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

Present: Marianne Davis, Melissa Ferman, Jessica Gould, Anna Hamilton, Sharoll Jackson, Caroline Mitchell, and Jeremy Sunderland – Committee Members  
Steve Miller and Michelle Heid – Legislative Educators  
Evan Ingber, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Angelina Martinez

I. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (C. Mitchell/M. Ferman) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes of May 16th Meeting

M/S/C (M. Davis/J. Gould; Abstention: J. Sunderland) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Annual Committee Orientation

1. Policies & Procedures
2. Legislative Platform Guiding Principles
3. Board Recognition Policy
4. Board Audit Section

Michele reviewed these documents with the committee so they could better understand the committee’s purpose and their role as a committee member.
B. Elect a Committee Chair

Caroline Mitchell and Jeremy Sunderland both expressed interest in serving as committee chair for this fiscal year. They both stepped out of the room and an election was held.

**Action:** Jeremy Sunderland was elected committee chair and Caroline Mitchell was elected vice chair.

C. Committee’s Critical Calendar for FY 2018-19

Copies of the committee’s approved critical calendar for this fiscal year were provided. The calendar lists the critical actions that need to be taken by the committee each month; these actions will be added to the monthly committee meeting agendas to make sure the committee stays on track.

D. Legislative Educators’ Report

NLACRC has contracted with Steve Miller and Michelle Heid to provide legislative advocacy training to our community and they provide an update on their activities to this committee on a regular basis. California’s developmental disabilities system came to be as a result of concerned parents who wanted to keep their children with a disability at home and not place them in a state developmental center. They took their concerns to the Sacramento. Assembly Member Frank Lanterman, then chair of the budget committee, stayed as most legislators did at the Senator Hotel. These parents would go to the hotel and ride the elevator with Mr. Lanterman to express their concerns. Eventually, the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act was born and the 21 regional centers were established. We need parents and family members to understand the importance of their involvement with our system in order to ensure its future. Each year, NLACRC board members are scheduled to visit with our legislators both locally and in Sacramento. It is important to develop relationships with your legislators so they get to know who you are and what the issues are. A legislative training is held annually for board and Vendor Advisory Committee members to prepare them for their legislative outreach activities. This year, the legislative training will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19th, in lieu of the Consumer Services and Government/Community Relations Committee meetings. You will then have the opportunity to create your own “elevator speech” so you can express your issues in a short, direct, and clear way.
E. Publications Update

1. **The Center’s New General Brochure:** The final draft of the center’s new brochure should be ready to present to the committee at their meeting next month.

2. **Commonly Coordinated Services Guide by Age Group:** The draft guide is currently in the design phase.

3. **Family Services Guide:** We are currently in the process of getting estimates for the draft guide.

   Marianne recommended using a bi-fold design versus a tri-fold design as it would make them easier to read. Additional feedback was provided by committee members which will be communicated to Sara Iwahashi so that she may provide this information to the center’s design consultant.

F. Legislative Bill File

Copies of the committee’s updated legislative bill file were provided to the committee for their information. The committee is currently tracking 31 different bills that, if passed, would have an impact of the developmental services system.

Michele added that both she and Sara Iwahashi are members of the Association of Regional Center Agencies’ (ARCA’s) Legislative Committee and they will be bringing reports from those meetings to this committee.

G. Short Video on IPPs (George & Ruth)

At the last committee meeting in May, 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 felt it would be very beneficial if 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. The video could also be posted on the center’s Facebook page, website, and on YouTube.
Action: George and Ruth will discuss the development of the video and report back to the committee at next month’s meeting.

1. Review Board Legislative Priorities for FY 2017-18 & Identify Priorities for FY 2018-19

The board’s legislative priorities for last fiscal year were:

1. Continue our community engagement by finding out what issues are important to them through a variety of ways.
2. Conduct legislative advocacy trainings that reach out to Spanish speaking consumers and families.
3. Hold an annual legislative event.

After discussion, the committee decided to modify #2 and add a #4, as follows:

• #2: Conduct legislative advocacy trainings that reach out to Spanish speaking consumers and families. our community.
• #4: Hold candidates forums, as needed, in the center’s catchment area.

M/S/C (C. Mitchell/S. Jackson) To present the modified legislative strategy for FY 2018-19 to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Marianne reported that The Help Group has legislative activities that we may be able to partner with them on.

Action: Steve Miller will reach out to The Help Group to get more information about their legislative activities and report back to the committee.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee’s section of the August 15th board meeting agenda:

A. Minutes of the July 18th Meeting
B. Legislative Bill File
C. Approval of Board’s Legislative Priorities for FY 2018-19
VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

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

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 22nd

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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