

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2012

Present: Thomas Aguinaga (via video-conference), Richard Dier, Craig Girard, Dawn Hamilton, Duane Joslin, Martha Lopez, and Jeremy Sunderland - Committee Members
Jason Nagle (via video-conference)- Guest
Lawrence Burton – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Jeremy Sunderland, chair, at 8:35 p.m.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV.A. was deferred until next month's meeting. The agenda was approved as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of July 18th Meeting

The minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Review Committee Action Log from FY 2011-12 – *Deferred*

B. Questions regarding Committee Policies and Procedures?

There were no questions from the committee members regarding the committee policies and procedures which were provided to everyone at last month's committee meeting. However, Michele would like to revisit the Definitions/Priority System of the policies at next month's meeting.

Action: The committee will revisit the Definitions/Priority System of the policies and procedures at next month's meeting.

C. Finalize Priority Issues for FY 2012-13

The committee finalized the following priority issues for this fiscal year

1. Identify a message that we will take to our legislators.
2. Hold a candidates forum and voter registration/ education event.
3. Participate in legislative visits:
 - NLACRC's Grass Roots Week
 - ARCA's Grass Roots Day
 - Legislators' events
4. Track and take appropriate action on legislation that would impact people with developmental disabilities.
5. Hold a legislative breakfast.

M/S/C (D. Joslin/J. Sunderland) To approve the committee's priorities as presented and to present them to the Board of Trustees for approval.

D. Service Provider and Elected Representative Visit Policy / Strategy

The board's policy states that this committee will, "develop a strategy that encompasses the purpose and intent of this policy." After discussion with the committee last month, Michele drafted a strategy for their review and approval. The only input she received from the committee at this point is the addition of "F.Y. 2012-13" at the top of the page.

Action: The committee approved the strategy, as modified, and will present it to the Board of Trustees for their approval.

E. Update on Candidates Forum and Voter Education/Registration Day

The candidates forum that will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Sam's Café at New Horizons on Tuesday, October 16th. Sara provided the committee with the information about the 7 senate and assembly district openings in the center's catchment area, including who the candidates are who are running for those positions. The candidates will be mailed copies of the questions ahead of time so

they can prepare their answers. At the forum, each candidate will have 2 minutes to introduce themselves to the audience. After introductions, the moderator will begin the forum with the prepared questions that are vital to the quality of life experienced by our consumers. Last year's questions pertained to:

1. The availability of affordable housing.
2. Access to public transportation.
3. The impact of the growing autism epidemic.
4. Medical care
5. Staff wages

We have sent "save the date" flyers out to all of the candidates and will follow up with a formal invitation letter. George, Michele, and Sara will be meeting to draft the questions for the candidates for the first forum subcommittee meeting. Other than staff, the following individuals have volunteered to serve on the subcommittee: Yolanda Bosch, Lawrence Burton, Duane Joslin, and Richard Dier.

Action: It was agreed that Yolanda Bosch would make a great moderator; Michele will ask her if she would be willing to do it.

F. Legislative Update

Sara provided everyone with written updates for their committee notebooks. She also gave verbal reports on the status of:

1. AB 2338 (Chesbro) Employment First Policy.
2. SB 1392 (Pavley) This bill would require developmental center land that is no longer being used to be leased to generate revenue for deposit into a Californians with Developmental Disabilities Fund, which the bill would create.

M/S/C (D. Joslin/R. Dier) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to take a "support" position on SB 1392 (Pavley).

G. Board Audit: Does the center have a training and information plan that meets the requirements of statute, performance, and other contracts, board policy?

The answer is "yes." Michele elaborated providing the following points:

1. The center has a comprehensive 6-week training program for all new employees, which includes a visit to one of the center's service provider's sites. We also have recurring trainings for our employees throughout the year.
2. Many times, we develop a training, train our supervisors, and then they train their staff during their unit meetings.
3. We assess our training needs on an annual basis. Our next training will focus on handling aggressive people.

Jeremy stated that we don't want families to feel afraid that if they behave badly or aren't nice to staff that their services will be impacted. Also, has the center ever used consumers' and families' input when conducting the employees' annual performance evaluations? Michele responded by saying that we used to do that but we don't anymore due our service coordinators' increased workloads. Craig asked if supervisors could make a call to a consumer/family just once a year to ask how they are doing and how they feel about their services and their service coordinator – this would be a good step towards improving our services.

Action: Diane and Michele will consider the idea of supervisors making an annual telephone call to consumers and families.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for next month's board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of August 15th Meeting
- B. Update on Candidates Forum and Voter Education/Registration Day
- *C. Approval of Strategy to Implement the Service Provider and Elected Representative Visits Policy
- *D. Approval of Committee's Priority Issues for FY 2012-13
- *E. Approval of a Support Position on SB 1392 (Pavley)

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

Jeremy asked the committee members to please complete their evaluation forms after the meeting and submit them to him with any comments.

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 19th

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

[gcrmin.aug15.2012]

