

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2014

Present: Daniel Becerra, Jessica Gould, Duane Joslin, Debra Newman, Jeremy Sunderland, and Tavia Wooley - Committee Members
Eric Leh – Board President
Jennifer Pecor – Guest
Michelle Heid – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Public Input – There was no public input

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

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

B. Approval of Minutes of November 20th Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Legislative Update

1. Legislation: Sara provided everyone with 2 handouts

- Legislative bills for the January 15th Government & Community Relations Committee meeting.
- 2014 legislative bills being monitored by NLACRC.

2. Upcoming Legislative Visits: The committee had expressed interest in visiting legislators prior to the usual Grass Roots Week visits that are held in the spring. Michele explained that she and Sara selected local legislators who serve on or chair committees that are important to the center. A team will visit each legislators comprised of a staff lead, board member, vendor, and consumer. The proposed legislators to be visited and the composition of the teams were listed and copies of that list were provided and reviewed. The visits will be scheduled for Fridays in February and March and the discussion topics will be the importance of restoring the Early Start program and inadequate service provider rates.

Action: Committee members should provide any input on the list of legislators and teams to be visited to Sara at siwashashi@nlacrc.org or at (818) 756-6451.

3. Governor's Budget: Sara provided everyone with the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS's) summary of the governor's proposed budget for FY 2014-15.
4. Trainings for our Community: We are partnering with the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA) to offer free educational seminars presented in English & Spanish, beginning in February 2014. The seminars will be held at Sam's Café at New Horizons. Postcards for the events were provided to the committee.
5. New DDS Director: Santi Rogers, who is currently the director of San Andreas Regional Center, has accepted the position of director of the DDS. George explained to the committee why he felt that Santi was an excellent choice. Santi knows the regional center system and its current policy issues, understands service provider issues, knows the legislative process, and is very familiar with developmental centers. God said he couldn't think of a better fit.
6. Board Retreat: The Executive Committee will be talking about the content of the next board retreat at their meeting later this month. It will need to include training in cultural competency (a new requirement for regional center boards) and we are also hopeful that the new DDS director will be able to join us at some point. The board retreat will be a 2-day event on May 16th and 17th.

B. Finalize Theme for Legislative Breakfast

The planning team hasn't come up with a tag line yet, but the theme of the next breakfast will focus on providing viable wages to direct care staff, our "unsung heroes." A viable wage would greatly reduce the high turnover. The tag line will be finalized in time for the next board meeting.

C. Draft a Strategy for the Service Provider and Legislative Representative Visits Policy for Implementation in FY 2014-15

This agenda item was deferred to next month's meeting.

D. CA Disability Services Association (CDSA) – System Modernization

The CDSA is undertaking a study to gather community input to better understand how the service delivery system for people with developmental disabilities is working today and into the future. They plan to conduct a series of conversations with small groups, called "community listening sessions." They want to work with communities to engage local leaders, identify other languages needed, and get materials translated to ensure feedback from a variety of stakeholders. Their goal is to modernize and improve the system for our consumers. Information about the CDSA's study was provided to the committee.

George asked the committee if they would like to support this project and the committee said they would.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the February 12th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of January 15th Meeting
- B. Legislative Update
- * C. Approval of Theme for 2014 Legislative Breakfast

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, February 19th, at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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