I. Call to Order & Introductions

Sharoll Jackson, VAC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcome new members Suad Bisogno, Dana Kalek, and Sonia Ojeda to the VAC. Introductions were then made.

II. Public Input

A. Terence Carson, from Strategic Technology Solutions, announced that his company provides viable solutions to get service providers into HIPAA compliance and ongoing support to keep them up to date with any changes. Terence can be reached at tcarson@hipaasap.com and his website is getstarted.hipaasap.com.

B. Victoria Berrey, from the Family Focus Resource Center, announced that the FFRC’s annual special needs resource fair will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at CSUN on Sunday, October 21st. The fair usually has over 1,000
attendees and the exhibition spaces do sell out. Fliers for the event were made available.

C. Monica Bhuyen, from CBEM, reported that their new offices in the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valleys are now open and they are accepting referrals for their crisis intervention services.

D. Scott Crois asked for information on how rates are calculated after a change of ownership.

**Action:** Arsho Garlanian will meet with Scott after the meeting.

E. Alona Yorkshire, from The Adult Skills Center, announced that TASC is going to be providing a 4-day class on professional crisis management in September. Space is limited. Anyone interested should contact her at ayorkshire@taschq.com.

F. Tim Walker, from A Better Living, announced that his agency provides permanent housing and supportive services to San Fernando Valley’s homeless and disabled population. Meals are included, but to be considered for placement, an individual must be actively involved in a self-help class. For more information, call (818) 810-5250.

### III. Consent Items

A. **Approval of Agenda**

**M/S/C** (D. Lucas/S. Ojeda) To approve the agenda as presented.

B. **Approval of Minutes from the June 7th VAC Meeting** (Attachment)

**M/S/C** (S. Bisogno/M. Feldman) To approve the minutes as presented.

### IV. VAC Group Photograph

The group photograph was deferred until next month’s meeting when more VAC members could be present.

### V. Executive Director’s Report (George Stevens)

A. **VAC’s Request to Update ARCA’s “On the Brink” Report**
The Association of Regional Center Agencies produced a report called “On the Brink of Collapse” about the state of our developmental disabilities system in February 2015. The VAC was very interested in getting ARCA to update this report so the most recent data could be shared. George reported that ARCA is working to update that report. Once the report has been updated, he will let the VAC know.

B. Burns & Associates’ Rate Survey: The deadline for completing the survey is tomorrow. Unfortunately, many service providers have still not completed their survey; this is a statewide issue. Only about 10% of NLACRC providers have completed the survey. George understands that the survey is rather long and requires data that many service providers do not collect. But George strongly encouraged all providers to complete the survey. This is your one opportunity to have a voice in the rate setting process. The center’s staff are here to help you.

C. Behavioral Services Transition: Dr. Arpi Arabian reported that the center has successfully transitioned 66 consumers who require behavioral services, but who do not have an autism diagnosis, to a managed care plan. We still have 312 more consumers to go. Please talk with families and encourage them to complete the consent form and send it to us so we can begin transferring their consumer’s records to a managed care plan. Adaptive skills training is not being shifted to managed care plans; it will stay with the center.

D. State Budget: The half-day billing was reinstated; consumers who do not attend their program for at least 65% of the day can only be billed for half-day. The extended required closure dates were delayed for 1 year. The $25 million bridge funding for high cost areas needs approval from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) so it can match the amount with federal funding. Once CMS has approved the federal funding, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will determine how regional centers adjust provider rates. We will continue to update our providers as we receive new information.

E. Legislative Outreach: Our issues for this fiscal year will be the restoration of suspended services and an increase for regional center’s operations budget. We will be holding 2 candidates’ forums this year:

1. Thursday, October 11th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (The Centre in Santa Clarita)
2. Thursday, October 25th, 6-30-8:30 p.m. (New Horizons in North Hills)
We have also continued the contract with our legislative educators, Michelle Heid and Steve Miller, who provide education and legislative outreach to our community.

F. **637 Proposals:** The center submitted 2 proposals to the Department of Developmental Services in June, one for the use of speech and language pathology assistants (SLPAs) and the other for community-based integrated support services (CBIS). We have had no response as yet from DDS on the SLPA proposal, but did receive many inquiries from them for more information about the CBIS proposal. We provided answers to their inquiries last week.

G. **New Publications:** The center is finalizing 3 new publications, that should be ready for dissemination soon:

1. A new NLACRC general brochure
2. A commonly coordinated services guide by age group
3. A family services guide

H. **Workers’ Compensation Changes:** Changes are being proposed to workers compensation as it relates to day services; and it includes a significant rate increase. Please talk to your insurance brokers about this to see how you may be impacted. The Association of Regional Center Agencies submitted a letter opposing the changes.

I. **Select Committee on Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities:** This committee will hold their first hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 7th, in Sacramento. The following items are on their agenda for discussion:

1. DDS overview on services and supports.
2. Historical developmental services budget rends and recent budget actions.
3. Policy issues and program challenges (including demographics in California; regional centers and living within the community; employment development; and a safety net for consumers in crisis.

If you are unable to attend the hearing, you can watch it on CalChannel.

J. **NLACRC Consumer Advisory Committee:** The center changed the format of its CAC to provide more opportunity for consumer participation. The first meeting in this new format was held yesterday and the discussion topic was
legislative advocacy. The consumer turnout at that meeting was much better than in the past. The next CAC meeting will be held Wednesday, September 5th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and the discussion topic will be employment (lunch is provided). Please help us spread the word! We would like this to be a forum for our adult consumers to discuss current issues and provide input from their perspective to our Board of Trustees.

K. **Self-Determination:** The proposed timeline is as follows:

1. **September 17th:** The deadline for interested consumers/families to submit their names so they can be considered for participation in the pilot.
2. **October 1st:** DDS to select the initial participants.
3. **October 19th:** The State Council is to review the orientation materials.
4. **October 31st:** DDS to release the training curriculum to the regional centers.

NLACRC was originally allotted 174 positions for the 3-year pilot, but that number was increased to 183. However, we still have not received any information from DDS about the mechanics of the program or which services will be available. We are still accepting names on our website of any consumers who are interested in participating in the pilot program.

L. **NLACRC Board of Trustees Meeting:** The board meetings are usually held on the 2nd Wednesday evening of the month. However, in August, the meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday, August 15th.

VI. **Chief Financial Officer’s Report** (Kim Rolfes)

A. **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act:** WIOA is landmark legislation that is designed to strengthen and improve our nation’s public workforce system and help get Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers and help employers hire and retain skilled workers. It applies to individuals who are 24 years or younger.

B. **Electronic Visit Verification:** EVV is a telephone and computer-based system that electronically verifies service visits; all states must implement EVV for Medicaid-funded personal care services by January 2019 and home health care services by January 2023. There is no prescribed solution from the federal government, so states can select and implement their own EVV design. DDS was asking for an extension of the January 2019 deadline because it is not
clear what service providers need to do; the deadline has been extended to January 2020.

C. **NLACRC’s FY 2017-18 Budget:** The center’s operations budget was about $50.4 million and the purchase of service budget $410.2 million with a projected surplus ranging from $704,000 to $2.8 million.

D. **Money Management Services:** NLACRC, through its RFP process, has selected FACT to provide money management services. Starting November 1st, they will support adult consumers who reside in residential placement and who require assistance in managing third-party benefits, such as Social Security and Medi-Cal benefits. NLACRC is currently the representative payee for nearly 1,500 consumers.

E. **Resource Development Specialist:** Lisa Mayti has been hired as our new resource development specialist. Kim will introduce her next month.

**VII. Community Services Director’s Report**

A. **Vendor Newsletter:** Arsho Garlanian announced that the center has just released its latest newsletter. The newsletters contains lots of useful information for our providers including upcoming events, including the vendor fairs, and the new RFP opportunities. Copies of the newsletter were made available.

B. **Hot Weather:** Venus Khorasani reminded providers to use their inclement weather schedules during the summer heat and keeping consumers cool and hydrated. Copies of DDS’s Safety Net newsletter were provided and it contains lots of good information on how to keep consumers safe in hot weather. Also, copies of NLACRC’s bulletin on how to beat the heat were provided.

C. **Vendor Fairs:** Jennifer Sturm announced that the center will be holding vendor fairs on the following dates and locations:

1. **Tuesday, September 11th** (adult/transition-day programs/supported living services/supported employment) **SFV office**
2. **Thursday, September 13th** (adult/transition-crisis management/behavior services/in-home respite/individual & family training/adaptive skills/environmental accessibility) **SFV office**
3. **Tuesday, September 25th** (Early Start and school age-infant development program/home health agency/behavioral respite) **SFV office**

4. **Wednesday, October 17th** (all ages and above services) **AV office**

These fairs are a great opportunity for you to share information about your services and for service coordinators to have the opportunity to meet you. You can find the registration information on the center’s website; 1 ticket per vendor for a table for 2.

**VIII. Committee Business**

A. **Annual VAC Orientation**: Review Policies & Procedures (Attachment): Copies of the VAC’s policies and procedures were provided. The purpose of the committee is to provide advice, guidance, recommendations, and technical assistance to the Board of Trustees, through their chair, who is also a member of the board.

B. **FY 2017-18 VAC Action Log** (Attachment): Copies of the action log were provided. The action log shows all of the actions that were taken by the VAC last fiscal year. Action logs are produced for each of the board’s subcommittees at the beginning of each fiscal year so members can see what actions were taken by their committee the previous fiscal year. The VAC took 28 actions last fiscal year.

C. **FY 2018-19 VAC Meeting Schedule** (Attachment): Copies of the meeting schedule were provided. The committee will meet on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. except in December and July. All meetings are held at the center’s main office in Chatsworth.

D. **FY 2018-19 VAC Roster & Terms** (Attachment): Currently, 16 of the 18 VAC positions are filled. The only VAC member scheduled to term out (after serving 6 years) is Marina Pink.

E. **VAC Priorities for FY 2018-19** (Attachment): The VAC reviewed their priorities from last fiscal year and discussed whether or not their priorities should change for the new fiscal year.

**Action**: The committee agreed to add the transportation to the list of issues being addressed by the adult services team.
M/S/C (S. Ojeda/C. Fernandez) To recommend to the Board of Trustees to approve the VAC’s priority issues for FY 2018-19, as modified.

F. Volunteers Needed to Represent the VAC on Board Committees: The following VAC members volunteered to represent the VAC on the following board committees this fiscal year:

1. Administrative Affairs: Cynthia Fernandez
2. Consumer Services & Government/Community Relations: Sonia Ojeda and Orli Almog
3. Nominating: Bob Erio
4. Strategic Planning: Suad Bisogno

IX. Reports from the VAC Priority Issue Work Groups

A. Early Start Services (Fredlyn Berger): Fredlyn was not present to give a report.

B. School Age Services (Mariela Feldman): The group primarily discussed the behavioral services transition from NLACRC to managed care plans for consumers who need behavioral services who do not have an autism-related diagnosis.

C. Adult Services (Jenni Moran): Notes from this group’s meeting were provided and reviewed. Discussion highlights included services for older adults with developmental disabilities and what the regional center is doing to prepare service providers for compliance with the HCBS final rule.

D. Implementation of Legislative Changes (Sharoll Jackson): Notes from this group’s meeting were provided and reviewed. Discussion highlights included electronic visit verification, cyberspace insurance, and the Burns & Associates’ rate survey.

X. Report on Board Committee Meetings

Minutes from the NLACRC Board of Trustees meetings and minutes from all of its subcommittee meetings are posted on the center’s website under the “Governance/Board of Trustees/Approved Meeting Minutes” tab.
A. **Administrative Affairs:** This committee oversees the center’s financial reports, contracts, insurance, and human resources. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 29th, at 6:00 p.m.

B. **Board of Trustees:** The board generally meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the center’s main office. However, the next meeting will be held August 15th, the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

C. **Consumer Services:** This committee is responsible for reviewing all consumer-related matters, including changes to the service standards and reviewing data from case management to aid the board in policy determinations. They are also overseeing the center’s implementation of the self-determination program. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 22nd, at 6:00 p.m.

D. **Government & Community Relations:** This committee tracks legislation that would have an impact on our consumers and oversee legislative outreach and events. They also are responsible for review the center’s public awareness materials. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 22nd, at 7:00 p.m., immediately following the Consumer Services Committee meeting.

E. **Strategic Planning:** This committee oversees the implementation of the center’s performance based contract, identifies gaps in the service delivery system and recommend alternatives to close those gaps, and investigate possible housing options for our consumers. This committee meets quarterly and its next meeting will be held Monday, August 6th, at 6:00 p.m.

**XI. Open Issues for Discussion**

No further issues were brought up for discussion.

**XII. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting**

The following items were identified for the VAC’s section of the August 15th board meeting:

A. Minutes of the August 2nd VAC Meeting
B. Approval of VAC Priorities for FY 2018-19

**XIII. Announcements/Information/Public Input**
A.  **Next VAC Meeting**: Thursday, September 6th (break out groups will meet)

**XIV. Adjournment**

Sharoll adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Submitted by,

*Jennifer Kaiser*

Jennifer Kaiser  
Executive Assistant

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