

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
of
North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees of North Los Angeles County Regional Center, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, held their regular board meeting via Zoom on **April 10, 2024**

Trustees Present

Anna Hurst
Suad Bisogno
Rocio Sigala
Leticia Garcia
Sharmila Brunjes
Ana Quiles
Andrew Ramirez
Brian Gatus
Vivian Seda
George Alvarado
Lillian Martinez
Cathy Blin
Nicholas Abrahms
James Henry
Jenifer Koster
Juan Hernandez
Curtis Wang
Michael Costa

Guests Present

David Lester – NLA Counsel
Ami Sullivan – Kinetic Flow
Xochitl Gonzalez – DDS
Nicholas Mendoza – Coach for George A.
Diana Chulak- Family Focus Resource Center
Lori Walker – SDLAC
Miriam Erberich – SDLAC
Christian Villafuerte – Interpreter
Miriam Hernandez- Interpreter
Jasmine Barrios – Minutes Services
E.J. Pavia – SEIU 721
Mrs. A. Dunbar
Patty Gutierrez
Soccoro Curameng
Janice Curre
Sergio Ramos
Shannon Clark
Adriana

Staff Present

Vini Montague
Evelyn McOmie
Kimberly Visokey
Gabriela Eshrati
Donna Rentsch
Arshalous Garlanian
Sandra Rizo
Chris Whitlock
Megan Mitchell

Trustees Absent

Alma Rodriguez
Kelsi Levingston – Intern

1. **Call to Order & Welcome** – Ana Quiles, Board President
Ana called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. **Board Member Attendance /Quorum**– Kimberly Visokey, Executive Administrative Assistant
Kimberly took attendance of Board Members; a quorum was present.
It was noted that there is an agenda that was communicated with a meeting start time of 6:30 pm instead of 6:00 pm. Board Support will ensure that all future Board and Committee Meetings are listed with the correct time.

3. **Closed Session**
 - A. Board Governance

M/S/C (L. Garcia/C. Wang) To enter the Closed Session at 6:05 pm.

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/C. Wang) To exit the Closed Session at 6:19 pm.

4. Housekeeping

A. Spanish Interpretation Available

Ana informed attendees that instructions for Spanish Interpretation are located in the chat.

B. Public Attendance

Ana asked public attendants are to notate their names and agencies in the chat.

C. Monthly Submission for Childcare/Attendant Care Billing

It was noted that all meeting invites to include: boardsupport@nla.org

D. Ana Quiles requested that the Board Members change their name as it appears on the Zoom call to reflect their first/last name, Board position and NLA location. She also asked that NLA staff do the same to help attendees identify the speakers.

5. Public Input and Comments

Lillian Martinez, NLA Board Member, read an excerpt of page 47 from the Lanterman Act that mentions in part that the “state of California's responsibility to provide services to persons with developmental disabilities and the right of those individuals to receive services pursuant to this division A since the enactment of the division in 1977, the number of consumers receiving services under the division has substantially increased and the nature, variety, variety, and types of services necessary to meet the needs of the consumers and families...”. Her comments are to reflect her position that family Board Members are excluded from any rights in the Lanterman Act.

Diana Chulak from the Family Focus Resource Center shared that there will be a Spring Advisory Committee Meeting on April 11th at 3:30 pm. In addition, there will be an Open House for all CSCs to attend from 11 am to 1 pm. In addition, the All-Abilities Resource Fair will be held at Cal State Northridge Campus on October 19th from 11am- 12pm.

Rocio Sigala, a Board Member, shared information from AV Seed and Grow. There will be an event on Saturday, April 13th with Sofie Cervantes from the State Council presenting. A Sensory-Friendly Arts Social is held every 2nd Friday at 6:00 pm. In addition, the Sirens of Silence Fire Station Tour will be held on April 21st at the Lancaster 129 Fire Station. The Autism Walk in the Trails and Family Picnic will be held on April 27th at the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve at 12:00 pm.

George Alvarado invited the Board to a basketball game that he will participate in with fellow Board Member Curtis Wang.

6. Individual and Family Survey Presentation

Ami Sullivan, from Kinetic Flow, reviewed the survey presentation as presented in the packet. Highlights include:

- The results document the methodology of conducting the survey, the survey results, and recommendations that NLA can take to create change.
- The purpose of the survey is to quantify the voice of the people served by NLA and measure their satisfaction in relation to the Strategic Plan Outcome Measures and related Performance Contract Incentive Measures.
- Five areas measured:
 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
 - Development and Growth of an Engaged Workforce
 - Employment and Day Services
 - Health and Wellness
 - Safe, Affordable and Accessible Housing
- Amy noted that there were several factors to consider in context, which include:
 - COVID residual fatigue
 - Social disconnections, increased impatience
 - Increased digital divide
 - Increased barriers
 - Staff/Provider staff shortages, staff changes
- Methodology
 - The NLA Individual and Family Satisfaction Survey is designed to:
 - Drive change
 - Assess progress
 - Provide statistically sound, actionable insights
 - Sample: 12,842 individuals/families selected, targeted random sampling
 - Questionnaire: 35 questions, qualitative/quantitative
 - Data Collection: 3,295 voices represented
- Participation
 - 2,452 people participated via SMS text link, averaging 12 min, 18 seconds
 - 208 people participated via an online-based survey
 - Six hundred sixty-two people participated via telephone interview, averaging 11 min 28 seconds long.

- NLA Strengths (out of a 5-pt. scale)
 - Understanding Your Needs – 3.94
 - Explaining things in a way you can understand -3.95
 - Listening – 3.99
 - Dignity and Respect – 4.08

- NLA Opportunities for Growth (out of a 5-pt. scale)
 - Information on Community Resources – 3.22
 - Information on NLA Services -3.27
 - Overall Information – 3.39
 - Information to Make Your Own Decisions – 3.41
 - NLA Helpful in Supporting You – 3.47
 - Percent of People who know their Service Coordinator:
 - 72% - know their Service Coordinator
 - 23% - they do not know their Service Coordinator
 - 5% - know their Service Coordinator but have not met them

- Overall Regional Center Support (out of a 5-pt. scale)
 - Overall Impact – 3.64
 - Overall Services and Supports -3.58
 - NLA Helpfulness in Supporting You – 3.47

7. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

It was noted that an addition should be made to the Nominating Committee Section of the agenda to include the next Committee meeting on April 30th.

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/A. Ramirez) To approve the meeting agenda as revised.

B. Approval of March 13, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

M/S/C (A. Ramirez/G. Alvarado) To approve the Minutes as presented.

8. Action Items

A. Approve revised Board Critical Calendar

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/J. Hernandez) To approve the revisions to the noted sections of the bylaws as presented.

9. Committee Action Items

A. Administrative Affairs

1. Lindquist, Von Husen & Joyce Presentation of NLACRC's IRS Form 990 Tax Return – *deferred*

B. Government and Community Relations Committee

1. Approve a Candidate Forum for Fall 2024
2. Approve Consumer Legislative Advocacy Training

It was noted that a vote at the last Board Meeting approved these 2 items

C. Executive Committee

1. Approval of Board/Staff Interaction Policy Revision

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/V. Seda) To approve the Chair Alternate Policy as presented.

D. Nominating Committee

1. Approval of Chair Alternate Policy

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/JV. Seda) To approve the Chair Alternate Policy as presented.

2. Board Source Self-Evaluation Tool

Board Support will email the link to the Board Members. Ana Quiles made the request that Board Members review the information and complete their Self Evaluations as soon as possible.

E. Consumer Services Committee

1. Approval of the proposed Service Standards: Social Recreation submission to DDS

M/S/C (B. Gatus/G. Alvarado) To approve the Service Standards submission to DDS.

10. Executive Director's Report – Cristina Preuss

Cristina reviewed the report as presented in the packet.

LEGISLATIVE

On March 21, the senate held its overview hearing of developmental disabilities services. DDS staff reported that implementation of the HCBS Final Rule is on track, with 80% of facilities in compliance. Director Nancy Bargmann described the basic goals of the Master Plan strategic committee, stating that its core work will be centered on system change and evolution and clarified that it will not be about managed care or cost containment. There is ongoing work to

improve data collection and standardize IPPs, as well as work on the Service Access and Equity grants. Input was provided about the challenges of identifying the full impact of a rate delay on workforce capacity and how this affects consumers and families as well.

DDS

Provisional eligibility has been expanded beyond children 3 and 4 years of age also to include children under age 3. A child under the age of five may be found provisionally eligible for regional center services if the child has a disability that is not solely physical and has significant functional limitations in at least two of the following areas of major life activity, as determined by a regional center:

1. Self-care
2. Receptive and expressive language
3. Learning
4. Mobility
5. Self-direction

ARCA

The association's priorities are to continue collaborating with other Lanterman Coalition members to develop a strategy and messaging in opposition to the proposed delay of rate increases that would result in a loss of \$1 billion to the service system: Advocate for an equitable and sustainable regional center operations funding methodology: established a response to the Governor's Budget that highlights the need for investment in infrastructure and an ongoing commitment to California's entitlement for individuals with developmental disabilities: Promote more efficient coordination of regional center and generic services.

Center Operations

NLACRC Purchase of Service public meeting for fiscal year 2022/2023 held on March 26th at 10:00 am & March 27th at 6:00 pm. Collecting community feedback from the sessions and surveys available on the NLACRC website.

Staffing Data

March data: # of CSC Vacancies (replacement) 86, (SFV # 49 AV # 28, and SCV # 4), # of CSC Vacancies (growth) 59; # of Other open position vacancies 59; # of positions on hold 70. Total # positions filled: 654 (plus 13 pending); 933 authorized.

March New Hires: 1st cycle and 2nd cycle: 8 3.3.24 - 8 3.25.24 – 13

Staffing Changes: 1 Transfers – 1 1 Promotions - 4 1 Terminations – 10 (plus 2 pending)

Recruitment

of Offers Accepted - 75

of pending offers - 3

of Declines – 18 In collaboration with the People Scout recruitment company, a virtual hiring fair has been scheduled for April 3rd, 4th, and 5th

Introducing Deaf Specialist

Ted Horton-Billard III supports the expansion of deaf service resources, provides training to regional center staff, and coordinates with the Department of Developmental Services on statewide efforts. This role is an agency-wide support for individuals who are deaf and have developmental disabilities, aiming to identify and develop resources for improved services. The Specialist also serves as a regional center's point person and subject matter expert for serving the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Email: thortonbillard@nlacrc.org

- 11. Self Determination Program (SDP) – Gabriela Eshrati**
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

 - A. SDLVAC Liaison Report
 - B. The next Self Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2024, at 6:30pm

- 12. Association of Regional Center Agencies - Leticia Garcia**
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

 - A. ARCA Liaison Report
 - B. Next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2024

- 13. Administrative Affairs Committee -Brian Gatus**
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

 - A. Minutes of the February 27th Meeting - *deferred*
 - B. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

- 14. Consumer Advisory Committee – George Alvarado**
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

 - A. CAC Report – Cristina Preuss
 - B. Minutes from the March 6, 2024 Meeting
 - C. Minutes from the April 3, 2024 Meeting - *deferred*
 - D. Next Meeting Scheduled on May 1, 2024, at 3:00pm

- 15. Consumer Services Committee – Rocio Sigala**
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

 - A. Minutes of the February 21st Meeting -*deferred*
 - B. Next Meeting Scheduled on April 17, 2024, at 6:00pm

- 16. Executive Committee – Ana Quiles**
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

 - A. Minutes of the February 29th Meeting
 - B. Minutes of the March 28th Meeting – *deferred*
 - C. Next Meeting Scheduled on April 25, 2024, at 6:30pm

17. Recruitment Committee

- A. Minutes of the March 4th Meeting
- B. Minutes of the March 11th Meeting
- C. Minutes of the March 18th Meeting – *deferred*
- D. Next Meeting Scheduled for April 15, 2024, at 5:00pm

18. Government & Community Relations – Evelyn McOmie

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

- A. Minutes of the January 17th Meeting
- B. Minutes of the March 20th Meeting – *deferred*
- C. Legislative Advocacy
- D. Legislative Cheat Sheet
- E. Board Recognition Application
- F. Board Dinner Reminder
- G. Next Meeting Scheduled on May 15, 2024, at 6:00pm

19. Nominating Committee - Lillian Martinez

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

- A. Minutes of the March 6th Meeting – *deferred*
- B. Next Meeting Scheduled on April 30th, 2024

20. Post-Retirement Medical Trust Committee – Ana Quiles

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

- A. Next Meeting Scheduled on April 25, 2024, at 5:30 pm

21. Strategic Planning Committee- Leticia Garcia

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

- A. Minutes of the February 5th Meeting – *deferred*
- B. Next Meeting Scheduled on May 6, 2024, at 6:00pm

22. Vendor Advisory Committee – Suad Bisogno

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

- A. Minutes of the March 7th Meeting
- B. Minutes of the April 4th Meeting – *deferred*
- C. Next Meeting Scheduled on May 2nd, 2024, at 9:30am

23. Old Business/New Business

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

- A. Board and Committee Meeting Attendance Sheets
- B. Board and Committee Meetings Time Report

- C. Updated Acronyms Listing
- D. Meeting Evaluation Form – Emailed separately

24. Review of Committee Action Log Items

- A. Ensure that all future Board and Committee Meeting Agendas have the correct date and time listed. (Board Support)
- B. Send BoardSource Self-Evaluation Tool to Board Members (Board Support)
- C. To complete the BoardSource Self-Evaluations at the earliest convenience (Board Members)

25. Announcements/Information/Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 6:00pm
- B. Committee Attendance

26. Adjournment

Ana Quiles, Board President, adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

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.*

