

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Government & Community Relations Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
September 21, 2016

**Present:** Adelina Castellanos, Michelle Heid, Erika Hernandez, Meagan Miller, Caroline Mitchell, Debra Newman, Curtis Wang, and Tamar Witmer – Committee Members  
Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, and Michele Marra – Staff Members

**Absent:** Jessica Gould, Shant Kotchounian, and Oscar Mejia

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

Tamar Witmer, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

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

**III. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Agenda

Several items were added to the agenda.

**M/S/C** (M. Miller/D. Newman) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of the August 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting

**M/S/C** (C. Wang/A. Castellanos) To approve the minutes as presented.

**IV. Committee Business**

A. Legislative Update

Sara announced that the current legislative session is coming to an end and Governor Brown has until September 30<sup>th</sup> to sign or veto bills. The committee is currently tracking 17 different bills and copies of the committee's updated bill file were provided. Sara provided highlights of the following 2 bills:

1. AB 796 (Nazarian): This bill would remove the sunset on SB 946 to ensure permanent access to insurance-funded behavioral health treatment

which is critical for many consumers and families. Sara presented a draft letter to Governor Brown urging him to sign this bill into law.

**M/S/C** (C. Mitchell/C. Wang) To recommend to the Executive Committee to take a support position on AB 796 (Nazarian), on behalf of the Board of Trustees, and to send the letter to Governor Brown urging him to sign the bill into law.

2. AB 1221 (Hertzberg): NLACRC supported this bill and it has been chaptered. This bill will take the law enforcement training on how to interact with people with disabilities and extend it to firefighters and fire departments in California.

B. Update on Candidates' Forums

NLACRC will be holding 2 candidates' forums:

1. Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. (Santa Clarita Activities Center)
2. Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. (Sam's Café at New Horizons, North Hills)

Our area is losing 2 of its current senators, Fran Pavley and Carol Liu, who have been champions for our system. We want whoever takes their places to know that the developmental disabilities system has a huge force of advocates behind it. Michelle Heid reported that all 6 candidates have confirmed their participation in these 2 events. In addition, the service provider community extended an invitation to each candidate to meet with them prior to the candidates' forums to discuss current issues. So far, 2 of the candidates have taken them up on their offer 1 of the meetings has already been held. The center sent information packets to the candidates so they can educate themselves on our system and current issues. The center has held several candidates' forums before and they are very positive events. We want to make sure there is standing room only at these 2 events so please continue to promote both forums!

C. Update on Lanterman Act Anniversary Party & Open House

Sara reported that due to the move of the main office to the new location, the party planning was temporarily put on hold. We need to find out what

restrictions there are at the new building before the committee can continue planning.

D. Social Media Update

Sara gave the committee an update on the center's new Facebook page. This morning, we had 290 "likes" and tonight that number is up to 317! We have also had nearly 1,000 hits! Please go to the center's Facebook page and encourage your friends and colleagues to like us!

E. How to find your Local Assembly Member and Senator

Michelle Heid shared with the committee how to easily find out who their local assembly and senate representatives are, just follow these steps:

1. Go to: [www.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.legislature.ca.gov)
2. Go to: Find my district
3. Enter your work and/or home address

Senators generally represent about 1 million constituents while assembly members represent about 400,000 constituents.

F. Legislative Training

After some discussion, the committee took the following action.

**M/S/C** (D. Newman/M. Miller) To recommend to the Executive Committee that the Government & Community Relations Committee be allowed to hold a legislative training in lieu of their November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. They would also like to encourage other board members to attend that training. Additionally, they would like to recommend that this training be ongoing for this committee each November, in lieu of the 2 regular committee meetings.

**V. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the October 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the September 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting
- B. Legislative Update
- C. Update on Candidates' Forums

## **VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input**

### A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

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

### B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> (Oakdale office)

## **VII. Adjournment**

Tamar adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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