

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

**MINUTES OF THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HYBRID – SANTA CLARITA VALLEY OFFICE / TELECONFERENCE
MAY 8, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS:

Alex Kopilevich, Jaklen Keshishyan, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Octavia Watkins, Masood Babaeian, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Ute Escorcía, Ricki Macken Chilvers, Vahe Mkrtchian, Jen Pippard, Sharon Weinberg, Cal Enriquez

STAFF:

Angela Pao-Johnson, Vini Montague, Silvia Renteria-Haro, Venus Rodriguez-Khorasani, Betsy Monahan, Evelyn McOmie, Belinda Abatesi, Chris Whitlock, Arezo Abedi, Lindsay Granger, Arezo Abedi

GUESTS:

Mark Wolfe – DDS Tech Advisor, Sasha Chernik- Minute Solutions

ABSENT:

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 9:31 a.m. Alex Kopilevich presided as Chair.

2. COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Members were asked to identify themselves when speaking or making a motion.

3. SHARE IMPACT STORY FROM INDIVIDUAL SERVED

Angela Pao-Johnson shared a story about an NLACRC consumer.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

5. CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion made by Paul Borda, seconded by Masood Babaeian, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on April 10, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg and seconded by Jaklen Keshishyan, it was resolved to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Review and Approve Draft Critical Calendar for Next Fiscal Year 2025-2026

The draft critical calendar for the next fiscal year 2025-2026 was reviewed. Sharon Weinberg asked for elaboration on the new process of conducting the interviews and reviewing the applicants for the new VAC members.

Alex Kopilevich explained that the VAC would now be reviewing the applications and conducting the interviews before presenting the slate of candidates to the Board of Trustees. This process was previously done by the Nominating Committee.

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

7.1 Discuss Committee Goals for Next Fiscal Year

Alex Kopilevich presented the committee goals for next fiscal year. The VAC members for each of the committee workgroups were asked to email the committee goals for next fiscal year to Board Support by May 30th.

ACTION – Board Support will send out an email to Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Paul Borda, Cal Enriquez, and Octavia Watkins to follow up on the request for the committee goals for next fiscal year.

7.2 Workgroups and Committee Report Outs for Next Fiscal Year

Alex Kopilevich presented the workgroups and committee report outs for next fiscal year. It was noted that this list would be the same list as the agenda item above. The current members on the different committees were asked if they are interested in continuing in their role for the next fiscal year. Jodie Agnew-Navarro is interested in continuing in her role with Early Start Services. Paul Borda and Cal Enriquez are both interested in continuing in their role with School Age Services. Octavia Watkins is interested in continuing her role with Adult Services.

7.3 Update on NLACRC's Local Delegation Team

Belinda Abatesi presented an update on the local delegation teams. Paul Borda, Octavia Watkins, and Jodie Agnew-Navarro were thanked for joining the visits with Assemblyman Lackey and Assemblywoman Schiavo. NLACRC's first two podcast episodes feature conversations between Executive Director Angela Pao-Johnson and the two legislators. Angela Pao-Johnson asked Belinda Abatesi to share on upcoming legislative visits that would be relevant to the vendor community. Belinda Abatesi will send out emails for the upcoming legislative events with the LA County Supervisors.

Octavia Watkins

Shared on the experience with Assemblyman Lackey and shared appreciation with the leadership shown by Angela Pao-Johnson to create a safe space for everyone present to share.

Increasing client and consumer engagement in legislative events to share anecdotes and personal experiences with the legislators was noted.

ACTION: Belinda will send out emails with information on the upcoming legislator visits.

7.4 Update on Service Provider Vendor Training/Mentorship Program Updates

Alex Kopilevich presented an update on service provider vendor training and mentorship programs. The group has met and discussed the various topics and will be meeting with community services to finalize everything to move forward in the next fiscal year.

7.5 Self-Determination Update

Silvia Renteria-Haro presented the self-determination update. It was noted that DDS published a new guidance for FMS Agencies effective April 22 with new requirements for those who want to be vendored.

7.6 Update on VAC Open Positions

Alex Kopilevich presented an update on the open Vendor Advisory Committee positions. Four applicants were selected to go before the Board of Trustees for a vote at the June meeting.

8. REPORT OUTS

8.1 Deputy Director Officer's Report

Evelyn McOmie presented the Deputy Director Officer's report.

An update on a project that has been referenced as the escalation process for vendors, which will now be called communication strategies for service providers. A presentation was shared outlining this communication strategies. The escalation procedures will be available in NLACRC's vendor portal. There was a reminder to include their vendor number to improve communication. Evelyn McOmie emphasized that this will be further developed and is anticipating to roll out the new communication strategies for service providers in July at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Throughout the month of July, NLACRC anticipates promoting this and deploying it within the departments that work with vendors.

There was an inquiry about the urgency category and if that will be identified by the vendors in the email or assigned by the regional center.

Evelyn McOmie replied that this will be identified by the service provider in the subject line and will be flagged.

Jen Pippard confirmed with Evelyn McOmie that the document that was shared is just a draft.

8.2 Chief Financial Officer's Report

Vini Montague presented the Chief Financial Officer's report. The Vendor Portal was highlighted noting that an email was sent by Community Services to all vendors to register on the vendor portal. Notifications will be sent notifications once NLACRC is ready to stop sending out hard copies. All vendors that have not registered were asked to sign up. Also, vendors that need anything on the accounts payables side that needs to be escalated to a supervisor should reach out Justice Agony NLACRC's controller.

8.3 Community Services Director's Report

Arshalous Garlanian presented the Community Services Director's Report, specifically highlighting rate reform for service code 605, 805, 116, and 117 providers. It was asked that

vendors please reach out to questions@nlacrc.org for any questions and to get assistance on rates. Next Monday, Community Services will be hosting appointments for providers for service codes 605, 805, 116, and 117. The appointments can be set up by emailing questions@nlacrc.org.

8.4 Legislative Report

Belinda Abatesi presented the Legislative Report, highlighting important pieces of legislation and important points to be noted.

Jodie Agnew-Navarro:

Noted that there needs to be increased advocacy efforts on the issue of Medicaid cuts that will be impacting everyone.

Angela Pao-Johnson noted the Medicaid rally that was previously attended by staff, vendors, individuals served, members of the community, and more in Bakersfield on April 24th. Also, NLACRC's podcast series is named Voices in Action has launched with episodes with Assemblyman Lackey and Assemblywoman Schiavo on NLACRC's website.

8.5 Executive Director's Report

Angela Pao-Johnson presented the Executive Director's report, highlighting important points. On April 24th, members of the NLACRC community participated in a rally in Bakersfield to show a strong collective commitment to advocacy and community solidarity.

9. OPEN DISCUSSION TOPICS

There were no open topics for discussion.

10. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP INFORMATION

10.1 Early Start Services

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that the Early Start Services Committee work group will meet on May 15th. The issue that was highlighted was rate reform and with the Burns and Associated survey in relation to early start. The next Early Start Services Committee meeting will be on May 12th at 9:30 a.m.

10.2 School Age Services

Paul Borda shared that there has not been a meeting since the last VAC meeting. The next School Age Services Committee meeting will be on May 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

10.3 Adult Services

Octavia Watkins reported that the Adult Service Committee work group will be meeting on May 19th at 11:00 a.m.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Administrative Affairs

Jaklen Keshishyan reported that the Administrative Affairs Committee meeting on April 24th. The Administrative Affairs committee motioned to send to the board for approval, securing insurance coverage for fiscal year 25-26, operations contracts over \$250,000, reports on personnel classifications, and the draft critical calendar. The regional center contract with DDS was also reviewed. The next Administrative Affairs Committee meeting will be on May 29, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

11.2 Consumer Services

Sharon Weinberg reported that the Consumer Services Committee has not met since the last Vendor Advisory Committee meeting. The next Consumer Services Committee meeting will be on May 21, 2025, at 6:35 p.m.

11.3 Government and Community Relations

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that the Government and Community Relations Committee have not met since the last Vendor Advisory Committee meeting. The next Government and Community Relations Committee meeting will be on May 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

11.4 Nominating

Alex Kopilevich reported that the Nominating Committee met on May 7th and discussed the change in the bylaws for the Vendor Advisory Committee to handle applications and interviews for VAC instead of the Nominating Committee. This will be presented at the next board of trustees meeting for approval.

12. BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

ACTION – The VAC draft critical calendar for Next Fiscal Year 2025-2026 will be presented to the board for approval.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT

14. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting is June 12, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Antelope Valley Office.

15. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:14 a.m.