

North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Government & Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes**

May 21, 2025

**Present:** Curtis Wang—Alternate Committee Chair, Lety Garcia, Laura Monge, Juan Hernandez, Jodie Agnew-Navarro-VAC Rep. – **Committee Members**

Sharmila Brunjes, Jacquie Colton, Jeremy Sunderland – Board of Trustees Members

Angela Pao-Johnson, Chris Whitlock, John Van De Riet, Lindsay Granger, Arezo Abedi, Belinda Abatesi- **Staff Members**

Mark Wolfe – DDS Technical Advisor, Tresa Oliveri– DDS Technical Advisor, Xochitl, Marianita Mendoza – DDS - **Guests**

**Absent:** George Alvarado and Jennifer Koster

---

**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

A. Curtis Wang called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

**II. Agenda**

A. Approval of the May 21, 2025 Agenda

**M/S/C** (Jeremy Sunderland/Laura Monge) To approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**III. Public Input**

No public input

**IV. Consent Items**

A. Approval of Minutes from the March 19, 2025, Meeting

**M/S/C** (Juan Hernandez/Jacquie Colton) To approve the meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**V. Action Items**

A. Review and Approve the Draft Critical Calendar for Next Fiscal Year

The committee reviewed the draft critical calendar. The primary changes made were renaming the Board Recognition Award to the Jynny Retzinger Award, determining the winner of the award in March, and adding the Legislative Breakfast in June. It was noted that exact dates cannot be provided yet for the planning for the ARCA Grassroots Day and NLACRC Grassroots Week.

**M/S/C** (Lety Garcia/Jeremy Sunderland) To approve the draft critical calendar for next fiscal year. Motion carried.

**VI. Committee Business**

A. Discuss Upcoming Legislative Breakfast

Belinda Abatesi provided an update on the upcoming Legislative Breakfast. The event will be on June 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-11:30am. The location will be provided upon RSVP. The guest speakers will

be addressing policies that directly affect the community, these include: Medicaid, Social Security, Accessible Public Transportation, Workforce Development, DSP Shortage, Early Start Services, and Housing and Independent Living Supports. These topics and speakers were thoughtfully selected by the Legislative Breakfast workgroup that met 5 times since March.

**B. Update on Legislative Podcasts**

Chris Whitlock presented the update on the legislative podcasts. The podcast series was launched in April with the first podcast series with Assemblymember Tom Lackey in the first of two episodes. The name of the podcast is *Voices in Action* with different legislators the episodes.

The last legislative site visit was in April, and the next one will be in June.

**VII. Report Outs/ Discussion**

**A. Social Media**

John Van de Riet presented the social media updates. There have been 29 new followers gained on Facebook and positive interactions from February to the end of April. On Instagram, there have been 93 new followers during that same time period.

Lety Garcia asked if public information started the campaign to recruit board members using social media. Chris Whitlock shared that the public information team has already started putting the board recruitment in place, and the budget requests will be going to DDS. Angela Pao-Johnson asked if a QR code or giveaway reference to the Vendor Fair could promote NLACRC's social media. John Van de Riet noted that there is interaction among the regional centers. Lety Garcia inquired about website traffic on these reports.

**B. Legislative Update**

Belinda Abatesi presented the legislative update with a brief summary of all the bills included in the meeting packet and where each one is in the legislative process. Additional links were provided for more information on the bills. The May Revision Budget was reviewed. It was noted that there were significant changes in the upcoming budget. The Legislature must finalize the budget by June 15<sup>th</sup>. NLACRC will continue to advocate to protect access and quality of services as next steps. Upcoming legislative events with VICA, Jacquie Irwin's office, and Senator Menjivar were highlighted.

**VIII. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

**A. Chair Summary**

**IX. Announcements / Information / Public Input**

Next Meeting: tbd

Committee Attendance

Public Input - No public input

**X. Adjournment**

Cathy Blin adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

**VII. Review of Meeting Action Items**

Submitted by:

Lindsay Granger  
Executive Administrative Assistant