

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2013

Present: Daniel Becerra, Jessica Gould, Duane Joslin, Debra Newman, Jeremy Sunderland, and Tavia Wooley – Committee Members
Eric Leh – Board President
Linda Dier, Richard Dier, Jennifer Pecor, Daniel Wooley, and Israel Wooley – Guests
Jennifer Kaiser, Sara Iwahashi, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV.G. was added to the agenda.

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

B. Approval of Minutes of August 21st Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Approved Priority Activities for FY 2013-14

The board approved the committee's priority activities for this fiscal year. Copies of the approved list of activities were provided.

B. Legislative Update

Sara provided everyone with 2 handouts: Legislative bills for the August 21st Government & Community Relations Committee meeting and 2013 Legislative bills being monitored by NLACRC and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA). Sara reviewed the status of each bill the committee has been tracking:

1. AB 10 (Alejo) Raising the Minimum Wage. Enrolled. This bill is on the governor's desk, so it is too late to suggest any amendments. Everyone agreed that it is good for people to make more money, but this is a funding issue for our service providers as they will not be given sufficient funding to cover the increases and the impact to their wage scale.. In addition, it will make recruitment for direct care staff even more difficult due to competition.
2. AB 1041 (Chesbro) Employment First policy. Enrolled.
3. AB 1089 (Calderon) Foster care. A 2-year bill.
4. AB 1335 (Maienschein) Sex offenses/disabled victims. A 2-year bill.
5. SB 126 (Steinberg) Health care coverage. Enrolled. This bill would extend the sunset date of Senator Steinberg's original bill to have insurance companies cover the cost of behavioral services in certain situations. Steinberg's program is not working and separates many consumers and families from needed services, and it has created chaos in our system.

Action: The committee asked George to contact the directors of other Los Angeles regional centers and find if their centers oppose SB 126 (Steinberg) and then contact Lou Correa at Senator Steinberg's office and report our opposition and that of other like-minded centers in Los Angeles County.

6. SB 137 (Emmerson) Transparency/posting information about payments made on Regional Center websites. In the Assembly's suspense file.
7. SB 367 (Block) Cultural/linguistic competency. Enrolled.
8. SB 468 (Emmerson) Self-Determination. Enrolled.
9. SB 555 (Correa) Communicating in a family's native language. Enrolled. This bill would be very expensive for regional centers to implement and ARCA is urging the 21 regional centers to contact the governor's office and urge him to veto this bill. The center has drafted a letter to the governor, copies of which were provided to the committee for their review

and approval. The committee members recommended the following change: To include the phrase, “While the regional center is able to provide translation in (name the languages), the bill would require the center to provide translation into 40 different languages” (and list them).

Action: George and Sara will draft a second version of the letter to the governor, including the committee’s recommended changes, and present it at the next Executive Committee meeting for approval.

M/S/C (J. Sunderland/D. Joslin) To recommend to the Executive Committee to approve, on behalf of the board, the letter to the governor asking him to veto SB 555 (Correa), as amended.

10. SB 579 (Berryhill) Oversight efficiency and quality enhancement model. A 2-year bill
11. SB 651 (Pavley) Developmental center and state hospital reporting. Enrolled

C. Discussion: Phasing Out Subminimum Wage

The National Council on Disability is recommending that a provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act, Section 14(c) be eliminated over the course of 6 years. The provision allows companies to obtain the government’s permission to pay a subminimum wage. Many of our service providers are concerned about this because they pay subminimum wages to our consumers. George felt, and the committee agreed, that we should get the Vendor Advisory Committee’s input on this.

Action: George will bring up the proposed elimination of subminimum wages at the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting.

D. Planning for the 2nd Candidates Forum

The first planning meeting was held today. The forum will be held Tuesday, October 8th, at 6:30 p.m. at Sam’s Café and will be videotaped. The planning committee drafted a letter inviting the 2 remaining candidates to the forum, copies of which were presented to the committee for their review. If both candidates cannot participate on that date, a new date will be found. The committee recommended that the sentence referencing their attendance at the first forum be stricken because not all of the candidates attended that event. Copies of a Daily News article on 2 possible candidates, Matt Dababneh and

Susan Shelley, were provided to the committee for their information. The primary election with the 11 candidates was held yesterday. The run-off election will be held in November.

Action: Jeremy will contact Matt Dababneh to find out if the October 8th date is open for him and report back to Sara.

Action: Eric will contact Yolanda Bosch to ask her if she would be willing to moderate the forum.

Action: The committee suggested that Michele contact Lawrence Burton to participate on the forum panel as he had to close one of Willie Ross's programs due to inadequate rates. They also suggested that If Susan Shelley is one of the remaining candidates that we ask her about how Proposition 13 would affect our consumers and families.

E. VAC's recommendations re: Realistic Service Provider Costs (Rebecca/ Lawrence)

Lawrence Burton is no longer with The Willie Ross Foundation, so he resigned his position on the Vendor Advisory Committee. As Rebecca is not present, we will defer this item to next month's committee meeting.

F. Committee discussion: How to keep legislators informed of pending issues

George asked the committee what they would like to do in addition to the Legislative Breakfast, candidates' forums, Grass Roots Week and Grass Roots Day visits. The following suggestions were made:

1. Use all methods of contacting legislators (e-mail, postal service mail, and phone calls).
2. Assign each board member to a specific legislator that they could develop a relationship with by attending their events, inviting them to our events, etc.

Action: The committee will bring these 2 ideas up at the next board meeting.

Action: Jennifer will make sure all of the new board members have NLACRC badges and business cards.

G. Family Focus Resource Center's (FFRC) Special Needs Resource Fair

Sara provided everyone with flyers for this event, which will be held Saturday, November 23rd, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at California State University, Northridge. The center funds the FFRC and their staff are permanently housed at our 2 branch offices. The center will promote this event by allowing them to put our logo on their flyer, sending out an e-mail blast, and we will also have an information table at the event.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the October 9th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of September 18th Meeting
- B. Legislative Update
- C. Report on 2nd Candidates Forum, held October 8th
- D. Discussion re: Legislative Assignments

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, October 16th, at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

[gcrmin.sep18.2013]

* Action Item

