

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

March 19, 2025

**Present:** Cathy Blin – Committee Chair, Lety Garcia, Jennifer Koster, Laura Monge, Curtis Wang, Juan Hernandez, Jodie Agnew-Navarro-VAC Rep. – **Committee Members**

Sharmila Brunjes, Jacquie Colton – Board of Trustees Members

Chris Whitlock, John Van De Riet, Lindsay Granger, Arezo Abedi, Belinda Abatesi- **Staff Members**

Mark Wolfe – DDS Technical Advisor, Tresa Oliveri– DDS Technical Advisor, Xochitl, Marianita Mendoza – DDS, Nicholas Mendoza- **Guests**

**Absent:** George Alvarado

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

A. Cathy Blin called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**II. Agenda**

A. Approval of the March 19, 2025, Agenda

**M/S/C** (Curtis Wang/Juan Hernandez) To approve the agenda with the deferral of the action item.

**III. Public Input**

No public input

**IV. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Minutes from the January 15, 2025, Meeting

**M/S/C** (Curtis Wang / Laura Monge) To approve the meeting minutes as presented.

**V. Action Items**

A. Review and Select Jynny Retzinger Award Nominees

Cathy Blin mentioned that there are currently 12 candidates nominating for the Jynny Retzinger award. This item was deferred, and the committee will review the applications to discuss at vote at the next committee meeting hearing. Also, Chris Whitlock noted that the Jynny Retzinger award will be presented at the Legislative Breakfast not the Board Awards Ceremony this year.

**ACTION:** This action item will be **deferred** until the next GCRC meeting.

**ACTION:** The committee members will review the applications prior to the next GCRC meeting in May to be able to vote on the nominees to put forward to the Board of Trustees.

**ACTION:** Staff will assist in compiling the applications and providing access to the Government and Community Relations Committee members to adequately review ahead of time.

**VI. Committee Business**

A. Discuss Local Grassroots Event

Belinda Abatesi presented an overview of the Local Grassroots Event inviting anyone interested to join.

VII. **Report Outs/ Discussion**A. Update on Legislative Breakfast Workgroup

Chris Whitlock provided the update on the Legislative Breakfast Workgroup, which will be held on June 27, 2025. The workgroup will be addressing 3 main points: accessible transportation, workforce development and service provider concerns, and housing and independent supports. Typically there has been a panel or individuals will be invited to share their personal stories in relation to each of the topics discussed. Additionally, legislators provide their thoughts or notes on the topics that have been discussed, and they share what they may be doing for these items in the future to help the community at large. During the legislative breakfast, the Jynny Retzinger be awarded with everyone there to honor the recipient.

B. Social Media

## 1. Social Media Analytics Report – Jan., Feb., &amp; March 2025

Chris Whitlock presented the Social Media Updates and analytics reports for the months of January, February, and March for 2025 as presented in the meeting packet. This report includes the data for social media platforms and NLACRC's numbers.

There was an increase in traffic in the month of February.

C. Legislative Town Hall Recap

Belinda Abatesi presented the Legislative Town Hall Recap with a summary of the event and takeaways.

D. Legislative Update

## 1. Introduced Bills

Belinda Abatesi provided 8 major updates to the committee.

\*CHAPTERED after a bill has been signed by the Governor, the Secretary of State assigns the bill a Chapter Number.

- **AB 277 (Alanis) Autism: Behavioral Technician Certification**

Status: January 21, 2025, the bill was introduced, and re-referred to the Committee of Human Services on February 21, 2025.

- **AB 308 (Ramos) The Family Urgent Response System - (Gipson) Persons with disabilities: terminology -**

Status: On January 23, 2025, the bill was introduced. On March 4, 2025, it was re-referred to the Committee on Human Services.

- **AB 341 (Arambula) Oral Health for People with Disabilities Technical Assistance Center Program-**

Status: On January 28, 2025, the bill was introduced. On February 18, 2025 it was referred to the Committee on Human Services and Higher Education.

- **AB 416 (Krell) Involuntary Commitment -**

Status: On February 5, 2025, the bill was introduced. On February 18, 2025 it was referred to the Committees on Health and Judiciary.

- **AB 1172 (Nguyen) Adult Day Programs: Administration of Inhalable Emergency Antiseizure Medications-**

Status: On February 21, 2025, the bill was introduced and pending legislative review.

- **SB 402 (Valladares) Health Care Coverage: Autism-**

Status: On February 14, 2025, the bill was introduced. On February 26, 2025, it was referred to the Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development.

- **SB422 (Grayson) California Workforce Development Board: developmental services-**

Status: On February 18, 2025, the bill was introduced. On February 26, 2025, it was referred to the Committee on Labor, Public Employment & Retirement, and Human Services.

- **SB471 (Menjivar) Office of Lanterman Ombudsperson-**

Status: On February 19, 2025, the bill was introduced. On February 26, 2025, it was referred to the Committee on Human Services and Judiciary.

E. ARCA Grassroots Sacramento Visit

Belinda Abatesi shared on the ARCA Grassroots Sacramento Visit on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. During the visit, the group met with legislators and their staff within NLACRC's local catchment area. Belinda Abatesi shared positive feedback on the meetings, where ARCA's proposed bills were discussed and advocated. These discussions aimed to secure legislative support for policies and to strengthen the individuals and families served and the overall regional center system. The ARCA Grassroots Sacramento Visit was a way to bring together regional center staff, service providers, individuals served, advocates, and family members.

**VIII. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

A. Chair Summary

There was discussion elaborating on the chair summary, specifically what information needed to be provided for the next board meeting in the GCRC report out.

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

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Committee Attendance

Public Input - No public input

**X. Adjournment**

Cathy Blin adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm

**VII. Review of Meeting Action Items**

- Belinda Abatesi will provide Cathy Blin with a brief recap and summary of the legislation to present at the next board meeting.
- Belinda Abatesi will provide Cathy Blin with a brief summary of the master plan to present at the next Board of Trustees meeting.
- Cathy Blin and Board Support will look into voting on the Jynny Retzinger award if it should be by the board at a board meeting or be moved to the GCRC to vote on.
- Chris Whitlock will compose an email with a brief description of the workgroup, the topics that will be addressed to send out to the committee members and ask who would like to volunteer for the workgroup.

- Chris Whitlock will send out a quick email to the members of the committee, and those who are interested will email him back.
- Christ Whitlock and Belinda Abatesi will collaborate with Board Support and send out an email after the meeting with the link to register for the Legislative Town Hall.
- Chris Whitlock will email additional information about the Board Recognition and send out a form asking the community if there is anyone that they would like to put forward for the award.
- Chris Whitlock, Belinda Abatesi, and Board Support will work together to put together an announcement at the next Board of Trustees meeting under the GCRC Committee Update or to be added under Public Input and Announcements.
- Board Support, Belinda Abatesi, and Chris Whitlock will put together an email to send the Board of Trustees members giving an update and asking who would be interested in attending the event.
- Board Support will add Lety Garcia to the attendance roster.

Submitted by:

Lindsay Granger  
Executive Administrative Assistant