

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2020

Present: Marianne Davis, Sharoll Jackson, Caroline Mitchell, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang – Committee Members
Raquel Armendariz and Michelle Heid – Legislative Educators
Orli Almog – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Tal Grinblat – Guest
Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, Kim Rolfes, Jesse Weller, and Jennifer Williamson – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Items IV. F. through IV.K. were added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from the November 13th Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Social Media Expansion Plan (Tal Grinblat)

Jennifer Williamson, the center's policy and procedure manager, introduced Tal Grinblat who has been retained by the center to advise us on intellectual property matters and make sure we are being compliant legally with the expansion of our social media platforms

Action: Kim will send the release form she is using for the new videos (discussed earlier at the Consumer Services Committee meeting) to Tal Grinblat for his review and use during his assistance with the social media expansion project.

Action: Kim will check with the center's insurance broker to make sure we are covered in case a claim is made related to one of our social media platforms.

B. Discussion re: Annual Legislative Event in the Spring

In years past, the center held 1 legislative event each year in the spring. Times have changed and we now hold legislative events whenever they are needed.

M/S/C (M. Davis/C. Mitchell) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to amend the board's master calendar by canceling the board's annual legislative event in the spring.

C. Legislative Educators' Report (Raquel and Michelle)

Raquel Armendariz and Michelle Heid, the center's legislative educators, provided written copies of their report and reviewed the highlights, which included:

1. 25th Congressional district special election on March 3rd
2. Legislative update
3. Rate study and associated rate models
4. Legislative calendar
5. Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 hearing
6. Assembly Select Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
7. Bills
8. Developmental Services Task Force
9. Town hall meeting on February 27th
10. Community events
11. Local grass roots visits
12. Collaboration with the provider community and consumer groups
13. Events held by the Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) and the Valley Industry Association (VIA).
14. State Council on Developmental Disabilities meetings
15. Disparity-related activities
16. Upcoming events

D. VICA & VIA Events

Fliers for the following upcoming events were provided:

1. VICA one-day advocacy trips to Sacramento (January 21, February 25, March 17, April 1, and May 5)
2. VICA newsmaker connection, bringing together lawmakers, public officials and business leaders (January 23)
3. VIA 2020 employment law update (February 4)
4. VICA state officeholders dinner (March 13)
5. VICA 3-day advocacy trip to Sacramento (March 9-11)
6. VICA 3-day advocacy trip to Washington, DC (March 9-11)

E. Facebook Analytics (English & Spanish)

Copies of the monthly analytics on the center's 2 Facebook pages were provided. Sara noted that there was less activity on both pages in December, probably due to the holidays. Also, the English Facebook page is visited most frequently around 9:00 a.m. where the Spanish Facebook page is visited mostly in the late afternoon.

F. Town Hall Update

We are in the process of drafting the program, identifying speakers, and getting attendance confirmations from legislators. Copies of the draft flier for the February 27th town hall meeting were provided and reviewed.

Action: Sara will modify the flier to include photos of consumers and families and spell out who we want to attend and why.

G. Legislative Priorities

The board's legislative priorities for this fiscal year are:

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.

These priorities are still relevant, but we are looking at other agencies' legislative priorities as we prepare for the future. To this end, copies of VICA's 10 legislative priorities were provided.

Action: Legislative priorities will be discussed further at next month's committee meeting.

H. Portrait of our Community

Michelle Heid reported that it has become apparent that our legislators support our system, but the governor makes the final decision on our funding, so we need to secure his support. We have until April to influence the next budget cycle (before the May Revise). Michelle suggested that we encourage members of our community to write a 1-page portrait of their life, their family, or the services they provide along with a photo. These portraits could then be collected and sent to the governor by local legislators in large quantities at a time.

M/S/C (M. Davis/C. Wang) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to approve the Portrait of our Community plan.

Action: If the board approves of this plan, implementation of it will be discussed at next month's committee meeting.

I. Voting Demonstration

Information about L.A. County's new voting system was provided along with a list of voting demonstration sites.

Action: Marianne suggested that we include photos of consumers using the demos to promote this.

J. Census Update

The census information that is collected helps the federal government decide how much money our communities should receive for important things like schools, affordable housing, social services, etc. It is our objective to help educate the communities we serve about the importance of the census and encourage everyone's participation. Sara provided copies of the implementation plan she will use to accomplish this objective.

K. Sacramento Advocacy Trips

Information and applications were provided to the committee about participation in 3 upcoming legislative advocacy trips to Sacramento:

1. Developmental disabilities public policy conference (April 27-29)
2. ARCA Grassroots Day (April 20-21)
3. NLACRC community trip (dates to be determined)

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the February 12th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the January 22nd Meeting
- B. Legislative Educators' Report
- C. Legislative Advocacy Trips to Sacramento/Application
- D. Town Hall Meeting: Thursday, February 27th
- E. Approval of Portrait of our Community Plan
- F. Cancellation of Board's Annual Legislative Event in the Spring

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Jeremy announced that his son (a consumer) applied to one college, the University of Denver, and was accepted!
- B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 19th, at 7:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant