

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2020

Present: Nicholas Abrahms, Ivette Arriaga, Dena Bogrow, Christina Cannarella, Leticia Garcia, Gabriela Herrera, Sharoll Jackson, Caroline Mitchell, Claudia Picerni, Ana Laura Quiles, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang (all via Zoom) – Committee Members
Tal Grinblat - Guest
Marianne Davis (via teleconference) and Anna Hamilton (Via Zoom) – Board Members
Orli Almog – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative (via Zoom)
Michelle Heid – Legislative Educator (via Zoom)
Evan Ingber (via Zoom), Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, Jesse Weller, and Jennifer Williamson – Staff Members

Absent: All present

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. and introductions were made.

II. Public Input – There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Revised Agenda

Items IV.E through IV.H. were added to the agenda.

M/S/C (C. Wang/N. Abrahms) To approve the revised agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes from the February 19th Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Proposed Revisions to Social Media Policy

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. To that end, Mr. Grinblat has proposed some changes to our social media policy. The committee reviewed the proposed changes and made the following comments:

1. Page 1, section 2, 3rd sentence: the word “new” should be omitted.
2. Page 1, section 3, 2nd sentence: the word “annually” should be omitted.
3. Page 2, section 4.B., the word “relevant” should be included.
4. Page 3, section 5.B.10, the word “Instagram” should be included.

Action: Mr. Grinblat will incorporate these changes into the policy and it will be presented to the Board for their review and approval.

B. Legislative Educators’ Report (Raquel and Michelle)

Written copies of the legislative advocacy report were provided along with information about the preliminary results from Tuesday’s election. The report covered the following topics:

- March 3rd primary election
- Legislative news
- LA County’s new voting system
- Grassroots visits with local legislators
- Legislative calendar
- Legislative hearings (you can access them at Assembly.ca.gov: watch hearings)
- Bills
- Events

1. Implementation of “Portrait of our Community” Plan: We are going to wait until the coronavirus is under control before we proceed with implementing this plan.

2. NLACRC Bill Track / Bill Positions: Michele brought 3 critical bills to the committee’s attention:

- a. SB 920 (Beall): Terminology Change
- b. AB 2024 (Holden): Minimum Wage Quirk Fix
- c. AB 2634 (Lackey): Dental Coordinator for Regional Centers

Information about the bills was provided and reviewed. NLACRC subject matter experts have reviewed the bills and are recommending support positions on all 3.

M/S/C (C. Mitchell/G. Herrera) To recommend that the Board of Trustees take a support position on SB 920.

M/S/C (C. Mitchell/L. Garcia) To recommend that the Board of Trustees take a support position on AB 2024.

Action: Jesse will find out how AB 2634 would benefit NLACRC consumers and report back to the committee.

C. Talking Points for Legislative Priorities (Michele)

Talking points were developed for the center's top 4 legislative priorities:

1. Full funding of regional center caseload ratios, inclusive of the staffing needs to support service coordinators required to meet statutory caseload requirements.
2. Repealing the Annual Family Program Fee and Family Cost Participation Program.
3. Implementing the rate study and associated rate models in a timely manner.
4. Creating a streamlined process to adjust service provider rates in response to increases in the state minimum wage.

M/S/C (C. Mitchell/C. Wang) To recommend that the Board of Trustees approves the talking points for the center's 4 legislative priority issues, as presented.

D. Facebook Analytics (English & Spanish)

1. English: We have increased our followers by 60 from 4,432 in January to 4,492 in February.
2. Spanish: We have increased our followers by 36 from 1,148 in January to 1,194 in February.

Jeremy noticed that most of our followers are female and wanted to find ways to attract more men to the sites. The following suggestions were made:

- a. Post ideas on how Dads can engage with their kids.
- b. Post stress and coping methods for Dads.

Action: Michelle will look into ways to increase the number of male followers on our Facebook pages.

Action: Sara will see if she can link our 2 Facebook pages.

E. Town Hall

The center's legislative town hall meeting was held February 27th and it was well attended and received. Assembly Member Tom Lackey, Assembly Member Christie Smith, and Senator Wilk were in attendance and were impressed by the amount of people who were there! A panel with 2 service coordinators plus John Brauer (director of New Horizons), Dr. Ivor Weiner (parent), and Amy Westling (director of ARCA), spoke about challenges our system is facing from their perspective and the importance of service coordination. We now have the support of our local legislators and we need to focus on getting the attention of Governor Newsom and his administration and Dr. Mark Ghaly, secretary of California's Health & Human Services Department. Staff are coming up with some ideas; more information to come!

F. Candidates Forum

We are going to explore the possibility of holding another candidates' forum closer to the November election. We have had great success with the ones we have held in the past. More information to come!

G. Sacramento Advocacy Trips

At this point, the advocacy trips have been postponed or canceled due to the coronavirus.

H. VICA/VIA Events

Today, the VICA Government Committee held a webinar with City Council Member Bob Blumenfield and Senator Henry Stern. VICA and VIA will continue to hold webinars instead of in-person meetings until after the threat of coronavirus is gone.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The committee identified the following items for their section of the April 7th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of the March 18th Meeting
- B. Legislative Educators' Report
- C. Presentation of Proposed Revisions to Social Media Policy
- D. Sacramento Advocacy Trips in April – *Postponed*
- E. Approval of Talking Points for Legislative Priorities
- F. Approval to Support SB 920 (Beall)
- G. Approval to Support AB 2024 (Holden)

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 22nd, at 7:00 p.m. (4th Wednesday)

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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