

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2013

Present: Richard Dier, Duane Joslin, and Jeremy Sunderland - Committee Members
Connie Lapin – Guest
Lawrence Burton – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, Kim Rolfes,
George Stevens, and Joan Watson-Patko – Staff Members

Absent: Craig Girard, Dawn Hamilton, and Martha Lopez

I. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Jeremy Sunderland, chair, at 7:35 p.m.

II. Public Input

A. Connie stated that she recently received a copy of the National Core Indicators Adult Consumer Survey Report for FY 2010-11, which is nearly 900 pages long! Connie did not understand how this information could be utilized in any kind of useful way. Diane stated that the board's Strategic Planning Committee began looking at the data and wasn't able to figure out a way to use the information either.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV.E. was deferred to next month's meeting and Item IV.G.1. was added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of November 20th Meeting

The minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Recommendation to Oppose ICF Rate Proposal from DHCS

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has submitted a proposal to seek a retroactive application of a new rate methodology retroactive to August 1, 2012. This proposal would place our intermediate care facilities (ICFs) in jeopardy of being able to continue providing services to our consumers. Our ICFs have been operating under a rate freeze since FY 2008-09 and have had to make every reduction in operating expenses without placing consumer care and services in jeopardy. This proposal could reduce their rates by up to 10%. Kim presented a draft letter to the Division of Medicaid and Children's Health Operations, opposing this proposal. The letter was drafted by the California Association of Health Facilities who sent it to all of the regional centers asking for their opposition to the proposal. As any such letters must be submitted to them before the end of this month, Kim is recommending that the committee send the letter to the Executive Committee so they can approve it on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

M/S/C (D. Joslin/R. Dier) To approve the proposed letter to the Division of Medicaid and Children's Health Operations opposing the ICF rate proposal from the Department of Health Care Services, as written, and to have it presented at the January 30th Executive Committee meeting for action.

Action: After further review, the committee asked Joan Watson-Patko to revise the letter to more personalize the center's viewpoint.

B. Legislative Breakfast: Friday, April 12th

Michele reported that we were waiting to see the governor's proposed state budget for next fiscal year before identifying a theme for the next breakfast. This is the best budget we have seen in years, with previous cuts actually being restored to us!

1. Finalize the Theme: The following suggestions were made:

- "We're not out of the woods yet."
- "There is still more work to be done."
- The importance of rate increases for our providers, who are constantly facing increasing costs.
- "Refueling the System: Restoring the Early Start Program."
- Supporting the sunset of the remaining 1.25% payment reductions to providers and regional center operations budgets.

Action: Staff will “flesh out” a theme using these suggestions and will present it at next month’s committee meeting.

2. Staff begins to assemble the planning team

Action: Michele will assemble the planning team.

3. Special Needs Network’s legislative breakfast on April 12th: This is a large Los Angeles-based organization and their events bring out a lot of legislators; should we change the date of our breakfast so it does not conflict with theirs?

Action: Staff will look into the Special Needs Network event on April 12th and see if they would be inviting any of the legislators who serve the center’s catchment area, and provide a recommendation to the committee next month on whether or not we should change the date of our next breakfast.

Action: Assembly Member Blumenfield will be running for a position on the City Council; we should invite the candidates running for his position to our next legislative breakfast. Also, there will be an upcoming election for a new Los Angeles mayor, so we should invite candidates running for that position as well.

C. Review Strategy for the Service Provider & Elected Representative Visit Policy

Copies of the committee’s Service Provider and Elected Representative Visit Policy and their strategy to implement for this fiscal year were provided to the committee for their review.

Action: Committee members will review the committee’s current strategy and come to next month’s meeting with any ideas for a strategy for next fiscal year.

Action: Jennifer will e-mail the policy and its implementation plan for this fiscal year to the committee along with a reminder to review it and bring their ideas to next month’s meeting.

D. Action Plan to Visit Legislators

We were also waiting to see the governor's proposed state budget for next fiscal year before identifying talking points for our visits with legislators. We had also wanted to start our visits this month, but our newly-elected legislators are still setting up their offices and hiring staff!

Action: The talking points for our visits with legislators will be the same message for our legislative breakfast – along with a short education on the regional center system.

E. Revisit the Definitions/Priority System Section of the Committee's Policies
- Deferred

Action: George and Michele will meet to identify any needed changes to the committee's policies and will present their recommended changes at next month's committee meeting.

F. Establishment of a NLACRC Facebook Page

Anh Nguyen, who used to work for the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) has been hired as a consultant for the Regional Center of Orange County to set up their Facebook page. The committee agreed that our Facebook page should be purely informational and not have a place for people to post information. Sara stated that she also participated in a class on developing Facebook pages for nonprofit organizations that was given by the Center for Nonprofit Management. She believes that she could easily develop our own Facebook page.

G. Legislative Update

1. Committee Appointments: The membership of the senate and assembly committees was recently announced. Information about the committee and their new members were provided to the committee for their information.
2. State Budget: The governor's budget includes \$4.3 billion for services and supports to over 266,000 consumers in the state, including:
 - \$177.5 million increase for regional center operations and purchase of service budgets to cover increasing caseloads and expenditures.

- \$46.7 million to cover the June 30, 2013 sunset of the 1.25% payment reduction.
- \$9.9 million increase for copayments for health care related services.
- \$7.2 million savings by making permanent the annual family program fee rather than have it sunset, as scheduled, on June 30, 2013.

At last month's committee meeting, everyone agreed that that the annual family program fee should sunset as it separates families from services, is additional work for regional center staff, is contrary to the Lanterman Act, and the targeted savings are not being realized.

Action: The committee recommended that Kim present a letter supporting the sunset of the annual family program fee to the Executive Committee for their review and approval.

3. Potential ARCA sponsored legislation:

- Restore the Early Start program.
- Support the sunset of the annual family program fee, rather than making it permanent.
- Establishing a "Regional Center Appreciation Day."

4. ARCA Grass Roots Day: This is a day when a team of representatives from each regional center goes to Sacramento to visit with legislators at the State Capitol. This year, Grass Roots Day will be held Wednesday, March 6th. More to come!

5. Additional State Bills: Connie shared information about bills which have been submitted to legislative counsel, but will not have bill numbers until they are introduced in February. These bills pertain to:

- Closing developmental centers.
- Payment disputes.
- Developing affordable housing.
- Fetal alcohol syndrome.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

A. Minutes of January 16th Meeting

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. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 20th

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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