North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2018

Present: Melissa Ferman, Jessica Gould, Pat Grayson-DeJong, Michelle Heid, Lillian Martinez, and Meagan Miller – Committee Members
Sharoll Jackson – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Mariah Cherry, Steve Miller, and Stephen Weiss – Guests
Evan Ingber, Sara Iwahashi, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Manuel Alfaro

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

Item IV.F. was added to the agenda.

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

B. Approval of Minutes from the April 18th Meeting

M/S/C (J. Gould/M. Heid) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Legislative Educators’ Report

1. Candidates’ Forum on May 29th: All 4 candidates running for 2 open positions have agreed to participate in our candidates’ forum. We have developed 4 questions for them to respond to at the forum and will be sending those to them tomorrow with information about the regional center system. We hope to also hold candidates’ forums in the Santa
Clarita and Antelope Valley as assembly and senate positions open in those areas.

2. Legislative Educator Project Update: Steve Miller and Michelle Heid provided the committee with a written report on their legislative outreach activities, which included:
   - Seven legislative trainings.
   - Monthly “news you can use” advocacy articles.
   - Advocacy visits to field offices of elected officials.
   - Support and participation in the Government & Community Relations Committee meetings.
   - Community legislative activities.
   - Board group advocacy trip to the Arc/UCP public policy conference.
   - Support of NLACRC’s grassroots activities locally and in Sacramento.
   - Promote existing NLACRC legislative priorities.
   - Support and facilitation of all NLACRC efforts to nurture a strong and engaged stakeholder community.

Steve also reported that he helped the center’s self-advocacy group arrange for representatives from Access Services to come to their recent self-advocacy group meeting to talk with them about transportation issues. Having a room full of self-advocates working out their issues with those representatives was powerful! The representatives agreed to return to a future self-advocacy group meeting to address the issues that were raised.

B. Report on April 23rd VICA Event with Antonio Villaraigosa

Lillian Martinez and Michelle Heid attended the event together. Antonio Villaraigosa was very approachable. They spent much of their time talking with his assistant and networking with others who represented the disability community.

C. Publications

1. Draft of the Center’s New General Brochure: The new brochure is almost ready to go to print pending some last minute design changes. We are also finalizing the Spanish version of the brochure.

2. Commonly Coordinated Services Guide by Age Group: The guide was sent to a designer for review and input.
3. **Family Services Guide**: The draft guide is being reviewed by case management staff.

Discussion ensued about IPP meetings and their purpose. George explained what should take place at an IPP meeting, including and consumer’s goals and dreams. IPPs should be a conversation between the consumer, family, and service coordinator. Several board members did not have this impression and really didn’t know what to expect at their children’s IPP meetings. The committee made the following suggestions:

- A public service announcement on what to expect from an IPP meeting could be recorded and posted on YouTube.
- George and Ruth could film a short 3-minute video on what the IPP meeting means, which could be shared with staff, consumers, and families.

**Action**: George will follow up on these suggestions with Ruth Janka to make sure consumers and families fully understand the purpose and value of their IPP meetings.

D. **Review and Approve Committee’s FY 2018-19 Critical Calendar**

Copies of the proposed critical calendar for next fiscal year were provided and reviewed.

**M/S/C** (M. Miller/J. Gould) To approve the committee’s critical calendar as presented.

E. **Legislative Bill File**

Copies of the legislative bill file were provided. A new bill has been added: AB 1596 (Garcia) and a fact sheet about the bill was also provided. This bill would assist families with disabled children to relocate to homes that are better suited to their disability by providing them with property tax relief. The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) supports this bill and our subject matter expert recommends that we support this bill as well.

**M/S/C** (P. Grayson-DeJong/J. Gould) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to take a support position on AB 1596 (Garcia).

F. **Grassroots Update**
Sara provided the committee with a list of the elected officials that have been identified for a grassroots visit along with the composition of the visiting teams. Letters have gone out to the elected officials and staff are following up to set meeting dates.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee’s section of the June 13th board meeting agenda:

A. Minutes of the May 16th Meeting
B. Legislative Educators’ Report
C. Legislative Bill File
D. Support for AB 1596 (Gloria)

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

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

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 18th (no June meeting)

VII. Adjournment

Meagan adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser
Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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