

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
October 3, 2024

**Present:** Alex Kopilevich, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Cal Enriquez, Ute Escorcia, Jaklen Keshishyan, Ricki Macken Chivers, Jen Pippard, Octavia Watkins, Jodie Agnew-Navarro

Angela Pao-Johnson, Evelyn McOmie, Vini Montague, Donna Rentsch, Arshalous Garlanian, Chris Whitlock, Kimberly Visokey – **Staff Members**

Marianita Mendoza - DDS – **Guests**

Other than panelists, there were 86 other attendees.

**Absent:** Vahe Mkrtchian, Daniel Ortiz, Lisa Williamsen, Sharon Weinberg, Masood Babaeian

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

Alex Kopilevich, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

**II. Agenda**

**III. Public Input**

Public input was given.

**IV. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Minutes from September 5, 2024 was deferred.

**V. Executive Detector's Report – Angela Pao-Johnson**

Angela reviewed the report that was included in the packet, highlighting certain items.

**Department of Developmental Services**

Secretary Mark Ghaly announced that Pete Cervinka has been appointed Acting Director of DDS. Pete has worked since 2020 as the Chief of Data Analytics and Strategy for DDS and prior to that had extensive experience working for the Department of Social Services.

DDS continues working on several workforce initiatives like RC employee tuition reimbursement program, DSP training stipend program, DSP internship program, etc. ARCA is currently working and preparing positions for 36 bills in the legislation as these impact individuals with developmental disabilities and the service system. Some of which are part of the report included in the packet.

**Master Plan updates**

Developmental Services Master Plan Committee meetings continue. On October 9, 2024, the meeting will include a review of the main themes from recent public input, an overview of the Working Group Framework that will be used moving forward, and planning discussions by the working groups.

**Center Operations**

Staffing Data– Current Status -

- Total # positions filled: 757
- Total # of positions authorized: 952

July New Hires:

- 1st cycle – 6
- 2nd cycle - 14

**Center Updates**

*Special Contract Language-* The Columbus Organization is conducting Employee Driven Self-Managed Work Groups for the topics of Workspace utilization, recruitment/retention of staff, and case management support/stabilization. Consultants have met with around 400 employees from all levels and at all locations to discuss concerns and suggestions for improvement to the various systems.

*Self-Determination Program-* Participants that have fully transitioned into SDP with approved spending plans and active SDP IPPs: 414. NLACRC has a vacant position in the SDP Local Volunteer Advisory Committee. The committee members must reflect the multicultural diversity and geographic profile of the NLACRC catchment area. Our committee is currently seeking applicants who meet at least one of the following preferred criteria:

- Hispanic/Latino
- African American
- People with Developmental Disabilities (consumers)

**Consumer Statistics:**

As of September 15, 2024, the Center has 37,706 individuals served and applicants.

**VI. Deputy Director Officer's Report – Evelyn McOmie****NLACRC Vendor Portal Update**

NLACRC is now adding service providers to the portal. NLACRC sent the first 500 emails out to provider to set up the vendor portal. It is important to note that the email is coming from vendorportal@NLACRC.org. The process include vendor portal sign up and once you do so you receive a registration email. I want to take a moment to encourage everyone to be hypervigilant of the being delivered. The first 500 hundred emails were sent 2 weeks ago: 16 Vendors have accepted the invitation to setup their accounts for

each of the venomization and are fully onboarded. 82 Vendor ID numbers have been created and are pending vendors to accept their accounts for each of the affiliated vendor numbers to be fully functional. In light that it has been 2 weeks, we are preparing ourselves to send the next 500 hundred emails this coming Monday). We will be sending reminder emails to those that have not accepted their accounts as well. At this point it is 1st come first serve, the invitation will expire in 30 days, once the IT team works through everyone responding a new q- will be started all over with those who did not respond initially.

#### **NLACRC management training for staff**

NLACRC has launched AMA Leadership training for all our management staff at NLACRC. Training will take place in cohort of 25 through the month of October and early November. This is one of 3 trainings we are rolling out this fiscal year.

#### **Parent University Portal**

NLACRC has been working on developing a educational platform for our community, it is in the translation phase, prior to being converted to LMS for a learning platform on our website.

#### **VII. Chief Financial Officer's Report – Vini Montague**

#### **VIII. Community Services Director's Report – Arshalous Garlanian**

Arsho began her report by thanking all providers that participated the fall Vendor fair. She went on tot review the Community Services Department Directors Report, highlighting certain areas.

#### **Rate Reform**

We are currently in the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the rate reform. The benchmark is changing to include the various cost values, including like state minimum wage and mileage. January increases is 90% of the difference between the rate as of March 2022, and the new benchmark. The department is also hosting additional training starting October 22<sup>nd</sup>, related to Rate Reform.

#### *Employment Services*

NLACRC Partners with IRI to provide FREE **ACRE training** for NLACRC Regional Center Vendors.

#### Quality Incentive Program

NLACRC anticipate receiving the information from the Department regarding Q1 QIP Payments soon, so we anticipate payments to come shortly after in in the coming weeks.

**NLACRC Video's**

North La is partnering with Friends We Love, a video production company to produce video segments, highlighting our residential employment options. We're looking for individuals that are in employment that are employed, perhaps on internship programs. We are accepting applications until November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Client's Rights Training**

Will take place on October 24, 2024, 10am – 12pm, via Zoom

**Special Incident Reporting and Risk Management Training**

Will take place on November 13, 2024, 10am – 12pm, via Zoom

**IX. Legislative Report – Chris Whitlock**

Chris Whitlock began with the announcement of NLACRC's new Public Information Legislative Specialist, Belinda Abatesi.

**Legislative Bills**

When the report that is in the packet was created, this was the current information, but there have been some updates.

SB 1281, on September 29th it was vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1147, on September 28, this was approved by the Governor, and then it was chaptered. So, what this means is that after a bill has been signed by the Governor, the Secretary of State assigns the bill a chapter number. So, moving forward, this is going to be referred to as chapter number 902

AB 1876 is still pending

AB 1906, this was approved by the Governor, and then it was chaptered. Moving forward, this is going to be referred to as chapter number 233

AB 2423, on September 28, this was approved by the Governor, and then it was chaptered. Moving forward, this is going to be referred to as chapter number 904

**Other Legislation**

AB 3063, on September 27th it was vetoed by the Governor.

**NLACRC Legislator List**

Chris pointed out that the items that are highlighted in red they are terming out for this election.

**Legislative Calendar and Local Events**

Chris reviewed the events as presented in the packet.

X. **Committee Business**– Alex Kopilevich

A. **Priority Issue Update**

M/S/C (O. Askew / J. Keshishyan) To approve the Priority Issues as presented.

B. **Return to in-person meetings – Quarterly.**

Alex led a discussion on returning to in-person meetings. This discussion centered around the frequency and location. It was suggested that in-person meetings be held quarterly, alternating between NLACRC offices.

**Action Item** - It was agreed to add this to the next meeting for a vote. - Alex

C. **VAC Meeting Schedule**

Alex reviewed the current VAC Meeting Schedule with the committee.

D. **New Service Provider Vendor Training Update**

This item was combined with item E - *Mentorship Program*. Arsho Garlanian will be sharing information on what NLACRC currently provides. It was agreed that Alex and Rikki would review this information and update the committee at a later date.

E. **Mentorship Program Update**

Addressed above with Item D - *New Service Provider Vendor Training Update*

F. **Self-Determination Update** – Deferred

**Action Item** - Add this to the next meeting for an update by either Kelley Coleman or Silvia Renteria-Haro. - Alex

XI. **Open Topics for Discussion**

A. **Back Payments**

Alex opened this topic up for discussion with no questions or comments.

XII. **Committee Work Group Final Reports**

A. **Early Start Services** (Jodie Agnew-Navarro)

Jodi reported out, informing the VAC that this workgroup has added to their meeting an advocacy, legislation and policy update. They also had a conversation about improving relationships with the CSC's.

B. **School Age Services** (Paul Borda & Cal Enriquez)

The team worked on completing the School Age Services Goals and Outcomes. Additionally, Paul Borda and Ute Escorcia attended the Vendor Fair to inform vendors of the School Age Services Workgroup, finding several that are interested in participating. Paul will be reaching out to those individuals.

**C. Adult Services (Octavia Watkins)**

There were a variety of different Service Providers present. Octavia reported that RFP for coordinated career pathways and any new updates to the RFP request, referral issues for child housing placements, and problems solved for solutions faced by service providers on the call. They also discussed concerns and barriers, some of which were onboarding clients and dealing with some of the FMS providers. The group also brainstormed on possible solutions.

**XIII. Board Committee Reports**

**A. Administrative Affairs (Jaklen Keshishyan -VAC Representative)**

The Administrative Affairs meeting covered a depth of information. Jaklen gave words of thanks to Vini Montague and the NLACRC staff for the work that went into presenting this information. The next meeting is November 21.st

**B. Consumer Services (Sharon Weinberg -VAC Representative) *Deferred***

**C. Government & Community Relations (Jodie Agnew-Navarro -VAC Rep.)**

The Government and Community Relations Committee met on August 21<sup>st</sup>, and Cathy Blin was elected chair and Curtis Wang was elected as co-chair. The committee discussed focusing on a letter writing and social media campaign to build rapport with the local legislators. The next meeting will be October 16.th at 6 pm.

**D. Nominating (Alex Kopilevich - Committee Member)**

The majority of the meeting discussed the Board composition that is required by DDS. We discussed the application process as well as the VAC recruitment. The committee also agreed to pushed back the date to for accepting applications to December the 15th for that for the vac. This allows a little bit more time to collect new members. The next meeting will be November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**E. Strategic Planning (Octavia Watkins - Committee Member)**

**XIV. Review of Meeting Action Actions (Item Owner and Due Date)**

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

- Board Support – Add an action item to the next agenda for finalizing in-person meetings
- Arshalous Garlanian – Send Alex a schedule of Mentor Activities
- Alex / Ricki – Meet to discuss a Mentor program

**XVI. Announcements / Public Input**

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.
- B. Committee Attendance was reviewed.

**XVII. Adjournment**

Alex adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.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.*

