

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

Present: Daniel Becerra, Jessica Gould, Duane Joslin, Debra Newman, Jeremy Sunderland, and Tavia Wooley – Committee Members
Dawn Hamilton and Eric Leh – Board Members
Connie Lapin and Jennifer Pecor – Guests
Michelle Heid and Rebecca Lienhard – Vendor Advisory Committee Representatives
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, and Michele Marra– Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Public Input

Connie made the following announcements:

- A. SB 468 (Self-Determination Program): This bill received more responses than any other bill on the governor's desk – and there were a lot of bills! Connie is excited about this bill's passing and is proud of this regional center for supporting it. Disability Rights California (DRC) will be putting out a fact sheet on the program – and Connie was invited to the bill's signing!
- B. Candidates' Forum: Connie congratulated the center on the October 8th forum. She thought it was very well done – and she lives in that assembly district.

III. Consent Items

- A. Approval of Agenda

Items IV.F., IV.G., and IV.H. were added to the agenda.

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

B. Approval of Minutes of September 18th Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Legislative Update

Sara provided everyone with copies of the following documents:

1. DRC's press release regarding SB 468 (self-determination) along with a full copy of that bill as approved by the governor (chaptered 683)
2. A list of all of the bills that the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) has been tracking and their status.
3. A status report on the bills that this committee has been tracking:
 - AB 10 (Alejo) Minimum Wage
 - AB 1041 (Chesbro) Employment First
 - AB 1232 (Perez) Quality Assessment System
 - SB 126 (Steinberg) Health Care Coverage; Autism
 - SB 208 (Lara) Requests for Proposals
 - SB 367 (Block) Cultural/Linguistic Competency
 - SB 468 (Emmerson) Self-Determination Program
 - SB 555 (Correa) Translation of IPPs and IFSPs into a Family's Native Language

Rebecca reported that the Vendor Advisory Committee is working on an Employment First policy for this center which, when ready, will be presented to the NLACRC Board of Trustees.

B. VAC's recommendations re: Realistic Service Provider Costs – *Deferred*

C. Follow-up: Board Legislative Assignments

Action: The focus will be on targeting key legislators in the NLACRC catchment area. Michele and Sara will identify the legislative representatives of our board members and VAC members provide them with a notebook containing information about their legislator, and also develop a list of talking points.

D. Review Themes from Previous Legislative Breakfasts/Begin Considering the Theme for the 2014 Breakfast

The center has held 28 legislative breakfasts since 1992 and a list of the topics that have been covered at them was provided to everyone present. NLACRC will be celebrating its 40th anniversary on March 13th, perhaps that milestone could somehow be incorporated into the theme for our next breakfast on Friday, April 11th. Please keep in mind that the legislative breakfast topic is also used during our Grass Roots Week visits with local legislators and ARCA's Grass Roots Day visits with legislators at the State Capitol, which are all held in the spring.

Action: Committee members should consider what they think would be good topics for the 2014 legislative breakfast and share their ideas at next month's committee meeting.

E. Board Audit: Are there sufficient financial and human resources available to carry out the center's training and information plan?

Each new staff member goes through a comprehensive training program after they are hired during their 6 weeks of employment, which includes over 70 hours of training and 3 site visits. Sara provided everyone with copies of the New Staff Orientation calendar.

F. Letter to the Department of Health & Human Services re: the next DDS Director

The board asked George to draft a letter to the secretary of the DHHS letting her know what the board thought would be good characteristics that candidates for the DDS director position should have. Copies of the draft letter were provided and reviewed. The letter will be copied to the governor and he will be making that appointment when Terri Delgadillo steps down at the end of this year.

Action: Committee members should provide an input on the letter to DHHS to Jennifer prior to the October 30th Executive Committee meeting.

G. Candidates Forum/Video

The center's candidates' forum for the final 2 candidates running for Bob Blumenfield's former Assembly seat (Susan Shelley and Matt Dababneh) was held last night. It was a great event with nearly 200 people in attendance. We will be

following up with the candidate who wins the November 19th election to make sure they understand how our system is impacted by decisions that are made in Sacramento – and to get a commitment of support from them. The center filmed the event, but Matt Dababneh was not comfortable about us posting the film on our website.

H. Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian

1. Legislative Breakfast: The assembly member attended our 2013 legislative breakfast.
2. Meeting: George, Eric Leh, Cynthia Kawa (executive director of New Horizons), and Steve Miller (executive director of Tierra del Sol) have a meeting scheduled with the assembly member on Wednesday, October 30th.
3. Holiday Open House: Announcements were provided regarding the assembly member's open house on Wednesday, November 20th, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Van Nuys State Office Building, 6150 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite 300, Van Nuys. This is an opportunity to meet the assembly member and to participate in his holiday toy and food drive. As Assembly the open house is going to be held the same evening this committee is scheduled to meet, several committee members expressed interest in making a "field trip" to the open house, at 5:00 p.m. prior to the meetings.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the November 13th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of October 16th Meeting
- B. Legislative Bill File

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, November 20th, at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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