

**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 **January 10, 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
Anna Hurst
David Coe
Jenifer Koster
Nicholas Abrahms

Trustees Absent

Guests Present

Richard Dier - SDLAC
Lori Walker - SDLAC
Ryan Kelly - Interpreter
Lia Cervantes Lerma - State Council
Theresa Quarry – Family Focus Resource
James Henry – Board Nominee
Kelsi Levingston – Board Nominee
Jasmine Barrios – Minutes Services
Dunlock (No last name noted)
Martha Martinez
Laura Monge
Mayra Alvarado
Megan Mitchell
Sonya Ramirez
Miriam Erberich – SDLAC
Darlene F
Claudia Santos
Xochitl Gonzalez- DDS
Juan Hernandez
Jaklen Keshishyan
Socorro Curameng

Staff Present

Ruth Janka
Vini Montague
Arezo Abedi
Elena Tiffany
Kimberly Visokey
Parita Burmee
Chris Whitlock
Gabriela Eshrati
Evelyn McOmie
Malorie Lanthier
Donna Rentsch
Arshalous Garlanian

1. **Call to Order & Welcome** – Ana Quiles, Board President
Ana called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 (L. Martinez/B. Gatus) To enter the Closed Session at 7:36 pm.

M/S/C (R. Sigala/G. Alvarado) To exit the Closed Session at 6:33 pm.
4. **Housekeeping**
 - A. Spanish Interpretation Available
Ana informed attendees that instructions for Spanish Interpretation in are located the chat.

B. Public Attendance

Ana asked public attendants are to notate their name 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 and their position on the Board. For example, "Ana Quiles, Board President". She also asked that NLA staff do the same to help attendees identify the speakers.

5. Introductions

A. Rocio Sigala, 2nd Vice President of the Board

Rocio stated that she is the parent to a 15-year-old consumer, she also has a 19-year-old son and recently welcomed a son last week. She works as a registered nurse and is the Director/Co-Founder of AV Seed and Grow, which helps disabled individuals in the Antelope Valley. She is also the Chair of the Consumer Services Committee.

B. Evelyn McOmie, NLA Deputy Director

Evelyn has been with NLA since 2005, prior to that worked at the South Central Regional Center. She was born and raised in Los Angeles. She has 2 kids and 1 dog. She also has a Master's Degree in Business and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. She is committed to serving those in her community.

6. Public Input

Lia Cervantes-Lerma with State Council shared that any questions related to self-determination, special education, or any subject to call State Council for assistance. Anyone with questions or who need resources for special education, Self-Determination, etc. Currently, there is a series training being held on IPP Strategies on January 22nd in Spanish and Disparities in The Regional Center every Monday at 10:00 am in English.

Leticia Garcia congratulated Evelyn McOmie for her promotion to Deputy Director. She also thanked Ruth Janka for serving NLA for 27 years. She wished her much happiness and luck.

Theresa Quarry, from the Family Focus Resource Center congratulated Ruth on her retirement. She also announced that on March 16th, there will be an All-Abilities Resource Fair at Memorial Park in the Antelope Valley. More information is available on the Family Focus Resource Center website.

7. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/B. Gatus) To approve the meeting agenda as presented.

- B. Approval of November 8, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
M/S/C (G. Alvarado/A. Ramirez) To approve the Minutes as presented.

8. FY2022-FY2023 DDS D-3 Contract Amendment – Vini Montague

Vini shared this information related to the deallocation of funds by DDS. DDS deallocated funds from regional centers related to hiring additional service coordinators. NLA's share of the deallocation is \$2,848,255. In the D3 Allocation from DDS, a new amount of 1,927,784 was deallocated. This is just informational, there is no action required.

9. Account Authorized Signer Changes – Vini Montague

Vini presented all of the resolutions before the vote:

- A. Board Resolution to Remove Ruth Janka from and Add Cristina Preuss to Bank Accounts
This resolution will remove Ruth Janka from NLA's Citi Bank accounts as of January 31, 2024 and will add Cristina Preuss as the Interim Executive Director on the accounts effective February 1, 2024.

- B. Board Resolution to Remove Ruth Janka from and Add Cristina Preuss to Trust Accounts
This resolution will remove Ruth Janka from NLA's Post Retirement Medical and CalPERS accounts at US Bank, as of January 31, 2024 and will add Cristina Preuss as the Interim Executive Director on the accounts effective February 1, 2024.

This resolution will remove Ruth Janka from NLA's PFM Asset Management (formerly HighMark Capital) accounts as of January 31, 2024 and will add Cristina Preuss as the Interim Executive Director on the accounts effective February 1, 2024.

- C. Board Resolution to Add Parita Burmee to Help Fund Account
This resolution will add Parita Burmee, HR Director to NLA's Citi Bank Help Fund account effective January 11, 2024.

- D. Board Resolution to Remove Malorie Lanthier from Help Fund Account
This resolution will remove Malorie Lanthier from NLA's Citi Bank Help Fund account upon her departure from NLA as of March 31, 2024.

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/B. Gatus) To approve the resolutions as presented.

10. Approval of Contracts – Vini Montague

Vini presented the contracts as presented in the packet.

- A. PL2140-076 Peace Living

POS Contract – Provides Coordinated Family Support Services

Contract Term- Effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028.

Projected total contract amount is \$1,125,375.00

Projected to serve 5 consumers per month

- B. PL2226-076 FMRC Health Group
 - POS Contract – Provides Coordinated Family Support Services
 - Contract Term- Effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028.
 - Projected total contract amount is \$1,125,375.00
 - Projected to serve 5 consumers per month

- C. PL2142-785 Dr. Papazyan
 - POS Contract – Provides diagnosis and psychotherapy of mental and emotional disorders
 - Contract Term- Effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028.
 - Projected total contract amount is \$551,646.11
 - Projected to serve 23 consumers per month

- D. PL2251-785 Dr. Carson
 - POS Contract – Provides diagnosis and psychotherapy of mental and emotional disorders
 - Contract Term- Effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028.
 - Projected total contract amount is \$551,646.11
 - Projected to serve 23 consumers per month

- E. PL2252-785 Dr. Ayvazian
 - POS Contract – Provides diagnosis and psychotherapy of mental and emotional disorders
 - Contract Term- Effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028.
 - Projected total contract amount is \$551,646.11
 - Projected to serve 23 consumers per month

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

11. Government & Community Relations Committee – David Coe

- A. Board Advocacy One-Sheet Draft
 - David shared that this draft will be edited to be one-page. This will serve as a reference for the community in regards to information on their legislative representatives. It also lists the Core Staffing Formula as a priority for advocacy and is a guide on how NLA consumers can participate in the legislative process.

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/R. Sigala) To approve the Board Advocacy One-Sheet as presented.

David proposed that the Board consider approving a requirement for Board Members to contact each of their legislative representatives. This task would be estimated to take minimal time to email 2 representatives not as Board Members, but as parents, family and community members of consumers for the benefit of advocating for the needs of the

individuals served. Ruth suggested that the Board Member Responsibilities Policy be amended to include this stipulation. It was determined to revise the Board Member Responsibilities Policy in the Executive Committee and will return to the Board for an approval vote once finalized by the Executive Committee.

M/S/C (D. Coe/A. Ramirez) To approve a revision of the Board Member Responsibilities Policy to include a requirement or Board Members to include contacting their Assemblyperson and Senator at least once a year.

12. Committee Action Items

A. Executive Committee - Ana Quiles

1. Bylaws - *deferred*
2. Proposed Update to Board Meeting Schedule

A. 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm – reserved for closed session or Board Training.

Ana proposed that the Board consider changing the time of the Board Meetings from 6:30 pm, to 6:00 pm and included that any closed sessions on the agenda, be conducted from 6:00-6:30 pm, followed by the remaining agenda. The determination was made to revise the motion to include an allowance of extra time for the Closed Session if needed.

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/A. Rodriguez) To approve the Board Meeting Schedule as Presented and to include the allowance of extra time for Closed Sessions on an as needed basis.

B. Nominating Committee

1. Nomination of New Board Members

Ana reviewed information on the proposed Board Nominees

A. Dr. James Henry – Board Member

Dr. James Henry graduated with a Bachelor's degree in African American Studies and an Interdisciplinary Master's Degree in Educational Policy and Leadership in African American Studies and completed his Doctorate of Higher Education Leadership in 2016. He currently serves as a Faculty Advisor to the Black Student Union and is the author of several publications.

B. Kelsi Levingston - Board Intern

Kelsi is the parent of an Early-Age Consumer. She is also a cosmetologist who owns her own business. In light of her desire for more Board Experience, she will serve as a Board Intern.

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

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/L. Martinez) To approve Cristina Preuss as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

2. Updated Board Roster and Committee List

Ana presented the information as presented in the packet. It was noted that the list needed to be revised to reflect there are 2 open positions on the Board and to remove Ruth Janka from the Post-Retirement and Medical Trust Committee roster.

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/A. Ramirez) To approve the Board Roster and Committee List with the noted revisions.

3. Request / Recommendations for Board Officers FY 2024-25

Board Members who are interested in Board Officer positions are welcome to reach out to any current Officers for more information.

13. Executive Director's Report - Ruth Janka

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

Legislative

Legislature reconvenes on January 3rd and will be assessing 2-year bills and new bills to introduce. Additionally, Governor Newsom will be releasing his proposed state budget by January 10th, of particular note, California is projecting a \$68 billion budget deficit, due to a decline in tax revenue for the state.

DDS

DDS will develop a master plan for developmental services to establish a more quality driven and consumer friendly experience for individuals and families receiving developmental services. DDS will also convene a work group of the key stakeholders to inform the development of the plan, specifically focusing on a programming existence that would be used to collect and analyze data and make recommendations that emphasize quality, equity, and outcomes while improving regional center accountability.

Staffing Data – Current Status

Staffing December data: 89 CSC Vacancies (replacement), (SFV – 57, AV – 24, and SCV – 8), 51 CSC Vacancies (growth); 62 Other open position vacancies, 69 positions on hold. 654 positions filled: 925 authorized. December New Hires: 1st cycle: 6 Consumer Services Coordinator (1 AVO-Bilingual Spanish, 2 SCV, 3 SFV; 2 Bilingual Spanish), 1 Executive Administrative Assistant – Executive Director. 2nd cycle: 2 Consumer Services Coordinators (1 AV, 1 SFV); 1 Nurse Consultant, 1 Outreach Language Specialist- Spanish, and 1 Information Technology Specialist II.

Staffing Changes

Effective January 1, 2024, Evelyn McOmie has promoted to Deputy Director; recruitment for the Chief Consumer and Community Services Officer will begin this January. Congratulations to Evelyn! Parita Burmee's title has been changed from Human Resources Director to Chief Human Resources Officer; there are no changes in duties, she will continue to lead the Human Resources Department and operation; a Human Resources Director position has been added to oversee daily operations of human resources in each principle area.

Recruitment

NLACRC, via the support of PeopleScout, seeks to interview 40-50 candidates and hire 10 – 12 new staff each month. Weekly meetings between NLACRC leadership and PeopleScout are set beginning January 11, 2024 to review and assess progress toward monthly objectives.

Workforce Development and Training – DSP Training Stipend Program

ICFs 55DDS has issued guidance that establishes that DSPs who work in ICF/DDs, ICF/DD-Hs, ICF/DD-Ns and ICF/DD-CNs who meet all other eligibility requirements may participate in the DSP Training Stipend Program.

Adjustments to Independent Living Skills Rate Models and Provider Rates Effective January 1, 2024

DDS has issued guidance re: changes to the rate model assumptions, which were updated to include occupational categories with duties more equivalent to those provided in ILS. Change results in approximately 25% increase to the rate model, or benchmark rates, actual impact for each provider's rate is dependent on the rate effect on March 31, 2022. RCs need to review workbook and add any new or missing vendors. Minimum wage increases will be added after the calculation of the updated benchmark rate. Rate models and payment rates for new providers will be updated on DDS' website by January 1, 2024.

Organizational Chart

In light of the transition with staff at NLA, Ana requested an updated organizational chart. Per Ruth, an org chart will be prepared by Board Support for review at the next Administrative Affairs Committee

ARCA Directors Meeting Link

Ana requested a copy of the ARCA Director's Meeting link. Ruth will connect Kimberly Visokey with Amy Westerling at ARCA regarding the January meeting link and agenda.

14. **Self Determination Program (SDP) – Gabriela Eshrati**
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.
 - A. SDLVAC Liaison November Report
 - B. SDLVAC Liaison December Report – no report

C. Next Self Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2024

- 15. Association of Regional Center Agencies** - Leticia Garcia
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.
A. Next meeting scheduled for January 19, 2024

- 16. Administrative Affairs Committee** -Brian Gatus
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.
A. Minutes of the September 28, 2023 Meeting -*deferred*
B. Next Meeting Scheduled on February 29, 2024, at 6:00pm
C. Ana requested that the Committee Members consider a meeting on January 23 regarding urgent matters. In addition, she proposed that the Administrative Affairs Committee move their meeting date to Tuesdays, on a separate day from the Executive Committee's meeting in the best interest of time for all Committee Members. Leticia proposed that the Administrative Affairs Committee meet on a monthly basis.

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/B. Gatus) To add a meeting for the Administrative Affairs Committee on Tuesday, January 23rd.

The agenda for the January 23rd meeting should be finalized by January 12th for NLA Staff to post by January 16th, after the holiday.

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/B. Gatus) To add an agenda item to the January 23rd Meeting regarding Meeting Date and Frequency.

- 17. Consumer Advisory Committee** – George Alvarado
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.
A. Minutes of the November 1st Meeting
B. Minutes of the January 3rd Meeting - *deferred*
C. Next Meeting Scheduled on February 7, 2024, at 2:30pm

- 18. Consumer Services Committee** – Rocio Sigala
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.
A. Minutes of the September 20, 2023 Meeting
B. Minutes of the November 15, 2023 Meeting - *deferred*
C. Next Meeting Scheduled on February 21, 2024, at 6:00pm
D. Ana shared a request for Consumer Services that the Committee look into challenges related to the reimbursement process for consumers who pay up front for Social Rec services.

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/B. Gatus) To add an agenda item to the next Consumer Services Meeting regarding Social Rec Reimbursement Delays

19. Executive Committee – Ana Quiles

Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.

- A. Minutes of the October 26, 2023 Meeting
- B. Minutes of the November 30, 2023 Meeting – *deferred*
- C. Minutes of the December 14, 2023 Meeting – *deferred*
- D. Contracts Approved on Behalf of the Board
 - 1. Workforce Development Solutions Amendment
 - A. Conflict of Interest Legal Opinion Letter
 - 2. MIJI Health Care Services Inc. PL2247-062 – entity change
 - 3. MIJI Health Care Services Inc. HL1073-862 – entity change
 - 4. MIJI Health Care Services Inc. PL2248-49/PL2249-459 New Vendorization
 - 5. Comforcare HL1054-862 – New Vendorization
 - 6. Diamond ASC PL2227-076 – New Vendorization
 - 7. Amazing Grace Home Center II PL2231-109 – entity change
 - 8. SLEA PL2163-612 – tax ID change
 - 9. SLEA PL2164-615 – tax ID change
 - 10. Callahan ATDS PL2222-605 – New Vendorization
 - 11. Gittelsohn PL2213-056 – New Vendorization
 - 12. Gittelsohn PL2215-102 – New Vendorization
 - 13. Hola Clinic PL2236-116 – New Vendorization
 - 14. Liberty PL2218-055 – New Vendorization
 - 15. Liberty PL2219-117 – New Vendorization
 - 16. Talk4Me Therapy PL2214-707 – New Vendorization
 - 17. New Horizons PL2151-055 – New Vendorization
 - 18. Future Transitions PL2238-076 – New Vendorization
 - 19. Mysti's Adult and Family Services PL2241-076 – New Vendorization
 - 20. Pathways for Empowerment PL2237-076 – New Vendorization
- E. Next Meeting Scheduled on January 25, 2024, at 7:30p

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/L. Martinez) To change the time of the Executive Committee Meeting to 6:00 pm on January 25th.

20. Recruitment Committee

- A. Minutes of the December 7th Meeting
- B. Minutes of the December 14th Meeting
- C. Minutes of the December 18th Meeting
- D. Minutes of the December 26th Meeting - *deferred*
- E. Minutes of the January 2nd Meeting -*deferred*
- F. Timeline for Recruitment
- G. Input Sessions by Invitation
 - 1.Current Stakeholders - Jan 25th
 - 2.Community Based Organizations (CBO) - Jan 30th
 - 3.Employee - Feb 1st

- 21. Government & Community Relations – David Coe**
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.
- A. Minutes of the October 18th Meeting
 - B. Minutes of the November 16th Meeting - *deferred*
 - C. Next Meeting Scheduled on January 17, 2024, at 6:00pm

- 22. Nominating Committee - Lillian Martinez**
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.
- A. Applications to Serve an Additional Term
 - B. Minutes of the November 14, 2023 Meeting - *deferred*
 - C. Next Meeting Scheduled on February 7, 2024, at 5:30pm

- 23. Post-Retirement Medical Trust Committee – Ana Quiles**
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.
- A. Next Meeting Scheduled on January 25, 2024, at 5:30 pm

M/S/C (G. Alvarado/L. Martinez) To cancel the January 25th meeting due to the need for more information to review the agenda items

- 24. Strategic Planning Committee- Leticia Garcia**
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.
- A. Minutes of the November 6, 2023 Meeting - *deferred*
 - B. Next Meeting Scheduled on February 5, 2024, at 6:00pm

- 25. Vendor Advisory Committee – Suad Bisogno**
Ana reviewed the information as presented in the packet.
- A. Minutes of the November 2, 2023 Meeting
 - B. Minutes of the January 4th Meeting - *deferred*
 - C. Next Meeting Scheduled on February 1, 2024, at 9:30am

- 26. 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

- 27. Announcements/Information/Public Input**
- A. Next Meeting: Wed., February 14, 2024, at 6:00pm
 - B. Public Meeting Attendance
 - C. SDP Independent Facilitator Round Table: Thurs., January 11, 2024, 2:00pm
 - D. Ticket to Work workshop with Jay Nolan: Thurs., January 11, 2024, 2:00pm

- E. Different Thinkers, Different Learners-Diferentes Formas de Pensar, Diferentes Formas de Aprender: Introduction to the disability from a psychoeducational perspective: Tues., January 16, 2024, 10:00am
- F. Self-Determination Independent Facilitator Workshop: Wed., January 17, 2024, 1:00pm; Wed., January 24, 2024, 1:00pm; Wed., January 31, 2024, 1:00pm; Wed., February 7, 2024, 1:00pm; Wed., February 8, 2024, 1:00pm
- G. Government & Community Relations Committee Meeting: Wed., January 17, 2024, 8:00pm
- H. CalABLE Presentation - North Los Angeles County Regional Center: Thurs., January 18, 2024, 10:00am & Wed., January 24, 2024, 5:30pm
- I. Town Hall - Ayuntamiento Virtual: Thurs., January 18, 2024, 1:00pm
- J. Self Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting: Thurs., January 18, 2024, 8:30pm
- K. Executive Committee Meeting: Thur., January 25, 2024, 7:30pm
- L. Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting: Thurs., February 1, 2024, 9:30am
- M. Self-Determination Orientation: Mon., February 5, 2024, 9:00am
- N. Strategic Planning Committee Meeting: Mon., February 5, 2024, 6:00pm
- O. Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting: Wed., February 7, 2024, 3:00pm

Curtis Wang shared that he would like to Volunteer for the Workshop on February 24th. Kimberly Visokey will connect with him for more information.

Dr. James Henry shared that there is a strike being held by the California Federation of Teachers on January 22-26th. He encouraged Board Members to spread the word and welcomed anyone to support.

David noted that the Recruiting and Negotiating Committees' meeting dates are not listed, Kimberly Visokey will update the list.

Leticia shared that the Board Attendance matrix should be on a rolling calendar, Kimberly Visokey will update the document.

28. Adjournment

Ana Quiles, Board President, adjourned the meeting at 8:04 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.*

