

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 20, 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, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Jennifer explained that ARCA’s Guiding Principles have been replaced by ARCA’s new Strategic Plan, so Item IV.G. should be deleted from the agenda.

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

B. Approval of Minutes of January 16th Meeting

M/S/C (D. Joslin/R. Dier) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Legislative Breakfast: Friday, April 12th

The breakfast will be held at Sam’s Café (at New Horizons) from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person, at the door, but NLACRC board members have free admission.

1. Finalize the theme: Although the governor’s proposed budget does not include any large cuts to developmental services this year, we still want to make the point that the previous cuts to the center and to providers (including rate freezes and unfunded mandates) still need to be resolved. So we’re thinking of a theme in

this direction, such as “There’s still work to be done,” “Don’t put the trailer before The Act,” or “Undo the trailer bill language damage.”

2. Change of date? The date of our event conflicts with another legislative breakfast but we don’t think it will impact our event. As such, we will not change the date of our breakfast.
3. Planning team members: Michele and Sara will be putting a planning team together to begin planning the presentations.

Action: Anyone interested in joining the Legislative Breakfast planning team should contact Sara at siwahashi@nlacrc.org.

B. Input on Strategy for the Visitation Policy for FY 2013-14

The board’s strategy for next fiscal year will follow the same vein as the Legislative Breakfast theme (see Section IV.A.1. above).

C. Review Proposed Changes to the Definitions/Priority System Section of the Committee’s Policies & Procedures

The policy was overhauled to make it less complicated, especially in terms of the definitions and priority system. The proposed changes were presented to the committee for their review. Only 1 additional change was made: the deletion of a “neutral” position as it was felt that it could easily be replaced by the “watch” position.

Action: The committee will present the proposed changes to the Government & Community Relations Committee’s policies and procedures, as modified, to the Board of Trustees for their review and approval.

D. Visits to Local Legislators

A 1-page fact sheet will be developed along with a sheet outlining current issues (which will include the Senator Emmerson’s bill, SB 137).

E. ARCA Grass Roots Day: Wednesday, March 6th

Michele is in the process of finalizing the team members who will be going with her to Sacramento to visit with legislators at the State Capitol. Sara added that appointments have been made to visit 12 legislators – 1 every half hour! The talking points will be finalized by the ARCA Executive Committee at their meeting tomorrow.

F. NLACRC Grass Roots Week: March 18th – 22nd

Staff will be making the appointments for the team visits with our local legislators. Board members will be assigned to a legislator in their own district.

Richard stated that a lot of housing issues are addressed not at the state level, but at the local city and county level. He suggested that the center reach out to local city and county representatives in addition to our state assembly members and senators. Jennifer reported that the center has not traditionally met with local city and county officials, but have always invited them to the Legislative Breakfast.

G. Review ARCA's Guiding Principles – Deleted

(See item III.A. above.)

H. Legislative Update

1. ARCA Legislative Committee: The committee will meet on Friday and the following items are included on the meeting agenda for discussion:
 - Grassroots Update
 - Capitol Briefing Day
 - Budget Update
 - Federal Legislation (HR 509, HR 510, HR 511, HR 647, and S 313)
 - State Legislation (37 different bills)
2. Bill Content: Any new bills address only broad ideas and do not include any detail as yet.
3. 6500 Process (Institutionalization): The legislature is going to revisit this process because as it currently stands, regional centers cannot remove consumers from court-ordered placements.
4. Self-Determination Bill: The Autism Society's bill on self-determination was introduced today.

I. Other Updates (Sara)

1. Mobile Van Project: California State University, Northridge (CSUN) received a grant through CVS Pharmacy that will enable them to use a van for the purpose of assessing children in under-served areas. How could we help publicize this project besides posting information on our website and sending out an e-mail blast? The following suggestions were made:
 - Reach out to the media (there is a reporter at KTLA whose brother is a consumer).

- Send information about it to schools and health departments.
- Participate in the next Stephanie's Day event by getting a booth and providing information about the regional center and the mobile van project. There will be a lot of media people there.

Action: Craig and Martha volunteered to staff the booth if the center participates in the next Stephanie's Day event.

Action: Please contact Sara with any additional ideas on how to publicize the mobile van project.

2. NLACRC/Office of Client Rights' Advocacy (OCRA) Seminars: The center is partnering with OCRA again this year to provide seminars to our community. Last year's seminars were held in the Antelope Valley. This year's seminars will be held at Sam's Café at New Horizons in North Hills. The first seminar was on "Recent changes by the state legislature that may impact your services" and was held January 24th. It was very well attended. Four more seminars will be held:

- "Obtaining special education services from the school district, Part 1 (IEP basics)" on Thursday, February 28, at 6:30 p.m. (in Spanish only).
- "Obtaining special education services from the school district, Part 2 (related services, assessments, behavioral plans, and due process)" on Thursday, March 28th, at 6:30 p.m. (in English and Spanish).
- "In-Home supportive services: eligibility, protective supervision, and other common issues" on Thursday, April 25th, at 6:30 p.m. (in English and Spanish).
- "Obtaining special education services from the school district (IEP Basics)" on Thursday, May 23rd, at 6:30 p.m. (English only).

3. Family Focus Resource Center (FFRC): FFRC staff are now making themselves available in our resource library on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. They also continue to have an office location at CSUN. They can help assist families with the following:

- Preparing for the transition to preschool
- Special education rights – basic IEP/IFSP services
- Record keeping and organization
- Referrals to community agencies
- Providing resources and checking out library materials.

The FFRC staff can be reached at (818) 756-6288 for appointments.

4. Voter Registration: SB 35 was signed by Governor Brown last year. We are reviewing our procedures to make sure that we are in compliance with this new law.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the March 13th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of February 20th Meeting
- B. Update on the Legislative Breakfast
- C. Report on ARCA Grass Roots Day: March 6th
- D. NLACRC's Grass Roots Week: March 18th – 22nd
- E. Presentation of Proposed Changes to the Committee's Policies and Procedures
- * F. Approval of Legislative Breakfast Theme

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. Legislative Training Session: Tuesday, March 12th, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

The training will be held in lieu of the Consumer Services & Government/Community Relations Committee meetings in March.

C. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 17th, at 7:00 p.m. (no March meeting)

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

