

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

March 20, 2024

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

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

Ana Quiles – Board President, Leticia Garcia- Board Member, Michelle Heid –  
Legucator, Richard Dier- SDLAC, Lori Walker – SDLAC, Andrew McElhinney,  
Socorro Curameng, Adriana (No last name given), Jasmine Barrios- Minutes  
Services - Guests

**Absent:** Kelsi Levingston, James Henry, Anna Hurst, Sharmila Brunjes

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

David Coe called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**II. Public Input**

Richard Dier, the Co-Chair of the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee, shared that the SDLAC would be interested in adding a Self-Determination component to any upcoming Grassroots Visits.

**III. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Agenda

**M/S/C** (C. Wang/N. Abrahms) To approve the agenda as presented

B. Approval of Minutes from the January 17, 2024 Meeting

**M/S/C** (C. Wang/J. Hernandez) To approve the Minutes as presented.

**IV. Committee Business**

A. Legislative

1. Legislative Grassroots Visit Update

Trainings for the Local Grassroots Visits have been completed and the training is also available online for anyone interested. Scheduling is continuing for the visits; Michele asked the Committee to check their emails to see if they have signed up for teams.

Michelle is working on a talking point outline in regards to Legislative Priorities to give to legislators to give them more perspective on NLA. This includes updating the Core Staffing Formula, Rate Study Implementation, etc.

The ARCA Legislative Grassroots visit will be April 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> in Sacramento, and Michelle is planning to meet with all 14 State Legislators.

## 2. Consumer Legislative Advocacy Training Update

Michelle recommends that this training be pushed back until May to be able to get more communication out and to host it in line with the May Revise. Proposed host locations include Sam's Café in San Fernando Valley, Pleasant View in Santa Clarita and possibly Desert Haven in Antelope Valley, pending their accreditation. The Committee agreed that as long as the training is held before the end of the summer, NLA staff should book the training at each location when most convenient and allow the community 30 days' notice. NLA to have the dates and locations determined to be shared at the May Committee Meeting.

## 3. Candidate Forum Update

Michelle reviewed some upcoming races that the Committee may want to highlight. Her recommendations are based on races that will be close and that impact NLA's catchment areas. The races that she recommends include:

- Senate District 23
- Assembly District 40
- Assembly District 43

Once the election results have been certified, Michelle will send a complete list of election results with recommendations to the Committee for review.

## B. Sending consumer success stories to Legislators

David requested that Chris Whitlock, give access to Michelle Heid to view these success stories to share with legislators. Michelle suggested using the success stories as a follow-up or the creation of videos from Board Members, discussing their connection with NLA. Michelle will follow up on this item with Chris Whitlock.

It was noted that there had been no submissions to the request for Legislator Thank-You Notes to take to Sacramento. David will draft an email reminder to send to Kimberly Visokey to send out to the Board.

## C. Legislative advocacy regarding homeless and housing-insecure consumers

Leticia Garcia proposed that this document be utilized as a reference in regards to the commitment as stated in the Strategic Plan regarding housing for consumers. It was noted that the Legislative Bill Review was not included in the Committee's Critical Calendar, which includes information on relevant bills. An item will be added to the Critical Calendar in March to Review Legislative Bills for future years, and the Review of Legislative Bills will be added to the May 2024 Committee meeting agenda.

D. Legislative Recap

This item was addressed in previous sections.

E. Sending Congratulatory Letters to newly elected Representative

Michelle made the recommendation to send personalized congratulations to all 14 state legislators to reengage them or to invite them to work collaboratively.

F. Review of the 2024-25 Critical Calendar

This item was reviewed as presented in the packet. After discussion, the Committee agreed

to the following revisions to the Critical Calendar:

1. Move 2 January events to October
2. Move the March item to January
3. Add Legislative Town Hall
4. Add Review of Consultants' Contracts to Committee Orientation in August
5. Add review Board Recognition Policy and Application to January with a nomination period that starts at the beginning of the FY until December 31<sup>st</sup>.
6. Add review of Legislative Bills to March
7. Add a begin Legislative Town Hall to the Critical Calendar in October

**M/S/C** (J. Hernandez/ C. Wang) To approve the revisions to the Critical Calendar as discussed.

After the vote, the Committee added Legislative Bill Review to the March Committee Critical Calendar.

**M/S/C** (N. Abrahms/ C. Blin) To update the revision of the Critical Calendar to include the Legislative Bill Review in March.

G. Board Recognition Policy

The Committee is being tasked to determine the timeframe for the Board Recognition nominations. In the future, notice for nominations will be sent out to the Community at the beginning of the FY and will close on December 31<sup>st</sup>. As it pertains to this FY, Evelyn McOmie will review and edit the draft of the Policy and Application for the

Committee to review and approve at the May Committee meeting. An announcement of the Board Recognition Application will be added to the May Board Meeting Agenda.

H. Committee, Staff, and Consultant Communication best practices

Evelyn stated that communication from the Committee could come through her as long as Board Support is cc'd in order to keep track of correspondence. It was also noted that some of the Committee members have not been able to access the SharePoint site. Committee members who have issues can reach out to Kimberly Visokey for assistance.

I. Board Dinner Workgroup Update

Ana Quiles shared that NLA staff was able to allocate funds to the Board Dinner. She encouraged those who will be spending the night to respond to their invite as soon as possible for an accurate headcount. NLA has identified the current longest-served consumer, who is an 83-year-old female, and the newest-served consumer, who is a 6-month-old female. Their CSCs will be contacting them to invite them to the Board Dinner. The current expected headcount is 80. The RSVP deadline is April 19<sup>th</sup>. Michelle will send out a cheat sheet to the Committee with information on engaging with Legislators who are attending the Board Dinner.

**V. Report Outs/Discussions**

- A. Social Media Analytics Report: January and February 2024 – Chris Whitlock  
Chris reviewed the information as presented in the packet.
- B. Legucator Report- Michelle Heid  
Michelle reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

**VI. Review of Meeting Action Items**

- A. Revise Committee Critical Calendar as discussed (Board Support)
- B. Check emails for correspondence from Michelle Heid (all Committee Members)
- C. NLA to determine dates Legislative Advocacy Trainings to be announced at the May Committee Meeting (Board Support)
- D. Add a review of Legislative Bills to the May Committee meeting (Board Support)
- E. Send a complete list of election results with recommendations to the Committee for review (Michelle Heid)
- F. Draft reminder for Representative Thank You Notes to Kimberly to be sent to the Committee (David and Board Support)
- G. Add Board Recognition Policy and Application to May Committee Meeting (Board Support)
- H. Add Board Recognition Application to News You Can Use and to announce at the May Board Meeting under GCRC section (Board Support)
- I. Send Board Member Legislative Cheat Sheet to the Committee. (Michelle Heid)
- J. Follow up with Committee and Board members who have not been able to log in to the Sharepoint site (Board Support)

- K. Add an announcement to the Board Meeting agenda regarding interest in Legislative Advocacy (Board Support)
- L. Send Legislative cheat sheet and announcement in Board Packet (Michelle Heid)
- M. Send re-election voting resources ahead of time to the January 2025 meeting due to no February 2025 meeting. (Michelle Heid)

**VI. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

- A. Minutes from the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting
- B. Announcement of Board Recognition Application
- C. Reminder of the Board Dinner

**IX. Announcements / Information / Public Input**

- A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 6pm
- B. Committee Attendance

**X. Adjournment**

David Coe adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm.

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.*

