

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Government & Community Relations Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
July 15, 2015

**Present:** Jun Antonio, Jessica Gould, Myriam Jovel, Marcia Leija, Caroline Mitchell, Bridget Moss, Debra Newman, Jeremy Sunderland, Curtis Wang, and Tavia Wooley – Committee Members

Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, George Stevens, and Jessica Whitney – Staff Members

**Absent:** Sean Stalbaum

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

Michele called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Michele introduced Sara to the new committee members.

**II. Public Input** – There was no public input.

**III. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Agenda

**M/S/C** (D. Newman/J. Gould) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes of May 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting

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

**IV. Committee Business**

A. Annual Committee Orientation

The following documents were provided to the committee and Michele reviewed them with those present. Committee members should become familiar with these documents as they outline the purpose of the committee, committee activities, and the responsibilities of the committee members.

1. Policies and Procedures

2. Bylaws Statement
3. Board Audit Section
4. Legislative Platform Guiding Principles
5. Board Recognition Policy
6. Service Provider and Elected Representative Visits & Framework for Strategy Implementation

Jeremy recommended that the center use the board recognition policy to recognize legislators that have supported us, like Senators Jim Beall and Fran Pavley.

**Action:** George will look into whether or not awarding a legislator would be appropriate and will report back at next month's committee meeting.

B. Elect a Committee Chair

Only one nomination was made.

**M/S/C** (T. Wooley/J. Antonio) To elect Jeremy to serve as the committee chair for FY 2015-16.

C. Approved Committee Critical Calendar for FY 2015-16

Copies of the committee's critical calendar were provided. The calendar lists actions that will be taken each month by the committee. Jennifer uses the calendar to put together the monthly committee meeting agendas.

D. Committee begins Discussion re: their Priority Issues for FY 2015-16

The committee reviewed the 4 priority issues from last fiscal year. Michele reported that as the action meetings that we held to organize community members to write letters to legislators were so successful, we are planning to continue down that path rather than hold another legislative breakfast. After discussion, the committee decided they would still like to hold the April date for a legislative event of some kind. As such, the 4<sup>th</sup> priority issue was changed to reflect this. The committee would `

**M/S/C** (J. Gould/J. Sunderland) To present the committee's proposed priority issues for FY 2015-16 to the Board of Trustees for their approval, pending input from the Vendor Advisory Committee.

**Action:** Jennifer will forward the committee's proposed priority issues to Michelle Heid, chair of the Vendor Advisory Committee, so she can present them to her committee for any input.

The committee recommended that the board be given a training on the Lanterman Act and that members of the community be invited to attend. George reported that a presentation on the Lanterman Act is given to all new staff members as part of their orientation training. Ruth Janka currently gives the training on the Lanterman Act in 2 3-hour sessions.

**Action:** A subcommittee will be formed to work with George and Ruth to reduce the Lanterman Act training to 2½ hours so it could be held in lieu of on month's Consumer Services & Government/Community Relations Committee meetings. The subcommittee will also consider whether the training should be held for the board and the community, or if they should be held separately.

Jun suggested that once finalized, that the Lanterman Act training be posted on the center's website. Caroline suggested that consumers be invited to attend the training so they could learn to become better self-advocates. Bridget stated that the documentary "We're Here to Speak for Justice" be used to help further educate the community and garner their support for our system.

**Action:** The subcommittee will take these suggestions into consideration.

**Action:** The following committee members volunteered to serve on the new "Lanterman Act" subcommittee: Jessica, Tavia, Jun, Bridget, Myriam, and Jeremy.

E. Legislative Strategy Brainstorming Session

A legislative strategy brainstorming session has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 2:00 p.m., with NLACRC staff and community partners. Committee members are welcome to join them. They will be brainstorming ways to get more consumers and families involved in supporting the system; this could be the key to getting the Governor's attention to our issues. Jeremy asked if we should invite directors of other like-minded regional centers in the southern CA area. Discussion ensued about ways to get the Governor's attention.

**Action:** George will contact Robert Riddick, interim director of Kern Regional Center, as he knows the secretary of the Department of Health and Human

Services. George will also contact Santi Rogers, director of DDS, to get his input on how to best get the attention of the governor.

**Action:** George will invite Kevin McDonald, executive director of Westside Regional Center, and Omar Noorzad, executive director of Tri-Counties Regional Center to participate in the meeting by teleconference.

F. Introduction to Legislation/Legislative Update

Sara provided the committee with an introduction to legislation and a flow chart showing the lifecycle of legislation from idea into law. Sara also provided the committee with their updated bill file. The committee is currently tracking 47 Senate and Assembly bills. Sara also provided the committee with a list of 31 additional bills that are being tracked by the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA).

1. SB 490 (Beall): Currently, the law requires regional center service providers that receive payments between \$250,000 and \$500,000 per year obtain a review each year; providers that receive payments of \$500,000 or more must obtain an independent audit. This bill would instead increase these thresholds, so that service providers that receive payments between \$500,000 and \$2 million would have to obtain a review and providers who receive \$2 million or more would have to obtain an independent audit. In addition, 2-year exemptions could be granted for those providers who receive good audits. If this bill passes, it would provide much needed relief for our service providers.

**M/S/C** (J. Gould/C. Mitchell) To recommend to the Executive Committee to approve sending a letter to Senator Jim Beall supporting his SB 490.

**Action:** Sara will draft the letter and e-mail it to the committee members for their review prior to the July 29<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting.

G. Special Olympics World Games - Update

Yolanda Bosch has spearheaded center's support of the games by soliciting staff volunteers to participate in "fans in the stands" on July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. On these 2 mornings, soccer games will be held locally at Balboa Park. Nearly 100 staff members have volunteered to participate!

## V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the August 12<sup>th</sup> board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of July 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- B. Legislative Update
- C. Approval of Priority Issues

## 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 19<sup>th</sup>

## VII. Adjournment

**M/S/C** (J. Gould/T. Wooley) To adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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