

**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 **February 14, 2024**

Trustees Present

Suad Bisogno
Rocio Sigala
Leticia Garcia
Curtis Wang
Sharmila Brunjes
Ana Quiles
Andrew Ramirez
Brian Gatus
Vivian Seda
George Alvarado
Lillian Martinez
Michael Costa
Cathy Blin
David Coe
Jenifer Koster
Nicholas Abrahms

Guests Present

Richard Dier - SDLAC
Lori Walker - SDLAC
Sol Garza – Interpreter
Gume Garza - Interpreter
Lia Cervantes Lerma - State Council
Andre’ca B. – Family Focus Resource
Jasmine Barrios – Minutes Services
Nicholas Mendoza- Coach for George A.
Juan Hernandez
Xochitl Gonzalez- DDS
Marianita Mendez - DDS
Patty Gutierrez
Tsahi Banton
Edith Alvarez
Maria Cea

Staff Present

Vini Montague
Arezo Abedi
Evelyn McOmie
Kimberly Visokey
Parita Burmee
Gabriela Eshrati
Donna Rentsch
Arshalous Garlanian

Trustees Absent

Anna Hurst
James Henry
Kelsey Livingston
Michael Costa

- 1. Call to Order & Welcome** – Ana Quiles, Board President
Ana called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2. Board Member Attendance /Quorum**– Kimberly Visokey, Executive Administrative Assistant
Kimberly took attendance of Board Members; a quorum was present.
- 3. Closed Session**
 - A. Personnel
M/S/C (C. Wang/N. Abrahms) To enter the Closed Session at 6:04 pm.

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/B. Gatus) To exit the Closed Session at 6:38 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 to notate their names and agency 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. Introductions

A. Lillian Martinez, Secretary

Lillian has served on the NLA Board for the last 6 years and will complete her 7th year in June. She is very religious and feels that it is her purpose to help the disability community. Lillian has 5 family members that regional centers of varying ages serve. She also enjoys shopping, reading and enjoying great food.

B. Cristina Preuss, NLA Interim Executive Director

Cristina was recently appointed the Interim Executive Director for NLA. She has been in the Early Childhood education field for over 20 years. Her main goal has always been to advocate for and empower individuals with disabilities. Cristina expressed her passion for making individuals with disabilities and their families feel included. She enjoys spending time with her 3 adult children and 2 grandchildren and is also very spiritual.

6. Public Input

Lori Walker, Co-Chair for the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee, shared that the next Committee meeting will take place on February 15th at 6:30 pm. There will be a presentation regarding the Coordinated Family Services Support Pilot Program from DDS and a discussion on the allocation of DDS implementation funds. The Committee has also completed the Independent Facilitator Handbook that guides IFs on how to work the NLA way. The Self-Determination Program Training Video list has also been completed as a resource for families.

Lia Cervantes-Lerma with the State Council shared that any questions related to self-determination, special education, or any subject to call the State Council for assistance. Anyone with questions or who needs resources for special education, Self-Determination, etc. A confidential survey from DDS will be sent to families regarding their service satisfaction, will be mailed out and participation is encouraged.

Richar Dier, Co-Chair for the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee, stated that the Committee is made up of family members, participants and providers that NLA or State Council appoints. The 2023 Committee-Centered Plan will be available on their website and will be presented at the upcoming Consumer Services Committee Meeting.

Leticia Garcia announced that the Cal-TASH 2024 Conference would be held March 1st and 2nd in Sacramento. The topic is "A Self-Determined Life," and more information can be obtained at info@caltash.org. She encouraged those interested to contact their Service Coordinator to determine if funding is available to cover the registration cost to attend the Conference. Funding is not available to travel to the Conference.

Andre'ca B, from the Family Focus Resource Center, shared that there will be Early Start Play Dates planned for February, March and April. The All-Abilities Resource Fair will be held in March at Sgt. Steve Owen Park in Lancaster. The following All-Abilities Resource Fair will be held on Saturday, October 19th, at CSUN.

Lillian Martinez shared that she had a great experience as a team member in the IP. She shared that for her granddaughter's initial IPP, she worked with Service Coordinator Stephanie Vargas. Stephanie provided wonderful service to Lillian and her family. Ana Quiles asked Evelyn McOmie to share the information with Stephanie.

7. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

Ana Quiles noted that the location of "Legislative Town Hall" from the Government and Community Relations Committee be moved to item A2, under Committee Action Items.

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

B. Approval of January 10, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/D. Coe) To approve the Minutes as presented.

8. Committee Action Items

A. Government & Community Relations Committee – David Coe

The below events were shared with the Board for approval:

1. Candidate Forum

This event will be held in Fall 2024 and will provide a platform for candidates to speak to the Community.

2. Legislative Town Hall

This event will take place on February 22, 2024, moderated by Michelle Heid. Assembly Members Carillo and Lackey have confirmed their attendance. Staff Members from Assembly Member Schivo will also be in attendance.

M/S/C (A. Ramirez/L. Martinez) To approve the events as presented.

B. Executive Committee – Ana Quiles

1. Bylaws- David Lester

Ana shared that 2 sections of the Board Bylaws were previously requested to review regarding Board Member Meeting Attendance and the Consumer Advisory Committee's ability to elect their own Chair and Board Liaison.

Those sections of the Bylaws were reviewed and updated by NLA Counsel David Lester. In addition, David also reviewed the entire set of Bylaws to update verbiage and to ensure compliance with requirements. The Board is being tasked to review the revisions for the 2 requested sections for approval at the next Board meeting and then to determine the method for review of the remaining revisions to the Bylaws made by David Lester.

David explained that the Bylaws were revised to allow the Consumer Advisory Committee to elect their Chair. In addition, a provision was added for an NLA staff member, Board Member or person-served to be eligible to serve as the Committee's Liaison to the Board.

In regard to Board Member Meeting attendance, revisions were made to clarify that attendance will be tracked on a fiscal year basis which is July 1st through June 30th. In addition, Chairs will work to determine the process for notifying Committee Members of absences and what timeframe constitutes attendance at a meeting.

David shared that the remaining revisions he made were to clarify verbiage, create more detail and eliminate inconsistencies throughout the document. He recommends that the Board review the Bylaw Revisions in 10-page increments in order to work through the revisions without the need to create an additional Committee or to hold additional meetings. It was noted that only the Board can approve the revisions, any Committee who reviews the revisions will only be making recommendations to the Board for final approval.

Leticia Garcia noted that in this instance, the Board should have voted for any additional revisions to the Bylaws made by Counsel beyond the 2 requests that were previously made to the Board. She also recommended that a neutral Ad-Hoc Committee be formed to review the remaining revisions.

In regard to CAC attendance requirements, only the Chair is held to the same requirements as Board Members and would apply to the current Chair, George Alvarado, as he is also a Board Member.

M/S/C (L. Martinez/G. Alvarado) To approve the 2 requested revisions to CAC Committee and Board Member Meeting attendance to the bylaws and to create an Ad Hoc Committee of Board Members to review the remaining Bylaw revisions.

The motion was amended to separate the 2 components:

M/S/C (L. Martinez/B. Gatus) To approve the 2 requested revisions to the CAC Committee and Board Member Meeting attendance sections of the Bylaws.

M/S/C (L. Martinez/G. Alvarado) To approve the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee of Board Members to review the remaining Bylaw revisions. The motion did not pass with opposition from L. Martinez, A. Ramirez, B. Gatus, J. Hernandez, C. Blin, N. Abrahms, G. Alvarado, A. Rodriguez, V. Seda, D. Coe, R. Sigala, A. Quiles and 2 abstentions from S. Bisogno and J. Koster.

The Committee discussed issues surrounding the creation of an additional committee and the additional meeting dates that would be required. There were suggestions to review the revisions in the Executive Committee Meeting along with any other Board Members who would like to participate.

Sharmila Brunjes suggested an ongoing email thread for the Board Members to discuss the revisions throughout the month and when reviewed at the determined forum, many of the Members will already have landed on a decision which would expedite the review process. Suad added to this suggestion to use SharePoint to collaborate on a document where comments and feedback can be included as a means of discussion.

M/S/C (B. Gatus/G. Alvarado) To approve the delegation of the review of remaining Bylaw revisions to the Executive Committee and to add a standing agenda item to the Board Meeting agenda on updates to the Bylaw review. The motion passed with 2 oppositions from S. Brunjes and L. Garcia.

David Coe made the recommendation to review the Board Officer Term limits to the review of the Bylaws to remove the limits and to have both Board Member and Board Officer Terms to be made consistent at 7 years. This would not impact the scheduled election of officers, just the ability to run for an officer position. It was clarified that the 2-year term limit only applies to the President Officer position and does not apply to the other officer positions. David Lester echoed this recommendation as being the most flexible option.

Leticia referenced proposed law AB1147 as one reason for the Officer Term Limits. The law made Regional Centers accountable to the Community and at the time, the community felt that there was an elite group that was making all of the decisions for the Regional Center. Leticia also suggested an evaluation process for the Board President.

M/S/C (D. Coe/G. Alvarado) To add the review of Board President Term Limits to the Bylaw Board review. The motion passed with 1 opposition from L. Garcia.

C. Recruitment Committee

1. Executive Director Recruitment Expense Budget

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

The current budget is \$120,300; contracts are in place, and the Budget will be submitted to DDS.

D. Nominating Committee

1. Certificate of Return or Destruction of Confidential Information Form

Ana reviewed this information as presented in the packet. Since the Nominating Committee held virtual meetings, confidential information was reviewed by the Committee via email and regular mail. This form will confirm the destruction of the protected information by Committee Members.

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/ C. Wang) To approve the Certificate of Return or Destruction of Confidential Information Form as presented.

E. Strategic Planning Committee

1. FY 2024-2023 Critical Calendar

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/ L. Martinez) To approve the Critical Calendar as presented.

9. Executive Director's Report – Cristina Preuss

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

Legislative

Major Policy Issues in Governor's January Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25

\$1B savings by delaying implementation of the final step of the rate model phase-in to July 1, 2025

DDS

On February 6, 2024, Regional centers received an updated directive to clarify the requirements contained in Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4688.22 and guide facilitating access to providers and vendorization of social recreation services, camping services, and nonmedical therapies.

Coordinated Family Supports

On February 6, 2024, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) conducted a presentation regarding CFS implementation. Discussion was about progress challenges and upcoming outreach efforts for 2024. NLACRC Community Services Department is working on hosting virtual information sessions for Case Management staff starting the end of February and dissemination of a flyer to promote the use of this service. There are 7 vendors in our system.

DDS Direct Service Professional Training Stipend Program

As of 01/23/2024, DDS reports having 40,613 registrants statewide; 38,613 DSPs completed at least 1 course and of those, 32,591 have completed two courses.

Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)

ARCA Co-Sponsorship of Blue Envelope Program Bill, legislation that will create a Blue Envelope Program, making available blue envelopes containing information regarding traffic stop safety tips, printed recommendations to the responding law enforcement officer with interaction techniques to help promote enhanced communication and accommodation between law enforcement and community members; also may include information regarding an individual's needs, requested accommodations, and an emergency contact. ARCA is also supporting the 41st Annual Cal-TASH conference, which will take place on March 12, 2024, in Sacramento. The theme this year is Self-Determined Life: Recommended for Ages 2-102. It will have an entire strand of conference breakout sessions presented in Spanish and interpretation for our large group sessions and keynote speakers. Vended by Regional Center with vendor code PW2184.

NLA Employee Satisfaction Survey – Request for Proposal

NLA's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan includes the development and growth of an engaged workforce, with strategies that include providing ongoing training to staff, developing consistency in onboarding procedures across departments, creating career advancement pathways, assessing workload issues by job classification, addressing workload imbalance, exploring team structure, utilizing Information Technology to build/support team structures, creating training tools database to support supervisors in training their teams, and more. To assess the impact of efforts in this area thus far, NLA is seeking a qualified firm to conduct an employee satisfaction survey.

Consumer Statistics

As of January 2024, the Center served 35,622 consumers and applicants, including 4,879 in Early Start and 27,991 (an increase of 32) in the Lanterman program. The Center's San Fernando Valley Office serves 22,598 individuals, Antelope Valley serves 8,803, and the Santa Clarita Office serves 3,859 (these totals include applicants and individuals served under Lanterman and the Early Start programs).

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

- A. SDLVAC Liaison Report
- B. Next Self Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2024, at 6:30pm

11. 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 March 22, 2024

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

- A. Minutes of the September 28, 2023 Meeting
- B. FY2023-2024 Meeting Schedule
- C. Change in Mileage Reimbursement Rate Effective Jan. 1, 2024
- D. FY2023-2024 Financial Reports
- E. Purchase of Services Outstanding Payments
- F. Monthly Human Resources Reports
- G. Next Meeting Scheduled on February 29, 2024, at 6:00pm

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/ A. Ramirez) To approve the new date for this meeting to be February 27, 2024.

- H. Audited financial Statement - *deferred*

13. Consumer Advisory Committee – George Alvarado
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

- A. Minutes of the January 3rd Meeting
- B. Minutes of the February 7th Meeting - *deferred*
- C. Next Meeting Scheduled on March 6, 2024, at 3:00pm

14. Consumer Services Committee – Rocio Sigala
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

- A. Next Meeting Scheduled on February 21, 2024, at 6:00pm

15. Executive Committee – Ana Quiles
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

- A. Minutes of the November 30, 2023 Meeting
- B. Minutes of the December 14, 2023 Meeting
- C. Next Meeting Scheduled on February 29, 2024, at 7:30pm

16. Recruitment Committee

- A. Minutes of the December 26th Meeting
- B. Minutes of the January 2nd Meeting
- C. Minutes of the January 9th Meeting

- D. Minutes of the January 22nd Meeting
- E. Minutes of the January 29th Meeting – *deferred*
- F. Minutes of the February 12th Meeting - *deferred*
- G. Next Meeting Scheduled for February 20, 2024, at 5:00pm

17. Government & Community Relations – David Coe

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

David added that any Board Member interested in a Legislative Grassroots team should reach out to Board Support.

- A. NLACRC Legislative Town Hall – Feb. 22, 2024
- B. Minutes of the November 16th Meeting
- C. Minutes of the January 17th Meeting - *deferred*
- D. Next Meeting Scheduled on March 20, 2024, at 6:00pm

18. Nominating Committee - Lillian Martinez

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

Lillian added that any Board Member interested in a Board Officer Position should reach out to Board Support.

- A. FY 2024-25 Slate of Officers
- B. Minutes of the November 14, 2023 Meeting
- C. Minutes of the January 30th Meeting
- D. Minutes of the February 7th Meeting - *deferred*
- E. Next Meeting Scheduled on March 6, 2024, at 5:30pm

19. 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

20. Strategic Planning Committee- Leticia Garcia

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

- A. PIP Employment Data

Evelyn announced that NLA individuals receiving support through this paid internship program in 2023 reached a total reimbursement amount of \$1,060,115.34. This is an amazing increase from \$279,376.77 in program reimbursements in 2022. Nicholas Mendoza congratulated and thanked NLA for their support in the amazing growth of this program.

- B. Minutes of the November 6, 2023 Meeting
- C. Minutes of the January 8th Meeting
- D. Minutes of the February 5th Meeting - *deferred*
- E. Next Meeting Scheduled on May 6, 2024, at 6:00pm

21. Vendor Advisory Committee – Suad Bisogno

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

- A. Minutes of the January 4th Meeting

- B. Minutes of the February 1st Meeting - *deferred*
- C. Next Meeting Scheduled on March 7, 2024, at 9:30am

22. 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

23. Announcements/Information/Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: Wed., March 12, 2024, at 6:00pm
- B. Self Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting: Thurs., February 15, 2024, 6:30pm
- C. Mon., February 19, 2024 - President's Day - NLACRC Offices Closed/Oficinas de NLACRC cerradas
- D. Recruitment Committee Meeting. Tues., February 12, 2024, 5:00pm
- E. CalABLE Presentation - North Los Angeles County Regional Center, Wed., February 21, 2024, 5:30pm
- F. Consumer Services Committee Meeting: Wed., February 21, 2024, 6:30pm
- G. Parent of Adult Consumers Support Group: Wed., February 21, 2024, 6:00pm
- H. NLACRC's Legislative Town Hall: Thurs., February 22, 2024, 6:00pm
- I. Orientaciones de autodeterminación: Mon., February 26, 2024, 9:00am
- J. Recruitment Committee Meeting. Mon., February 26, 2024, 5:00pm
- K. Administrative Affairs Committee Meeting: Thurs., February 29, 2024, 6:00pm
- L. Executive Committee Meeting: Thurs., February 29, 2024, 7:30pm
- M. Recruitment Committee Meeting. Mon., March 4, 2024, 5:00pm
- N. Consumer Advisory Committee: Wed., March 6, 2024, 3:00pm
- O. Nominating Committee Meeting: Wed., March 6, 2024, 5:30pm
- P. Black & African American Support Group: Wed., March 6, 2024, 6:30pm
- Q. Vendor Advisory Committee: Thursday, March 7, 2024, 9:30am
- R. Recruitment Committee Meeting. Mon., March 11, 2024, 5:00pm

Ana shared that the yearly Board Training regarding Resource Development and Vendorization Process is scheduled for February 28th.

David requested that the Negotiating and Recruitment Committees be added to the time sheets and the attendance lists. Leticia mentioned that the Board Attendance sheet is not included in the packet. Kimberly Visokey will include them in the packet going forward.

Ana announced that the Board Dinner theme will be: "50 Years of Making Dreams Come True". NLA is hoping to invite the longest standing Consumer and the most recent Consumer to the Dinner in celebration of the 50-year milestone.

Richard Dier noted that he was available to anyone who would like more information on parent/guardian as Service Coordinator.

24. Adjournment

Ana Quiles, Board President, adjourned the meeting at 8:34 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.*

