

**NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER (NLACRC)  
9200 OAKDALE AVENUE, SUITE 100  
CHATSWORTH, CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES OF THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HYBRID – ANTELOPE VALLEY OFFICE / TELECONFERENCE  
March 13, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

**MEMBERS:**

Alex Kopilevich, Jaklen Keshishyan, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Octavia Watkins, Masood Babaeian, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Cal Enriquez, Ute Escorcia, Ricki Macken Chilvers, Vahe Mkrtchian, Jen Pippard, Sharon Weinberg

**STAFF:**

Angela Pao-Johnson, Vini Montague, Arshalous Garlanian, Silvia Renteria-Haro, Betsy Monahan, Evelyn McOmie, Belinda Abatesi, Chris Whitlock, Arezo Abedi, Lindsay Granger, Arezo Abedi

**GUESTS:**

Mark Wolfe – DDS Tech Advisor, Rebecca Ernewein- Minute Solutions

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**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 9:37 a.m. Alex Kopilevich presided as Chair.

**2. COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE**

Members were asked to identify themselves when speaking or making a motion.

**3. SHARE IMPACT STORY FROM INDIVIDUAL SERVED**

Alex Kopilevich shared a story about an anonymous individual who had gained full employment through the agency and was now learning to drive.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

Alex Kopilevich noted a career fair had been scheduled for April 8, 2025 and April 10, 2025.

**5. CONSENT ITEMS**

**On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Ricki Macken Chilvers, it was resolved to approve all consent items, as amended. Motion carried.**

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**6.1 Discussion and Vote on VAC Member Applications**

**On a motion made by Jaklen Keshishyan, seconded by Andrea Devers, it was resolved to forward the five VAC member applications to the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.**

## **7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **7.1 NLACRC Grassroots Week Update**

Belinda Abatesi stated that legislative support was discussed in regard to strengthening the regional center and improving services for individuals and further noted that relationships are being built with legislators in various districts. Site visits are currently being coordinated with staff, and Belina Abatesi stated they would keep the Committee updated as plans progress.

### **7.2 Service Provider Vendor Training Updates**

Alex Kopilevich noted that training ideas would be reviewed, and the mentorship program is being finalized. Another finalization meeting will be scheduled within the coming months, and all vendors were encouraged to participate.

### **7.3 Self-Determination Update**

Silvia Renteria-Haro stated that 537 people are currently enrolled in the program, and the program continues to grow. It was noted there were fewer people attending orientation, with approximately 58 transitions.

### **Self-Determination Update**

If a consumer is transitioning out of the program, vendors need to establish contracts to support the consumer and the vendor. The Board discussed that when consumers enter self-determination, the service codes change, so they are subject to a different skill environment and standards.

## **8. REPORT OUTS**

### **8.1 Deputy Director Officer's Report**

Evelyn McOmie confirmed that standardization assessment tools are to be rolled out shortly, and a pilot of the tool is currently being tested, with all feedback due by April 4, 2025. The Sandis IPP was launched in January 2025, and technical issues are still being resolved. The signature form for the IPP is not yet in circulation, and Sandis is aware of the situation. Evelyn McOmie noted that a timeline has not yet been confirmed. The Sandis addendum is approximately 75% complete, with deployment expected later in the year.

Evelyn McOmie stated that a vendor survey would be deployed during the fiscal year for staff feedback. A vendor forum was held on February 20, 2025, for providers who offered feedback for those in attendance, and a plan based on said feedback is in progress.

Evelyn McOmie confirmed that accurate numbers for the percentage of users on the portal would be reflected in the April 2025 report.

### **8.2 Chief Financial Officer's Report**

The total NLACRC projected annual budget was \$1,102,607,364, with a monthly expenditure of \$84,441,043. The projected annual expenditures are \$1,105,339,056, with a projected deficit of \$2,741,692.

Vini Montague confirmed an alternate contact had been implemented for any e-pay users having login issues and noted that if a contact is unavailable, an accounts payable representative should be contacted.

**Alex Kopilevich:**

Inquired if the deficit is a result of onboarding new vendors.

**Vini Montague:**

Responded that the deficit is uncertain due to the lack of a month of rate adjustments and that the deficit could grow.

**Jaklen Keshishyan:**

Inquired if there would be a rate or code change in the near future.

**Vini Montague:**

Responded that a rate change would happen now with a code change later.

Vini Montague confirmed that the rollover planning is scheduled for June 30, 2025, and all new authorizations will be generated for the following fiscal year. She noted that authorizations will no longer be mailed once all service providers are on the portal.

**Keisha Carroll:**

Inquired if the service code 810 is changing.

**Vini Montague:**

Responded that they do not have code 810 on their list and will investigate the matter.

### **8.3 Community Services Director's Report**

Arshalous Garlanian confirmed an upcoming vendor fair is scheduled for May 6, 2025, and May 7, 2025, with registration starting Monday, March 17, 2025. The customer service team is working on rate reform letters to providers with a deadline of March 31, 2025. She noted that updates are being sent regarding QIPs, and members should see relevant updates within their next billing cycle and for any service providers not yet in the directory to inform customer service.

Arshalous Garlanian stated that the vendor portal would continue registering and onboarding the provider community. Office hours would also be indicated for providers with login concerns implemented on March 19, 2025.

There was an inquiry if prevention and wellness are identified in e-billing to share with service providers.

**Arshalous Garlanian:**

Responded that a letter would be sent out to identify eligible people.

**Alex Kopilevich:**

Inquired if the rate reform agreements are for vendors to review or if additional information needs to be provided.

**Arshalous Garlanian:**

Responded that service providers would be informed of any additional information needed.

Also, there was an inquiry if there would be a potential deadline extension due to delays in DDS's guidance.

**Arshalous Garlanian:**

Responded that an extension would be provided if needed as no one would be required to sign anything until all information is clarified.

**Ricki Macken Chilvers:**

Inquired about the status of employee internships.

**Arshalous Garlanian:**

Responded that they would investigate and follow up after the meeting.

**Angela Pao-Johnson:**

Recommended that more people use the NLACRC portal to help manage communication concerns.

**Ricki Macken Chilvers:**

Suggested follow-ups with vendors every two years after vendorization is established.

**Alex Kopilevich:**

Responded that they would consider it for their mentorship program.

**Sharon Weinberg:**

Inquired how many registrations are allowed for staff members on the portal.

**Arshalous Garlanian:**

Responded that the portal currently only allows one registration per department or role.

**Sharon Weinberg:**

Inquired if the portal can be used to upload additional agreements besides POS.

**Arshalous Garlanian:**

Responded that the portal can only upload POS with the plans to allow for more types in the future.

#### **8.4 Legislative Report**

Belinda Abatesi stated they have been closely monitoring recently introduced bills that were referred to multiple service committees. They noted upcoming meetings and events and added that a grassroots update was available on a website link provided in the Zoom chat.

#### **8.5 Executive Director's Report**

Angela Pao-Johnson presented the Executive Director's Report and highlighted significant items. She also highlighted that Evelyn McOmie was presenting at the CSUN Alumni to discuss the benefits of working at NLACRC. It was also confirmed that the podcast sessions are currently being recorded and are scheduled to launch before the end of March 2025.

### **9. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP INFORMATION**

#### **9.1 School Age Services**

Paul Borda stated the recent meeting involved discussions of rate reform, QIP, portal access, along with recruitment and retention strategies.

#### **9.2 Adult Services**

Octavia Watkins confirmed they had 21 participants at their last conference, with employment metrics, support services, financial literacy, and housing solution initiatives discussed.

### **10. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **10.1 Administrative Affairs**

Jaklen Keshishyan confirmed the next meeting was scheduled for April 17, 2024. They added that DDS had conducted an audit that detected a discrepancy regarding a service code causing overpayment for some vendors. They confirmed they are currently working with DDS to identify a resolution

## **10.2 Consumer Services**

Sharon Weinberg confirmed that all consumer service reports are available on the NLACRC website and asked that any audit-related questions be brought to the next meeting for potential revisions to the audit process.

## **10.3 Government and Community Relations**

Jodie Agnew-Navarro confirmed the next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2025.

## **10.4 Nominating**

Alex Kopilevich confirmed the next meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2025.

## **10.5 Strategic Planning**

Octavia Watkins confirmed the prior meeting discussed planning for the current fiscal year, updates to the special contract language, and the sunsetting of the current strategic plans. They added that the Board is seeking new candidates due to many resignations early in the year.

## **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT**

Jodie Agnew-Navarro requested the work group's final reports be removed from next month's agenda as they have already been provided. Alex Kopilevich confirmed they would review this at the next meeting.

Mark Wolfe requested that DDS's instructional videos on the IPP template be reviewed.

Sharon Weinberg thanked Angela Pao-Johnson for organizing the vendor forum in February 2025.

Angela Pao-Johnson commented that DDS may remove NLACRC from Special Contract Language if the committee can sustain caseloads.

## **12. NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on April 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Chatsworth Office Location.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:10 a.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.

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Director

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Director

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Date

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