

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2013

Present: Daniel Becerra, Jessica Gould, Duane Joslin, Debra Newman, Jeremy Sunderland, and Tavia Wooley – Committee Members
Connie Lapin and Jennifer Pecor – Guests
Eric Leh – Board President
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Michele Marra, and Liliana Windover – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

II. Public Input

- A. The race for Assembly District 45 is too close to call at this point. Matt Dababneh and Susan Shelley are the 2 runoff candidates. If Matt wins, we will have a super majority in the Assembly, like we do in the Senate.
- B. Connie participated in a party celebrating the passing of SB 468 and Senator Bill Emmerson, the author of the bill was there. He announced that he would be resigning his position as of December 1st to pursue other interests. There was speculation as to whether or not he would be considered for the position of director at the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) which will be vacated by Terri Delgadillo next month.
- C. Jessica will be getting her AA college degree before the next committee meeting in January!

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV.H. Lanterman Coalition Wage Letter was added.

M/S/C (D. Joslin/J. Sunderland) To approve the agenda as revised.

B. Approval of Minutes from the October 16th Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Legislative Update

There is no pending legislation as the legislators are on recess.

1. Jeremy reported that he received an e-mail from Daniel at ARCA regarding a report that the Legislative Analyst's Office issued on California's budget. It is a 5-year forecast which projects a multi-million reserve, just shy of \$10 billion in FY 2017-18. Very good news!
2. Sara provided information on the state legislature committees with the greatest impact on the developmental disabilities system.
3. Connie stated that she would like to see the board take action to support SB 577 (Pavley) Autism and other developmental disabilities: pilot program: employment.

B. VAC's Recommendations re: Realistic Service Provider Costs

Jenni Moran reported at the November 7th VAC meeting, during the Adult Services Priority issue group break out session, that 3 people have been tasked with developing a list of key cost increases and other factors impacting agencies (health insurance reform, workers' compensation rates, minimum wage increase, ongoing rate freeze) versus the results of those impacts given rates that do not cover these impacting factors or keep up with mounting expenses (challenges hiring highly qualified staff, increased turnover, reductions in force, possible increase in special incident reports, program closures, agency closures, etc.). The 3 team members are Ken Lane, Bob Erio, and Doug Pascover.

C. Board Legislative Assignments

Sara provided the committee with a breakdown of legislative districts in the center's area and the board, VAC, and CAC members who live in their districts. This is a starting point. Board members can always meet with their legislator one-on-one, but how often should we formally arrange to meet with them? Sara is happy to provide you with information on talking points that you can take with you to your meeting. Fridays are good days to visit legislators as often times they are in their district offices on that day.

Action: Formal visits will be scheduled on a Friday in February. Further formal visits will be held during the center's Grass Roots Week in the spring.

Action: Board members should sign up to receive information from their legislators via e-mail and then make an announcement about any events during board and/or committee meetings.

D. Possible Themes for the 2014 Legislative Breakfast

1. We're all in this together!
2. Let's keep the connection strong!
3. We're watching you!
4. Relationships/Partnerships
5. We're friends and family
6. What we need from a super democratic majority
7. The time to act is now!

Action: Jessica Gould, Duane Joslin, Tavia Wooley, and Jennifer Pecor expressed an interest in participating on the planning committee. Sara will get in touch with them about a meeting schedule.

E. Report(s) on Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian's Open House

Eric Leh, Daniel Becerra, Mary Jo Fernando, and Sara Iwahashi attended the open house. Eric and Daniel were able to speak to Assembly Member Nazarian for a brief time. Daniel says he found that many of the people that he spoke to were not familiar with the regional center system, so it was a good opportunity to network.

F. Board Audit: Does the center's training and information plan include a sufficient variety of training and communication methods to reach all of the center's constituents? Yes.

We are currently working on increasing the number of new staff orientations for all of the new staff we plan on hiring. We are also, looking at piloting a web-based training program in January.

G. Board Audit: Are the methods identified in the center's training and information plan in line with our organizational principles? Yes.

H. Lanterman Coalition Letter

The Lanterman Coalition is a group of 16 major stakeholders in California's developmental disabilities system. Earlier this month, they wrote a letter to Governor Brown outlining the impact if programs are not funded for the recent state and federal mandate wage and benefit changes. Copies of that letter were provided to the committee.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the January 8th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of November 20th Meeting**
- B. Legislators Committees & Legislative Districts/Assignments**
- C. Sign up on Legislators' E-mail Lists**

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. Recognition

NLACRC was recently awarded the 2013 Community Partnership Award by Tierra del Sol. Diane shared 2 recognitions that the center received from the City and the County of Los Angeles.

B. Complete Meeting Evaluations

Jeremy asked the committee members to please complete evaluation forms after the meeting and submit them to him with any comments.

C. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 15th, at 6:00 p.m.

D. Happy Holidays Everyone!

VII. Adjournment - Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

[gcrmin.nov20.2013]

