

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2017

Present: Adelina Castellanos, Jessica Gould, Michelle Heid, Erika Hernandez, Shant Kotchounian, Meagan Miller, Caroline Mitchell, Debra Newman, Curtis Wang, and Tamar Witmer – Committee Members
Sharoll Jackson – VAC Representative
Steve Miller and Sonia Ojeda - Guests
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, George Stevens, and Dr. Jesse Weller – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Tamar Witmer, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

A new item IV.G. was added to the agenda.

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

B. Approval of Minutes of the April 19th Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Review and Approve Critical Calendar for FY 2017-18

A legislative training will be held in September in lieu of the committee meetings. As such, the agenda items for that month were transferred to the October meeting.

M/S/C (A. Castellanos/J. Gould) To approve the FY 2017-18 critical calendar as modified.

B. Finalize Legislative Strategy for FY 2017-18

The board's legislative strategy for this fiscal year was to hold 2 candidates forums and to support viable service provider rates, which was accomplished. The committee discussed what the strategy should be for next fiscal year.

Action: The committee will recommend to the board that the following legislative strategies be approved for FY 2017-18:

1. Continue our community engagement by finding out what issues are important to them through a variety of ways (e.g. town hall meetings).
2. Conduct legislative advocacy trainings that reach out to Spanish speaking consumers and families.
3. Hold an annual legislative event.

C. Legislative Update

1. Legislative Bill File: Copies of the updated bill file were provided to the committee.
2. SB 283 (Wilk) Traumatic Brain Injuries: This bill would expand regional center eligibility requirements to individuals who have a disability originating between the ages of 18 and 22, which would bring California into conformance with the federal threshold and that of 38 other states. The board voted to support this bill and a copy of the board's support letter to Senator Wilk was included in the meeting packet.
3. AB 384 (Irwin) Expansion of the ABLE Act: This bill would allow all United States residents to participate in CalABLE, a program that allows people with disabilities to save money for their future without jeopardizing their disability benefits. The board voted to support this bill and a copy of the board's support letter to Senator Wilk was included in the meeting packet.
4. AB 754 (Acosta) Foster Youth Enrichment Activities: This bill would require the state's Department of Social Services to convene a workgroup to develop an implementation plan for the California foster youth

enrichment grant program which would provide activities that enhance the foster youth's skills, abilities, self-esteem, and overall well-being.

M/S/C (M. Miller/J. Gould) To recommend to the Executive Committee to take a support position on AB 754 (Acosta) on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

5. ACR 77 (Lackey/Mathis) Developmental Centers: This Assembly Concurrent Resolution would express the Legislature's support for reinvesting revenues and cost savings for the closure, sale, and reuse of the state's developmental centers to support people with developmental disabilities in the community. Assembly Member Lackey is becoming our most vocal champion. He wrote the resolution shortly after attending our event celebrating the Lanterman Act's 50th anniversary. He also started a petition to support the position taken in this resolution. The Board of Trustees took a support position on ACR 77 at last week's board meeting.
6. AB 1610 (Ridley-Thomas) Components & Estimated Costs: This bill was discussed by the Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA's) Executive Committee and the ARCA Board of Directors as it would require a number of actions on the part of regional centers. This is a massive bill with many moving pieces which will be very expensive. ARCA dissected the bill to address each issue and its estimated cost. Copies of ARCA's breakdown of this bill were provided to the committee, which included:
 - Translation of a large number of regional center documents.
 - Additional Individual Program Plan (IPP) requirements (\$50,000).
 - The restoration of some Early Start services and additional Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) requirements (\$19.5 million).
 - Behavioral health treatment (\$9 million).
 - Medical/Dental services (\$9.6 million).
 - Purchase of Service (POS) budgeting/allocation (\$ unknown).
 - Service restorations (\$18.5 million).

This bill is currently in suspense.

7. Level of Political Activity (George)

Action: George will speak with Attorney Dave Wright to find out how politically active the center can be without affecting its nonprofit status.

D. Addition of Board Recruitment Taglines

The Nominating Committee would like to have taglines added to the center's Facebook, website, and e-mail blasts: Want to become more active? Join our board!

Action: Staff will come to the next GCR meeting with samples of how the taglines would look and where they will be added.

E. Legislative Educator Consultants FY 2016-17 Activities

Steve Miller and Michelle Heid were contracted to provide legislative advocacy skills to our community. They have had a very successful year! They provided copies of their year in review and their proposal for next fiscal year. Steve reported that the main focus for the year ahead would be to reach out to consumers and families to find out what issues are important to them. Their proposal for next fiscal year includes more money to cover translation of materials, more mileage, and more service hours. George stated the he supported their proposal, but could not commit to the budget until Kim Rolfes, the center's CFO, had an opportunity to review it. The committee also supported the proposal.

M/S/C (A. Castellanos/M. Miller; Abstention: M. Heid) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to support the legislative advocacy proposal for FY 2017-18 in concept.

F. Social Media Consultant for FY 2017-18

The center's social media consultant is RG Pacific. Copies of their year-end report, including their strategies for next fiscal year, were provided to the committee and Sara reviewed it with them. The center is putting together a staffing plan to help support our new social media. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be offering another \$11 million to the regional centers next fiscal year to help support outreach to under-served consumers and families; we will seek some of these dollars to support our social media projects.

G. State Budget Update

George provided copies of an update from ARCA on the developmental disabilities section of the May Revise. The Senate Budget Subcommittee

supported most of the proposals.

1. Information security and private support (\$398,000).
2. An increase for the developmental center budget (\$16.2 million).
3. Technical adjustments to reflect better regional center data.
4. Additional funding for regional centers to cover psychologist positions to assess children with an autism spectrum disorder.
5. Additional funding for behavioral health treatment services.
6. The requirement for DDS to provide ongoing reports on work of DDS's research unit.
7. Additional funding to address regional center service disparities (\$11 million).
8. Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver policy directives.
9. To propose that consumers, aged 18-22, participate in paid internships and employment stemming from those internships.
10. Reporting of employment outcomes by regional centers.
11. The recommendation that DDS create a workgroup to explore new mechanisms to adjust provider rates.
12. The expansion of Community Placement Plan (CPP) funding to meet the resource needs of consumers living in the community.
13. Four additional positions at DDS to oversee the development of permanent community housing.
14. A range of safety net services to address more intensive, crisis-related needs, including mobile crisis teams, the development of wrap-around services for consumers with dual diagnoses, etc.

The May Revise does not include any additional funding for service provider rates or core staffing adjustments. The next step for the May Revise is a second round of budget subcommittee hearings, including any changes to funding levels and final votes.

H. 10-Minute Legislative Activity

1. Creation of Legislative Response Team: Tamar reported that right now what we have are people's names and their e-mail addresses. What we want to do is expand this information, including getting their zip codes so we will know which legislators serve their area. Sara reported that the center is currently using Constant Contact and she is working to find out if it can be used as a database for this purpose.

Action: The next step will be for Sara Iwahashi to contact the individuals on our list, by e-mail, thank them for signing up for our response team, and asking if they would please provide us with their role (consumer, parent, service provider, etc.), their age range, and their zip code.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

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

- A. Minutes of the May 17th Meeting
- B. Legislative Update
- C. Approval of Board Legislative Strategy for FY 2017-18
- D. Approval of Community & Legislative Educator Proposal Concept

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

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

- B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 19th (no June meeting)

VII. Adjournment

Tamar adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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