

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

January 18, 2023

Present: Andrew Ramirez, Nicholas Abrahms, Sharmila Brunjes, Brian Gatus, Cathy Blin, Jordan Feinstock, George Alvarado, Andrea Devers – Committee Members

Robert Dhondrup, Lizeth Chavez, Evelyn McOmie, Vini Montague, Gabriela Eshrati, Lilliana Windover, Malorie Lanthier, Dr. Michael Fernandez, Evan Ingber, Cristina Preuss – Staff Members

Michelle Heid – Legucator, Breanne Burns- 24 Hour Home Care, Noa Goldfill, Leticia Garcia and Ana Quiles-Board Members, Anthony-George Alvarado Coach, Nancy Gallardo- Interpreter, Jasmine Barrios- Minutes Services - Guests

Absent: Sylvia Brooks-Griffin

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Jordan Feinstock, Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Jordan introduced himself as the current Committee Chair, the former Chair and Vice-Chair of the NLA Self-Determination, and current Board of Trustees Member.

Sharmila Brunjes introduced himself as a current Committee Member. Sharmila works as a television writer and producer, mainly reality television. Her son has been an NLA consumer for the past 6 years and she has served as a Committee and Board Member since summer 2022.

George Alvarado introduced himself as a current Committee Member. He lives in the area and enjoys his work at a hardware store.

II. Public Input

George Alvarado announced that his employer, Happy Ace Hardware, is currently hiring. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to reach out to him for more information.

Ana Quiles, Board President, thanked the NLA staff for their assistance with the Christmas Parade in Littlerock. She hopes that this partnership can continue for future holiday events.

Breanne Burns, from 24-Hour Home Care introduced herself to the Committee as a former Committee Member from 5 years ago. She is excited to be reintroduced to the Committee and looks forward to representing her organization.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (A. Ramirez/B. Gatus) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. Approval of Minutes from the October 19th Meeting

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/C. Blinn) To approve the October 19th Meeting Minutes as presented.

IV. Legucator Report - Michelle Heid

Michelle reviewed the report as presented for both November 2022 and January 2023. A few highlights include:

Legislative Update

Results from the November election have been certified and there were no major surprises across the state, but Santa Clarita did get a new Assemblymember, Pilar Schiavo who defeated Suzette Valladares in a close contest. Governor Gavin Newsom and Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis were reelected to their seats and all the democratic candidates won their statewide races. US Senator Alex Padilla won his first election as he was appointed to the seat by Governor Newsom when it was vacated by then Senator and now Vice President Kamala Harris. The Democrats will retain their supermajority status in both houses of the state with 32 Democrats in the Senate and 62 in the Assembly.

On December 5th 2022, the California Legislature began a new 2-year legislative session which began with the swearing in of many new legislators. Thirty-seven (37) of the 120 California Legislators are newly elected to state office. Legislators did not waste time and bill introduction began on the first day of the session. There will be hundreds more bills introduced before the bill introduction deadline on February 17th, 2023.

Governor Gavin Newsom also called for a special session to pass price gouging penalties on oil companies and push forward new efforts to increase transparency and accountability. The action came following a state hearing to investigate the unprecedented spike in gasoline prices that occurred in the fall.

January 1st, 2023 will be the effective date for many laws passed in 2022 including measures to reform conservatorship and supported decision-making, fight climate change, protect women's right to choose, support small businesses, pay equity, and relevant to the disability community AB 1663 and CARE Court will begin implementation. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2022/12/12/new-laws-taking-effect-next-year-and-why-they-matter/>

Fun Fact

The 91st Annual California State Capitol Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on December 1st, 2022 with singing, dancing, and musical performances rounding out the celebration. Governor Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom were joined by special guest Layla Datsky, an 8-year-old from Fair Oaks, CA who is served by the Alta California Regional Center. Since 1983, the State Capitol Tree has been decorated with ornaments hand made by children and adults with developmental disabilities. It's been 39 years since Governor Deukmajian began the tradition of inviting a child served by one of the state's

regional centers to kick off the holiday season by hanging an ornament and lighting the tree.

2022 Elections

County elections officials must report final official results to Secretary of State by December

9th, 2022. Secretary of State must certify election results by December 16th, 2022.

<https://electionresults.sos.ca.gov/>

Lanterman Act Advisory Committee

The Department of Developmental Services is now accepting applications to serve on the Lanterman Act Hearing Advisory Committee. The Committee will make recommendations on how to improve the various hearing/mediation processes. This committee will meet virtually (online) two times per year (with additional meetings possibly requested by DDS or OAH) to give the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) and DDS input on conducting the mediations and hearings. The Committee will have up to 18 members. Individuals and families receiving 25 Page 10 of 13 Engaging and Empowering the Disability Community regional center services will be at least half (1/2) of the total members. Other members include Disability Rights California; the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, representatives of regional centers; the Association of Regional Center Agencies; the Office of the Clients' Rights Advocacy; and developmental services advocacy organizations. Applications are due by January 31st, 2023.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LAHACMembership>

Safety Net Workgroup

The workgroup met last on November 16th and December 5th, 2022. Data was presented on the Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources and Treatment (START) program which serves individuals residing in-home and out-of-home, providing person-centered, trauma informed, evidence-based, positive support for individuals ages six and older. Information about the number of individuals served by START teams and reasons for referral to the program were presented. A look at pre- and post-enrollment outcomes based on psychiatric hospital admissions and emergency room visits shows a marked decrease in incidents.

Little Hoover Commission

Modeled after the federal Hoover Commission, the Little Hoover Commission is an independent California state oversight agency and is currently studying California's Department of Developmental Services system (DDS), looking at current disparities in service access, the underlying causes of these disparities, and the current state efforts to address them. They will then provide recommendations for how the state government can improve the consistency and timeliness of service delivery for the individuals and their families who rely on the state's developmental services programs. The Commission conducts public hearings and advisory committee roundtable discussions as part of their information gathering and study process. Recordings of these will be available on their website. The Commission had 3 hearings on October 13th, November 10th, and December 8th and held an Advisory Committee Roundtable on October 27th. Videos of the hearings can be viewed on the website above. It is expected that a report will be issued following these meetings.

Disability Thrive Initiative Webinar -Direct Support Professionals

<https://scdd.ca.gov/IDDThrive/> On November 16th, 2022, Disability Thrive will host the last webinar in their 2022 training series: “A Vision for a Thriving Direct Support Professional Workforce.” There is a nationwide shortage of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) with service providers struggling to recruit and retain workers. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families rely on DSPs every day. In California, DDS has implemented several initiatives to address this workforce shortage, and has further efforts planned. In the webinar, DDS will share their vision for creating DSP workforce stability.

November 16th, 2022, 3:00-4:00 pm

“A Vision for a Thriving Direct Support Professional Workforce”

Cal-TASH Conference

<https://www.caltash.org/conference>

CalTASH is an international organization that advocates for human rights and inclusion for people with significant disabilities and support needs, and works to advance inclusive communities through advocacy, research, professional development, policy, and information and resources for parents, families and self-advocates. Cal-TASH, the California chapter of TASH will hold their 40th Anniversary Conference March 3-4, 2023 in Los Angeles. The event’s theme is “Reconnect, Reflect, Reimagine: Building Back with Inclusion in Mind” and will be held at the Westin Los Angeles Airport. Presentation proposals on topics that support Cal-TASH’s efforts to prioritize inclusion as we rebuild our post-pandemic world must be submitted by November 19th, 2022. Vendor registration can also be completed at their website above.

DS Task Force

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/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). Meeting information is available as well as recordings of the meetings at the website above.

V. Committee Business Action Items

A. Discussion re: Annual Sprint Legislative Event - Robert Dhondrup

Robert asked for feedback from the Committee for a decision for NLA to host a local legislative event in addition to the ARCA legislative event that is to be held on April 17th, 2023. The alternative would be to only participate in one legislative event. Leticia recommended the participation in both events to be able to bring awareness to the need for revision of the core-staffing formula which has caused issues with recruiting and retaining Service Coordinators.

M/S/C (J. Feinstock/A. Ramirez) To approve the continuation of 2 events for Legislative Activities.

- B. Upcoming Legislative Activities- Robert Dhondrup
Robert reviewed this document as presented. The DDS briefing on the January budget has been scheduled for January 19th, 2023.
- C. NLACRC Grassroots Visits – Robert Dhondrup
This item was covered in Item A. Robert Dhondrup and Michelle Heid will be working together to plan the details of these events and will discuss further at a future meeting with more definitive information.
- D. Review of Reporting for GCRC Meetings - Robert Dhondrup
Ana Quiles proposed 2 options for the continued social media report out in Committee Meetings. Option 1 would be to continue to receive the raw data of the report as presented in the packet. Option 2 would be the raw data in the report with the inclusion of an Executive Summary that outlines the summary of the data.
- M/S/C** (A. Ramirez/C. Blin) To request an Executive Summary for the Social Media report out in addition to the raw data, be presented to the Committee.

E. Social Media Update - Robert Dhondrup

1. Social Media Analytics October 2022

- Facebook Audience Engagement
 - Engagement level of reactions, comments and shares. There were 1,195 total Engagements for the English page and 347 total Engagements for the Spanish page.
- Instagram Audience Engagement
 - 42 Likes, 6 Comments, 174 Posts Sent for the English page
 - 42 Likes, 6 Comments, 174 Posts Sent for the Spanish page
- Twitter Audience Engagement
 - 187 Tweets, 6,382 Total Impressions, 2,946 Profile Visits, 4 Mentions and 4 New Followers

2. Social Media Analytics November 2022

- Facebook Audience Engagement
 - Engagement level of reactions, comments and shares. There were 1,030 total Engagements for the English page and 417 total Engagements for the Spanish page.
- Instagram Audience Engagement
 - 75 Likes, 3 Comments, 166 Posts Sent for the English page
 - 75 Likes, 3 Comments, 166 Posts Sent for the Spanish page
- Twitter Audience Engagement
 - 189 Tweets, 4,952 Total Impressions, 2,934 Profile Visits, 3 Mentions and -4 New Followers

3. Social Media Analytics December 2022

- Facebook Audience Engagement

- Engagement level of reactions, comments and shares. There were 1,247 total Engagements for the English page and 379 total Engagements for the Spanish page.
- Instagram Audience Engagement
 - 100 Likes, 3 Comments, 173 Posts Sent for the English page
 - 100 Likes, 3 Comments, 173 Posts Sent for the Spanish page
- Twitter Audience Engagement
 - 180 Tweets, 14.3k Total Impressions, 2,542 Profile Visits, 5 Mentions and 4 New Followers

F. Legislative Update - Robert Dhondrup

1. Legislative Bills

Robert has been working with Daniel from DDS. At this time, there are no proposed bills to discuss.

G. Local Grassroots Marketing and Outreach – Dr. Michael Fernandez

1. School Districts/SELPA Outreach Update

Michael shared that the efforts for school outreach are focused on maintaining a consistent relationships with various school districts and community-based organizations and SELPAS, to connect with principals, establishing points of contact. Maria de Jesus Rodriguez, the Parent and Family Support Specialist, is developing relationships with Early Education Centers to procure consultations. Total literature distributed was 2,309. Contacts are considered the go-to person for their school/organization as it relates to distribution.

On the report, Leticia requested a revision to indicate if the outreach item is part of professional outreach, community outreach, family-student outreach or distribution of literature.

Family Student Outreach – “Schools”

October	274
November	126
December	211
Totals	611

Total literature including CBOs and Schools

October	3,946
November	401
December	812
Total	5,159

These are the types of activities the DEIB team will be using to categorize our outreach efforts: **Effective January 1st 2023** (Presentation, Fair/Event, Meeting, Resource, Contact)

Staff will track "Type of Activity" according to the hierarchy below:

Presentation: Staff delivered a presentation of any kind.

Fair/Event: Staff attended a fair or other type of special event.

Meeting: Staff attended administrative meeting w/school or CBO.

Resource: Staff provided resources (virtual/real) of any kind.

Contact: Staff attempted or made contact, no resources provided.

2. Language Access and Cultural Competency Plan

This plan has been posted on the NLA website. DEIB unit flyers were also distributed. Data collection give a better understanding of barriers to non-English speaking clients. Internal brochures and flyers will be available in English, Spanish, Farsi, Tagalog and Armenian. A paging system is in the works to be utilized on all 3 sites, to support deaf/hard of hearing clients. Dr. Fernandez also noted that the training that staff receives on Cultural Competency is listed on the Critical Calendar. Dr. Fernandez will provide a breakdown of the various efforts to the Committee.

M/S/C (A. Quiles/A. Ramirez) To update the Outreach Report out to include all aspects of contacts and outline of specific goals connected to the Strategic Plan.

3. Board Audit Questions- Evan Ingber/Robert Dhondrup

Are the methods identified in the center's training and information plan in line with NLA's mission, vision and values statement?

Evan introduced himself as the Training and Development Supervisor at NLA. He shared that the methods identified in the training plan are in line with NLA's mission, vision and values statements.

Robert Dhondrup stated that weekly staff meetings that are held around organizational mission and operating procedures are largely based on those values. Evan will work with Case Management to discuss how families can be their own Case Manager. Evan will also find out if consumers would be able to attend training sessions and/or receive the training module on mission/vision/values. To better understand the answer to this question, the Committee requested a copy of NLA's training and information plan and main goals and discussion points for training.

VI. Meeting Action Items

Lizeth reviewed the action items:

- Robert Dhondrup and Michelle Heid will determine dates and training plan for the Spring NLA Legislative Event. This will be communicated via email to the Committee, prior to the next meeting.
- Robert Dhondrup to provide an Executive Summary to be presented in addition to raw data on Social Media Report out.
- Dr. Fernandez to include additional identifiers and abbreviation to the Outreach data report.

VII. Board Meeting Agenda Items

- A. Minutes of the January 18th Meeting
- B. Revised Critical Calendar

VIII. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

Malorie Lanthier shared that the Emergency Management and Reponses team will be sending notifications on weather and emergent issues, road closures, etc. Updates can be found at calalerts.org. Go-Kits are being provided to individuals who live in fire areas 2&3.

George Alvarado recommended the Committee participate in volunteer “field-trips” to the various NLA locations to help collect trash, help elderly neighbors and host CPR trainings to those in the community who may be interested.

Robert Dhondrup shared that the PR department is working on planning upcoming POS Community Meetings that will evaluate quality and disparity issues. March 16th, 2023 from 12p-2p in English and on March 21st from 7p-9p in Spanish. He also mentioned that Language outreach is expanding in community meetings with the addition translations to be available in ASL, Farsi, Tagalog, Armenian. And Korean.

Michelle Heid encouraged the Committee to research their local legislators and learn about them, subscribe to social media, etc.

- A. Next Meeting: March 15th, 2022 at 6:00 pm

VIII. Adjournment

Jordan Feinstock adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm.

Submitted by:

(*) *Lizeth Chavez*
Executive Administrative Assistant

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

