

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2024

Present: Cathy Blin, George Alvarado, Lety Garcia, Juan Hernandez, Jennifer Koster, Laura Monge, Curtis Wang, Jodie Agnew-Navarro-VAC Rep. – **Committee Members**

Evelyn McOmie, Chris Whitlock, John Van De Riet, Kimberly Visokey - **Staff Members**

Ana Quiles - Board President, Nicholas Abrahms, Mark Wolfe – DDS Technical Advisor, Tresa Oliveri– DDS Technical Advisor, Marianita Mendoza – DDS, Nicholas Mendoza, Belinda Abatesi - **Guests**

Absent: Kelley Coleman,

I. Call to Order & Introductions

- A. Chris Whitlock called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- B. John Van de Riet, NLACRC Public Information Supervisor was introduced.

II. Agenda Overview

III. Public Input

No public input

IV. Consent Items

- A. Approval of Minutes from the August 21, 2024 Meeting

M/S/C (Curtis Wang / Cathy Blin) To approve the meeting minutes as presented.

V. Action Items

There were no Action Items

VI. Committee Business

A. Ideas for Legislative Events

Chris Whitlock presented a number of events that have been held in the past. The team discussed organizing various events, including a legislative breakfast in April, a voting rights presentation in September, and the possibility of a legislative town hall in February. It was agreed that the team would develop a program around these items and bring it back to the committee at the next meeting.

1. Legislative Town Hall (February) - A community event designed to foster dialogue between local legislators and the communities they serve. The Legislative Town Hall provides a platform for a discussion, where individuals can voice their concerns, ask questions, and gain insights into the legislative process.
2. Legislative Breakfast (April) - The North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC) organizes a Legislative Breakfast where we invite legislators representing our catchment

area to learn about important issues that impact consumers, family members, service providers, and the Regional Center System. The Jynny Retzinger, Community Services Award is presented to an individual to recognize a consumer, parent, or community member representing the NLACRC catchment area (San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, and Antelope Valley) who has performed exceptional service for people with developmental disabilities.

3. Voting Rights (September) - A training presented by the Office Of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA). OCRA provides free legal information, advice, and representation to regional center clients.

B. Board Recognition

Cathy Blin reviewed the Board Recognition Policy and Application. She encouraged the members to consider submission of anyone they know that should be considered for this honor.

C. Strategic Plan

Chris Whitlock discussed how the team has been working with our legislators to keep them informed with some of the action items that we have in the strategic plan. A part of that is working with ARCA housing and working with additional dwelling units. We are also working with Belinda Abatesi, NLACRC's new legislative specialist and with Michelle Heid, to develop a plan and a goal for reaching out to our legislators regarding our strategic plan and making that a primary focus for this upcoming year.

D. Legislative Letter Writing

Chris Whitlock shared with the committee that they have some samples letters to share at the January meeting. There will be different templates for specific communications. We want to have a little bit of an area where individuals could customize the template so that it's a little bit more personal to them, or maybe they have a story or something they'd like to share.

E. ARCA Academy

The ARCA Academy Report was presented by Lety Garcia. She gave a brief overview of the event, including the Agenda and the location. She let the committee know that overall it was it was a very good event with a lot of great workshops. She also noted that NLACRC had about 12 board members.

F. Critical Calendar Review Deferred to next meeting as an action item

VII. Report Outs/ Discussion

A. Social Media

John Van de Riet reviewed the Social Media summary as presented in the packet. This report includes the data for social media platforms and NLACRC's numbers.

B. Legislative Update

There were 3 major updates that Chris Whitlock updated the committee on:

1. **AB 1147 (Addis) Disability Equity and Accountability Act of 2023:**

Status: On September 28, 2024 the bill was approved by Governor Newsome

2. **AB 1906 (Gipson) Persons with disabilities: terminology**
Status: On September 14, 2024 the bill was chaptered* by the Secretary of State – Chapter 233, Statutes of 2024. *CHAPTERED after a bill has been signed by the Governor, the Secretary of State assigns the bill a Chapter Number.
3. **SB 1281 (Menjivar) Advancing Equity and Access in the Self-Determination Program**
Status: On September 29, 2024 the bill was Vetoed by Governor Newsome. In Senate. Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

VIII. Board Meeting Agenda Items

- A. GCRC Legislative Priorities

IX. Announcements / Information / Public Input

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Committee Attendance

Public Input - No public input

X. Adjournment

Cathy Blin adjourned the meeting at 6:29 pm

VII. Review of Meeting Action Items

- Update the Critical Calendar with Legislative Events – Chris Whitlock / Cathy Blin
- Add the critical calendar review to action items for the next meeting agenda. – Board Support
- Add board recognition information to the next VAC meeting agenda. - Jodie Agnew-Navarro

Submitted by:

Kimberly Visokey

Executive Administrative Assistant