

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**

January 31, 2022

**Present:** Marianne Davis, Michael Fernandez, Lety Garcia, Sharoll Jackson, Ruth Janka, Lillian Martinez, Ana Quiles, Curtis Wang, Orli Almog (VAC), Alan Darby, Jesse Weller - Committee Members

Lizeth Chavez, Michele Marra, Evelyn McOmie, Jennifer Williamson, and Sandra Rizo – Staff Members

Ami Sullivan, Consultant, Kinetic Flow - Guest

Shelly Hash – Interpreter

Seth Tanner – Minutes Services

**Absent:** None

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Marianne Davis, committee chair. No formal introductions were conducted.

**II. Public Input**

No public input received.

**III. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Agenda

**M/S/C** (L. Garcia/R. Janka) To approve the January 31, 2022 agenda with addition of item E- IHSS under Committee Business.

B. Approval of Minutes from the December 6, 2021 Meeting

**M/S/C** (C. Wang/A. Quiles) To approve the minutes from the January 3, 2022 meeting noting a correction to the date of the next committee meeting, which should be February 28, and not February 7th.

**IV. Committee Business**

A. Update on Strategic Thinking Surveys

Ami Sullivan provided a mid-point status update – Survey invitation was mailed out to the various groups identified. Surveys went out on Jan. 11th to all groups with 3

reminders. To date we have 72 Board/Community members responses which includes English/Spanish. 205 staff members, 53 providers, and 123 community members via the online survey and 135 via the telephone surveys have responded. These response rates were a little lower than ideal, yet it was not surprising given the pandemic. However, representation was captured across all localities and groups.

The survey will close on February 5th. All robust data will be provided at retreat as well as follow-ups.

Copies of printable survey in Spanish were available but we have not received any returned.

B. March Retreat Update

Committee members were informed that eight responses have been received to a poll of possible retreat schedules for virtual retreat – results thus far favored a solely two-day retreat.

The committee agreed that a final reminder be sent to members that have not responded to the poll with a deadline of Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. The majority of votes will determine the schedule among the three options provided.

**Action Item:** Liz will send one more reminder with deadline of Friday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – Reminder will be sent only to those that have not responded.

C. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy Steering Committee Update

Committee was informed that the first DEI Policy Steering Committee kick-off meeting was on Jan 27<sup>th</sup>. The objectives, initial parameters and purpose for the group were discussed as well as policy development and next steps. Feedback was positive/productive. The next step is to develop charter, mission, and vision which will be at the forefront of policy development.

The group will look at policy samples and final draft will be presented to this committee no later than April 30, 2022. The policy will then go to the Executive Committee in May for final approval at the June 2022 meeting. Support roles had been enlisted for note taking, legal consultation, and union consultation.

The DEI Steering Committee will meet monthly, in February, March, and April, and are optimistic that we can achieve timeline. Timelines are established to keep us on track.

**Action Item** – involve the union as appropriate – include early on in process.

D. Performance Contract Updates

Committee was informed that on January 19<sup>th</sup> DDS sent confirmation that they have reviewed and approved the submitted Performance contract. RC's may need to amend their calendar to include the quality incentive program amendments to focus on high quality objectives.

E. IHSS Update

Committee was reminded that we were going to identify systemwide issues with IHSS. – create database of issues with families that are affected. This issue was raised a year ago; where concerns were raised regarding the IHSS evaluation process and a failure to authorize the appropriate amount of hours needed to meet the needs of consumers. At that time, the Executive Director contacted both the Office of Client's Rights Advocacy (OCRA), and State Council (SCDD), both entities had not identified these issues, based on their intake data, as being systemic issues with IHSS. Executive Director will follow up with both OCRA and SCDD to inquire if they are finding systemic issues re: IHSS evaluations and authorization and/or re-authorization of hours.

Committee members were asked if they know of families that are having issues, to please contact NLACRCs Executive Director.

It was shared that Public Law Council has data noting disparities in IHSS and Lillian Martinez offered to supply redacted evidence of problems with IHSS for specific families of NLACRC that she assists. It was reported that many families do not know that they can appeal IHSS hours, and many consumers/families lack the general knowledge on their appeal rights/advocacy tools available to them.

It was recommended that a targeted message be sent to families with regards to IHSS, letting them know who to contact with any IHSS issues/concerns. It was also suggested to have a training/townhall with a panel approach (suggested panelists would be Orli, Lilian, etc.).

**Action:** Deputy Director will add this topic to Disparity, Equity & Inclusion Committee agenda and will report back at Consumer Services and Strategic Planning Committees. Executive Director will address this topic with staff and will follow-up with Orli on reports of inaccurate information disseminated through NLACRCs service coordinators regarding IHSS. IHSS is also a good topic for Aprendiendo Entre Nos.

A recommendation was made for NLACRC to take a random sample of IPPs and

analyze for amount of IHSS hours, impacted disability, major life activities/functional limitations, etc. to see if there are disparities. In addition, executive director will ask Bebo Saab for assistance with benchmarking our data re: the amount of IHSS provided based on the IPP review.

**Action:**

- Create targeted message to families/consumer as to whom to contact for assistance with IHSS issues/concerns, include training from OCRA/Bebo with date and promote.
- Create a centralized location to receive information regarding IHSS issues.
- Coordinate training by OCRA, specifically Bebo Saab as a presenter, and a townhall regarding IHSS; include a board member as a panelist for the town hall, Lillian and Orli agreed to participate.
- Consider use of a Survey Monkey to gather information regarding IHSS issues.
- Take a random sample of cases to assess for IHSS disparities/issues as outlined.

**V. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

- A. Minutes of the January 31, 2022 Meeting
- B. Message/Research/Survey re: IHSS information
- C. Community Awareness Training Update from Consumer Services

**VI. Announcements / Information Items**

- A. Next Meeting: Monday, February 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

**VII. Adjournment**

Marianne Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Sandra Rizo*

Executive Admin. Assistant

Note: The majority of these minutes are taken from the Minutes Service submission and reviewed/edited as presented herein by NLACRC staff.

