

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

Present: Daniel Becerra, Duane Joslin, Debra Newman, Jeremy Sunderland, and Tavia Wooley - Committee Members
Connie Lapin, Jennifer Pecor, and Dan Wooley – Guests
Lawrence Burton – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Jessica Gould

I. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 p.m.

II. Public Input

Connie expressed her appreciation to the NLACRC Board of Trustees for taking a position to support SB 468, the statewide self-determination program. Connie feels that this is a very important bill to the developmental disabilities system.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV.G.2. was added and item IV.H.2. was deleted.

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

The agenda was approved as presented/modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of May 22nd Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Annual Committee Orientation

1. Policies and Procedures

2. Bylaws Statement
3. Board Audit Section
4. Legislative Platform Guiding Principles – *Deferred*
5. Board Recognition Policy – *Deferred*
6. Service Provider and Elected Representative Visits – *Deferred*

These documents were provided to the committee and briefly reviewed. Committee members should become familiar with these documents as they outline the purpose of the committee and the responsibilities of the committee members. It is very important for us to reach out to our elected officials to explain to them who we are and what we do. Michele stated that the legislative process can be confusing and she told the new committee members that she and Sara are more than happy to meet with them prior to meetings to answer any questions they may have.

B. Election of Committee Chair

M/S/C (D. Joslin/D. Becerra) To elect Jeremy Sunderland to serve as committee chair for this fiscal year.

C. FY 2013-14 Committee Meeting Schedule

Copies of the meeting schedule for this fiscal year were provided.

D. Critical Calendar for FY 2013-14

Copies of the committee's critical calendar for this fiscal year were provided. Jennifer puts the items listed under each month on the committee meeting agendas so they can be addressed.

E. Priority Issues for FY 2013-14

Copies of the committee's goals for last fiscal year were reviewed and discussed:

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.

Action: The committee would like a written preamble for their priority issues that would read something like, “In order to protect and advocate for the core principles of the Lanterman Act, the committee will:” and they would also like to include the following “message” under priority issue number 1:

- The restoration of the Early Start program.
- The restoration of operations funding so the center can meet the required caseload ratios.
- Purchase of Service (POS) disparity issues.

Action: Michele and Sara will “massage” these points and e-mail a draft of the proposed priority issues to the committee prior to the August 14th board meeting for their review and input.

F. Report on NLACRC’s Participation in Stephanie’s Day: Saturday, June 8th

Stephanie’s Day is a resource fair for families of children with autism, held at the KCAL studios. One of our board members suggested that we get a table there. When Sara contacted them she found out there was a waiting list of resource providers to get in! They found us a spot and one of our staff members hosted it by providing information on the regional center and its services. Westside and South Central Los Angeles Regional Centers were represented there as well.

G. Legislative Update

1. Definitions of ARCA’s Legislative Positions

Per the committee’s request, copies of the Association of Regional Center Agencies’ (ARCA’s) positions on legislation were provided to the committee and Sara briefly reviewed it with them.

2. Bill File

Sara provided everyone with 2 handouts:

- Legislative bills for the July 17th Government & Community Relations Committee meeting.

- 2013 Legislative bills being monitored by NLACRC and ARCA.

She also explained that the legislature is currently on recess and won't return until August 12th.

Action: Per the committee's request, executive regional center staff will provide their input on all significant bills that are brought before the committee.

H. NLACRC's Grass Roots Week

1. Reports on visits with local legislators

Michele stated that board members have been reporting on their visits as they have been taking place.

- Report on visit with Senator Carol Liu's representative

Kim Rolfes, NLACRC's chief financial officer, met with Jacqueline Wu, district representative for Senator Carol Liu, as part of the center's Grass Roots Week visits. During their discussion about service provider rates and some of the unfunded costs that service providers have had to absorb, Jacqueline asked if the center would provide data or have access to statewide data about what the costs have been to implement trailer bill language and what the savings have been for it (uniform holidays, independent audits, etc.). Also she shared with her about the fact that DDS used to collect cost statements from service providers to establish rates and that DDS had not collected this information in many years. Jacqueline expressed an interest in obtaining data about what it costs a service provider to operate their business and indicated that Carol Liu's office may reach out to DDS on this issue.

Action: Lawrence Burton and Rebecca Lienhard will take this issue to the Vendor Advisory Committee for their discussion and recommendations.

I. Candidates Forum

Assembly Member Bob Blumenfield (district 45) will be leaving his position to accept a position with the Los Angeles City Council. A special election will be

held September 17th for the candidates running for his assembly seat. Information about the special election was provided to the committee. The center is planning to hold a candidates' forum, on Tuesday, August 27th, at Sam's Café, to give our community an opportunity to meet each candidate and to have them provide us with their position on specific issues.

Action: Michele will contact Eric Leh, board president, and ask him for a recommendation on who should be the moderator for the center's upcoming candidates' forum.

J. Report on June 13th Caseload Ratio Community Meeting

A summary of the meeting was included in a letter to DDS, dated June 25th. Copies of that letter were provided to the committee.

K. Report on June 25th POS Disparity Community Meeting

Copies of the PowerPoint presentation that was given at the community meeting were provided to the committee for their review and information. The committee was also provided with a draft summary of the meeting which will need to be submitted to the DDS.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following agenda items were identified for the committee's section of the August 14th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of July 17th Meeting
- B. Legislative Update
- C. Report on Candidates Forum
- D. Report on June 13th Caseload Ratio Community Meeting
- E. Report on June 25th POS Disparity Community Meeting
- * F. Approval of Committee's Priority Issues for FY 2013-14

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, August 21st, at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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* Board Action Item

