

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2023

Present: Anna Hurst, Cathy Blin, David Coe, Nicholas Abrahms, Vivian Seda, Jodie Agnew-Navarro
– Committee Members

Monike Paz, Liliana Windover, Cristina Preuss, Cesar Cuevas, Chris Whitlock, Evan Ingber, Vini Montague– Staff Members

Michelle Heid – Legucator, Leticia Garcia- Board Member, John Van De Riet, Dolly Sharma- Minutes Services - Guests

Absent: Curtis Wang, Michael Costa, Sharmila Brunjes

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Cristina Preuss called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

The Committee Members and NLACRC staff introduced themselves.

II. Public Input

No public input

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (C. Blin/D. Coe) To approve the agenda as presented

B. Approval of Minutes from the May 17th Meeting

M/S/C (N. Abrahms/C. Blin) To approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed with 1 abstention from Jodie Agnew-Navarro.

IV. Committee Business

A. Annual Committee Orientation - Cristina Preuss

1. Policies & Procedures

Duties of the Committee include: reviewing public awareness-related materials, to inform and educate the diversified communities served by NLACRC, will serve as a clearing house for public awareness forums, to review all legislation affecting NLACRC's business, establishing contacts, advocating with elected officials and advocacy groups, and implementing and maintaining legislative actions for the Board.

2. Legislative Platform Guiding Principles

NLACRC is committed to supporting legislation that promotes and protects the spirit and intent of the Lanterman Act. These principles include:
Legislation must:

- Ensure equal protection, preserve service entitlement and promote access to service systems with appropriate and sufficient resources.
- Ensure inclusion into the community, including access to housing, education, employment, transportation and all public services.
- Promote a system in which family supports are individualized, family focused, family driven and in which families' decision making for their children is respected and fostered.
- Promote locally determined, orderly development of needed supports and services that reflects an equitable distribution of resources among services and supports for persons with developmental disabilities.
- Promote quality community-based services and supports for persons with developmental disabilities and their family members.
- Promote and enable persons with developmental disabilities and their families to exercise self-determination, empowerment and choices.
- Promote and protect the rights of persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

3. Board Recognition Policy & Application

This policy is to guide the board in its efforts to recognize individuals who have made a distinguishable contribution in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. The individual's contribution should be over a sustained period of time, made within NLACRC's catchment area, and have positively impacted the lives of many consumers and individual must be held in high esteem by his/her peers. The board may choose to recognize individuals as follows:

- Award a plaque
- Pass a resolution
- Send a letter

4. Board Audit Section

This document was reviewed as presented in the packet

5. Critical Calendar FY 23-24

This document was reviewed as presented in the packet

6. Board's Disability Community Organization, Service Provider and Elected Representative Visit Policy – Framework for Strategy Implementation FY2023-24

All board members should participate in a minimum of at least one disability community organization, legislative, and service provider event, although participation in more than one visit/event is highly encouraged. The purpose of attending these types of events is typically to convey a message, deliver a regional center information package, discuss the center's position on an issue, show support, share information, education, and/or discuss legislative issues as they pertain to the regional center system. Upon completion of any visit, a board member should provide feedback on what happened during their visit at the next board meeting following the visit.

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B. Volunteer to Serve as Committee Chair

David Coe volunteered to serve as the Committee Chair for the FY23-24 term.

M/S/C (C. Blinn/A. Hurst) To approve David Coe to serve as the Committee Chair for FY23-24.

C. Finalize Board's Legislative Priorities for FY23-24

Michelle reviewed the legislative priorities as presented in the packet. The Committee made the determination to add an eighth priority that will review 3-7 legislative bills and initiatives that are aligned with the Legislative Priorities as a working list.

Other revisions to the priorities include: to expand on Priority #1 to include the revision of the Core Staffing Formula and to include "increased funding". Priority #6 will include the revision "to increase community partnerships".

M/S/C (C. Blinn/A. Hurst) To approve the revisions to the Legislative Priorities as discussed.

D. Proposed Legislative Activity: Candidate's Forum - Michelle Heid

Michelle shared that there are 14 legislators that cover NLACRC's catchment area. Senator Scott Wilk will be terming out from the Antelope and Santa Clarita Valleys and there will be a local vacant Senate seat in his absence. All 14 legislators will be running for election this year. The Committee is being asked to consider plans for the October Legislative Candidates' Forum.

David Coe made the suggestion that the Committee look into how NLACRC can communicate this information to consumers who may want to take actions as constituents. After discussion, the Committee decided to host 1 in-person and 1 online or hybrid Legislative Advocacy Training in February. This item will be added to the agenda for the next Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting in order to solicit a host for the Advocacy Trainings.

M/S/C (D. Coe/C. Blin) To approve the addition of 1 in-person and 1 virtual/hybrid Legislative Advocacy Trainings to be held in February 2024.

David Coe proposed a bi-monthly list of legislative activities that are happening in the NLACRC catchment area. This was something that Michelle did previously and will begin to compile again but will require a directive from the Committee according to her contract.

M/S/C (D. Coe/A. Hurst) To approve Michelle Heid to compile a bi-monthly list of legislative events and activities that are taking place in NLACRC's catchment area.

V. **Report Outs/ Discussion**

A. Social Media

1. Social Media Analytics Report – May, June & July 2023

Chris Whitlock, the Supervisor for Public Information, shared the analytics as presented in the packet. It was noted that there was an increase in the number of posts which will increase engagement. New strategies and content are being developed to increase traffic across all social media sites. NLACRC does pay for boosters and promotion, David Coe suggested that NLACRC utilize the "Story" feature on Facebook and Instagram as they provide increased profile visibility on feeds when a story is included. Vendors are welcome to submit information for posts created and shared by NLACRC, the Committee suggested re-posting or posting links instead to better clarify on who is hosting the event. Further concerns include the accessibility and plain language of any post that NLACRC creates or shares. The Committee requested more insight on social media posts that highlight people. Posting employee profiles, sharing consumer stories are all ways that can highlight personal connections with viewers. The main focus of NLACRC's social media platforms should be to inform the community, announce NLACRC and related events and to spotlight personal stories.

B. Legislative Update

1. Legucator Report August – Michelle Heid

Michelle reviewed the report as presented in the packet. Highlights include:

- Budget signed and chaptered 6/27/2023
Governor Newsom and legislative leaders agreed to a budget deal that was signed and chaptered just in time for the start of the new fiscal year beginning July 1st. The budget includes a \$310 billion spending plan that the Governor and legislature say protects core programs and covers a \$30 billion deficit without spending the reserves the state has worked hard to amass over the past few years. The spending plan also does not include any new revenues to close the deficit gap, but instead reduces investments in fighting climate change, delays funding for the construction of transitional and full day kindergarten facilities and an additional \$8 billion funding cuts to various programs.
- DS Task Force
The DS Task Force provides guidance on the delivery of services to Californians who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. 42 individuals serve on the full DS Task Force while an additional 115 serve on the 5 Task Force Workgroups (Community Resources, Oversight, Accountability and Transparency, Safety Net, Service Access & Equity, and System & Fiscal Reform).
- Assembly Budget Floor Report: 6/24/2023
The Governor and the Legislature have agreed that budget reserves need to be maintained due to significant uncertainties about the economy and tax revenues to be paid by California's high-income tax filers in October. The June 27th state budget package includes the Assembly's proposal to give the administration power to delay, with notice to the Legislature, one-time spending items in departmental line items of the 2023-24 budget to no later than March 1, 2024. This authority, if exercised by the administration, would allow the Legislature to consider additional reductions and delays to budgeted

one-time spending—in addition to those already approved in this year's budget packages—in response to possible revenue deterioration in the coming months. The Assembly's key budgetary goal—shared with the Senate and the Governor—is to keep protecting the state's core ongoing programs in education, health care, the human services safety net, wildfire protection, public safety, housing, and natural resources, among others.

- Fun Fact

As the 71st Speaker in the CA Assembly, Robert Rivas is now one of three most powerful political figures in California, alongside the governor and Senate president pro tempore. The speaker installs committee chairs, controls what legislation gets voted on and negotiates the budget with the governor and Senate leader. The position has been traditionally held by lawmakers representing more urban areas of the state, and Asm. Rivas' rural upbringing may add a new perspective to the position.

- DDS Directives Issued

On May 11th, 2023 DDS issued a directive regarding updated rates and minimum wage increase for Participant-Directed Services, Service Codes 456, 457, and 458.

On July 14th, 2023 DDS issued two directives regarding the Quality Incentive Program, about Employment Capacity and Employment Access incentive payments, providing detailed information regarding service providers' eligibility, reporting requirements and logistics, and issuance of incentive payments.

On July 20th, 2023 DDS issued guidance on conducting meetings for Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committees.

2. Local Grassroots Marketing and Outreach – Cristina Preuss

a. Prioritization of School Districts/SELPA's

Christina shared the information as presented in the packet. Activity has been slow due to schools being closed for the summer in July. School has restarted for most districts and NLACRC has plans on attending school and family events in school districts that are in the catchment area. The team attended several Back-to-School Giveaways to provide information. NLACRC is also partnering with local medical providers to give information about Early Start Programs to expectant mothers.

Through the language outreach specialist program, NLACRC is able to support families that speak Armenian, Farsi, Tagalog and Spanish.

VI. Board Audit Question

A. Does NLACRC have a training and information plan that meets the requirements of statute, contracts and Board Policy?

Evan Ingber introduced himself as the Training and Development Supervisor at NLACRC. He relayed the information as it pertains to the Board Audit Question stating that NLACRC does have such a training program in place. There are annual, mandated trainings that are rolled out to staff that includes but is not limited to HIPAA compliance

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and national voter registration as designated by the State. When individuals apply and begin the intake process, change address or renew services, NLACRC should be offering voter registration forms and staff is trained accordingly. NLACRC recently developed an eLearning catalog with self-paced training and open enrollment.

VII. Review of Meeting Action Items

- A. To revise the Legislative Priorities to include the determined changes. (Michelle Heid)
- B. To create a list of accompanying bills and initiatives that match the Legislative Priorities (Michelle Heid)
- C. Add agenda item to solicit hosts for the February Legislative Advocacy Trainings and identify potential event dates for February 2024. (NLACRC Board Support)
- D. Create draft task list for October 2024 Legislative Candidates' Forum and February 2024 Legislative Advocacy Trainings (Michelle Heid)

VIII. Board Meeting Agenda Items

- A. Minutes of the August 16th Meeting

IX. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 18, 2023
- B. Committee Attendance

Public Input

No public input

X. Adjournment

David Coe adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm

Submitted by:

(*) *Liliana Windoer*

Executive Administrative Assistant

(*) *The majority of these minutes are taken from the Minute Service submission and reviewed/edited as presented herein by NLACRCCRC staff.*