

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2015

Present: Dorothy Daniels, Myriam Jovel, Debra Newman, Sean Stalbaum, Angela White, and Tavia Wooley – Committee Members
Jessica Gould – Board Member
Richard Dier and Cheryl Hendrickson – Guests
Michelle Heid – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative
Diane Ambrose, Sara Iwahashi, Jennifer Kaiser, and George Stevens – Staff Members

Absent: Lou Paparozzi

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Tavia Wooley, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Public Input

Jennifer explained that the building's landlord is going to start charging for parking after-hours, so Jennifer will be giving board members validation cards that they can put into the kiosk in the lobby to receive an exit card.

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Item IV.A.3 was deleted and Item IV.A.4. was re-named.

M/S/C (D. Daniels/D. Newman) To approve the agenda as modified.

B. Approval of Minutes of November 19th Meeting

M/S/C (D. Daniels/A. White) To approve the minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Legislative Update

Sara provided everyone with the updated bill file; the bills are still in their early stages. Sara also provided informational sheets from Senate Carol Liu's office on 2 of her bills:

- SB 492 (Coordinated Care Initiative Consumer Bill of Rights)
- SB 547 (Department of Community Living)

December 11th is the last day for bills to be passed, but if bills don't pass they can always become 2-year bills. Sara also provided information about AB 796 (Nazarian). This bill is concerning because it would expand the eligibility for qualified autism service professionals to include people with just a bachelor of arts or science degree. Currently, autism service professionals must be board-certified behavior analysts. The purpose of this bill is to lower the standards so that more people would be able to provide autism services, but it would undermine the regional centers' efforts to provide evidence and outcome-based standards.

1. NLACRC Grass Roots Week: March 30th to April 3rd

Tavia and her team (including her brother Anthony) met with Assembly Member Tom Lackey. The night before the meeting, she met the Assembly member at his open house. He was very impressed with Anthony and focused much of his attention on him. Anthony has worked at Desert Haven in the Antelope Valley for 17 years. Tavia reported that it was a great meeting and she hopes other board members have a similar positive experience.

Michele's team (including her son Tyler) met with a staffer for Assembly Member Scott Wilk. One the Assembly member found out that Michele had brought her son to the meeting, he scheduled a second meeting so he could have the opportunity to meet him.

Angela will be going on her visit tomorrow.

Board members were encouraged to bring their child with them to their legislative meetings and if that wasn't possible, to bring a photo along with a personal story.

2. ARCA Grass Roots Day: Wednesday, April 15th (Sacramento)

Each year, ARCA asks each regional center to send a team to Sacramento to visit with legislators at the State Capitol. This year's team members will be: Michele Marra (staff lead); Tavia and her brother; Jenean Glover, and Rebecca Leinhard (executive director, Tierra del Sol Foundation).

3. Town Hall “Million Letter Campaign” Meetings

Per the announcement made at the last board meeting, this committee will be organizing 3 town hall meetings, one in each valley, that will be facilitated by board members. The purpose of these meetings is to initiate a letter-writing campaign to the Governor to get him to include the 10% increase for regional centers and service providers in the state budget. Dorothy suggested that we make the meetings into a production by capturing them on film. We could use the film in the future as a tool in our toolbox to share with legislators and others.

Action: Tavia, Dorothy, Angela, Jessica, and Cheryl volunteered to form a subcommittee to work out the details of the town hall meetings.

Action: George will find a volunteer from the service provider community to serve on the subcommittee.

B. Draft Social Media Policy/Guidelines – *Deferred*

C. Special Olympics World Games - Update

Yolanda Bosch, our director of community services, has volunteered to be the team captain for our regional center's involvement in the games. Interested staff will be able to participate in “fans in the stands.” We will have a volunteer section on our website for those who would like to participate. This will be a 4-hour time commitment. More details to come!

V. Board Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified for the committee's section of the April 8th board meeting agenda:

- A. Minutes of March 18th Meeting
- B. Legislative Update
- C. NLACRC Grass Roots Week: March 30th – April 3rd
- D. ARCA Grass Roots Day: Wednesday, April 15th (Sacramento)

- E. Town Hall “Million Letter Campaign” Meetings
- F. Special Olympics World Games - Update

VI. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. Complete Meeting Evaluations

Tavia asked the committee members to please complete evaluation forms after the meeting and submit them to her with any comments.

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 15th

VII. Adjournment

Tavia adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jennifer Kaiser

Jennifer Kaiser
Executive Assistant

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