

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

January 17, 2024

Present: Cathy Blin, Curtis Wang, David Coe, Nicholas Abrahms, Sharmila Brunjes, Vivian Seda, Jennifer Koster, Juan Hernandez– Committee Members

Kimberly Visokey, Chris Whitlock, Cristina Preuss, Evelyn McOmie, Arezo Abedi, Malorie Lanthier – Staff Members

Michelle Heid – Legucator, Marianita Mendez- DDS, Sofia Rivas, Ana Quiles- Board President, Jasmine Barrios- Minutes Services - Guests

Absent: Michael Costa, Anna Hurst

I. Call to Order & Introductions

David Coe called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Public Input

Sharmila shared that Board Member Training with Michelle Heid on how to interact in legislative activities as a Board Member would be very important and valuable. This item is up for discussion later in the agenda.

David asked that Evelyn McOmie and Kimberly Visokey be listed as the NLA Staff Support for the Committee.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (C. Wang/C. Blinn) To approve the agenda as presented

B. Approval of Minutes from the October 18, 2023 Meeting
No revisions

C. Approval of Minutes from the November 16, 2023 Meeting

Evelyn requested that the November 16th Minutes to be amended to include the correct attendees. It was noted that there is 1 member of the Committee, Michael Costa, who has missed the last 4 consecutive Committee meetings (including the January 17th meeting) and in recognition of the Board Attendance Policy, will be sent a letter to notify him of the 4 absences.

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There were numerous corrections to be reflected on the matrix to clear the attendance of all new members and to include the term start date of each member to better clarify the required attendance dates. Kimberly Visokey will amend the matrix to reflect the discussed changes.

M/S/C (C. Wang/J. Koster) To approve the October 18th Minutes as presented and the November 16th Minutes as revised.

IV. Committee Business

A. Legislative

David requested that the Committee use a SharePoint site to allow access to Committee Minutes, packets and other relevant information. Michelle Heid has created a checklist that represents what action items need to be completed in order for the Committee events to run as smooth as possible. David proposed that the information shared by Michelle be shared with the Committee via the Sharepoint site. Evelyn McOmie will check with IT regarding the parameters for access to the Sharepoint site.

1. Board Advocacy One-Sheet Update

David stated that an agenda item was sent to the Executive Committee regarding a revision to the Board Responsibilities Policy to include that Board Members are required to contact at least 2 representatives in their district per FY.

Ana Quiles proposed that the Committee Members schedule their Legislative contact points within the next 2 months and after discussion, the Committee agreed.

2. Virtual Town Hall update

i. Invitation Draft

Michelle Heid shared that the invites for the Virtual Town Hall have been sent. So far, there have been no confirmations. There were declinations from Assembly member Schivo and Senator Stern and Senator Gabriel. Responses are still pending from Supervisor Barger, Senator Menjivar and Assemblymember Correo. Michelle will be following up with these individuals and invites will be sent out to legislators that the Committee has determined as back up options on January 22.

Assembly Member Schivo has 2 staffers who will attend in her place, it is still to be determined if the staffers will speak on behalf of Assembly

member Schivo. Senator Stern has also offered to send a staff member to attend as a delegate.

After discussion, it was determined that the Committee is interested in having legislators' staff attend the Virtual Town Hall at the discretion of Michelle Heid in terms of the offices' interests in issues related to NLA.

Michelle asked the Committee to consider who will give the Welcome Remarks at the beginning of the Town Hall. David nominated Cristina Preuss, as the Interim Executive Director, to give the remarks.

ii. Flyer to the community

This is currently being drafted by Chris Whitlock to finalize the flyer. The topics were identified and will be added to the flyer to include:

"The Town Hall will focus on the following topics:

- Regional center staffing
- Reducing caseload ratios
- Increasing access to services
- Increasing equity with regional center services"

Chris Whitlock will include the Committee on the email blast that he sends out on January 22nd.

M/S/C (D.Coe/V. Seda) To send the Virtual Town Hall to include NLA staff, State Legislators and the Community on February 22nd, to the Board for approval.

3. Legislative Grass Roots Visit

The ARCA Legislative Grassroots visit will be April 1st-2nd in Sacramento. Michelle suggested that each Town Hall decline will be turned into an in-person meeting request. which will count as the legislative grass roots visits. The Committee agreed with this process and specific dates to be determined based on legislator availability.

Michelle proposed that the Committee work towards developing Legislative Advocacy Teams that will work together, with assignments based on location and legislator districts.

A call for Interest will be sent out to the Board Members and based in the interest, the participants will be assigned to a team based on location. Jodi Agnew-Navarro will send the information to the VAC to solicit interest.

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In regards to the Board Member Legislative Advocacy Training, it was decided that the next 6:00-6:30p slot prior to the February Board Meeting, will be held for Michelle's training for Board Members. In the event of an Executive Session, Ana requested that Michelle be added at the beginning of the February 14 Board Meeting Agenda as a presentation. Michelle will turn in all of her shared meeting materials before February 8 to be included in the Board Packet.

4. Consumer Legislative Advocacy Training

This item will require Board Approval, the Committee will propose 3 Consumer Legislative Advocacy Trainings and 1 live-streamed Consumer Legislative Advocacy Training to be hosted by Michelle Heid.

Jodi will solicit interest from the VAC on potential locations in each Valley for the in-person trainings. This item will be added to the next VAC agenda. Michelle will provide available dates for the trainings in conjunction with confirming a venue.

M/S/C (D. Coe/C. Blin) To request that the Executive Committee approve the Consumer Legislative Advocacy trainings as discussed.

5. Candidate Forum update

Michelle shared that we not have enough information to know what races are important at this time, more information will be provided as it becomes available. The Committee determined to add this item for Board approval.

M/S/C (D.Coe/C. Blin) To approve a Candidate Forum for Fall 2024 to be presented to the Board for review.

After the vote, there was further discussion surrounding the format of the meeting being in-person, hybrid or virtual and the strengths and challenges of each.

M/S/C (D.Coe/N. Abrahms) To approve a hybrid Candidate Forum for Fall 2024 for Board Approval, reserving the right to host virtually only if it is in the best interest of the public health at the time.

B. Board Dinner Workgroup Update

Gabriela Eshrati will be supporting the Committee on behalf of NLA and the first Workgroup Meeting is scheduled for January 24th. The date for the Board Dinner is May 3rd.

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V. Report Outs/Discussions

A. Social Media

1. Social Media Analytics Report – Oct., Nov., and Dec. 2023
Chris reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

B. Legislative Update

1. Legucator Report September – Michelle Heid
Michelle reviewed the information as presented in the packet.
2. Local Grassroots Marketing and Outreach – Cristina Preuss
Cristina reviewed the information a presented in the packet.

VI. Audit Question

- A. Are the methods identified in the center's training and information plan in line with the center's mission, vision, and values statement?
Evelyn shared that NLA conducts training on Mission, Vision, Value on Day 1 for incoming staff members. There are eLearning modules available on their online catalog to refresh their training at any time. NLA will continue to promote education for staff in order to best represent the core values.

VII. Review of Meeting Action Items

- A. To revise the November 16th Meeting Minutes to reflect the correct attendance. (Board Support)
- B. To revise the Committee Attendance Matrix to reflect the correct attendance for Jodi Agnew Navarro in May 2023 and to revise the process of updating the matrix to include that each Committee Member's term date be listed near their names and to clear out all noted attendance for incoming Committee Members. (Board Support)
- C. To confirm the parameters of access to the Sharepoint site with IT. (Evelyn McOmie)
- D. Reach out to the VAC to solicit interested in hosting the Consumer Legislative Advocacy Trainings (Jodie Agnew-Navarro)
- E. Send an email to Board Members to solicit Board Advocacy Training Teams (Board Support)
- F. Send in Board Member Legislative Advocacy Training materials to Board Support before February 8. (Michelle Heid)

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- G. Add Board Member Responsibility Policy Revision to the next Executive Committee Agenda (Board Support)
- H. Add approval for Candidate Forum to the next Board Meeting Agenda. (Board Support)
- I. Provide an update on the Candidate Forum at the next Committee Meeting (Michelle Heid)

VI. Board Meeting Agenda Items

- A. Minutes from the October 18, 2023 Meeting
- B. Minutes of the November 16, 2023 Meeting
- C. Approval of Consumer Advocacy Training
- D. Approval of Candidate Forum

IX. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6pm
- B. Committee Attendance

Public Input

Jodi shared information on CalTASH and the support they provide for the entire lifespan of disabled individuals. CalTASH will be having a conference in Sacramento and she encouraged the Committee to learn more about it.

X. Adjournment

Submitted by:

Kimberly Visokey

Executive Administrative Assistant

(The majority of these minutes are taken from the Minutes Service submission and reviewed/edited as presented herein by NLACRC staff.*

