

0North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Government & Community Relations Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
February 15, 2017

**Present:** Adelina Castellanos, Jessica Gould, Erika Hernandez, Meagan Miller, Caroline Mitchell, Debra Newman, Curtis Wang, and Tamar Witmer – Committee Members  
Sharoll Jackson – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative  
Angie Cortez, Steve Miller, and Sonia Ojeda - Guests  
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, and Jennifer Kaiser – Staff Members

**Absent:** Michelle Heid and Shant Kotchounian

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

Tamar Witmer, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Introductions were made.

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

**III. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV.B.1. was added to the agenda.

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

B. Approval of Minutes of the January 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting

**M/S/C** (C. Wang/C. Mitchell) To approve the minutes as presented.

**IV. Committee Business**

A. Legislative Update

Sara provided the committee with the following information:

1. Legislative Bill File: There are only 5 bills on the bill file (including AB 279). Sara reviewed summarized the content of the bills with the committee. Sara explained that she believes that there aren't many bills being presented as yet because there are so many new legislators who are

in the process of adjusting to their new positions. One of the new bills is SB 283 (Wilk). This bill would modify regional center eligibility criteria to include people between 18 and 22 years of age who suffer a traumatic brain injury. Apparently, Senator Wilk has a friend with a son who recently suffered a traumatic brain injury.

2. Legislative Advocacy Trainings: We have received 40 RSVP's to date for the February 18<sup>th</sup> training at Tierra del Sol in Van Nuys. This is a good response for a Saturday afternoon. Additional legislative trainings have been scheduled as well and will be held:
  - Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Chatsworth office)
  - Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Chatsworth office)
  - Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Santa Clarita office)
  - Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Santa Clarita office)
  - Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Antelope Valley office)
  - Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Antelope Valley office)
3. Legislative Committee Meeting: The first Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Legislative Committee meeting of this year will be held on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, in Sacramento. Sara will give a report on that meeting at next month's GCR meeting.
4. The Arc/UCP Public Policy Conference: The Executive Committee approved Board Members Lou Paparozzi, Debra Newman, Tamar Witmer, and Jeremy Sunderland to participate in the conference which will be held March 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. They will also participate in legislative visits at the State Capitol on March 28<sup>th</sup> before flying home.
5. Weekly Legislative Advocacy Conference Calls: Board members and executive leadership staff are invited to join a weekly informal conference call with Steve Miller and Michelle Heid to share the latest updates and to answer any questions. However, the current time slot, Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., is not working out well. We need to find a new time slot that works better.

B. Minimum Wage Legislation: AB 279 (Holden)

Assembly Member Holden introduced AB 279 which would give DDS the authority to increase provider rates to help them keep pace with local minimum wage increases. We want to get a grassroots effort going to support this bill. The

bill will be heard by the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, so they need to receive the support letters prior to that date.

1. Letter Writing Campaign: Tamar Witmer has issued a challenge to all board members to write to their local state senator and Assemblyperson in support of AB 279. Tamar brought note cards, envelopes, and pens for everyone to write a support letter - and the letters were written. Afterwards, Tamar collected them and will stamp and mail them.

C. Plans for the Lanterman Act Anniversary Event

The venues at CSUN were not available in the month of April, so the event will be held at the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Our keynote speaker, Shirley Dove, has been confirmed for that date. There is a lot of organizing that needs to happen next including:

1. Who should be invited to attend? We will have room for about 300 people.
2. Who should participate on the panel discussion about the future of the Lanterman Act?
3. What refreshments should be served?
4. Which legislators should be honor?

**Action:** Sara will schedule a meeting with the planning committee, which includes Steve Miller, Michelle Heid, Debra Newman, and Erika Hernandez.

D. ARCA Grass Roots Day

This is a day when we send a team or teams to visit with legislators at the State Capitol. This year, Grass Roots Day will be held Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Action:** Jennifer will send an e-mail out to all board members asking for interest in participating in Grass Roots Day.

E. NLACRC's Grass Root Week

Grass Roots Week is typically held during spring break when legislators return home to their district offices. We use this time to send teams to visit with them. Each team consists of a staff lead, board member, consumer, and service provider. The main topic for the visits this year will be to support AB 279 (Holden). Letters have been sent to all local legislators to set up the meetings.

## V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the March 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the January 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- B. Legislative Update

## VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

Tamar asked everyone to please complete evaluation forms after the meeting and submit them to her with any comments.

- B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

## VII. Adjournment

Tamar adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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