

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2019

Present: Adam Breall, Marianne Davis, Sharoll Jackson, Caroline Mitchell, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang – Committee Members
Raquel Armendariz and Michelle Heid – Legislative Educators
Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and Jesse Weller – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input

Michelle Heid announced that she recently attended an Autism Law Summit in Wyoming with nation policy experts on people with autism. They applauded California's regional center system!

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV.F. was deleted because it was already discussed at the Consumer Services Committee meeting. Item IV.H. was deleted because it was the same as Item IV.G. Item IV. K. was added to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from the August 21st Meeting

The minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Board-Approved Legislative Priorities (Michele)

On September 11th, the Board of Trustees approved the following 5 legislative priorities for this fiscal year:

1. Continue our community engagement and encourage participation in identifying what issues are important and relevant to our constituencies.
2. Conduct legislative advocacy trainings which inform our community and encourage them to participate in advocacy activities.
3. Hold at least one annual legislative event.
4. Hold candidates forums, as needed, in the center's catchment area.
5. Build and sustain relationships with disability community organizations, service providers, elected representatives, and other entities that can support and further the mission of NLACRC.

B. Legislative Educators Report (Raquel Armendariz and Michelle Heid)

Raquel and Michelle provided copies of their written report, which included updates on the rate study and associated rate models, the Developmental Services task force, trainings, legislative calendar, their collaboration with the Vendor Advisory Committee and the provider community, disparity-related activities, and upcoming events.

1. Update on town hall meeting: The board did not have an issue with holding a town hall meeting in the Santa Clarita Valley. More information to come.
2. Grass roots visits and talking points: Michelle provided information about the grass roots visits and talking points to the committee. The plan is to visit our local legislators while the legislators are out of session from October through December. Talking points will include:
 - The impact of local minimum wage increases.
 - Regional center caseload sizes.
 - Repealing the family cost participation program and annual family program fee.
 - Restoration of social recreation and camping services.
 - The rate study and associated rate models.

C. VICA & VIA Events (Sara)

Sara provided the committee with a list of upcoming events being held by the Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) and the Valley Industry Association (VIA). VICA represents businesses in the San Fernando Valley; VIA represents businesses in the Santa Clarita Valley.

D. Legislative Bills (Michelle)

The governor had until last Sunday to sign or veto bills that were presented to him. A list of legislative bills and their status was provided to the committee and Michelle reviewed it with them.

E. Social Media (Michele)

We want to make our social media platforms more representative of our area; more NLACRC centered. This would include posting real stories about our consumers; we are working with our policy/procedures manager and an attorney to identify parameters on how people could submit their stories to us for posting.

F. Public Charge (Ruth and Michele)

This was previously discussed at the Consumer Services Committee meeting.

G. Voting Solutions For All People (Michelle)

There are new voting machines available to try out in many different locations in Los Angeles County. We want our consumers and families to become familiar with iPad-like voting devices that the county purchased. The new voting solutions will also include an 11-day voting period (versus 1 day). Elections will be held in March.

H. New Voter Equipment

This is the same topic as Item IV.G. above.

I. Census Update

A census meeting was recently held in downtown Los Angeles and was shown by video in many other locations. Sara attended one of those meetings and a San Fernando Valley steering committee was formed. Sara provide the committee with a handout from the meeting which provides a timeline of activities leading up to the April 2020 census. Sara will be attending an all-day training on communication skills on Monday in the Antelope Valley and will give a report on that meeting at next month's Government & Community Relations Committee meeting.

J. Facebook Analytics (English & Spanish)

The monthly analytics reports were provided and Sara reviewed them with the committee.

K. Supported Life Conference (Jesse and Michele)

Jesse and Michele recently attended the supported life conference in Sacramento and gave reports on what they learned. Unfortunately, they had to leave the conference early due to the wildfire near the center's San Fernando Valley office.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the October 23rd board meeting agenda:

- A. Report on September 18th Legislative Training
- B. Minutes of the October 16th Meeting
- C. Legislative Educators Report

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 13th, at 7:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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