

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2015

Present: Jun Antonio, Jessica Gould, Myriam Jovel, Caroline Mitchell, Bridget Moss, Debra Newman, Sean Stalbaum, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang – Committee Members
Mary Jo Fernando – Board Member
Gerald Robles – Guest
Michelle Heid and Fredlyn Berger – Vendor Advisory Committee Representatives
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, George Stevens, and Jessica Whitney – Staff Members

Absent: Marcia Leija

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV.E. was added to the agenda.

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

B. Approval of Minutes of August 19th Meeting

M/S/C (D. Newman/B. Moss) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Legislative Update

Sara provided the committee with copies of their updated bill file.

1. Special Legislative Session Update: The Legislature finally concluded its work on both the regular and special legislative session. While actions

have been taken on several bills introduced in the 2nd extraordinary session, unfortunately, no comprehensive solution or agreement has been reached. The special session, although now on recess, does remain alive and potential does remain for a solution. George added that the Republican legislators want funding for our system to come out of the General Fund, with no new taxes, and the Democratic legislators want a special tax levied (on tobacco and alcohol) to generate the funding – and we get lost in the middle. What should our next steps be? The following suggestions were made:

- Find a celebrity who would be willing to support us publicly.
- Gavin Newsom will be running for Governor; we should contact him.
- Put an initiative on the ballot (ask Yolanda Bosch how First 5 did it).

Action: Michelle Heid will contact Gavin Newsom.

Action: George will see if other regional centers would be willing to support a ballot initiative and ask ARCA and The Lanterman Coalition for their support.

Action: George will bring information on how a ballot initiative is developed to next month's committee meeting.

2. Outreach to Santi Rogers: Santi participated in the recent ARCA Board of Directors meeting by teleconference because he was busy at Sonoma Developmental Center. As such, Diane was not able to speak with him.
3. Outreach to Kathleen Brown: Jeremy didn't send a letter to her because it didn't think it would be useful.
4. Outreach to California Treasurer John Chiang: Sean reported that he was planning to see Mr. Chiang at an event they were planning to attend; unfortunately, he and his family members came down with the flu, so they weren't able to go.
5. Senate Letter to ARCA & ARCA's Response: On September 11th, Senators Jim Nielsen and Jeff Stone sent a letter to ARCA. They both agreed that regional centers and service providers are in dire need of a rate

increase, but they did not support Senate Bill X2-14 as a way to fund it. They do, however, support the following bills:

- Senate Bill 638 (Stone), which would provide the 10% increase in funding, and some other special funding bills.
- Senate Bill X2-4 (Nielsen/Stone), which would provide DDS with the means to fund targeted rate increase for regional centers and their providers through General fund surplus revenues.
- Senate Bill X2-11 (Stone), which would require the proceeds and any net savings from the closure of the remaining state developmental centers to be dedicated exclusively for the use of providing services to people with developmental disabilities.

However, according to the senators' letter, these bills were opposed by the Democrats. The two senators were very disappointed that our communities had such support for SB X2-14 and not for the other bills.

ARCA responded to the letter that very same day, explaining that ARCA and the regional centers have supported multiple bills by both parties that propose funding solutions, including the bills they mentioned in their letter. ARCA's letter closed with thanking the senators for their ongoing commitment and support. Copies of both letters were provided to the committee.

6. Michelle Heid's Legislative Overview Presentation: Michelle regularly gives legislative presentations to various groups, called "Legislative Overview: how legislation impacts the DD community and how you can get involved." Copies of her presentation were e-mailed to the committee for their review and information. George stated that this would be a good presentation to give at the board's annual retreat, scheduled for May 2016. Jeremy said he would like the board to be given the training sooner than that.

Action: George will take the legislative presentation to the Executive Committee for their recommendation.

7. L.A. Daily News Article re: Funding: The committee was provided with copies of an article that was shared with us by ARCA called, "California lawmakers leave those with special needs questioning funding future."

B. Autism Brain Net Information Cards

The center received a letter from the research director of the UC Davis MIND Institute regarding their new effort “Autism Brain Net.” The purpose of the effort is to launch a national effort to raise awareness about the desperate need for postmortem brain donations which will provide critical information for developing innovative new treatments. They are asking us to distribute information cards to families who have a family member with autism. George told the committee that Dr. Carlo DeAntonio, the center’s director of clinical services, does not think this is appropriate. The committee agreed.

Action: The center will not send out the Autism Brain Net cards to families.

- C. Board Audit: Does the center have a training & information plan that meets the requirements of statute, contracts, and board policy?

Yes. Copies of the center’s draft training plan for FY 2015-16 were provided to the committee and Michele reviewed it with them.

- D. Board Audit: Committee discusses how to keep legislators informed about pending issues

The following suggestions were made by the committee:

1. Develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a legislative consultant.
2. Hold a walk to raise awareness. Invite a celebrity to participate.
3. Get a legislator to back an initiative (e.g. Senator Jim Beall).
4. (See Section IV.A.1. above.)

- E. Presentation of Draft RFP for Social Media Consultant

Michele Marra presented the committee with a draft RFP, which included an implementation plan.

Action: Committee members should review the RFP and provide any input or feedback to Sara before Wednesday, September 30th. Any proposed changes will be incorporated and the RFP will be presented for review and the October 14th board meeting.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee’s section of the October 14th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of September 16th Meeting
- B. Legislative Update
- C. Presentation of Draft RFP for Social Media Consultant

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 21st

VII. Adjournment

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

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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