

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2017

Present: Adelina Castellanos, Jessica Gould, Michelle Heid, Erika Hernandez, Shant Kotchounian, Meagan Miller, Caroline Mitchell, Debra Newman, Curtis Wang, and Tamar Witmer – Committee Members
Rodney Barnett, Genesis Cruz, Steve Miller, and Sonia Ojeda - Guests
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Tamar Witmer, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. Public Input

Jessica reported that she is going to talk with the people she works with about AB 279 and afterwards they are going to write support letters.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Several items were added to the agenda. In addition, Item IV.B. was moved to become IV.A. as Debra cannot stay for the whole meeting.

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

B. Approval of Minutes from the March 15th Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Report on ARCA Grass Roots Day

Debra reported that the center sent 2 teams to Sacramento this year to visit with legislators at the State Capitol. This was Debra's first time participating in

ARCA's Grass Roots Day activities; it was very exciting and she encouraged all board members to try it at least once. Debra brought her twins, Christina and Christopher, with her. Christopher spoke to the legislators through his iPad. The main talking point was to support AB 279 (Holden). The visits with legislators were very successful as they got even more legislators to support the bill.

B. Legislative Update

1. **AB 384 (Irwin)** The Qualified ABLE Program: Tax Advantaged Savings Accounts: Per the committee's recommendation, the Board of Trustees took a support position on this bill at the last board meeting.
2. **AB 1610 (Ridley-Thomas)** Developmental Services: Regional Centers: This bill has been discussed by the ARCA Executive Committee and the ARCA Board of Directors as it would require a number of actions on the part of regional centers. This is a massive bill with many moving pieces which will be very expensive. ARCA plans to dissect the bill and address each issue and assess how much each will cost. Once we receive ARCA's breakdown of this bill, we will share it with this committee.
3. **AB 279 (Holden)** Developmental Services: Regional Centers: This bill would address the local minimum wage increases which are 6 months ahead of the statewide minimum wage increases. This bill has been the focus topic of our meetings with legislators. The bill is still in the Assembly Appropriations Committee (AAC) as it comes with a cost. The AAC will be holding a hearing on May 24th and we need to get this bill out of there by then. Tamar reported that the chair of the AAC is going to be the next Speaker of the Assembly. Steve suggested that a timeline be developed with steps we can take between now and the May 24th hearing.

Action: Steve will draft a sample letter to the chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee who will soon be the speaker of the Assembly.

4. **SB 283 (Wilk)** Developmental Services: Traumatic Brain Injuries: This bill would change the regional center eligibility criteria to include a disability that originates before an individual attains 22 years of age (versus 18 years of age). This would conform with the federal age limit. This bill was discussed during George's director's report at last week's board meeting and the board suggested that a support position be taken.

M/S/C (D. Newman/M. Miller) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to take a support position on SB 283 (Wilk).

5. **AB 754 (Acosta) Foster Youth Enrichment Program**: This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to convene a workgroup and would require the workgroup to develop an implementation plan for the California Foster Youth Enrichment Grant Program. The program would provide grants of \$500 or less to qualified foster youth to enable the foster youth to participate in activities that enhance the foster youth's skills, abilities, self-esteem, or overall well-being.

Action: The committee would like to add this bill to their bill file and get an update on it at next month's committee meeting.

6. Legislative Advocacy Training Plan for Consumers

Action: Sara will talk with Jose Rodriguez, the center's consumer advocate, about ways to increase consumer involvement in legislative advocacy and will report back at next month's committee meeting.

Action: Steve offered to give a legislative training to our Consumer Advisory Committee. Jennifer will connect Steve with Jose Rodriguez, who is the liaison to that committee.

- C. The Lanterman Act 50th Anniversary Event: Friday, April 21st

So far, we have received nearly 200 RSVPs. Tamar thought it would be a good idea for all attending board members to serve as ambassadors at the event by welcoming guests upon their arrival and by visiting tables saying "Hello, I'm on the Board of Trustees, thank you so much for coming to our event this evening."

Action: Steve will craft the message for board members to use at the event.

- D. NLACRC's Grass Root Week Visits

With so many other activities going on, the local visits with legislators have been delayed. However, Sara reported that she has a meeting on Friday with the staff who will be scheduling the visits. Also, Daniel Savino, from ARCA, has offered to provide training to our staff leads this year via a webinar.

E. 10-Minute Legislative Activity

Tamar suggested that we contact all of the people who have attended our legislative trainings and events (via their e-mail address) and tell them: “You’ve shown interested in our legislative activities – would you like to join our rapid response team?”

Action: Steve will craft the letter.

Action: George will find out how politically active we can be without threatening the center’s nonprofit status.

F. Nominating Committee Recruitment Plan

The Nominating Committee wants to expand its recruitment efforts in order to get more board applicants. Part of the new plan is to add taglines to the center’s Facebook, website, and general e-mail blasts stating: “Want to become more active? Join our board!”

M/S/C (M. Miller/C. Mitchell) To authorize staff to implement the request to add board recruitment taglines to our Facebook pages, website, and general e-mail blasts.

G. Facebook Page

We would like to create a Facebook page in Spanish as an additional outreach tool

M/S/C (J. Gould/C. Mitchell) To create a Spanish Facebook page for NLACRC.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

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

- A. Minutes of the April 19th Meeting
- B. Legislative Bill File
- C. Legislative Outreach Activities
- D. Spanish Facebook Page
- E. Nominating Committee Outreach - Taglines

- F. Report on the Lanterman Act 50th Anniversary Event
- G. Recommended Support Position on SB 283 (Wilk)

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

Tamar asked the committee members to please complete their evaluations after the meeting and submit them to her with any comments.

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 17th

VII. Adjournment

Tamar adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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