

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2020

Present: Nicholas Abrahms, Dena Bogrow, Christina Cannarella, Leticia Garcia, Gabriela Herrera, Sharoll Jackson, Caroline Mitchell, Claudia Picerni, Ana Laura Quiles, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang – Committee Members
Marianne Davis – Board Member
Arnulfo Jackson - Guest
Orli Almog – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Raquel Armendariz and Michelle Heid – Legislative Educators
Evan Ingber, Sara Iwahashi, Ruth Janka, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, and Jesse Weller – Staff Members

Absent: Ivette Arriaga

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 8:02 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 under Committee Business. The agenda was approved as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from the January 22nd Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Legislative Educators' Report (Raquel and Michelle)

Michelle and Raquel, the center's legislative outreach and education team, provided copies of their written report; highlights included:

- The primary election on March 3rd and a list of candidates who will be on the ballot.
 - LA County's new voting system.
 - NLACRC Grass Roots visits with local legislators.
 - The legislative calendar.
 - Summaries of recent legislative hearings.
 - An update on current bills.
 - The governor's proposed budget.
 - The Developmental Services task force.
 - Collaboration with the Vendor Advisory Committee and provider community.
 - Collaboration with consumer groups.
 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities meetings.
 - Disparity-related activities.
 - Upcoming events.
1. Legislative Town Hall: The center's legislative town hall meeting will be held Thursday, February 27th, at the new Bella Vida senior center in Santa Clarita. An hour of networking will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., then the program will begin. After introductions are made, we will have a panel of 2 service coordinators, John Brauer (director of New Horizons), Dr. Ivor Weiner (parent), and Amy Westling (director of ARCA), who will talk about challenges our system is facing from their perspective and the importance of service coordination. We have received attendance confirmations from Senator Scott Wilk, Senator Christy Smith, and Assembly Member Tom Lackey. Fliers for the event, in English and Spanish, have been widely distributed.
 2. Portrait of our Community: As discussed at last month's committee meeting, we want to 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 would then be collected and sent to the governor by local legislators in large quantities at a time. This proposal was presented to the board and was approved.

Action: Implementation of the portrait of our community plan will be discussed at next month's committee meeting.

3. Update on Sacramento Advocacy Trips in April: Each year, members of the board, Vendor Advisory Committee, and Consumer Advisory Committee are asked to sign up to participate in 1 of the 3 upcoming legislative advocacy trips to Sacramento:
 1. ARCA Grassroots Day (April 20-21)
 2. Developmental disabilities public policy conference (April 27-29)
 3. NLACRC community trip (sometime in May)

Information about the trips and an application form were provided. We have only received 5 responses so far from people who want to go on these trips.

Action: Jennifer will re-send the information about the advocacy trips to the Board and VAC tomorrow asking folks to submit their completed applications to her before Friday, March 6th.

B. Legislative Priorities (Michele)

Five legislative priorities for FY 2019-20 were approved by the Board of Trustees on September 19th:

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.

We are in the process of developing talking points for these 5 priorities.

Action: The talking points for the board's 5 legislative priorities will be discussed at next month's committee meeting.

C. VICA & VIA Events (Sara)

Any time the Valley Industry & Commerce Association (San Fernando Valley) or the Valley Industry Association (Santa Clarita Valley) has an event, Sara shares it

with Jennifer to share with the board. Board members are encouraged to attend these informative events; any participant costs are covered by the center. Information about VICA was provided to the committee including a copy of their 10 legislative priorities.

D. Social Media Update & Facebook Analytics (English & Spanish)

Jennifer Williamson, our policy and procedure manager, is revising the board's social media policy and will be presenting the proposed changes at next month's committee meeting. Copies of the monthly Facebook analytics were provided and reviewed.

E. NLACRC Bill Track

Michelle Heid provided the committee with copies of the committee's new bill track, which listed 3 high priority bills, 5 lower priority bills, and 9 dead bills.

Action: Committee members should take some time to review the information about the 8 bills and come prepared to discuss what position they think the board should take (support, oppose, oppose unless amended).

F. Census Update

Sara provided the committee with information about the 2020 census. People can participate in a variety of ways: respond to the question online, respond by telephone, complete a paper questionnaire that will be mailed out in mid-April, or provide the information to a census taker who will come to your home. It is very important that everyone be counted because it will determine how federal dollars are spent on things like health care and schools.

G. Festival Educacional

This event is a training that is held every year for our Spanish-speaking families. This year, the event is tentatively scheduled to be held on May 16th.

V. **Board Meeting Agenda Items**

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the March 11th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the February 19th Meeting
- B. Legislative Educators' Report
- C. Sacramento Advocacy Trips
- D. Reports from ARCA Academy Participants
- E. Report on Legislative Town Hall Meeting

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 18th, at 7:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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