

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Government & Community Relations Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes – Via Zoom**  
May 20, 2020

**Present:** Nicholas Abrahms, Ivette Arriaga, Dena Bogrow, Christina Cannarella, Leticia Garcia, Gabriela Herrera, Sharoll Jackson, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang - Committee Members  
Orli Almog- Vendor Advisory Committee Representative  
Raquel Armendariz and Michelle Heid – Legislative Educators  
Maria Bosch, Evan Ingber, Ruth Janka, Liliana Windover, Michele Marra, Kim Rolfes, Cristina Preuss and Jesse Weller – Staff Members

**Absent:** Caroline Mitchell, Marianne Davis, and Claudia Picerni

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

Jeremy Sunderland, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m. and introductions were made.

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

**III. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Revised Agenda

Item IV. H. was added to the agenda

**M/S/C** (C. Wang/O. Almog) To approve the agenda as modified

B. Approval of Minutes from the March 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting Curtis/orli

The minutes were approved as presented.

**M/S/C** (C. Wang/O. Almog) To approve the minutes as presented.

**IV. Committee Business**

A. Review & Approve Draft Critical Calendar for FY 2020-21

The draft critical calendar was presented and reviewed by Ruth.

**M/S/C** (C. Wang/C. Cannarella) To approve the committee's critical calendar for FY 2020-21 as presented.

B. Board-Approved Social Media Policy

Michele reported that the Board approved our Social Media Policy. Sara Iwahashi and Jennifer Williamson are working with our counsel to start developing the parameters and guidance for individuals to submit their human interest stories. We should have some draft information next time this committee meets.

C. Daily News Media Coverage

Sara Iwahashi reported that early this month there were 3 articles published in the Daily News:

- Regional Centers Strive to Keep Therapy and Services for Special-Needs students on track
- With Access to Homes Deemed a Pandemic-era Risk, Special-Needs Parents Grapple with Respite Care Services
- Without in-person Contact, Support for Special-needs Parents Faces Challenges Amid Pandemic

A link for these articles was included in the packet. These articles focused on parents talking about their challenges, but also the positive aspects during this pandemic.

D. Community & Legislative Educators' Report

A written report was provided by Michelle Heid. Between the time Michele wrote the report and the time it was shared with this committee, the May Revise was released.

1. Legislature Update: The Legislature went back to session on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Senate did not start holding hearings until May 11<sup>th</sup> and they will busy debating the May Revise. There will be reductions and they will be focusing on certain pieces of the legislature due to COVID-19.

2. Budget Process: Ruth reviewed with this committee some of the May Revise highlights released by the Governor. In order to achieve the cost saving the following was proposed:
  - Performance Incentive Program, Enhanced Caseload Ratio for children 3 to 5, START Training program, and provider rate increases for Early Star (service code 117), Independent Living program and Infant Development Program services have been removed from the budget.
  - \$30 million cut to regional center operations budget.
  - Implementation of Uniform Holiday Schedule effective on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - \$300 million in provider's rate cut.
  - Increasing cost sharing for higher income families through the Annual Family Program Fee.
3. Legislative Calendar: The legislative calendar will be adjusted to meet the unique needs of the legislature session.
4. NLACRC Grass Roots Visits: We had a special election for congress and Mike Garcia is now our 25<sup>th</sup> congregational representative. He should be in our list to call to urge his support in federal funding.
5. COVID-19 Related Resources for Consumers and Families: There are many online resources for information and support during this health crisis and Michelle listed several of them in her report.

E. NLACRC Bill Track 2020

1. AB 2024: Developmental Disabilities Provider Rates. This bill will be re-referred to the Appropriations Committee
2. AB 2634: Dental Services Bill. This bill will not be heard by Assembly Committee on Human Services. This bill is dead.
3. SB 920: Terminology for Persons with Disabilities. This bill is in the Assembly Committee on Human Services. Probably will not continue.
4. AB 2512: Define Death Penalty for a Person with an Intellectual Disability. Re-referred to Committee on Public Safety.
5. AB 2730: Access and Functional Needs. Local government: agreement for emergency management, transportation, and paratransit. Passed from Committee on Governmental Organization to Assembly Appropriations.

F. Facebook Analytics (English & Spanish)

Sara reviewed the analytics with the committee. She also reported that we are looking into ways to increase the audience by posting short stories of males who have made an impact in the developmental disabilities system like Frank Lanterman, Marty Omoto, etc. and share their accomplishment, leadership and the positive impact they have had in our system. If you wish to share a story, please contact Sara. Regarding any communication going out to the public, it was recommended to develop a message in order to direct the public to our media platform (Facebook & Twitter) in addition to our website.

G. Board's Disability Community Organization, Service Provider, and Elected Representative Visit Policy and related Framework for Strategy Implementation

The committee was provided with copies of the 2 policies and the board's legislative strategy for this fiscal year.

1. Disability Community Organization was added as part of our relationship and partnering with other entities.
2. We will be conducting Virtual Town Home meetings
3. We have added a button in our website so people can access the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.
4. Developing of strategies that will encompass the purpose and intent of this policy. Examples of events that will encompass this strategy are visits to service providers/elected representatives, participation in grass roots visits, attending a related non-profit agency's organization, or service provider's board meetings, etc.
5. VICA Events will be conducted virtually.

After review, the committee will consider the following legislative strategies for FY 2020-21.

1. Continue email blasting accessing federal dollars to support our system
2. Begin advocacy with individuals who have the power to influence under Dr. Mark Ghaly and the Department of Finance to seek support for our system as part of our strategy in view of COVID-19.

Michele reported that the legislative educators' contract will expire on July 31, 2020. We will be working with the educators to start developing a project proposal that supports legislative advocacy in the incoming fiscal year.

**Action:** The legislative priorities will be discussed further at the July 15<sup>th</sup> GCR meeting.

H. ARCA Push to Call Members of Congress

Daniel Savino, Government Affairs/Community Relations Director at ARCA sent out an email blast regarding the May Revise released by the Governor and the major impact COVID-19 pandemic will have on our state's economy. Mr. Savino provided a script to advocate for federal funding for California. We will be sharing this information in our website. Ruth will also be sending a call to action message to our community regarding the budget cuts related to the May Revise released by the Governor.

V. **Board Meeting Agenda Items**

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

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

VI. **Announcements / Information / Public Input**

- A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. (via Zoom)

VII. **Adjournment**

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Submitted by:

*Liliana Windover*

Liliana Windover  
Executive Administrative Assistant

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