

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2020

Present: Nicholas Abrahms, Ivette Arriaga, Dena Bogrow, Christina Cannarella, Leticia Garcia, Sharoll Jackson, Caroline Mitchell, Jeremy Sunderland, and Curtis Wang – Committee Members
Marianne Davis - Board Member
Orli Almog – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Raquel Armendariz and Michelle Heid – Legislative Educators
Emmanuel Gutierrez, Evan Ingber, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, Michele Marra, Kim Rolfes, and Jesse Weller – Staff Members

Absent: Gabriela Herrera

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Michele Marra called the meeting together at 7:45 p.m. in absence of a chair. Introductions were made.

II. Public Input - There was no public input.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (C. Wang/J. Sunderland) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from the May 20th Meeting

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

IV. Committee Business

A. Annual Committee Orientation

1. Policies & Procedures
2. Legislative Platform Guiding Principles
3. Board Audit Section
4. Critical Calendar

Michele reviewed these documents with the committee so they could better understand the committee's purpose and their role as a committee members.

All new board members are assigned to the Consumer Services Committee and Government & Community Relations Committee. They are really great committees to start off on because they are such a big part of what we do. Michele Marra and Sara Iwahashi are the liaisons who support the committee members and Michele Heid and Raquel Armendariz provide support on the legislative educator side.

B. Volunteer to Serve as Committee Chair

Jeremy Sunderland volunteered to serve as the committee chair for this fiscal year.

M/S/C (C. Wang/S. Jackson) To elect Jeremy Sunderland to serve a chair for this fiscal year.

C. Discussion re: Board's Legislative Priorities for FY 2020-21

The committee reviewed last year's legislative priorities and discussed how they should be updated for the new 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 (at the Government & Community Relations Committee's discretion.)
4. Develop and maintain relationships with elected representatives and candidates for legislative office through virtual and live meetings, candidates' forums, and events, as appropriate (as determined by the Government & Community Relations Committee).
5. Build and sustain relationships with disability community organizations, service providers, and other entities that can support and further the mission of NLACRC.

6. Continue to advocate for federal funding through appropriate methods (include but not limited to email, social media, and the agency's website) and to government entities that have the power to influence the state of the regional center service system (such as the Health and Human Services Department Secretary, Department of Finance, and the Legislative Analysts' Office).

M/S/C (S. Jackson/C. Cannarella) To recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed legislative priorities listed above for FY 2020-21.

D. Legislative Educators Report: “Engaging and Empowering the Disability Community”

Copies of the report were provided to the committee and Michelle Heid provided highlights, which included:

1. Legislative update
2. State budget update
3. Budget bills related to disability services
4. Legislative calendar
5. Senate/Assembly schedule
6. Bills
7. DDS directives related to COVID-19
8. Development Services task force meetings and workgroups
9. Guidance for the use of face coverings
10. Visitations to adult care and senior care program facilities
11. Guidance on support for people with disabilities while hospitalized
12. November 3rd general election
13. Collaboration with the Vendor Advisory Committee and provider community
14. Collaboration with the Consumer Advisory Committee and self-advocacy group
15. VICA, VIA, Chamber, and community activities
16. State Council on Developmental Disabilities meeting
17. Disparity related activities
18. COVID-19 related resources for individuals and families
19. Upcoming events

E. Social Media Expansion Project

1. Plan: NLACRC intends to expand its current social media presence with the assistance of an intellectual property attorney, Mr. Grinblat. He attended the March 18th Government & Community Relations Committee meeting and provided an executive summary of the expansion project. Copies of the center's social media expansion plan were shared with the committee and discussed.
2. Policy: The Board of Trustees approved this committee's recommended change to the Social Media Policy, as presented. Copies of the approved policy were provided to the committee for their information.
3. Status Update: Mr. Grinblat is currently assisting us with developing human interest story parameters to accept third party video submissions to be posted on NLACRC's social media. Once these parameters are developed, they will be brought through the Board approval process.

F. VICA/VIA/SCV Chamber Events

The Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) serves the San Fernando Valley); the Valley Industry Association (VIA) serves the Santa Clarita Valley (SCV). VICA, VIA, and the SCV Chamber of Commerce hold regular meetings, but also have many subcommittees that focus on a variety of community topics, including transportation, health care, labor/employment which our staff participate in. Sara attended a VICA government affairs meeting this morning. VICA, VIA, and the SCV Chamber also hold regular special events, such as:

1. VICA leaders forum with Supervisor Kathryn Barger (July 30th)
2. VIA Congressman Mike Garcia will talk about his first 60 days in office (August 3rd)
3. SCV Chamber 2020 Sacramento update with elected officials including Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, State Treasurer Fiona Ma, and Assembly woman Christy Smith (July 17th)

When these various special events come up, Sara forwards the information to Jennifer who, in turn, shares them with the Board of Trustees in case any board members are interested in participating. If so, she lets Sara know and Sara RSVPs for them.

G. The Arc Voting Resources

The Arc, an established disability rights organization, has lots of good resources on its website (www.thearc.org), including some very good resources on voting. These resources are now included on NLACRC's website in the Legislation/Voter Engagement section.

H. Facebook Analytics (English & Spanish)

Sara provide information on the monthly Facebook analytics and reviewed the information with the committee.

I. Census Update

We received a request from the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) to encourage consumers and families to complete the census. The census information has been shared via email blast, a slide is posted on our homepage to encourage people to participate in the census, a reminder is posted on the e-billing page for vendors, and we have a census page in English and Spanish on our website with information and resources. Please share any additional outreach ideas with Sara Iwahashi at SIwahashi@nlacrc.org.

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

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

- A. Minutes of the July 15th Meeting
- B. Legislative Educators Report
- C. Approval of the Board's Legislative Priorities FY 2020-21

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Christina asked if interested board members could be provided with trainings on various topics prior to board or committee meetings.

Action: Michele Marra will take Christina's suggestion to the other directors and report back at next month's committee meeting.

- B. Nelmonika asked if the board could establish a subcommittee to oversee the spending of NLACRC's budget. The board's Administrative Affairs Committee reviews the center's monthly financial report in detail and copies of the financial report is provided to the board, but it is outside of the board's scope to oversee

the center's spending.

- C. Nelmonika asked if the board and board committee meetings could be recorded. Some of the committee members did not like that idea.

Action: Michele will talk with the other directors about what would have to transpire in order to record the board and board committee meetings and report back at next month's committee meeting

- D. Nelmonika spoke to the committee about an organization called **The Village Nation**, "Empowerment through Education." Their mission is to boost the capacity of caring adult mentors and support them in creating culturally responsive learning environments that engage and inspire African American youth and encourage them to embrace their natural intelligence and leadership capabilities. As a result, the youths can become more fully developed individuals, rooted in their history, who make better choices and demonstrate extraordinary achievement gains as they prepare to succeed in college, career, and community. In working with students, parents, teachers and administrators, they strive to maintain the highest possible standards and quality while grooming youth to be the change agents of tomorrow. For more information, go to their website: www.thevillagenation.com.

- E. Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 19th

VII. Adjournment

Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 9:33 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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