

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Government & Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes**  
February 20, 2019

**Present:** Marianne Davis, Melissa Ferman, Sharoll Jackson, Caroline Mitchell, and Jeremy Sunderland – Committee Members  
Orli Almog and Sonia Ojeda – Vendor Advisory Committee Representatives  
Steve Miller – Legislative Educator  
Arnulfo Jackson - Guest  
Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, George Stevens, and Jesse Weller – Staff Members

**Absent:** Anna Hamilton and Angelina Martinez

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and introductions were made.

**II. Public Input** – There was no public input

**III. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Agenda

Several items were added to the agenda.

**M/S/C** (S. Jackson/C. Mitchell) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from the January 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting

**M/S/C** (S. Jackson/M. Davis) To approve the minutes as presented.

**IV. Committee Business**

A. Update on ARCA Grass Roots Day Participants & Activities

Each year, the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) holds its Grassroots Day in Sacramento. This is a day when each regional center has the opportunity to send representatives to the State Capitol to visit with legislators. Participants fly up the day before and attend a dinner and briefing meeting that

evening before meeting with legislators all the next day. This year it will be held April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and NLACRC will be sending the follow representatives:

1. Michelle Heid, Legislative Educator
2. Jesse Weller, Staff
3. Evelyn McOmie, Staff
4. Orli Almog, Service Provider
5. Sharoll Jackson, Service Provider
6. Rebecca Lienhard, Service Provider
7. Pat Grayson-DeJong, Board Member
8. Victoria Schklair, Consumer
9. Krystal Zanel, Consumer

Jesse reported that Michelle Heid has arranged for the group to meet here at the regional center on March 27<sup>th</sup> to prepare everyone for the grassroots activities.

**Action:** Jesse Weller, Orli Almog, and Sharoll Jackson will give a report on the ARCA Grassroots Day activities at the April 17<sup>th</sup> Government & Community Relations Committee meeting.

B. Update on the Arc/UCP Public Policy Conference Participants

The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) hold a 3-day public policy conference each year in Sacramento. This year, the conference will be held March 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> and our participants will be:

1. Michelle Heid, Legislative Educator
2. Raquel Armendariz, Legislative Educator
3. Michele Marra, Staff
4. Anna Hamilton, Board Member
5. Elena Burnett, Board Member
6. Melissa Ferman, Board Member

Michele Marra, Anna Hamilton, and Melissa Ferman will be unable to attend next month's Government & Community Relations Committee meeting because they will be at the conference.

**Action:** Michele Marra, Anna Hamilton, and Melissa Ferman will give a report on what they learned at the conference at the April 17<sup>th</sup> Government & Community Relations Committee meeting.

C. Legislative Educators' Report

Copies of the monthly report on the legislative educators' activities were provided and reviewed. Legislators know who we are and what are issues are. On February 5<sup>th</sup>, Assembly Members Jim Frazier and Chris Holden sent a letter to the senate and assembly budget chairs to support an immediate investment to protect services for Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities, with an 8% across-the-board increase in provider reimbursement rates with federal matching funds. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 19 other assembly members sent a letter to the budget chairs supporting that request! Copies of both letters were provided to the committee.

Steve reported that it has been a very busy month for the legislative educators! Their activities included:

1. Planning a town hall meeting in collaboration with Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian sometime in April.
2. Identifying bills that would have an impact to the developmental disabilities system.
3. Organizing local grassroots visits with legislators.
4. Working with service providers to organize them legislatively.
5. Participated in the center's 31<sup>st</sup> annual Festival Educacional – an annual training for our Spanish-speaking families. This was an amazing event with about 180 participants. The legislative educators put together a survey and offered raffle prizes to those who returned a completed survey; 88 surveys were completed. The information from the surveys will be used to understand how to better serve and help our families who speak only Spanish.
6. Organized 2 legislative academies, one in English on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, and another in Spanish on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

The legislative educators are considering producing webinars next fiscal year.

**Action:** Michele will add the development of webinars to the social media plan for next fiscal year.

D. Publications Update

1. Commonly Coordinated Services Guide by Age Group: The guide is done and is going to print!

2. Family Services Guide: We are still in the process of reducing the reading level of this guide.
3. Draft of the Center's New General Brochure: The brochure will be updated as time allows. There is no rush in getting the brochure done because the center currently already has one.

E. Legislative Bill File

Copies of the updated bill file were provided. Sara reported that she and Michele attended ARCA's Legislative Committee meeting last week. This Friday is the last day that legislators can submit bills, so we anticipate more bills coming in. Next month, the legislative bill file will be updated to include all bills that were submitted that would have an effect on the developmental disabilities system.

**Action:** Committee members will review the bill file and identify any bills that they think the committee should be tracking.

F. Update on Purchase of Service (POS) Disparity Projects

Four of the center's service providers had their proposals to reduce POS disparity in services approved by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS):

Service Provider	Project Title
Autism Society of Los Angeles	Cross-cultural independent facilitator trainings and ongoing support for the self-determination program.
Integrated Community Collaborative	Inter-Agency Coordinating Council community outreach.
Learning Rights Law Center	Training, information, and advocacy project.
PathPoint	Building cultural competency to support the underserved in central and southern California.

NLACRC also had 2 of its POS disparity proposals approved by DDS, the extension of the center's Family Empowerment Team in Action (FETA) project

and the center's new parent mentor project. A handout with more details about all of the approved proposals was provided to the committee.

G. Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) Update

1. VICA Government Relations Committee: NLACRC staff and service providers presented information to this committee earlier today to request that they prioritize their legislative efforts to include the proposed 8% increase for provider rates and regional center operations to stabilize our service system. The presentation was successful and received a unanimous vote to proceed to the VICA Board for their consideration and approval.
2. Discussions were held regarding the future use of the Men's Central Jail in Los Angeles and Mira Loma in Lancaster regarding re-design and use, such as mental health treatment of supportive housing.

H. Social Media Updates

1. Monthly Facebook Analytics: Copies of the monthly report were provided for both the center's English and Spanish Facebook pages. The report showed the engagement level of reactions, comments, and shares.
2. Social Media Survey Results: Copies of the survey results were provided for both the center's English and Spanish Facebook pages. The top 5 social media sites used by the English-speaking survey takers were, in order, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Pinterest. For the Spanish-speaking survey takers, the top 5 were Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter.

As a result of the surveys, the center will consider incorporating these media sites to further our outreach efforts to consumers and families.

I. State Budget

California Governor Gavin Newsom submitted his 2019-20 "California for All" budget proposal to the Legislature. Some of the education highlights include:

1. Funding for universal preschool for all income-eligible 4-year-old children in the state, phased in over a three-year period. This funding will allow

state preschool providers to offer full-day/full-year care to better accommodate working parents.

2. Expand the Paid Family Leave program with the goal of ensuring that all newborns and newly adopted babies can be cared for by a parent or a close family member for the first 6 months.
3. Funding for K-12 schools and community colleges in FY 2019-20 is \$80.7 billion – a new all-time high with per-pupil expenditures now nearly \$5,000 higher than just 7 years ago. The budget also funds critical work to build a data system to better track student outcomes and increase the alignment of our education system to the state’s workforce needs.
4. \$1.4 billion (\$942 million ongoing) for higher education to support increased enrollment, improved time to degree and a tuition freeze. This includes \$240 million to the university of California system, \$300 million to the California state university system, and \$402 million to the community college systems.

J. Update on LA Unified/United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) Strike Deal

Sara provided the following update on the recent strike deal:

1. Salary raises: 6% increase with 3% in FY 2017-18, 3% in FY 2018-19.
2. Increase in nursing services in every school: 150 in FY 2019-20 and 150 in FY 2020-21.
3. Increase in library services in every secondary school: 41 in FY 2019-20 and 41 in FY 2020-21.
4. Increase in counselors in secondary schools: 17 in FY 2019-20, 0 in FY 2020-21, and 60 in FY 2021-22.
5. Class size reduction in grades 4-12: -1 in FY 2019-20, -1 in FY 2020-21, and -2 in FY 2021-22.
6. Investment in nurses, librarians, counselors and class size reduction: \$175 million in FY 2019-21 and \$228 million FY 2021-22.

## V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the March 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the February 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- B. Legislative Educators' Report

## VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

Jeremy asked the committee members to please complete their evaluations after the meeting and submit them to him with any questions.

- B. Next Meeting: **Tuesday**, March 19<sup>th</sup>

The Jewish holiday Purim begins at sunset on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, so the committee meeting will be held on Tuesday evening instead.

- C. Steve announced that Lyn Shaw, a former Jynny Retzinger Community Service Award winner, who formerly worked at Tierra del Sol and for Assembly Member Bob Blumenfield, recently passed away. Bob Blumenfield will be honoring her at a memorial on March 1<sup>st</sup>

## VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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