North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2018

Present: Manuel Alfaro, Melissa Ferman, Lillian Martinez, Jessica Gould, Pat Grayson-DeJong, Michelle Heid, and Meagan Miller – Committee Members
Steve Miller – Guest
Maria Bosch, Ruth Janka, Liliana Windover, Michele Marra, George Stevens, Jesse Weller, Sara Iwahashi, Helen Herrera, and Sheila Calove – Staff Members

Absent: Ismael Maldonado and Erika Hernandez

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Meagan Miller, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input - There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

The following agenda items were added to the agenda:

IV.D. Digital Democracy Utilization Plan
IV.E. Grassroots Visits
IV.F. Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) Events

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

B. Approval of Minutes from the March 21st Meeting

M/S/C (M. Ferman/M. Alfaro) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Legislative Educators’ Report (Michele Heid)

Michelle provided an update on the community advocacy workshops. The training on April 25th was canceled, but a training on April 28th was added which will focus on voter registration and self-advocacy. This training will be conducted by Steve Miller.
1. **Reports on April 5th Town Hall Meeting (Steve Miller)**

Steve Miller wrote a nice report on the town hall meeting held on April 5th at Sam’s Café. The involvement of audience members and the interactions with the elected officials and representative from our community led to a very successful community event. Preliminary results from the community survey were shared to allow representatives to discuss these issues with our community. Members of this committee also shared feedback they obtained during this meeting such as families obtaining conflicting information from their service coordinator, lack of transportation, and lack of information provided by the regional center to our families. It is very important to inform our elected officials of the barriers our community is facing and inform them that public transportation is not as accessible as they thought. Also discussed was the importance to educate our voters regarding issues like transportation, SSI increases, etc. and guide them through the election process.

2. **Candidates’ Forum (Michelle Heid)**

Michelle reported that she had a meeting today with some NLACRC staff to discuss some of the follow-ups from the town hall meeting pertaining to what we are going to do next, what we have learned, what we need to do better next time, and to also discuss the center’s next candidates’ forum. The proposed date will be either Thursday, May 24th, or Friday, May 25th. Michelle reported that four candidates will be running for positions in our area:

- **39th District**: Luz Maria Rivas and Ricardo Benitez
- **45th District**: Jesse Gabriel & Justin Clark

The next step is to reach out to candidates with a formal letter as soon as we have a date confirmed. For the next proposal that Michelle and Steve will be presenting to NLACRC, they will be recommending to have another candidates’ forum in October in the Santa Clarita area focusing on races for the 25th Congressional District and the 38th Assembly District.

B. **Legislative Bill File (Sara Iwahashi)**

Sara provided copies of the committee’s updated legislative bill file. There will be an ARCA Legislative Committee meeting in May and information from that meeting will be shared with this committee next month. Steve Miller stated that last year NLACRC strongly supported AB 279 to increase
levels of minimum wage. This year the same initiative was pulled through the budget process and it was passed unanimously.

C. Publications

1. Drafts of the Center’s New General Brochure: Sara circulated a copy of the draft brochure in English and Spanish with the recommended changes. We are very close to finalizing this brochure.

2. Commonly Coordinated Services Guide by Age Group: We made this brochure available during the center’s POS disparity meetings and the town hall meeting to give the attendees the opportunity to review it and provide us with their feedback.

3. Family Services Guide: Sara is currently working with case management to review the draft guide.

D. Digital Democracy Utilization Plan (Sara Iwahashi)

Sara provided copies of the Digital Democracy utilization plan. Among the goals for this plan she indicated that NLACRC’s constituents will become educated and engaged in legislative activities and motivated to participate in the legislative process such as supporting positions on bills, voting, etc. Part of the implementation will be cross marketing with social media tools such as increasing Facebook users with more promotion and posts that link to our legislation page.

M/S/C (L. Martinez/J. Gould) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to approve the Digital Democracy utilization plan as presented.

E. Grassroots Visits (Sara Iwahashi & Michele Marra)

Michele and Sara are working together to put together the teams for the local Grassroots visits. Michele stated that it is very important that we include visits to local supervisors and she will be reaching out to them with formal letters. A training will be scheduled for the staff leads of each team soon. In previous years, binders were sent to the teams members with the information pertaining to the grassroots. A survey will be sent to the team members to see if they prefer to have a hard copy or digital copy. If team members have a particular interest to visit a legislator, please let Michele or Sara know. Likely visits will be on Friday due to the legislators’ availability.

F. Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) Events (Sara Iwahashi)
1. Monday, April 9th, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (Valley Presbyterian Hospital): An opportunity to meet State Treasurer John Chiang. Michelle and Elena Burnett attended that event.

2. Monday, April 23rd, 11:30 am-1:00 p.m. (Hilton Universal City): This is an opportunity to meet gubernatorial candidate Antonio Villaraigosa. Michelle and Jeremy Sunderland plan to attend this event.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee’s section of the May 9th board meeting agenda:

A. Minutes of the April 18th Meeting
B. Legislative Educator Report
C. Legislative Bill File
D. Digital Democracy Utilization Plan

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, May 16th at 7:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Meagan adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Submitted by,

Liliana Windover
Executive Administrative Assistant

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