

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

August 21, 2024

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

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

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

Absent: George Alvarado

I. Call to Order & Introductions

- A. Chris Whitlock called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
- B. The Committee Members and NLACRC staff introduced themselves.

II. Agenda Overview

III. Public Input

No public input

IV. Consent Items

- A. Approval of Minutes from the May 15th Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

- A. Volunteer to Serve as Committee Chair

- 1. Cathy Blin and Curtis Wang volunteered to serve as the Committee Chair for the FY24-25 term. After a majority vote, it was announced that Cathy would serve as chair and Curtis as co-chair.

- B. Annual Committee Orientation - Cristina Preuss

- 1. Policies & Procedures

Cristina Preuss discussed the government relations and communication Policies and Procedures, highlighting the role of the Government and Community Relations Committee in advocating for the organization's interests and promoting inclusion in the community.

2. Legislative Platform Guiding Principles
The committee reviewed their legislative priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, which included increasing community engagement, conducting advocacy trainings, and supporting employment legislation. Cathy Blin suggested reviewing the comprehensive list of priorities at the next meeting.
 3. Board Recognition Policy & Application
Cristina Preuss outlined the Board Recognition policy, which honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the lives of people with developmental disabilities. She also emphasized the importance of maintaining relationships with disability community organizations, service providers, and elected representatives. This policy is to guide the board in its efforts to recognize individuals who have made a distinguishable contribution in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. The individual's contribution should be over a sustained period of time, made within NLACRC's catchment area, and have positively impacted the lives of many consumers and individual must be held in high esteem by his/her peers. The board may choose to recognize individuals as follows:
 - Award a plaque
 - Pass a resolution
 - Send a letter
 4. Board Audit Section
This document was reviewed as presented in the packet
 5. Critical Calendar FY 23-24
This document was reviewed as presented in the packet
 6. FY 2024-25 Meeting Schedule
This document was reviewed as presented in the packet
- C. Disability Community Organization, Service Provider and Elected Representative Visit Policy
During a Trustees term, board members should become knowledgeable and familiar with the center's service provider community plus develop relationships with disability community organizations, elected representatives whose districts include the center.
- D. Service Provider and Elected Representative Visit policy
NLACRC board members must maintain an active role in building and sustaining relationships within our disability community organizations, elected representative, and service provider communities. The committee discussed ways to improve their engagement with new community partners, particularly those from the disability community. They agreed to set a goal of engaging at least two new partners this year, with the support of existing staff. The possibility of inviting organizations to present at future committee meetings was also considered.

E. NLACRC Board of Trustees Legislative Priorities and Platform

This document was reviewed as presented in the packet. A discussion was had regarding item 6 of the document: *Work with and engage new community partners to engage disability community organizations, service providers and other entities to provide advocacy to support and further the mission of NLACRC.* The committee decided this item needs to be updated with clarity on how to accomplish / set goals.

M/S/C (Cathy Blin / Curtis Wang) To approve the legislative priorities for fiscal year 2025

Concerns were also raised about the disconnect between the legislative priorities committee and the ARCA, the agency representing all 21 regional centers, due to Lety Garcia, the board that Board's ARCA Representative, not being a member of the committee. Ana Quiles acknowledged the issue, noting it was a recurring problem and proposed that the committee could recommend to the board that Board's ARCA Representative should be included in the Government and Community Relations Committee. The committee agreed, and if Lety Garcia agrees to join the committee, her involvement would then be taken to the board for approval.

M/S/C (Cathy Blin / Kelley Coleman) To recommend to the board that Board's ARCA Representative should be included in the Government and Community Relations Committee.

F. Candidates Forum

Chris Whitlock led discussions on the organization's legislative efforts, proposing to move the Candidates Forum to after the elections. A year-round letter writing campaign and social media efforts to maintain relationships with outgoing officials and support new positions was also suggested. They also agreed to recalibrate the critical calendar to align with the current organizational setup, with a follow-up meeting scheduled to further discuss this.

G. Legislative Activities

Chris Whitlock reviewed with the committee the Legislative Events document that was included in the packet, highlighting several upcoming activities, including the Legislative Town Hall in February, the April Legislative Breakfast, and the Voter's Rights training in September.

V. **Report Outs/ Discussion**

A. Social Media

1. Social Media Analytics Report – May, June & July 2024

Chris Whitlock shared the analytics as presented in the packet. presented the social media analytics report, highlighting an increase in followers but a drop in engagement on Instagram.

B. Legislative Update

The team discussed legislative recaps, and the new website's focus on providing information about representatives and legislative bills, and the status of various bills.

VI. Board Audit Question

- A. Does NLACRC have a training and information plan that meets the requirements of statute, contracts and Board Policy?

The NLACRC does have such a training program in place. There are annual, mandated trainings that are rolled out to staff that includes but is not limited to HIPAA compliance and national voter registration as designated by the State. When individuals apply and begin the intake process, change address or renew services, NLACRC should be offering voter registration forms and staff is trained accordingly. NLACRC recently developed an eLearning catalog with self-paced training and open enrollment.

VII. Review of Meeting Action Items

- A. Ana Quiles to speak with Letty about joining the Government and Community Relations Committee.
- B. Ana Quiles to consult with the attorney regarding adding the ARCA representative to the committee.
- C. Committee to review and update the critical calendar for the committee.
- D. Cathy Blin, Curtis Wang, and Chris Whitlock to meet and develop recommendations for committee activities and letter writing campaign.
- E. Chris Whitlock to prepare a presentation on legislative activities and bills for the next meeting.
- F. Board Support to update the legislative priorities document with the new fiscal year and approval date.
- G. Chris Whitlock to work on developing a one-page "commercial" for committee members to use during legislative visits.
- H. Committee to review and discuss voting procedures at the next meeting.
- I. Cristina Preuss and Board Support to schedule legislative advocacy training for the November committee meeting.

VIII. Board Meeting Agenda Items

- A. GCRC Legislative Priorities

IX. Announcements / Information / Public Input

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 2024
Committee Attendance
Public Input - No public input

X. Adjournment

Cathy Blin adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm

Submitted by:

Kimberly Visokey

Executive Administrative Assistant