

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2013

Present: Richard Dier, Craig Girard, Dawn Hamilton, Duane Joslin, and Martha Lopez - Committee Members
Linda Dier, Connie Lapin, and Jennifer Pecor – Guests
Rebecca Lienhard – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Jeremy Sunderland

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Craig Girard called the meeting to order, on behalf of Jeremy Sunderland, at 7:12 p.m.

II. Public Input

- A. Connie heard today that the Secretary of Health formed a task force on the developmental centers (DCs). Connie is very concerned about the millions of dollars being spent on the DCs, especially Sonoma DC which recently lost their certification and, subsequently, their federal funding.
- B. Connie provided the committee with information about SB 468, the statewide self-determination program, which she would like the committee to support. Currently, there is no opposition to this bill. ARCA's position is support with amendments ((they want \$6 million added to the cost of the bill for regional centers' implementation). The Autism Society of Los Angeles and Disability Rights of California (DRC) believe this legislation is a consumer/family driven and sponsored bill. It is about choice, flexibility, and re-directing existing resources. It is not new, but expands the successful 1998 self-determination statewide pilot. The California pilot demonstrated it was cost neutral over time. Discussion ensued. The bill will be heard tomorrow and can be watched on CalChannel.com.

M/S/C (R. Dier/D. Hamilton) To recommend to the Executive Committee that the board discuss SB 468 in detail at the June 12th board meeting and that it will include enough time for public input and comments.

Action: Sara will get the most recent bill and amendments for SB 468 and conduct an analysis on it. The analysis will be provided to the board to assist

them in their discussion at the June 12th board meeting.

Action: Sara will also contact ARCA to get their most current position on this bill.

- C. Connie congratulated Sara on the great job she does with the event calendar, which is posted on the center's web site.
- D. Connie also congratulated everyone who was involved in making the most recent Legislative Breakfast such a success. It seems to get better and better each year. She also stated that the handout from the breakfast contains a great overview of the Lanterman Act; she carries it with her everywhere!

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Items III.E through III.I. were added to the agenda. Item IV.C.2. was deleted.

B. Approval of Minutes of April 17th Meeting

Section II.A. was changed to read: "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."

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Participation in Stephanie's Day: Saturday, June 8th

Flyers for this event were provided. Last year, the committee heard about this event after it had been held and asked that the center become involved in future Stephanie Day events. The center will have a booth at the upcoming event that will be run by staff.

Action: Sara will add Stephanie's Day to the center's event calendar and will also send the information out via an e-mail blast.

B. Legislative Update

Sara provided copies of the committee current bill file and reviewed the status of each bill with the committee.

M/S/C (D. Joslin/C. Girard) To ask the Board of Trustees to take a support position on SB 651 (Pavley) and to authorize staff to write the necessary letters.

Action: Michele will obtain information from ARCA that defines the meaning of the positions they take on legislation (e.g. triple watch plus).

C. NLACRC's Grass Roots Week Visits with Local Legislators

Some of the visits have already been done and many will be held within the next week or two. The talking points are:

1. The restoration of the Early Start program.
2. Inadequate rates for service providers.
3. Supporting the sunset of the annual family program fee.

Reports were given by those who have already gone on their visits. In general, legislators have been very supportive of the restoration of the Early Start program.

D. Review and Approve Committee's Critical Calendar for FY 2013-14

The following changes are being proposed to the calendar:

1. Review of ARCA's guiding principles was deleted because ARCA's guiding principles have been replaced with their strategic plan.
2. The legislative training session was moved from March to April.
3. The development of a legislative strategy for the board was added.

M/S/C (D. Hamilton/D. Joslin) To approve the committee's critical calendar for FY 2013-14 as modified.

E. ARCA's Analysis of the May Revise

Copies of ARCA analysis were provided and briefly reviewed. George stated that there were no big surprises in the May Revise, including:

1. The postponement of the scheduled sunset of the annual family program fee.
2. A big push to close the developmental centers.
3. The potential changes that could be brought on by the new Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) version #5.

F. Candidates Forum

Assembly Member Bob Blumenfield is vacating his position in order to take a position as a city councilman. We think it is imperative to have a forum for the candidates who will be running for his position.

M/S/C (D. Joslin/R. Dier) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to approve the center holding a forum for the candidates who will be running for Assembly Member Bob Blumenfield's position.

George stated that it will be essential to involve our vendor community in the forum.

G. Letter to the Budget Subcommittees re: the Family Cost Participation Program

Copies of a draft letter to the chairs of the Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees regarding the restoration of the Early Start program and the sunset of the annual family program fee were provided to the committee for their review. As the Board of Trustees already supports these 2 positions, only committee approval is needed in order to send the letters.

M/S/C (D. Hamilton/D. Joslin) To approve the letter to the chairs of the Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees, as presented, and to authorize staff to finalize them and send them out.

H. Community Meeting: Caseload Ratios

We recently received the letter we were expecting from DDS informing us that we did not meet all of our required caseload ratios and, therefore, are required to hold a public meeting to give our community an opportunity to provide us with any input and/or recommendations. The meeting is scheduled to be held Thursday, June 13th, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the center's main office. Copies of the draft notice announcing the meeting were provided and reviewed.

I. Community Meeting: Purchase of Service (POS) Disparity

Statute requires all regional centers to hold an annual POS disparity meeting to present their data and to also post this data on their websites. NLACRC's community meeting will be held Tuesday, June 25th, at 2:00 p.m. at the center's main office. Flyers for the event were provided.

V. **Board Meeting Agenda Items**

- A. Minutes of May 22nd Meeting
- B. Community Meeting re: Caseload Ratios: Thursday, June 13th, at 2:00 p.m.
- C. Community Meeting re: POS Disparity: Tuesday, June 25th, at 2:00 p.m.
- * D. Approval to Support SB 651 (Pavley)
- * E. Approval to Hold a Candidates Forum

VI. **Announcements / Information / Public Input**

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

Craig asked the committee members to please complete evaluations after the meeting and submit them to him with any comments.

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 17th, at 6:00 p.m. (no June meeting)

C. Linda asked that we send our thoughts and prayers to the people of Oklahoma whose homes and communities were recently devastated by a big tornado. She added that blood donors are needed and there is a Red Cross located at 731 North Hollywood Way.

VII. **Adjournment**

Craig adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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* = Action Item

