

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2017

Present: Adelina Castellanos, Jessica Gould, Michelle Heid, Erika Hernandez, Meagan Miller, Caroline Mitchell, Debra Newman, Curtis Wang, and Tamar Witmer – Committee Members
Sharoll Jackson – VAC Representative
Steve Miller, Margie Ryan, and Michael Stevens - Guests
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Shant Kotchounian

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Tamar Witmer, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:53 p.m.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV.F. was added to the agenda.

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

B. Approval of Minutes of the October 19, 2016 Meeting

M/S/C (J. Gould/M. Miller) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Legislative Update [*See Steve Miller's attached notes for further details.*]

Although the board was dark in December, the legislators have been hard at work during the holiday season developing their agendas for the year ahead.

1. Minimum Wage Legislation: Steve Miller and Michelle Heid have been working with Assembly Member Christopher Holden to carry legislation that would provide rate relief for our service providers in light of the

continued minimum wage increases. Assembly Member Holden has a “citizen advisory committee” on which 3 service providers sit. They had brought the minimum wage problem to the assembly member’s attention. The draft language was submitted to the legislative counsel’s office and the bill should be drafted by this Friday. There is only a slim chance the bill will pass this year, as the state is facing a \$1.6 billion deficit and bills that require funding will probably not pass. However, next year there could be a chance for this bill.

M/S/C (C. Mitchell/M. Miller) To recommend to the Executive Committee to support the bill addressing minimum wage increases, on behalf of the Board of Trustees – with the caveat that the bill contains the language that the committee believes it will.

Action: Steve Miller will contact Jennifer Kaiser once the bill has been written and she will share it with the contacts on her e-mailing list asking people to send letters and make phone calls supporting the bill.

Action: Erika Hernandez will contact Jennifer Kaiser with information about a nationwide special community event calendar for families of children with special needs.

[Erika did. The contact information is: <http://parentingspecialneeds.org/events>]

2. Legislative Advocacy Trainings: Steve Miller and Michelle Heid plan to hold many trainings in the coming months. Fliers were provided for a legislative training that they will hold from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 18th, at Tierra del Sol’s Van Nuys campus. They will also be giving a training at Festival Educacional, a workshop for Spanish-speaking families in the spring. Tamar Witmer suggested that one of the workshops be videotaped so it could be reproduced.

Action: Committee members should share the flier about the February 18th legislative advocacy training with their friends, families, and others.

3. Public Policy Conference: The ARC/United Cerebral Palsy hold a joint public policy conference in Sacramento each year at the end of March - and it is one of the best. This year’s conference will be held March 26th through March 28th. Steve Miller and Michelle Heid plan to participate but also think it would be beneficial for 2 board members to participate in the conference as well. It is a 2-day conference and then meetings will be held with legislators at the State Capitol on the third day.

M/S/C (C. Mitchell/M. Miller) To recommend to the Executive Committee to approve 2 board members to participate in the ARC/UCP conference in Sacramento in March, on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Action: Jennifer Kaiser will send an e-mail out to the board asking who would be interested in attending the conference.

4. Constituent Letters: Letters were written for each board member to sign welcoming (or welcoming back) his/her assembly member/senator to their district. Please give the signed letters to Jennifer Kaiser so she can get George Stevens' signature on them as well before sending them out.
5. Weekly Conference Calls: Tamar Witmer thought it would be a good idea to hold conference calls with Steve Miller and Michelle Heid, on a weekly basis, so they could be kept updated on what's going on legislatively.

Action: Sara Iwahashi will set up the times and dates for the conference calls. Sara will work out the logistics with Tamar Witmer and Malorie Lanthier, the center's information/technology director

Action: Tamar Witmer, Meagan Miller, and Jessica Gould plan to participate in the conference calls with Steve Miller and Michelle Heid.

Action: The first conference call will include discussion about how to develop your "elevator speech."

B. Discussion re: Legislative Event in April / Begin Assembling the Planning Committee

(See Item IV.E. below.)

C. Develop a Strategy that Encompasses the Purpose and Intent of the Service Provider and Elected Representative Visit Policy for next Fiscal Year

1. Service Provider Strategy: It was recommended that some members of the center's Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) come to the board meetings and give presentations on their programs. Service provider categories suggested included implementation of the CMS final rule and consumers who are aging out of high school. The board already has presentations scheduled for their January and February meetings, so the presentations would begin with the March 8th board meeting.

Action: George will ask the VAC for volunteers to give brief (20 minute) presentations to the board at the next VAC meeting on February 2nd.

2. Elected Representative Strategy: This has already been identified and includes the legislative visits, both local and in Sacramento, legislative advocacy trainings, and the bill to address the minimum wage increases.

M/S/C (C. Mitchell/C. Wang) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to approve the committee's proposed strategy that encompasses the purpose and intent of the board's Service Provider and Elected Representative Visit Policy.

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

Yes. Whenever trainings are developed, the center's Mission, Vision, and Values Statement is always kept in mind.

Action: The committee will recommend to the Board of Trustees that "organizational principles" in this section of the Board Audit be changed to read, "... in line with the center's Mission, Vision, and Values Statement."

- E. Lanterman Act 50th Anniversary Celebration

We wanted to get one of the founding mothers of the regional center system to symbolically hand the torch over to a new mother. We found one. Her name is Shirley Dove and she is willing to speak at the event and introduce the film, "We're Here to Speak for Justice," a documentary about the parents who refused to put their children in developmental centers and wanted services and programs for them in the community instead, resulting in the creation of the regional center system. A panel discussion would also be held to talk about what could come next for the future of our system. We would also like to have additional speakers and honor historical legislators. We are hoping to hold the event at CSUN, where they have several theaters, on a Saturday afternoon in April. *[It was later found that CSUN was not available, so the venue was changed to the Airtel Plaza Hotel.]*

M/S/C (C. Mitchell/M. Miller) To ask the Board of Trustees to approve the committee's plans for the center's 50th anniversary celebration of the Lanterman Act, as discussed above.

Action: Steve Miller, Michelle Heid, Debra Newman, and Erika Hernandez volunteered to serve on the anniversary celebration planning committee with Michele Marra and Sara Iwahashi.

F. NLACRC Videos

Sara Iwahashi provided everyone with a list of current videos that were developed for the center back in 1999. These videos were updated in 2009, but now they are very outdated and need to be completely re-filmed.

Action: Any committee members who know of a video company who would be willing to create these films for us should contact Jennifer Kaiser with a contact name and phone number.

Caroline reported that Pierce College has a video club that may be interested in making the films.

V. **Board Meeting Agenda Items**

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the February 8th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the January 18th Meeting
- B. Legislative Update
 - 1. Legislative Advocacy Training: Saturday, February 18th
 - 2. Minimum Wage Legislation
 - 3. Weekly Conference Calls
- C. Approval of Plans for Lanterman Act Anniversary Event
- D. Approval of Legislative Strategy to Implement the Board's SPERV Policy
- E. Approval of Change to the GCR's Section of the Board Audit

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

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

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

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 15th

VII. **Adjournment**

Tamar adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

[gcrmin.jan18.2017]



Steve Miller's Notes

Legislative Advocacy Activities

Legislative Education Calendar (as of 1/19/2017)

2/13/17 Short intro at FFRC CalABLE presentation 6:00pm
2/18/17 Training at Tierra Del Sol (Van Nuys Campus) 1:00-3:00
2/25/17 Festival Educacional 8:00-1:00 (Spanish) @ Sam's Café
3/22/17 & 4/17/17 2 session training in Chatsworth 6:00-8:00
3/26-3/28 ARC/UCP attend with 1-2 members of the board
3/28/17 schedule visits with legislators
April 2017 Lanterman Celebration
April 2017 Transition Conference AV – date and location TBD
5/3/17 & 5/24/17 2 session training in SCV 6:00-8:00
May 13th – Transition Conference SCV 20880 Centre Pointe Parkway, Santa Clarita, CA 91350
6/7/17 & 6/21/17 – Desert Haven 6:00-8:00
7/8/17, 7/15/17, 7/22/17 – North East Valley, SCV, Chatsworth 9:00-11:00

Outcomes of all Legislative Trainings

1. Develop of an understanding of the importance of legislation (funding and rules) in the lives of individuals with DD
 - Why it is important?
 - How it works
2. Understanding how to engage and influence legislative decisions
 - Developing relationships with legislators
 - Demonstrate ability to interact with legislators
3. The importance of champions and how to become one
 - self-initiator, decision maker, player
 - You have the potential to be a powerful influencer
 - Bring someone to the 2nd session
 - Talk to someone about the importance of legislation and DD issues
 - Get involved in a campaign
 - Write a letter on your own

Lanterman Act Celebration

*** Please note the inclusion of Legislators is our planning aspiration – we will work hard to secure their participation but we cannot ensure their attendance until they commit themselves to joining us.**

April at CSUN: 1 evening event with movie followed speakers and panel discussion of current community leaders (parent advocates, providers, legislators (Holden, Lackey, Beall, Liu, Pavley)) followed by awards for Liu & Pavley (with Jim Beall presenting) – 3 hours

Program Options

- 6:00-6:15 Registration & Mingle

- 6:15-6:25 Welcome (George)
- 6:25-6:30 Introduction to video (Shirley)
- 6:30-7:30 We're Here to Speak for Justice
- 7:35-7:45 Close to video (Shirley)
- 7:45-8:00 Break
- 8:00-8:30 Keynote speaker Tony or Jim Beall
- 8:30-8:45 Awards
- 8:30-9:30 Panel

Speaker & Panel

Tony Coelho – Advocate for social justice and disabilities (not yet approached)

* Shirley Dove – Founding Lanterman Act parent and President of ARC CA (Agreed to participate)

Lanterman the next 50 years

- Where we go from here?
- Next chapter in the Lanterman Act
- Keeping the promise – the promise fulfilled
- Funding, legislation, services, regulations

Who should attend?

- Parents
- Consumers
- Providers and their active board members
- Leadership of regional centers
- Legislators
- Regional center employees
- VIP invitees (recognized leaders and board members)
- We should work for a venue and invitation list that is as inclusive of our community as possible and financially reasonable

Budget

- Travel for panelists
- Venue
- Food
- Charge for event? (We suggest not charging invitees – but possibly inviting sponsorship, co-host opportunities for financial support from organizations)

Local Legislative Visits

Letters have been sent to all local State legislators to set introductory meetings. Board members will be part of the visitation groups for legislators from their home districts.

Weekly Wednesday Advocacy Calls

Board Members and executive leadership will be invited to join a weekly informal telephone call with Legislative and Community Educators (Steve and Michelle) to share up to the minute updates and also to have informal questions, answers and discussion of any issues related to legislative advocacy. Proposed meeting time 6:00PM