

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2016

Present: Jun Antonio, Marcia Leija, Caroline Mitchell, Bridget Moss, Debra Newman, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang – Committee Members
Mary Jo Fernando – Board Member
Michelle Heid and Dolly Wauls – Vendor Advisory Committee Representatives
Dana Andrews, Rebecca Lienhard, and Gerald Robles - Guests
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Jessica Gould

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Revised Agenda

M/S/C (M. Leija/B. Moss) To approve the revised agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from the October 21st and November 18th Meetings

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

IV. Committee Business

A. The Governor's Proposed State Budget for FY 2016-17

The governor released his proposed budget earlier this month. Copies of the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') budget summary was provided to the committee with tonight's meeting packets. The budget reflects increases in funding for both our purchase of service and operations budgets over the current fiscal year, but the additional funds fall woefully short in terms of addressing the underfunding of the system as a whole. The budget included funding for

caseload and utilization growth, policy implementation, and dollars to address caseload ratios. The budget also includes proposed Trailer Bill Language (TBL) that requires DDS and regional centers to report on the utilization of earmarked funds for policy implementation. The recommended 10% funding increase for our system was not included in the governor's budget, but the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is still pushing for it. George stated that we want any increases fairly distributed; we don't want any of our consumers, especially our most vulnerable and those in traditional settings, left out of the loop.

George added that upon the lead of LA County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors will be submitting a letter to the governor and state legislative leaders asking them to boost and effectively allocate funding for people with developmental disabilities. Jeremy recommended that the center send a letter to Mr. Antonovich and to the other supervisors, thanking them for their support.

B. Legislative Update

Sara provided copies of the ARCA Legislative Committee's updated bill file which included summaries and status reports on 36 different bills.

1. AB 1565 (Lackey): This bill would require DDS to submit a plan to the legislature by August 1, 2017 to ensure the sustainability, quality, and transparency of community-based services. It also requires a 10% operations increase beginning July 1, 2016 and July 1, 2017. This bill also has a reference to "transparencies" that George would like to make sure he fully understands before he recommends support of this bill.

M/S/C (B. Moss/C. Mitchell) To recommend to the Executive Committee to support AB 1565 (Lackey), on behalf of the Board of Trustees, if the "transparency" references are not an issue for the center.

2. Expansion of Legislative Training:

In November, Michelle Heid gave the Consumer Services and this committee a training on legislative advocacy which was very well received. The training is on the agenda again this month, so the committee can decide if they want to expand the training to the full board or to the community. (See action item in section IV.C. below.)

3. Grass Roots Legislative Efforts: Every spring, ARCA organizes a day for the 21 regional centers to each send a small team of representatives to the State Capitol to visit with our legislators. We usually send a staff lead (Michele), a board member, a service provider, and a consumer. This year, Grass Roots Day will be held Wednesday, March 30th. The center holds its annual Grass Roots Week in the spring as well. This is a time when we send out teams to visit with our local legislators. Sara will be attending next month's Vendor Advisory and Consumer Advisory Committee meetings to talk with them about Grass Roots Week and hopefully solicit their participation in the visits.

C. New Legislative Strategy (Rebecca Lienhard)

NLACRC's Executive Committee approved the new legislative strategy that was proposed by this committee and by the Consumer Services Committee in November. Rebecca reported that along with NLACRC, Lanterman and San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Centers are also in support of this legislative strategy, which will train individuals with a single message and then to participate in vigils at the offices of local legislators who are in strategic positions. Though the exact message has not been finalized, it will essentially be "do not support a state budget that doesn't include the 10% funding increase."

Action: The center will hold 2 legislative trainings (see item IV.B.2. above), 1 in the afternoon and another in the evening, for its board members, service providers, and for members of its community sometime during the week of February 22nd, to help them prepare for their participation in the vigils at local legislators' offices which will begin on Tuesday, March 1st.

Action: Michele will talk about the training and the vigil at next month's Vendor Advisory Committee meeting.

Action: Sara will work with Michele to organize the training and send out the invitations.

Action: Jennifer will make sure the Executive Committee is aware of the timeline for the trainings and the vigils.

D. Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Legislative Consultant

Copies of the draft RFP were provided to the committee for their review and

input. A couple of typos were found and corrected.

M/S/C (J. Sunderland/M. Leija) To approve the RFP as corrected.

The center will need a Legislative Consultant Ad Hoc Committee in order to review the proposals that are submitted.

Action: Bridget, Michelle, Marcia, and Jeremy volunteered to serve on the Legislative Consultant Ad Hoc Committee.

E. Update on the RFP for a Social Media Consultant

The board approved the RFP at the November board meeting. Now we need to put an ad hoc committee together to review the proposals that are submitted.

Action: Bridge, Marcia, and Debra volunteered to serve on the Social Media Consultant Ad Hoc Committee.

F. Discussion Regarding a Possible Legislative Event on April 8, 2016

In light of the legislative trainings and pending vigils at our legislators' offices, the committee decided not to pursue having another legislative event in the spring.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the February 10th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of January 20th Meeting
- B. Updated Legislative Bill File
- C. Legislative Strategy
 - 1. Expansion of legislative training to the community (February)
 - 2. Begin participating in vigils at local legislators' offices (March)
- D. Update on the RFP for a Legislative Consultant
- E. Update on the RFP for a Social Media Consultant

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, February 17th

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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