

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

October 18, 2023

**Present:** Anna Hurst, Cathy Blin, David Coe, Nicholas Abrahms, Vivian Seda, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Sharmila Brunjes, Curtis Wang, Juan Hernandez – Committee Members

Ruth Janka, Kimberly Visokey, Chris Whitlock, Vini Montague, Cristina Preuss, Evelyn McOmie, Arezo, Abedi– Staff Members

Michelle Heid – Legucator, Leticia Garcia- Board Member, Ana Quiles- Board President, Jasmine Barrios- Minutes Services - Guests

**Absent:** Michael Costa

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

David Coe called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

David introduced new Committee Member, Juan Hernandez to the group. In addition, Kimberly Visokey was introduced as the new Board Support Administrative Assistant.

**II. Public Input**

No public input

**III. Consent Items**

**A. Approval of Agenda**

Ana Quiles requested that Item E. Little Rock Christmas Parade be added under Committee Business.

**M/S/C** (N. Abrahms/A. Quiles) To approve the agenda as revised

**B. Approval of Minutes from the August 16th Meeting**

**M/S/C** (C. Wang/J. Koster) To approve the meeting minutes as presented

**IV. Committee Business**

**A.** Finalize of Board’s Legislative Priorities for FY2023-24–Michelle Heid  
David presented the information as presented in the packet. There were no additions or actions were required at this time.

**B.** Proposed Legislative Activities– Michelle Heid

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### 1. Candidates Forum

After discussion, it was decided that a Candidates Forum will be held in October 2024. Board Support will add this item to the January Committee Meeting agenda to determine if the Forum will be held in-person or virtually. NLA will determine a staff member to serve as an emcee for the Forum, will need to determine resources for registration assistance and will look into possible venues for the Forum if it is decided to be held in-person.

It was also decided that in addition to a Candidate Forum, NLA will host a virtual Legislative Town Hall that will host 3 to 4 legislators from the area to connect with the community. Proposed legislators for invitation would be Assembly Member Pilar Schiavo Senator Caroline Menjivar and Supervisor Kathryn Barger. Secondary invites will be sent to Assembly Member Juan Carillo, Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas and Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel. Michelle will reach out to the legislators' offices to extend the invitation.

The Town Hall will be hosted on February 22, 2024 from 6p-7:30p. Michelle Heid shared a draft for a Task List for next steps in regards to the February Town Hall.

### 2. Consumer Legislative Advocacy Training

David recommended that the training focus on teaching consumers on how to advocate for themselves. Sharmila Brunjes inquired about strategies and tools to help support consumers understand advocacy to benefit the disability community. Ruth Janka explained that the best course of action in determining content for legislative training would be to align with ARCA and their proposals/recommendations. Leticia Garcia will reach out to ARCA to determine if the revision of the Core Staffing Formula and what efforts can be made for collaboration on legislative events/priorities. She will email her feedback to the Committee before the next Committee Meeting.

### 3. Board Advocacy One Sheet

David proposed that the Board advocate for NLA by sharing a one-sheet of everything that a Board Meeting attendee would need to know to contact their legislator in order to advocate on specific issues that affect NLA, like the revision of the Core Staffing Formula. Michelle will develop a framework for this sheet in collaboration with Chris Whitlock.

**M/S/C** (D. Coe/A. Hurst) To approve the creation of the Board Legislative Advocacy reference document as discussed.

#### C. GCRC Goals Discussed During Board Retreat

The Committee reviewed the goals as presented in the packet. Sharmila proposed a continuation of the discussion in which ideas were being developed for the Board to share with the Community, including, an NLA Open House, pitch communication documents to possible collaborators and developing clear action items. She proposed the creation of a workgroup to flesh out how the Committee can make the goals a reality. An

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informational brochure was suggested that identifies what the Committee wants, who to ask and what to say. Board Support will send an email to the entire Board to solicit participation and will determine a staff support from NLA. Ruth Janka proposed a Board Expenditure Policy to streamline the expenditures and to promote the work of NLA and will add this as an item for a future Executive Committee Meeting.

**M/S/C** (D. Coe/S. Brunjes) To approve the creation of a Board Dinner workgroup.

D. Disability Rights/Advocacy Organizations in California

Jodie Agnew-Navarro created a list of potential organization partners that can be considered for NLA/Board needs in regards to concerns about utilizing the same organizations. The list will be updated as more can be identified and will be sent to the Committee. Jodi and Board Support are available if anyone has more contacts to add. Ana requested that this document be sent to all Board Members and to be included in the Board Member orientation packet.

E. Littlerock Christmas Parade

Ana Quiles shared information regarding the Littlerock "Christmas Around the World" Parade. The event will take place on Saturday, December 2nd at 3pm. The cost of entry for a group to participate in the parade will be \$50.00. Ana proposed that NLA participate with a combined NLA Staff/Board group. Last year, NLA participated with banners and vehicles. It was noted that all of the logistical items would need to be addressed including waivers, insurance, etc. It was determined to get more information on what would be needed to participate and to solicit interested parties. This item will be added to the November 2023 Committee meeting and NLA will determine staff support for this event.

**M/S/C** (D. Coe/A. Quiles) To participate in the Littlerock Christmas Parade as representatives of NLA.

**V. Report Outs/ Discussion**

A. Social Media

1. Social Media Analytics Report

Chris Whitlock shared that social media participation and engagement has increased as a result of paid advertisements on social media. In addition, more human interest stories from the Community are being shared and the results have been positive. In order to continue to highlight these stories, communication is going out in multiple languages to solicit participation. David Coe suggested that as more events are being promoted, that geolocation information is important to capture.

B. Legislative Update

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1. Legucator Report August – Michelle Heid

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

Legislative Update- The Legislature adjourned for the year on September 14th with both houses working until almost midnight to discuss and take action on hundreds of measures. They ultimately passed 900 bills to Governor Newsom for signature. He has until October 14th to sign or veto bills and historically Governor Newsom has only vetoed between 8-16.5% of bills passed by the Legislature. While the Legislature can override vetoes, that does not happen often and in recent decades (last 40 years) almost never. The supporters of a bill would need to win twothirds majorities in both the Assembly and Senate to override a veto.

Fun Fact- Once a bill passes through the Legislature, it goes to the Governor for consideration. They can either sign bills into law, veto bills, or allow bills to become law without signature. They have one month to consider the hundreds of measures put before them. A review of veto patterns from 1967 to 2022, Governor Brown had some of the lowest veto rates with a veto rate of 1.79% in 1982 when he vetoed only 30 of the 1,674 bills sent to his desk. Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the highest number of bills by sending back 35.17% of bills he considered in 2008. He also vetoed 26.4% of bills over his seven years in office.

Directive Allowing Telehealth Services Ending December 31, 2023 DDS issued a directive on February 28, 2023 waiving requirements for in-person services for behavioral therapy and clinical assessment activities for determining regional center eligibility. This directive is set to expire on December 31, 2023 unless extended by the Director of the Department. "A service provider may provide behavioral therapies by remote electronic communications when it is preferred option of the consumer or authorized representative, clinically appropriate, and agreed to by the Individual Program Plan (IPP) team" "A regional center employee, vendor or contractor may conduct clinical assessments by remote electronic communications provided that the regional center determines the integrity of the intake process will not be compromised."

Free Health Education for IDD Community - Health Matters Program is offering a free 12-week course for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who would like to learn more about healthy lifestyle choices, nutrition and fitness. Classes will meet virtually three days a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays beginning October 16th, 2023, and participants can register for one of two time slots: 2:30 - 4:00 pm or 4:00 - 5:30 pm. For questions or more information, email Presley Rodriguez at [Presley\\_Rodriguez1@baylor.edu](mailto:Presley_Rodriguez1@baylor.edu)

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Update on the Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plan Transition for 2024 Beginning January 1st, 2024 California's Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is joining with five (5) managed health care plans (MCPs) to deliver Medi-Cal services in 21 counties in the state. This transition may result in plan changes for some patients (e.g., they may have to switch from Aetna to Anthem).

ViCA Events - As part of upcoming Legislative events, the ViCA meeting was discussed. It was noted that you have to be a member in order to attend the meetings. Board Support will look into this and will determine how many delegates NLA would be able to send based on funding.

2. Local Grassroots Marketing and Outreach – Cristina Preuss

a. Prioritization of School Districts/SELPA's

Christina shared the information as presented in the packet. More efforts are forthcoming, Outreach Language Specialists are being hired for assistance in all locations. Recruitment is being organized for a new LGBTQ+ specialist. Cristina also thanked Jodi for her help in creating the list of organizations. Ana Quiles shared that the team that Cristina leads is having a positive impact in the community and she has heard many great things about the Language Support Specialist, Cynthia from the school districts that work with her.

**VI. Board Audit Question**

A. Does the center's training and information plan include a sufficient variety of training and communication methods to reach all of the center's constituents? B. Are there sufficient financial and human resources available to carry out the center's training and information plan?

Ruth shared that this information is addressed by the Local Grassroots/Marketing efforts in a variety of ways via the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Language Access and Cultural Competency polices and will continue to find ways to meet the needs of the Community.

**VII. Review of Meeting Action Items**

A. Add Candidate Forum as item on January Committee Meeting Agenda (Board Support)

B. Confirm February 22, 2024 from 6-7:30 p for February Virtual Town Hall. Determine an emcee/host for February Town Hall, set up phone or email for registration assistance (NLA Staff)

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- C. Reach out to offices of proposed legislators to invite them to the February Town Hall (Michelle Heid)
- D. Develop framework for legislative events and send links discussed in the meeting chat to Committee via email for further review (Michelle Heid)
- E. Reach out to ARCA to determine priority for Core Staffing Formula Revision/strategies for legislative advocacy, email feedback to Committee. (Leticia Garcia)
- F. Develop a draft framework for the sheet to be shared with the Committee by the next meeting. (Michelle Heid / Chris Whitlock)
- G. To send an email to the Board to solicit for the workgroup and to determine a staff support for the group. (Board Support/Ruth Janka)
- H. To add an item to the next Executive Committee agenda re: Board Expenditure Policy (Board Support/Ruth Janka)
- I. Send a copy to all Board Members and to include in Board Orientation packet (Board Support)
- J. To determine the requirements for participation in the parade, to identify NLA staff support and to add to the next Committee agenda. (Board Support)
- K. Determine how many delegates are able to be sent to the VICA meetings on behalf of NLA (Board Support)
- L. To send a Doodle Poll to determine date/time of November Committee Meeting.

#### **VIII. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

- A. Minutes of the October 18th Meeting

#### **IX. Announcements / Information / Public Input**

- A. Next Meeting: TBD
- B. Committee Attendance

##### **Public Input**

David made the recommendation to consider adding a November meeting to the Committee Critical Calendar in order to address issues before the new year. The Committee can determine how often to include the November meeting but proposed that a November 2023 meeting be scheduled for the Committee to make determinations on time sensitive items. The meeting would be abridged and not include report outs but will

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simply address Committee Business. Board Support will send a Doodle Poll to determine a meeting date for November. Considerations are November 1, November 16 and November 30, 2023.

**M/S/C** (D. Coe/C. Biln) To approve a November Committee to be comprised of Committee Business and Action Items only. Board Support will follow up with the Committee in regards to the date/time of the meeting.

**X. Adjournment**

David Coe adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm

Submitted by:

*Kimberly Visokey*

Executive Administrative Assistant

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

