North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2018

Present: Melissa Ferman, Jessica Gould, Pat Grayson-DeJong, Michelle Heid, and Meagan Miller – Committee Members
Orli Almog, Steve Miller – Guests
Helen Herrera, Elisa Hill, Evan Ingber, Sara Iwahashi, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Manuel Alfaro, Erika Hernandez, Ismael Maldonado, Lillian Martinez, and Reinwick Pole

I. Call to Order & Introductions

In the absence of a chair, Michele Marra called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input

A. Jessica Gould announced that she will be getting her new wheelchair in 2 weeks!

B. Melissa Ferman announced that a special election will be held in Sylmar on April 3rd.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Several items were added to the agenda.

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

B. Approval of Minutes from the February 21st Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business
A. **Resignation of Tamar Witmer / Election of a New Chair**

Unfortunately, Tamar had to resign from her position on the board due to board meeting absences. Hopefully, she will continue to participate in these meetings as a parent advocate. She promises she will return to the board when her son gets a little older. Tamar’s many contributions to this committee and to the board were acknowledged.

**M/S/C** (P. Grayson-DeJong/M. Ferman) To elect Meagan Miller to serve as the committee chair for the remainder of this fiscal year.

B. **FY 2017-18 Legislative Platform**

The Executive Committee approved the legislative platform recommended by this committee, which is:

1. Support Funding to Sustain Adequate Service Provider Network
2. Support Regional Center Operations
3. Support Restoration of Social Recreation and Camp Services
4. Oppose the Uniform Holiday Schedule

These are the 4 topics that will be discussed with our meetings with legislators.

C. **Reports on The Arc/UCP Public Policy Conference** (Jessica, Michelle, and Steve)

We sent 5 people to this 3-day public policy conference in Sacramento: Jessica Gould, Michelle Heid, Steve Miller, Debra Newman, and Lillian Martinez. They were given lots of information on how the governor looks at the state budget and makes decisions. They talked about how California currently has a budget surplus and the governor wants to put it in a “rainy day” fund. We think the money should be put back from where it was taken when we were facing state budget deficits (e.g. restore camp and social/recreational services; eliminate the uniform holiday schedule). They met people from Disability Rights California, had dinner with them, and heard their perspectives on our system. It was a very interesting conference and the participants felt they now had a better understanding of our system from a statewide perspective. Orli added that they were told that they should make contact with a legislators 7 times each year in order to develop a relationship with them. This will be her first of her seven contacts; she plans to follow up
with thank you cards, send them photos and stories, send them holiday cards, and continue to make appointments to visit them.

D. Reports on ARCA’s Grass Roots Day (Elisa, Orli, and Michelle)

We sent 2 teams to Sacramento again this year to visit with legislators at the State Capitol as part of ARCA’s Grass Roots Day activities. The team members were: Elisa Hill and Evelyn McOmie (staff leads); Lesly Forbes and Lillian Martinez (board members); and Orli Almog and Michelle Heid (service providers). Lesly brought her mother along and Lillian brought her husband and son. The 2 teams participated in the ARCA dinner and training the night before and then visited with legislators the whole next day. The legislators they met with were knowledgeable about are issues and very supportive. A long but successful day!

E. Update on NLACRC’s Grass Roots Week

The visits with our local legislators are being scheduled. Three of the center’s managers have volunteered to serve as staff leads; this will be a good opportunity for them.

F. Legislative Educators’ Report

Steve and Michelle provided copies of their written report which covered all of their recent activities, including:

1. Holding 6 community advocacy workshops.
2. Creating monthly “news you can use” articles to be email blasted.
3. Advocacy visits to legislators’ local field offices.
4. Supporting and participating in the Government & Community Relations Committee meetings.
6. Supporting the center’s grass roots efforts both locally and in Sacramento.
7. Promoting NLACRC’s legislative platform.
8. Nurturing a strong and engaged stakeholder community.

G. Town Hall Meeting: Thursday, April 5th

Preparations are being made for the town hall meeting, which will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Sam’s Café at New Horizons. A lot of people have
indicated that they will be going, but we have only had about 130 actual RSVPs.

**Action:** Jennifer will send out the town hall flier reminding people that they need to RSVP for the event before the March 29th deadline.

**H. Legislative Bill File (Sara)**

1. **Review legislative update and recommend positions on bills**

   The committee reviewed their legislative bill file and the legislative update that was part of George Stevens’ director’s report and made the follow motions:

   - **AB 3200 (Kalra):** This bill would increase the state portion of SSI/SSP to bring the grant level to 100% of the federal poverty level in 2019.

     **M/S/C** (P. Grayson-DeJong) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to support AB 3200 (Kalra).

   - **AB 2244 (Acosta):** This bill would expedite the process for health and safety waivers for consumers.

     **M/S/C** (M. Heid/J. Gould) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to support AB 2244 (Acosta).

   - **SJR 19 (Wilk):** This measure would fully fund the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

     **M/S/C** (P. Grayson-DeJong/J. Gould) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to support SJR 19 (Wilk).

**I. Digital Democracy Update**

Copies of a proposed plan to use Digital Democracy were provided. The proposal includes holding a work group meeting prior to the next Government & Community Relations Committee meeting to develop a plan to include:

1. Goals and objectives
2. A project timeline
3. Identify additional resources needed
4. Outlook of success criteria

The plan would then be presented at the April 18th Government & Community Relations Committee meeting and they would either approve the plan and present it to the full board for approval or determine if additional steps or information were needed first.

**Action:** The committee was in agreement with the proposed plan of action.

J. Publications

1. **Drafts of the Center’s New General Brochure:** The draft will not be ready until next week.

2. **Commonly Coordinated Services Guide by Age Group:** Drafts of this guide will be available at a variety of events to give the attendees the opportunity to review it and provide us with their feedback, including center’s POS disparity meetings, the town hall meeting, the Spanish-speaking parent group, and board meeting.

3. **Family Services Guide:** Staff are currently reviewing this draft guide and providing Sara with their feedback.

K. Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) Events

VICA has 2 new upcoming events:

1. **Monday, April 9th, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** (Valley Presbyterian Hospital): An opportunity to meet State Treasurer John Chiang.

2. **Monday, April 23rd, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** (Hilton Universal City): An opportunity to meet gubernatorial candidate Antonio Villaraigosa.

Any board members interested in attending either event should contact Jennifer.

**Action:** Jennifer will email the flier to the full board asking them to contact her if they would like to go to either event.
V. **Board Meeting Agenda Items**

The following items were identified for the committee’s section of the April 11th board meeting agenda:

A. Minutes of the March 21st Meeting  
B. Reports on The Arc/UCP Public Policy Conference  
C. Reports on ARCA’s Grass Roots Day  
D. Town Hall Meeting: Thursday, April 5th  
E. Legislative Bill File

VI. **Announcements / Information / Public Input**

A. **Complete Meeting Evaluations**

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

B. **Next Meeting**: Wednesday, April 18th at 7:00 p.m.

VII. **Adjournment**

Meagan adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant