

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Government & Community Relations Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
April 17, 2013

**Present:** Richard Dier, Craig Girard, Dawn Hamilton, Duane Joslin, Martha Lopez, and Jeremy Sunderland - Committee Members  
Lawrence Burton – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative  
Diane Ambrose, Michele Marra, Sara Iwahashi, Liliana Windover, and George Stevens – Staff Members

**Absent:** All present

---

**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.

**II. Public Input**

**A. Fair Wages for Home Care Aides**

Jeremy reported that Connie Lapin wants us to be aware of the Fair Labor Standards Act companionship exemption. Disability advocates, families, and consumers are very concerned that these proposed requirements would seriously disrupt the provision of services that keep people in their homes and out of institutions. Information about the companionship exemption was provided to the committee.

**III. Consent Items**

**A. Approval of Agenda**

Michele requested that Item IV.C.2 be deleted from the agenda.

**M/S/C** (D. Joslin/C. Girard) To approve the agenda as modified.

**B. Approval of Minutes of February 20, 2013 Meeting**

**M/S/C** (C. Girard/D. Joslin) To approve the minutes as presented.

**IV. Committee Business**

**A. Legislative Breakfast: Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

Jeremy expressed his sincere appreciation for the outstanding job staff at NLACRC and in particular Michele Marra and her department did at the 28<sup>th</sup> Legislative Breakfast held on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at Sam's Café at New Horizons. Her hard work and dedication contributed to the success of this event. Michele extended her appreciation to Sara Iwahashi and to our board members. She also stated that approximately 140 people attending this event and the program consisted of speakers, representative of consumers, families manifesting their experience with the regional center. George focused on the importance of the legislators' support in helping us rebuild the promise of the Lanterman Act. Richard Dier suggested that for future events we should invite members of the county and city to educate them about the services we provide to the community and obtain their support.

**B. Finalize the FY 2013-14 Legislative Strategy**

1. Service Provider and Elected Representative Visit Policy - Adopted March 14, 2012

Copies of the policy were provided to the committee to assist them in drafting the board's legislative strategy for FY 2013-14.

2. Service Provider and Elected Representative Framework for Strategy Implementation – Approved September 12, 2012

Copies of the board's framework for strategy implementation were provided to the committee for their review. The framework is to be reviewed each year by the committee to help them develop their legislative strategy for the upcoming fiscal year.

3. Excerpt from the Government/Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes February 20, 2013

- a. New title should be "*Talking Points for Legislative Visits*"
- b. Removed "Section A"
- c. Our talking points for our legislative visits will be:
  - The restoration of the Early Start Program
  - The sunset of the Annual Family Program Visit
  - Inadequate provider rates

George stated that if another piece of legislation comes up that it is extremely problematic, we can include that particular bill into the discussion, but what we tend to do is to build on our theme of our legislative breakfast which is restoring the promise.

**M/S/C** (D. Joslin/C. Girard) To approve the legislative strategy (talking points) for the upcoming legislative visits, as modified, and to present them to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The committee also emphasized the importance of reaching out our local city and county authorities in addition to our state assembly members and senators so we need to come up a strategic and collaboration as of how we develop some relationships and what we can do to help promote the regional enter with these authorities. Richard Dier indicated that most of the housing issues and in particular the fire marshal issues are addressed not at the state level, but with the local city and county level. Perhaps, we need to invite these authorities to the future legislative breakfasts.

**Action:** It was recommended that we should address these issues with the Vendor Advisory Committee.

**C. NLACRC Grass Roots Week**

1. Report on visits with local legislators

Michele is working on the information required for the talking points and she will be able to finalize it this week. She has a training scheduled for all the team leads and the team leads in turn will train their team members. She is also working on setting up the meetings with the legislators in May.

**D. Compliance with SB 35 (Padilla) The National Voter Registration Act**

Sara Iwahashi informed that SB 35 National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) effective January 1, 2013, codifies portions of the NVRA into state law and places new requirements on county elections officials.

Copies of the Steps to Compliance National Voter Registration Act from Debra Bowen, Secretary of State at the State of California were provided to the committee and Sara reviewed it with them. Sara also developed a chart to help our services coordinators with the voter registration services procedures. She will be providing training to staff annually to ensure that we are in compliance. We will begin to train staff starting this month. We plan to add signs in the lobbies at all three offices that will direct people on who to contact if they have a question about voter registration

George informed the committee that this an unfunded mandate and it is another task that has been placed upon our service coordinators and Sara Iwahashi which is not consistence with any reason why we were originally here as regional center.

**E. Legislative Update**

In order to facilitate the understanding of the series of bills and their current status, Sara created a 9 pages summary with links to view the full text, analysis or to learn more about the authors for these bills. This effort was really appreciate it by members of this committee. She also gave verbal reports on the status of these bills. Michele also indicated that she and Sara are constantly participating in conference calls in order to obtain the latest updates for these bills.

**V. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

The following items were identified for the May 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of April 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- B. Report on Legislative Breakfast, held April 12th
- \* C. Approval of Legislative Strategy (Talking Points) for Legislative Visits

**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. Private Insurance and Behavioral Services**

Richard Dier would like to have a discussion regarding private insurance and behavioral services.

**Action:** This issue will be an agenda item for the next Consumer Services Committee meeting.

- C. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

**VII. Adjournment**

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Liliana Windover*

Liliana Windover  
Executive Administrative Assistant

