



**Special  
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Wednesday, February 12,  
2025 6:00 p.m.

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Board of Trustees Special Meeting -**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2025**  
**6:00 p.m. (*Hybrid*)**  
**NLACRC – Chatsworth Office and Zoom**  
**~AGENDA~**

1. **Call to Order & Welcome**
2. **Board Member Attendance/Quorum** – Arezo Abedi and Lindsay Granger
3. **Public Input** – Agenda Items
4. **Action Item**
  - A. Vote to Elect New Members to the Board of Trustees
    1. Applicant – Jason Taketa
    2. Applicant – Jeremy Sunderland
    3. Applicant – Jacquie Colton
  - B. Vote to Elect New Slate of Officers for the Board of Trustees *(page 3)*
    1. President – Juan Hernandez
    2. First Vice President – Sharmila Brunjes
    3. Second Vice President – Curtis Wang
    4. Secretary – Sharmila Brunjes
    5. Treasurer – Anna Hurst
5. **Adjournment**



Name	Primary Choice	Ranking of Other Positions (if any)	Personal Statement
Curtis Wang	First Vice President	First V.P. = 1 Second V.P. = 2	I have experienced on the board I want to learn more I want to follow who the president for the board be either vice president 1 or 2 always on time never been late to meetings. I have experience being on the board and would like to try new things. I will be following what the president does so if that person can't make it, I can cover for the president that day. I filled in for Cathy Blin at the GCRC meeting when she couldn't make it. I feel like I can take charge. I have great attendance and am always on time- never late to meetings.
Nicholas Abrahms	President	President = 1 Treasurer = 2 First V.P. = 3 Second V.P. = 4 Secretary = 5	I have been a board member with the Regional Center for five years would like to help out in a leadership role if possible.
Juan Hernandez	President	President = 1	<p>Juan Hernandez – President</p> <p>Dear NLACRC Board Members and Stakeholders,</p> <p>I am honored to submit my candidacy for the position of NLACRC Board President. As a long-time consumer who has navigated the DDS/Regional Center system, I have dedicated myself to advocating not only for my own needs but also for those of others in the disability community. My personal journey has given me firsthand experience with the challenges our consumers face, and my commitment to ensuring their voices are heard has been unwavering. My understanding of NLACRC's operations is rooted in both lived experience and professional insight. Having worked for NLACRC for seven years, I gained valuable knowledge about the organization's structure, policies, and decision-making processes. This experience, coupled with my advocacy work, has prepared me to lead with a deep understanding of the systemic changes needed to improve services and support for our community. Advocacy has been a central part of my life since childhood. As an immigrant who came to this country at a young age, I quickly learned the importance of navigating complex systems. My parents, with limited knowledge of disability services, faced many barriers, and I took it upon myself to bridge those gaps—not just for my family, but for others in similar situations. This lifelong commitment to advocacy drives my passion for leadership. If elected as Board President, my number one priority will be fostering unity among board members, NLACRC staff, and, most importantly, our consumers. By strengthening these relationships and working collaboratively, we can create a more inclusive and effective system that truly serves the needs of our community. Through unity and transparency, we can also work toward resolving the challenges that led to the special contract set forth by DDS, ultimately restoring greater autonomy to NLACRC. I believe in the power of collective action, and I am committed to ensuring that all voices—especially those of our most vulnerable consumers—are heard and valued. I am eager to bring my experience, passion, and leadership to this role, and I would be honored to serve as NLACRC Board President. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Juan Hernandez</p>
George Alvarado	No		
Anna Hurst	Second Vice President	Second V.P.=1 Treasurer = 2 President =5 First V.P. =5 Secretary = 5	Hi! I was not prepared to write a personal statement for the survey however, I'm very interested in this position and I can submit one later.
Laura Monge	No		
Cathy Blin	No		
Sharmila Brunjes	First Vice President	First V.P.= 1 President = 2 Treasurer = 3 Secretary = 4	My first few years on this board taught me so much about what it means to serve our community. Through exploring various committees, participating in legislative meetings, and representing the board at community events, I've gained a deep appreciation for our work. However, our recent challenges showed me that now is the time to offer to take on a leadership role. This past year has been difficult for all of us as volunteers who care deeply about NLACRC's mission, our staff, and especially our community. But, instead of focusing on our challenges or the constraints of our special contract status, I see an opportunity for us to unite and rebuild on a foundation of trust, compassion, and commitment. I'm looking forward to working alongside each of you as we heal and grow stronger together. Through my service on committees ranging from Consumer Services to the Nominating Committee, I've gained valuable insights into our organization's needs. I believe it's crucial to remind our community that we are not just here for them - we are part of them. Our regional center belongs to all of us, and we are dedicated to protecting and nurturing it. I'm committed to supporting our Executive Director Angela and working collaboratively with all board members as we navigate our current opportunities and challenges. My focus is on building bridges and creating an environment where everyone can contribute their best in service to our community. Thanks for the time! - Sharmila
Jennifer Koster	Second Vice President	Second V.P.= 1	I would like to be chair of the strategic planning committee.

Question: If you selected more than one officer position, please rank the positions in order of interest by selecting a number for each, with 1 being your top choice and 5 being your least choice.

Trustees	President	First VP	Second VP	Secretary	Treasurer	First Choice
Curtis Wang		1	2			First Vice President
Nicholas Abrahm	1	3	4	5	2	President
Juan Hernandez	1					President
Anna Hurst	5	5	1	5	2	Second Vice President
Sharmila Brunjes	2	1		4	3	First Vice President
Jennifer Koster						Second Vice President

Board of Trustees Officer Positions  
Personal Statements

## Personal Statements and Results for the Board of Trustees Open Officer Positions

Board of Trustees Officer Positions  
Personal Statements

Curtis Wang – Personal Statement for Board Officer Position

I have experienced on the board I want to learn more I want to follow who the president for the board be either vice president 1 or 2 always on time never been late to meetings. I have experience being on the board and would like to try new things. I will be following what the president does so if that person can't make it, I can cover for the president that day. I filled in for Cathy Blin at the GCRC meeting when she couldn't make it. I feel like I can take charge. I have great attendance and am always on time- never late to meetings.

Primary Officer Position: First Vice President

Other Interested Position(s): Second Vice President

Board of Trustees Officer Positions  
Personal Statements

Nicholas Abrahms – Personal Statement for Board Officer Position

I have been a board member with the Regional Center for five years would like to help out in a leadership role if possible.

Primary Officer Position: President

Other Interested Position(s) by rank:

Treasurer = 2

First V.P. = 3

Second V.P. = 4

Secretary = 5

Board of Trustees Officer Positions  
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Juan Hernandez – Personal Statement for President

Dear NLACRC Board Members and Stakeholders,

I am honored to submit my candidacy for the position of NLACRC Board President. As a long-time consumer who has navigated the DDS/Regional Center system, I have dedicated myself to advocating not only for my own needs but also for those of others in the disability community. My personal journey has given me firsthand experience with the challenges our consumers face, and my commitment to ensuring their voices are heard has been unwavering.

My understanding of NLACRC's operations is rooted in both lived experience and professional insight. Having worked for NLACRC for seven years, I gained valuable knowledge about the organization's structure, policies, and decision-making processes. This experience, coupled with my advocacy work, has prepared me to lead with a deep understanding of the systemic changes needed to improve services and support for our community.

Advocacy has been a central part of my life since childhood. As an immigrant who came to this country at a young age, I quickly learned the importance of navigating complex systems. My parents, with limited knowledge of disability services, faced many barriers, and I took it upon myself to bridge those gaps—not just for my family, but for others in similar situations. This lifelong commitment to advocacy drives my passion for leadership. If elected as Board President, my number one priority will be fostering unity among board members, NLACRC staff, and, most importantly, our consumers. By strengthening these relationships and working collaboratively, we can create a more inclusive and effective system that truly serves the needs of our community. Through unity and transparency, we can also work toward resolving the challenges that led to the special contract set forth by DDS, ultimately restoring greater autonomy to NLACRC.

I believe in the power of collective action, and I am committed to ensuring that all voices—especially those of our most vulnerable consumers—are heard and valued. I am eager to bring my experience, passion, and leadership to this role, and I would be honored to serve as NLACRC Board President.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Juan Hernandez

Primary Officer Position: First Vice President



Board of Trustees Officer Positions  
Personal Statements

Ana Hurst – Personal Statement for Board Officer Position

Hi! I was not prepared to write a personal statement for the survey however, I'm very interested in this position and I can submit one later.

Primary Officer Position: Second Vice President

Other Interested Position(s):

Treasurer = 2

First V.P.=5

President = 5

Secretary = 5

Board of Trustees Officer Positions  
Personal Statements

Sharmila Brunjes – Personal Statement for Board Officer Position

My first few years on this board taught me so much about what it means to serve our community. Through exploring various committees, participating in legislative meetings, and representing the board at community events, I've gained a deep appreciation for our work. However, our recent challenges showed me that now is the time to offer to take on a leadership role.

This past year has been difficult for all of us as volunteers who care deeply about NLACRC's mission, our staff, and especially our community. But, instead of focusing on our challenges or the constraints of our special contract status, I see an opportunity for us to unite and rebuild on a foundation of trust, compassion, and commitment. I'm looking forward to working alongside each of you as we heal and grow stronger together.

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I'm committed to supporting our Executive Director Angela and working collaboratively with all board members as we navigate our current opportunities and challenges. My focus is on building bridges and creating an environment where everyone can contribute their best in service to our community. Thanks for the time! - Sharmila

Primary Officer Position: First Vice President

Other Interested Position(s):

President = 2

Treasurer = 3

Secretary = 4

Board of Trustees Officer Positions  
Personal Statements

Jennifer Koster – Personal Statement for Board Officer Position

I would like to be chair of the strategic planning committee.

Primary Officer Position: Second Vice President