

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER (NLACRC)

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
HELD AT NLACRC CHATSWORTH OFFICE, 9200 OAKDALE AVENUE STE. 100
CHATSWORTH, CA 91311
FEBRUARY 12, 2025 7:00 P.M.**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Juan Hernandez, Sharmila Brunjes, Curtis Wang, Anna Hurst, George Alvarado, Alex Kopilevich, Leticia Garcia, Cathy Blin, Nicholas Abrahms, Jason Taketa, Jacquie Colton, Jeremy Sunderland, Laura Monge, Jennifer Koster

ABSENT:

STAFF:

Angela Pao-Johnson - Executive Director, Evelyn McOmie, Vini Montague, Betsy Monahan, Megan Mitchell, Chris Whitlock, John Van de Riet, Arezo Abedi, Lindsay Granger, Sandra Rizo, Kim Visokey, *Arshalous Garlanian, Donna Rentsch, Roy Ortega, Ana Maria Parthenis-Rivas, Victor Vitalis, Silvia Renteria-Haro,*

GUESTS:

Mark Wolfe – DDS Tech. Advisor, Tresa Oliveri – DDS Tech Advisor, Xochitl Gonzalez – DDS, Brian Winfield – DDS, Ernie Cruz—DDS, Michie Gates – DDS, Aaron Abramowitz – Council to the Board, Nicholas Mendoza, Christian Villafuerte, Lori Walker, Victoria Berrey, Rebecca Ernewein, Richard Dier, Lillian Martinez, and Ricardo Martinez

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, the meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

The Chair shared the mission and vision of the NLACRC and reminded attendees of the Board of Trustees Civility Code.

Juan Hernandez introduced themselves as the new Board President and stated their focus on improving the system and ensuring fairness to all NLACRC members. Angela Pao-Johnson spoke to Juan Hernandez's speech and reflected on how their new role as President should help unify the Board going forward.

2. IMPACT STORY FROM INDIVIDUAL SERVED

Angela Pao-Johnson relayed a testimonial from a family of a school age parent expressing gratitude to Iman Dimashki, the Service Coordinator for NLACRC, for their help in getting the family's son the support they needed. The family noted that this contribution made a significant impact.

3. BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE/QUORUM

Board members were confirmed in attendance in-person or on Zoom.

4. AGENDA – APPROVAL

On a motion made by George Alvarado, seconded by Alex Kopilevich, it was resolved to approve the agenda as presented.

5. PUBLIC INPUT & COMMENTS—RESERVED FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Richard Dier expressed criticism regarding the Board's onboarding process and the NLACRC demographic data compared to the requirements of the current Board. He provided an overview of his 46 years of association with NLACRC, and requested the Board review their onboarding policies.

Lori Walker expressed gratitude to the Board and NLACRC staff and requested that committee meetings not be scheduled at the same time as the Self-Determination Program meetings, which resulted in members being unable to attend both meetings.

One attendee expressed concerns over a lack of response relating to the NLACRC staff collaboration for Self-Determination program training. Angela Pao-Johnson clarified that the training would be provided by Management with oversight by SDLAC after a meeting with Lori Walker.

6. CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

On a motion made by George Alvarado, seconded by Sharmila Brunjes, it was resolved to approve all consent items listed on the agenda as presented. Motioned carried.

7. ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Approval of Union Contracts Effective February 19, 2019 to December 18, 2022

On a motion made by Cathy Blin, seconded by Alex Kopilevich, it was resolved to approve the union contracts from February 19, 2019 to December 18, 2022. Motion carried.

7.2 Approval of Union Contracts Effective February 17, 2023 to February 16, 2028

On a motion made by Anna Hurst, seconded by Alex Kopilevich, it was resolved to approve the union contracts from February 17, 2023 to February 16, 2028. Motion carried.

7.3 Approval of Executive Director Performance Evaluation Timeline

On a motion made by Cathy Blin, seconded by Alex Kopilevich, it was resolved to approve the executive director performance evaluation timeline edits. Motion carried.

ACTION – Angela Pao-Johnson will confirm if a review of Board policies is scheduled for the next executive committee meeting.

7.4 Review and Approval of Revisions to Service Standards Early Start Eligibility

On a motion made by Sharmila Brunjes, seconded by George Alvarado, it was resolved to approve the revisions to service standards early start eligibility. Motion carried.

7.5 Approval of Change in Authorized Signers

On a motion made by George Alvarado, seconded by Cathy Blin, it was resolved to approve the addition of the new Board President and Treasurer as authorized signers for the City National bank accounts. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Jennifer Koster, seconded by George Alvarado, it was resolved to remove the previous Board President's name on PMT and UAL bank accounts and replace with Juan Hernandez. Motion carried.

7.6 New Board Member Onboarding Process

On a motion made by Sharmila Brunjes, seconded by Alex Kopilevich, it was resolved to approve the new board member onboarding plan. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Sharmila Brunjes, seconded by Alex Kopilevich, it was resolved to review new items for local bylaws discussed by the Nominating Committee at a prior meeting. Motion carried.

ACTION – Evelyn McOmie is to send an e-mail to all Board members regarding an update to the bylaws based on the new onboarding plan.

7.7 Approval of Attendance Exception for Board of Trustees Member

On a motion made by Sharmila Brunjes, seconded by Cathy Blin, it was resolved to approve George Alvarado's Board meeting absences due to not being provided a final warning by the Board secretary. Motion carried.

George Alvarado acknowledged the absences and confirmed he would pay more attention to Board attendance going forward. It was noted that he resigned from some NLACRC committees to ensure commitment.

7.8 Approval of the Board Training Plan to Submit to DDS

On a motion made by Sharmila Brunjes, seconded by Cathy Blin, it was resolved to tentatively approve the submission of the Board training plan pending submission timelines. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Sharmila Brunjes, seconded by Alex Kopilevich, it was resolved to move July's training date to September. Motion carried.

7.9 Proposed Revision of Bylaws to DDS for Approval

On a motion made by Sharmila Brunjes, seconded by Laura Monge, it was resolved to postpone the approval of the bylaw revision proposal until additional amendments made by DDS and the legal team. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the recent proposed revision of bylaws to DDS. Leticia Garcia expressed concerns about reducing the amount of required NLACRC Board members from 14 to 11, noting the size of the regional center and how it could affect the entire composition of the Board.

Concerns were further raised on the amendment being permanent when the situation is only temporary, and it was noted that the bylaws would require multiple modifications if it were changed again.

The Board discussed amending the bylaw to indicate that it only applies when the member count is below the minimum for a specific period of time. Further concerns were raised about how a time limit could potentially cause the Board to rush to find members as opposed to finding those who would provide more benefit.

A motion was made by Leticia Garcia to reject the bylaw change and then withdrew their motion. Anna Hurst also motioned to amend the bylaw to be raised from 11 to 13 members to allow for a one-person buffer and then rescinded their motion.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Angela Pao-Johnson presented the Executive Director's Report. She highlighted the following items:

- The special incident report timeline indicating NLACRC's adherence to transmitting SIRs to DDS within two business days is an average of 93% across a rolling 12 months.
- NLACRC's recent survey of 50 new hires completing their staff orientation training.
- Marlene Jones is joining NLACRC as the new Recruiting Manager.
- NLACRC is creating another job tier for case management called Associate Service Coordinators.
- NLACRC is in process of hiring Consumer Services Consumer Self-Determination Lead Training specialists
- The Governor's proposed budget is expected to increase by 20.2% reaching a total of \$19 billion, an increase of \$3.2 billion.
- The Office of Management and Budget memo was released on January 26, 2025 and has since been rescinded.
- DDS has allowed regional centers in areas impacted by the Southern California wildfires to apply for Health and Safety Waivers, among additional flexibilities.
- Rate reforms on transportation, Supported Employment Program, and Department of Rehabilitation Supported Employment Program rates.
- SB 138 implementation updates including intake and vendorization standardizations, along with respite services.
- Master plan workgroup updates including person-centered service systems, timely and inclusive services, high-quality workforce, consistent and data-driven systems, and adequate resources for lifelong services.
- NLACRC updates including 805 positions filled for recruitment with 958 positions authorized, multiple outreach programs attended by NLACRC members, and in-depth consumer statistic data.
- A list of upcoming disability organization events and activities.

9. ITEMS 10-21 REPORTS RECEIVED

The Board received the following committee reports for information:

- Self-Determination Program.
- Association of Regional Center Agencies.
- Administrative Affairs Committee.
- Consumer Advisory Committee.
- Consumer Services Committee.
- Executive Committee.
- Government and Community Relations Committee.
- Nominating Committee.
- Post-Retirement Medical Trust Committee.

- Recruiting Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee.
- Vendor Advisory Committee.

As reports were presented, the following speakers offered observations and comments:

- It was confirmed that the Board president, one staff, two vendors and a legislative specialist would be attending the Association of Regional Center Agencies on March 20, 2025
- Juan Hernandez noted a recent emergency alert in Spanish was unintelligible. Angela Pao-Johnson confirmed that the settings had been changed to prevent this issue going forward.
- Evelyn McOmie confirmed a new e-mail announcement would be sent to all Board members regarding changing the Board recognition award back to the Jynny Retzinger Community Service award and would be merged into a new campaign.
- Evelyn McOmie confirmed a list of town hall attendees for the meeting on February 25, 2025 would be sent to the Board, with three members currently confirmed.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION/PUBLIC INPUT

Lillian A. Martinez, the former Board secretary reminded all in attendance that their purpose is to support consumers and their families and provided contact information for anyone to direct any questions regarding potential investigations.

Aaron Abramowitz thanked all staff service coordinators for their hard work.

11. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Board of Trustees meeting is to be determined.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting closed at 9:00 p.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above document should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.