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

   Items IV.J., IV.K., IV.L., IV.M., and IV.N. were added to the agenda.

   M/S/C (M. Miller/M. Alfaro) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of January 21st Meeting

   M/S/C (J. Gould/P. Grayson-DeJong) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Budget Subcommittee Meeting Schedules

   The committee was provided with meeting schedules for when the Assembly and Senate budget committees will be discussing our issues. The Assembly budget subcommittee will meet Wednesday, March 7th, at 2:30 p.m. The Senate budget subcommittee will meet on Thursday, March 15th, but the start time has not been established as yet. George Stevens will be providing
testimony at the Assembly budget subcommittee meeting on why they should support Assembly Member Holden’s $25 million budget request, the restoration of suspended services, funding the regional center operations budget at ABX2-1 levels, and to keep the money from the closing developmental centers in the system. The meetings will be aired on CalChannel.

B. **Update on ARCA Grass Roots Day**

ARCA’s Grass Roots Day events will be held Monday, March 19th and Tuesday, March 20th. Our team members will be Lesly Forbes and her mom, Lillian Martinez and her husband and son, Orli Almog (service provider), Michelle Heid, and staff leads Evelyn McOmie and Elisa Hill. On Monday night, they will participate in an ARCA dinner and training, and they will be meeting with legislators at the State Capitol all the following day.

**Action:** Lillian Martinez and Michelle Heid will give a report on ARCA Grass Roots Day at next month’s committee meeting.

C. **Update on NLACRC’s Grass Roots Week**

After the town hall meeting in April, we will be sending out groups to meet with our local legislators. Each group will have a consumer, parent/board member, service provider, and staff lead. We will do our best to organize the teams in such a way as they are able to meet with the legislator who represents their area. We are also going to start using some of our supervisors as staff leads so they can gain experience in this area.

D. **Update on The Arc/UCP Public Policy Conference**

The public policy conference will be held March 11-13 at the Holiday Inn in Sacramento. This year’s participants will be: Debra Newman, Lillian Martinez, Jessica Gould, Ismael Maldonado, Michelle Heid, and Steve Miller.

**Action:** The participants will share what they learned at the conference at next month’s committee meeting.

E. **Legislative Educators’ Report**

Steve Miller and Michelle Heid provided the committee with a written project update, which included:
1. Community advocacy workshops.
3. Advocacy visits to field offices of elected officials.
4. Support and participation with this committee.
5. Community legislative activities, including the stakeholder town halls and 2018 election cycle events.
6. The trip to The Arc/UCP public policy conference.
7. Supporting the center’s grassroots legislative visits, both locally and in Sacramento.
8. Promoting existing LNACRC legislative priorities.
9. Conducting legislative advocacy trainings that reach out to Spanish speaking consumers and families.
10. Supporting and facilitating NLACRC’s efforts to nurture a strong and engaged stakeholder community.

The town hall meeting will be held Thursday, April 5th, at 6:00 p.m. at New Horizons in North Hills. Steve Miller provided the committee with copies of information for the town hall meeting, including ideas for panel speakers on local and state level issues. We need to organize a planning committee – any volunteers?

**Action:** Tamar Witmer, Jessica Gould, and Pat Grayson-DeJong volunteered to serve on the town hall planning committee.

**F. Report on Digital Democracy Webinar**

As discussed at last month’s committee meeting, Digital Democracy is a free website that can help you track bills and enable you to watch hearings in Sacramento. The site was created by 2 students from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, who had spent time working in the senate and wanted the public to have an easier time tracking legislation and legislative activities. Sara spoke to the creators and they offered to provide a webinar on the site. Sara reported that she, Michelle Heid, and Steve Miller participated in the webinar and she gave a report on what they learned.

**M/S/C** (P. Grayson-DeJong/M. Alfaro) To ask the board to approve adding a link to Digital Democracy on the center’s website, on the “News you can use” e-mail blasts, and to direct staff to develop a plan on other ways we could use Digital Democracy.

**G. Legislative Bill File (Sara)**
Sara provided copies of the committee’s updated legislative bill file. Many of the bills that the committee was tracking have died and were removed from the file. Per the committee’s recommendation, the board took a support position on AB 11 & AB 1801 and support letters were signed and sent. February 16th is the last day that legislators can submit bills. The next ARCA Legislative Committee meeting will be held February 22nd.

H. Publications

1. Drafts of the Center’s New General Brochure: Sara was given a sample of how the new brochure will look and she circulated it among the committee members for their review and input. It has the information in English on one side and in Spanish on the other.

2. Commonly Coordinated Services Guide by Age Group: Sara will e-mail the draft guide to the committee for their review and input.

3. Family Services Guide: Ruth Janka is currently reviewing the draft family services guide.

I. Legislative Activity (Tamar) – Deferred due to lack of time.

J. Legislative Platform

George recommended that the board adopt the following platform for this year’s visits with legislators:

1. Support Assembly Member Holden’s $25 million budget request to help service providers.
2. Support the restoration of suspended services (camp and social/recreational activities).
3. Support funding the regional center operations budget at ABX2-1 levels.
4. Oppose the reinstatement of the uniform holiday schedule.

M/S/C (J. Gould/P. Grayson-DeJong) To recommend to the Executive Committee to take action, on behalf of the board, to approve the recommended legislative platform outlined above.

K. Letter-Writing Campaign

Steve Miller and Michelle Heid are working with Jessica Gould on a letter-writing campaign to support the restoration of suspended services. This is a
new project by the ARCA Client Advisory Committee, of which Jessica is a member. Once the Executive Committee approves this committee’s recommended legislative platform, we can send out information and a sample support letters with the “News you can use” e-mail blasts.

L. Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) Congressional Luncheon

Wednesday, April 4th, at 11:30 a.m. at The Garland hotel in North Hollywood. Confirmed speakers include Representatives Tony Cardenas, Jimmy Gomez, and Brad Sherman. Michelle Heid will be going and we would like a board member to go with her.

Action: Jennifer will e-mail the Board of Trustees asking if anyone would like to attend the congressional luncheon with Michelle Heid.

M. Annual Report Dates

Sara is preparing information for the center’s FY 2015-16, FY 2016-17, and FY 2017-18 annual reports. She shared some ideas for a theme for each of the reports and asked for the committee’s input.

Action: The committee agreed that the theme for FY 2016-17 should be “the year of engagement” highlighting the legislative advocacy trainings.

N. Legislative Calendar

The Vendor Advisory Committee would like to have a legislative calendar available. Should it be incorporated with one of the board’s other calendars? Or incorporated into the event calendar posted on the website?

Action: Committee members should provide any input on this to Sara Iwahashi at: siwahashi@nlacrc.org.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

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

A. Minutes of the February 21st Meeting
B. Legislative Bill File
C. Approval to add Link to Digital Democracy website.
VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

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

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 21st, at 7:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Tamar adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser
Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

[germin.feb21.2018]