills that are being tracked by the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA). She reported that the legislature is currently in recess and they will reconvene on January 4, 2016.

Bridget Moss reported that the California Sheriff's Department in Valencia has started a program for people with disabilities in order for them to register and obtain an identification card so the police enforcement is able to identify these individuals and respond in a proper manner in case of an accident or situations involving people with disabilities.

B. Michelle Heid's Legislative Presentation

Michele Marra reported that in a previous Government & Community Relations Committee, Michelle Heid volunteered to provide legislative advocacy training. This issue was taken to the Executive Committee for their input, but it was recommended that this committee needed to determine what audience the presentation would be best for (e.g. committee training, board training, or community meeting). If we move forward as a board training the earliest possible date would be during the January board meeting.

**Action:** Michelle Heid will be asked to do a short and comprehensive presentation in lieu of the Consumer Services & Government/Community Relations Committee meetings on November 18<sup>th</sup>. After the presentation, the committee will determine if and how the training could be expanded for other groups.

C. Development of a Ballot Initiative

Michele Marra shared with the committee information regarding ballot initiatives which gives the citizens of California ways to propose laws and constitutional amendments without the support of the Governor or the Legislature. George reported that last week he attended that ARCA Strategic Planning Retreat. There doesn't seem to be a lot support from ARCA or The Lanterman Coalition for the development of a ballot initiative and in particular one that involves a tax increase. At this point, this is not a priority for ARCA.

D. Survey sent by Assembly Member Scott Wilk's Office

Diane share with the committee copy of a survey sent by Assembly Member Scott Wilk's Office and it was noted that there was nothing on this survey addressing issues regarding individuals with developmental disabilities or human services.

E. Input on Legislative Breakfast DVD

Two years ago, the center put together a DVD that talks about direct care staff, wages and rates. This DVD was created in collaboration with our provider community. Marcia and Dorothy were asked to review this DVD and present their recommendations to see if it needs to be updated. Marcia had the opportunity to review it and she stated that it was too long and it needed to be shorter. She indicated that she has the proper equipment and she volunteered to edit it. If possible she would need the footage of the actual DVD from the production company.

**Action:** George stated that the center will contact the production company who created this DVD and obtain the information for Marcia.

F. Legislative Strategies

Michele Marra reported that at the beginning of the fiscal year we had a discussion about exploring the possibility of hiring a legislative consultant who could keep things moving and provide us with outreach to our constituents, continue the process of the letter writing campaign, educate our community with trainings about the need for people to understand the system, the Lanterman Act and get their voices heard, and help them to understand how they can get involved. This committee needs to identify what functions and goals we want the consultant to do for us.

**M/S/C** (B. Moss/D. Newman) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to put together a subcommittee to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a legislative consultant and participate in the selection of candidates.

G. 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.

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

I. Collaborative Meeting with Consumer Advisory Committee

At the last board meeting, an action was taken that this committee would work collaboratively with the CAC to draft a presentation on how the lack of adequate funding is hurting our system and present that presentation to the board for their review and input.

Jeremy stated that when we hire the legislature consultant, upon the board's approval, we will look at all the center's needs including the development of a presentation on the impact the lack of funding is having on our system.

V. **Board Meeting Agenda Items**

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the October 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of October 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting
- B. Legislative Update
- C. Legislative Consultant Subcommittee

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, November 18<sup>th</sup>

VII. **Adjournment**

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Liliana Windover*

Liliana Windover  
Executive Assistant

