

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
November 4, 2021

**Present:** Jodi Agnew-Navarro, Orli Almog, Erica Beall, Suad Bisogno, Kimberly Bermudez, Catherine Carpenter, Cal Enriquez, Bob Erio, Kenny Ha, Sharoll Jackson (Chair), Dana Kalek, Alex Kopilevich, Don Lucas, Jenni Moran, Daniel Ortiz, Kevin Shields - Committee Members

**Absent:** Olga Reyes

Kim Rolfes, Dr. Jesse Weller, Evelyn McOmic, Arpi Arabian, Arsho Garlanian, Cheryl Blizin, Sandra Rizo, Chantelle Crown, Cathy Robinson-Learn, Cristina Preuss, Dr. Michael Fernandez, Elisa Hill, Erin Broughton-Rodriguez, Gabriela Eshrati, Josie Dauglash, Kimberly Johnson-McNeill, Marlene Vargas, Nancy Salyers, Stephanie Margaret, Venus Rodriguez-Khorasani - NLACRC Staff

Approximately 77 Service Providers also participated on the Zoom call.

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

Sharoll Jackson, VAC chair, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

The Executive Director asked for a moment of silence to recognize the late Ken Lane who was very influential in our community and instrumental in raising aging adult issues and developing best practices.

**Moment of Silence/Words of Expression**

- Executive Director asked for a moment of silence for a former colleague and collaborator who passed away, Mr. Ken Lane.
- Following the moment of silence, meeting attendees gave words on Ken's work ethic and personality.
- The Aging Adult Specialist position was recognized in honor of Ken Lane, who worked collaboratively with other members of the VAC to develop an Aging Adult policy and recommend the position. Marlene Vargas was introduced as the Aging Adult Specialist effective October 11, 2021.

## II. Public Input

- Sharon Weinberg, Family Home Agency provider, met with LA County for the vaccine mandate for people working with individuals with developmental disabilities. The vaccine mandate only applies to employees from vendors/regional centers, not ones internally employed by the family. There should be a vaccine mandate or at least a testing mandate for personal family hires.
- Jon Francis, SDP LVAC Chair and SLS provider, gave condolences to everyone on Ken's passing. He also went on to talk about what is affecting the Supportive Living Services (SLS) Community. November 10<sup>th</sup> is a statewide self-determination virtual meeting. December 8<sup>th</sup> will be the second self-determination resource fair at 6:30pm. The self-determination local volunteer advisory committee chair and co-chair elections will be held at this month's committee meeting. He also mentioned there is a shortage of labor and it is becoming a near crisis for some SLS providers.
- Jody Navarro, Behavior Services provider, shared that CalTash is putting on a free webinar on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am-12:30pm on the HCBS Setting Rule: How We Align Policy, Practice & Funding.

## III. Consent Items

### A. Approval of Agenda

**M/S/C** (J. Moran/S. Bisogno) to approve the agenda as presented.

### B. Approval of Minutes from the October 7th VAC Meeting

**M/S/C** (D. Kalek/K. Shields) to approve the October 7th meeting minutes as presented.

## IV. Executive Director's Report (Ruth Janka)

### 1. New positions at all regional centers:

1. Deaf Services Specialist
2. Emergency Response Coordinator
3. Enhanced Services Coordination Specialist (6 positions at NLACRC)
4. Public Information Officer

### 2. Affordable Housing:

\$300,000 of discretionary funds from Supervisor Barger's Office have been allocated to the Penny Lane Center in Lancaster for an 80-unit affordable housing development, Imagine Village II.

3. Governor's Annual Capitol Tree Lighting:

DDS has issued a request for ornaments for the Governor's Annual Capitol Tree Lighting. The deadline for submission of ornaments to the department is November 12<sup>th</sup>. More information regarding the guidelines for this is available on NLACRC's website.

4. COVID-19:

- Hospitalizations have increased this week over last, at 659 this week. According to the data, we are hovering between 0.7-1% of positivity rates. LA County Public Health expects 900,000 children between ages 5-11 will be eligible for the vaccine; LA County anticipates having 300,000 doses of vaccine available by the end of week.
- There is a mandate for service provider staff to provide proof of vaccination to their employer however not to individuals served. Communication regarding this will be sent out to the community listing the requirements, and limitations of information a consumer or family member may seek from direct service providers. It was discussed that a consumer/family can decline services if the family is uncomfortable with not knowing the vaccination status of worker.
- Proof of vaccination mandate went into effect as today in the city of Los Angeles for visiting various indoor locations, as well as outdoor mega events.
- Booster shots are not a part of the vaccination mandate.

5. DDS Guidance & Directives:

October 27<sup>th</sup>, there was an extension on the waivers modifications and directives that were previously issued. They extend expiration dates into December except the half date billing requirement (which is waived until November 26<sup>th</sup>).

6. Rate Adjustment Approvals:

The authority for regional center executive directors approving rate adjustments for supplemental staffing services in residential settings expires as of November 3<sup>rd</sup>. These rate adjustment requests will go through the typical DDS approval process after November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

7. Announcements:

- Northeast Valley Center received a \$250,000 grant from Providence Hospital to expand their developmental screening services.
- The amount of communications coming from NLACRC are oversaturating the community; we are currently pausing communications regarding cultural events and are developing a weekly bulletin format to provide all types of information. Additionally, an annual overall communication plan will be developed with the assistance of a consultant.

- The performance contract is being finalized and will go to the Board of Trustees on November 10<sup>th</sup> to be finalized by November 23<sup>rd</sup> to submit to DDS by the end of the month.
- The legislative town hall is scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm. Topics to include affordable housing, and awareness about increasing regional center service equity.
- Alona Yorkshire mentioned that she met with IPP teams this week and found there is a great deal of confusion among the CSCs regarding the vaccine mandate. Request for clarifying internal email. Ruth confirmed that Center will communicate both internally and externally regarding the application of the vaccine mandate.

## **V. Chief Financial Office's Report (Kim Rolfes/Alan Darby)**

### **A. Fun Fact:**

The majority of NLACRC's active authorizations as of 10/14/2021 are for traditional services. This is interesting data because it demonstrates a trend of services returning to traditional rather than alternative service delivery.

### **B. Service Provider Rate Implementation**

- a. On November 3, 2021, DDS & Representative from Health Management Associates (Burns & Associates) met with RC staff regarding Rate implementation
- b. Rates Scheduled to be provided to RC's mid-February 2022
- c. DDS will be scheduling various presentations to include service providers, although no timeline was provided
- d. No rates will be reduced based on the rate study until June 30, 2026

### **C. Operations Updates**

POS Check Runs: (Invoices due by the 6<sup>th</sup>)  
November 29, 2021: Special POS Check Run  
December 29, 2021: Special POS Check Run

### **D. Regional Center Operations**

1. An applicant conference for the next CPA firm to be used by the Center will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 12:00pm

### **E. Staffing Updates**

1. Human Resources: 572 positions filled out of 634 authorized positions, as of October 2021. Annualized turnover rate the month of September was 0.15%, a bit higher than

previously experienced. There are currently 34 CSC open positions; and 34 other positions; for a total of 68 vacant positions.

## **F. Consumer Update**

Serving 29,639 consumers as of September 30, 2021  
Intakes: 724 under 3; 784 3 years plus

## **G. Regional Center Financial Report**

### **1. FY2021-2022 Financial Report (C-1)**

Operations: \$65,774,429  
Purchase of Services: \$66,164,740  
Total Allocation: \$726,939,169

C-2 Allocation to include additional OPS Funding, CRDP/CPP-OPS funding, and CPP-POS Funding

First Purchase of Services Expenditure Projection (PEP) report to DDS on December 10, 2021

## **H. Recognition of Kim Rolfes' retirement and last VAC meeting as of today.**

## **VI. Chief of Program Services Report (Jesse Weller)**

- Play LA Youth Sports presented by the Mayor's Office launched and will host an event Saturday, November 12, 2021 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm between Huntington Park and Inglewood. This is a fun day of adaptive sports clinic with free lunch and transportation is available. The event is free but registration is required.
- All of the New Consumer & Family Orientations have been rescheduled until December.
- The Center's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) initiative has launched with NLACRC entering into a contract with Inclusion Counts, DEIB consulting firm. Five days of training for all NLACRC employees will be held between November 29<sup>th</sup>-December 8<sup>th</sup>. The trainings are three hours per day. Additional DEIB trainings will be provided based on the needs identified during the assessment phase, which is being conducted through group listening sessions and interviews.
- Service Access & Equity Grant application deadline was yesterday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Selected grant winners will be notified in late January/early February.
- The Center has scheduled an employment roundtable with Dr. Fung from Stanford University for Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 3pm-4pm on the Neurodiversity Project, a collaboration with Google in employing individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

- On Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, NLACRC's town hall meeting will feature the Department of Rehabilitation and review supported employment, competitive employment, transition services for youth, and the role of the community resource provider.
- Virtual Life After High School events will occur November 9<sup>th</sup>, November 18<sup>th</sup>, and December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Different Thinkers Different Learners training (in Spanish) on social & behavioral skills will occur November 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Festival Educacional taking place on November 6<sup>th</sup>. "Welcome to the Regional Center – This is Your Home" is the theme for this year. Half-day virtual events will take place in Spanish. A few topics will include Self-Determination, services by ages, IPP strategies, and an opportunity to meet parent mentors and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion supervisor.
- There are 62 enrolled participants in self-determination. North LA has been recognized as the #1 Regional Center with the most enrolled participants outside of the pilot programs.
- Informational and Orientation meetings are ongoing in English and Spanish and are open to service providers.
- Disability Thrives Initiatives will host a webinar on November 10<sup>th</sup> about self-determination.
- NLACRC's SDP Local Volunteer Advisory Committee and Disability Voices United will host a Self-Determination Program Resource Fair at 6:30 pm on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Announcement will be forthcoming.
- The SDP Local Volunteer Advisory Committee will meet on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Katie Hornberger will attend to talk about the new office of the self-determination ombudsperson.
- Monthly parent advocate and support group meetings continue. Hosted by NLACRC and/or Family Focus Resource Center, the Black/African American met November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Men's Group meets on November 9<sup>th</sup>, Filipino Support Group meets November 15<sup>th</sup>, Cafecito Entre Nos with ICC meets November 18<sup>th</sup>, and Aprendiendo Entre Nos meets on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 11:30 am.

## **VII. Community Services Director's Report (Evelyn McOmie)**

### **1. Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Requirement**

DDS has updated the EVV website to include the October 26<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Meeting materials. You can find the presentation and the webinar recording under the "Meetings" tab at: [Electronic Visit Verification \(EVV\) - CA Department of Developmental Services](#). DDS is continuing with registration to the portal for Personal Care Services, and will be hosting additional trainings in the months of November and December. [Personal Care Services Vendors within our service delivery system are: SLS (896), Respite (465, 862, 864), Homemaker Services (858, and 860), and Personal Assistant (062)]

### **2. Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)/Paid Internship Program (PIP)**

CIE / PIP amendments – 44 amendments are in progress

- Sent to providers beginning last week and the last few are going out this week
- (C&C team will update providers with the signed version and at the time the subcode will be available for changing authorizations under new subcodes)

NLACRC is conducting CIE/PIP Case Management training for service coordinators this week.

### **3. Intermedia Care Facility (ICF) Rates**

- Updated ICF Rates - The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) released the updated ICF rates as explained here: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medical/Pages/LTCRU.aspx> and detailed in the attached Excel spreadsheet. These rates are effective from August 1, 2021-July 31, 2022.

### **4. Home Community Based Services (HCBS) Concept Proposal Funding**

FY 21/22 Concept Proposals for furthering service provider compliance with the HCBS final rule are due to NLACRC by Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Submit to Evelyn McOmie at [emcomie@nlacrc.org](mailto:emcomie@nlacrc.org) and Arsho Garlanian at [agarlanian@nlacrc.org](mailto:agarlanian@nlacrc.org). NLACRC will have to submit Proposals to DDS by December 10<sup>th</sup>. (During the review process you may be contacted for additional clarification if needed, prior to submission to DDS). Website for the Concept Proposal Funding Guidelines: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/cms-hcbs-regulations/hcbs-compliance-funding/>

### **5. FY2021 Community-Based Day Programs (505, 510, 515, 520, 805) annual program evaluations were due 09/30**

- Thank you to the 144 providers who have already submitted for their efficient and quick reply to our requests.
- Annual Program Evaluations have yet to be received from 11 providers; failure to submit will compel the Center to issue a 30 day notice of termination of Vendorization for noncompliance with an applicable regulation.

### **6. Quality Assurance**

- Adult Care Facilities and Direct Care Worker Vaccine Requirement

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Adult-Care-Facilities-and-Direct-Care-Worker-Vaccine-Requirement.aspx>

All individuals in subdivisions (a) through (e) must have the first dose of a one-dose regimen or the second dose of a two-dose regimen by November 30, 2021. All workers who are eligible for the exceptions outlined in subdivisions (b), (c), and (e) of section (1) must only provide services to a single household. If the worker provides services

across multiple households, then the exception does not apply, and the worker must adhere to the provisions of this Order.

- PIN 21-44-ASC :ADULT AND SENIOR CARE FACILITY WORKER  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) VACCINATION REQUIREMENT  
<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CCLD/PINs/2021/ASC/PIN%2021-44-ASC.pdf>

COVID-19 among vulnerable individuals, a State Public Health Officer Order was issued on September 28, 2021, pursuant to the authority in Health and Safety Code sections 120125, 120140, 120175, 120195 and 131080. The State Public Health Officer Order requires all workers who provide services or work in ASC facilities have their first dose of a one-dose regimen or their second dose of a two-dose regimen by November 30, 2021. The State Public Health Officer Order of July 26, 2021 regarding worker protections in high-risk settings supplements the vaccination requirement.

## **7. RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT Request for Proposal (RFP) & Request for Vendorization (RFV) Announcements**

- North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC) continues to seek proposal submissions for an Infant Development Program s.c. 805 (home- and center-based services) service provider in the Antelope Valley. Start-up funding for this project has been approved through Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) funding approval from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) in the amount of \$150,000. All interested applicants must have or plan to establish a physical business office located within the Antelope Valley. For further information about this Request for Proposal (RFP) please visit the NLACRC website at Infant Development Program (IDP) | NLACRC. Deadline for proposal submissions is November 28, 2021 at 11:59 PM. (link for submission instructions are being placed on the chat)

Infant Development Program- Request for Proposal (805 RFP) Link:  
[Infant Development Program \(IDP\) | NLACRC](#)

- The North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC) is seeking qualified clinicians to provide Early Start Specialized Therapeutic Services (Service Code 116) to serve Early Start Consumers, under the age of three years, who reside in the Antelope Valley. Consistent with statutory requirements (WIC 4688(a)(5)), there is significant need to support Early Start Consumers and their families, in their home and in natural environments (“in-home services”). All interested applicants must have a physical business office located within or be willing to provide services in the Antelope Valley. There is no start-up funding in place for this project however service code 116 allows for a negotiated rate. For further information about this Request for Vendorization



(RFV) please visit the NLACRC website at RFV Announcement - Early Start Specialized Therapeutic Services | NLACRC. The proposal submission deadline is ongoing until the need is filled

Specialized Therapeutic Services- Request for Vendorization (116 RFV) Link  
[RFV Announcement - Early Start Specialized Therapeutic Services | NLACRC](#)

## VIII. Legislative Report\_(Michelle Heid)

Some of the highlights in the October 2021 Legislative report are as follows:

- The legislature adjourned on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Governor Newsom had until October 10<sup>th</sup> to sign bills on his desk to which he signed 774 new California laws and vetoed 66. He did sign AB 445 which reduced barriers to accessing services. The legislature will reconvene on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and begin second year of the legislative season. Bills that were presented last year can continue to move forward through the process in 2022.
- DDS issued guidance to regional centers on restoration of services that would be added back in after the signing of the budget on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Regional Centers need to compile communication for the community on the restoration of services and protocols taking place to ensure efficient restoration.
- Webinars continue regarding EVV
- Health mandates and vaccine requirements summarized
- The DS Taskforce had a monthly check-in meetings during the pandemic; however, at their August meeting, it was announced that they would return to their quarterly meetings.
- Service Access and Equity workgroup meeting was held on October 31<sup>st</sup>; a summary will be provided in the November legislative report.
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities is having a contest called “There Should be a Law.” Asking for public to submit ideas for legislation that would have an impact on the IDD community.

Link to monthly report in chat:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g6nBgdrzHO2Um2MGLdo2nU74RBynwd0f/vi  
ew](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g6nBgdrzHO2Um2MGLdo2nU74RBynwd0f/vi<br/>ew)

## IX. Committee Business

Discussion around hiring crisis and the effect on self-determination in the hiring process and how it's impacting services.

## X. Report on Board Committee Meetings

A. Administrative Affairs (Kevin Shields)

Kevin shared that due to technical difficulties he was unable to join the Administrative Affairs Committee meeting. Kim Rolfes gave a brief overview as follows:

- Financial Report
- Contract Training
- Reviewed one contract for board consideration
- HR Report discussed

B. Board of Trustees (Sharoll Jackson)

- Presentation of North LA's Draft FY 2021-22 Performance Contract
- Annual Legislative Training Session
- Various Director Reports
- Conflict of Interest Policy Reviewed
- Board Training Plan Reviewed
- Board Composition Survey Reviewed
- Ruth Janka was presented with the Outstanding Hispanic Leader Award by Assemblywoman Valladares from the 38<sup>th</sup> District

C. Consumer Services (Suad Bisogno)

- Intake Services have seen an increase this quarter after a massive decline during COVID
- FY 2021-22 Priorities have been updated with new line item 5 "support individuals in obtaining and maintaining competitive employment opportunities and/or internships."

D. Government & Community Relations (Suad Bisogno)

- There is a desire to capture human interest stories while being HIPAA compliant using the materials for social media. Feedback from Board members that there needs to be a streamlined way to share the stories on social media. NLACRC's attorneys came to the meeting to finetune verbiage.
- Michelle Heid shared the Legislative Report

E. Nominating Committee (Bob Erio)

- Orientation occurred in October
- Nominating Committee will be in recess for a few months

F. Strategic Planning Committee (Orli Almog)

- Reviewed the vision and mission and how to achieve goals
- Created a timeline of 6-8 months
- Planning for leadership interviews
- Recommendation to change meeting frequency from quarterly to monthly
- Recommendation to report the strategic plan to the Board by May, 2022

- The March 2022 Retreat will be a two-day overnight
- Review of the five year strategic plan objectives
- Quarterly CIE/PIP data
- Quarterly Vendorization data
- Quarterly Health & Safety Waiver data

#### **XI. Agenda Items for the Next Board Meeting**

- A. Minutes of the November 4th Meeting

#### **XII. Announcements/Public Input**

- A. Nick Vukotic announced two holiday collaboration efforts with DCFS:
- a. Thanksgiving Basket food drive on November 16<sup>th</sup>
  - b. December - Toy Drive Amazon Wish List with a goal to adopt 55 families through local DCFS
  - c. For more information, email Nick (Nvukotc
- B. Jon Francis reiterated his concern for the labor shortage with regard to service provider staff. Encourage leadership at NLACRC to communicate the need.
- C. Next Meeting: Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

#### **XIII. Committee Work (The committee breaks into their workgroups)**

- A. Early Start Services (Dana Kalek)
- B. School Age Services (Cal Enriquez)
- C. Adult Services (Suad Bisogno & Erica Beall)
- D. Legislative Issues and Advocacy (Sharoll Jackson)

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

Sharoll Jackson adjourned the meeting at 11:19 am.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Blizin  
Executive Assistant

[vacmin\_nov4\_2021]

