

**NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER (NLACRC)
9200 OAKDALE AVENUE, SUITE 100
CHATSWORTH, CA 91311**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
HYBRID MEETING – NLACRC ANTELOPE VALLEY OFFICE/ZOOM
APRIL 9, 2025 7:00 P.M.**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Juan Hernandez (President), Sharmila Brunjes (First Vice President and Board Secretary), Curtis Wang (Second Vice President), Anna Hurst (Treasurer), George Alvarado, Alex Kopilevich (VAC Chair), Leticia Garcia (ARCA Rep), Cathy Blin, Nicholas Abrahms, Jason Taketa, Jacquie Colton, Jeremy Sunderland, Laura Monge, Jennifer Koster

ABSENT:

STAFF:

Angela Pao-Johnson - Executive Director, Evelyn McOmie – Deputy Director, Vini Montague – Chief Financial Officer, Betsy Monahan – Human Resources Director, Megan Mitchell, Chris Whitlock, John Van de Riet, Arezo Abedi, Lindsay Granger, Silvia Renteria-Haro,

GUESTS:

Mark Wolfe – DDS Tech. Advisor, Tresa Oliveri – DDS Tech Advisor, Xochitl Gonzalez – DDS, Brian Winfield – DDS, Ernie Cruz—DDS, Michie Gates – DDS, Aaron Abramowitz – Council to the Board, Nicholas Mendoza, Victoria Berrey, La Jannelle Smith, Yolanda Gacia, Patty Gutierrez, Rebecca Ernewein, Richard Dier

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, the meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

The Juan Hernandez, Board of Trustees President, shared the mission and vision of the NLACRC and reminded attendees of the Board of Trustees Civility Code.

2. IMPACT STORY FROM INDIVIDUAL SERVED

Angela Pao-Johnson highlighted both Wilfredo A. and Andy U. who were recently hired as housekeeping attendants at Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills. She also provided a brief overview of Project SEARCH and its impact.

3. BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE/QUORUM

Board members were confirmed in attendance in-person or on Zoom.

4. AGENDA – APPROVAL

On a motion made by George Alvarado, seconded by Curtis Wang, it was resolved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC INPUT & COMMENTS—RESERVED FOR AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

6. CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

On a motion made by George Alvarado, seconded by Curtis Wang, it was resolved to approve the Special Board of Trustees meeting minutes held on March 12, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.

On a motion made by George Alvarado, seconded by Curtis Wang, it was resolved to approve the Parliamentary Board Training and submit to DDS. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Curtis Wang, seconded by George Alvarado, it was resolved to approve the Meeting Recording Policy, as presented. Motion carried.

On a motion made by George Alvarado, seconded by Curtis Wang, it was resolved to approve the updated NLACRC bylaws, as presented. Motion carried.

7. CLOSED SESSION

On a motion made by Curtis Wang, seconded by George Alvarado, it was resolved for the Board to move to a closed session at 6:18 p.m. Motion carried.

On a motion duly made and carried unanimously, it was resolved for the Board to reconvene at 7:12 p.m.

8. ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Anti-Harassment, Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation Policy

On a motion made by George Alvarado, seconded by Jeremy Sutherland, it was resolved to approve the redlined Anti-Harassment, Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation policy, as presented. Motion carried.

8.2 Approval of Board Spending Policy

On a motion made by Anna Hurst, seconded by Jackie Colton, it was resolved to approve the Board Spending Policy as presented and send it to DDS. Motion carried.

8.3 NLACRC Fair Hearing Service Standards Revisions

On a motion made by Anna Hurst, seconded by Cathy Blin, it was resolved to approve the NLACRC Fair Hearing Service Standards revisions, as presented. Motion carried.

8.4 Committee List Updates and Committee Appointments

On a motion made by Anna Hurst, seconded by Cathy Blin, it was resolved to approve the NLACRC Fair Hearing Service Standards revisions, as presented. Motion carried.

8.5 Committee Schedule Change

On a motion made by George Alvarado, seconded by Sharmila Brunjes, it was resolved to approve the stacking of the Administrative Affairs and Executive Committees with the Consumer Services and Government and Community Relations committees to begin May 2025 and proceed every other month. Motion carried.

9. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

9.1 FY23-24 Performance Contract Outcomes

Angela Pao-Johnson provided an in-depth overview of the FY23-24 performance contract, confirming that NLACRC successfully met DDS's goals in each avenue and abided by all DDS's compliance standards. She highlighted areas where NLACRC was helping disabled individuals obtain work and NLACRC's efforts to reduce worker disparities and improve equity.

Angela Pao-Johnson noted that the decrease in the IPP and IFSP plans was likely due to staffing shortages. She further highlighted that some individuals were electing not to receive case management services as they only wanted to connect with NLACRC in the event that the services are required in the future.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Angela Pao-Johnson presented the Executive Director's Report. She highlighted the following items:

- The Executive Leadership completed the second Organizational Insights Forum for the NLACRC staff and received a rating of 4.29/5 from participants.
- A new Employee Recognition website was launched to increase adoption and ease of use.
- A Plain Language Specialist was hired to review all external documents and ensure they are accessible.
- Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo and Assemblyman Tom Lackey will visit the NLACRC offices to meet with staff and community delegates.
- Welcomed 15 new hires during the second orientation in April 2025, for a total of 28 new hires.
- DDS confirming health and safety waivers must be based on individual needs and not used as rate patches.
- DDS rate reform agreement form submission has been extended to May 30, 2025.
- DDS is recruiting 40 new self-advocate participants to form a new Lived Experience Advisory Group to replace the current CAC.
- The final Master Plan workgroup was released on March 28, 2025.
- HHS has dissolved the ACL as part of a major federal reorganization. On the Board's inquiry regarding whether DDS has a backup plan if NLACRC loses access to funding, Angela Pao-Johnson confirmed that the situation is difficult to predict and will continue to be monitored.
- In recruitment, 841 positions have been filled with 1008 authorized; 14 new hires were onboarded in early April 2025.
- Heartty Siguenza was welcomed as the new Social Recreation Specialist
- NLACRC coordinated a partnership meeting with FMS vendor Miji on March 28, 2025, to collaboratively address ongoing concerns and develop solutions.
- Highlighted various upcoming outreach events.

11. ITEMS 11-21

The Board received the following committee reports for information:

- Self-Determination Program.
- Association of Regional Center Agencies.
- Administrative Affairs Committee.
- Consumer Advisory Committee.
- Consumer Services Committee.
- Executive Committee.
- Government and Community Relations Committee.
- Nominating Committee.
- Post-Retirement Medical Trust Committee.
- Strategic Planning Committee.
- Vendor Advisory Committee.

As reports were presented, no observations or comments were noted.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION/PUBLIC INPUT

13. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting closed at 8:20 p.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above document should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.