

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

**MINUTES OF THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HYBRID – ANTELOPE VALLEY OFFICE / TELECONFERENCE  
JUNE 12, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

**MEMBERS:**

Alex Kopilevich, Jaklen Keshishyan, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Octavia Watkins, Masood Babaeian, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Ute Escorcia, 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:**

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**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 9:47 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**

Evelyn McOmie, Deputy Director, shared a story about an NLACRC consumer.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

Ricki Macken-Chilvers shared about a program called connecting to success for all, an employment preparation program that talks about expectations, interview skills, and money management. An event will be hosted on July 30<sup>th</sup> in Pleasant Valley for any interested in attending.

**5. CONSENT ITEMS**

**On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Jaklen Keshishyan, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on May 8, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.**

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

## **6. ACTION ITEMS**

### **6.1 Approval of Committee Goals for Next Fiscal Year**

Paul Borda and Cal Enriquez presented the committee goals for the School Age Services Workgroup that was provided in the meeting packet. The goals were similar to those presented last year.

Octavia Watkins presented the Committee Workgroup Goals for Adult Services. The previously established workgroup priorities would continue to be used.

Jodie Agnew-Navarro shared the goals for Early Start Services. Updates were made to the broaden the goals and make them all encompassing. These updated goals were included in the meeting packet.

**On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Jaklen Keshishyan, it was resolved to approve the committee workgroup goals as presented. Motion carried.**

## **7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Update on Service Provider Vendor Training/Mentorship Program Updates**

Alex Kopilevich presented the update on service provider vendor training/mentorship program. The next meeting will be on June 17th to finalize some items for the mentorship and vendor programs. There will be another update at the August VAC meeting.

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 Self-Determination Update**

Silvia Renteria-Haro presented the update on Self-Determination. As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, there are 569 participants in the program with 17 transitions this month. As of this year, there have been 92 transitions.

### **7.3 Update on new VAC Members**

Alex Kopilevich presented the update on the new VAC Members at the Board of Trustees Meeting on June 11, 2025. Four new VAC members were elected to serve on the committee. Those members will be notified with a letter and will be joining the committee at the August 2025 meeting. Also, there will be an update regarding COI forms for the VAC members in July.

**Octavia Watkins**

Asked if this will be coming from Lindsay Granger

**Evelyn McOmie**

Evelyn McOmie clarified that this email will come from Board Support.

ACTION: Once an update has been received, Board Support will send out an email to the VAC members about COIs for next fiscal year.

**7.4 Discuss Committee Goals for Next Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

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 was presented on SANDIS, announcing that it is now streamlined for all 21 regional centers. The addendums are now on SANDIS and have been deployed. The SANDIS IPP and signature form will now be circulated.

Challenges uploading authorizations to the vendor portal were addressed, and it was requested that if any vendors have had issues with authorizations to please email NLACRC.

**8.2 Chief Financial Officer's Report**

This report will be deferred until the next VAC meeting.

**8.3 Community Services Director's Report**

Stephanie Margaret presented on behalf of Arshalous Garlanian the Community Services Department report. It was noted that the May 30<sup>th</sup> deadline did pass regarding rate reform. The number is now down to 55 0 service acknowledgment forms that have not been signed. Some of these are due to issues with the lack of available service codes or sub codes, or ratios that were previously allowed that are no longer going to be supported. DDS did provide an update to regional centers on the impact of not participating in the Service Provider Director

and not signing the acknowledgement form. If any vendors are impacted, the Community Services department will be arranging meetings in the next few weeks.

For the Service Provider Directory, NLACRC is at 100% participation. This means there has been billing since July 2024. Everyone in North LA should be receiving 100%.

NLACRC is partnering with the Family Resource Center to have a family resource expo on October 12<sup>th</sup> and in Antelope Valley on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Any questions related to rate reform should be sent to [questions@nlacrc.org](mailto:questions@nlacrc.org).

NLACRC received notification of approval for various incentive programs.

**Sharon Weinberg:**

Asked how the prevention wellness incentive was determined.

**Stephanie Margaret:**

For specific incentives, each of the exams is a \$200 incentive, which should align with the reporting form that was submitted to DDS. The quality incentive payments will continue to be updated in July for those who did not receive payment.

There is no action needed for new providers that have not been billed and are not in the DDS portal.

#### **8.4 Legislative Report**

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

**Cal Enriquez:**

Asked what would happen for regional center consumers if they lose their Medicaid Waiver Federal funds.

Belinda Abatesi informed that there currently is a bill, but it has not gone to a vote yet.

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 24<sup>th</sup>. 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**

Evelyn McOmie presented the Executive Director's report on behalf of Angela Pao-Johnson. The legislative update for SB101 was released on June 9<sup>th</sup>. There is a current total of 867 positions filled and 1,026 total number of positions authorized. There is a current total of 39,491 individuals served, a total of 5,258 for Early Start, and a total of 31,720 for Lanterman. Tremendous progress has been made in the reduction of vacant caseloads for NLACRC. NLACRC encourages vendors to provide feedback. NLACRC has actively been hiring lead positions and SDP specialists. The SDP Specialists and Team are currently a pilot model.

#### **9. OPEN DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Surveys will be going out to the Vendors in August to receive feedback and answer specific questions. NLACRC is looking for questions, topics on aspects, and areas for improvement.

## **10. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP INFORMATION**

### **10.1 Early Start Services**

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that the Early Start Services Committee work group met in May and discussed rate reform issues and understanding sub codes. Also, issues regarding accessing portals and authorizations numbers were discussed. The next meeting will be on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **10.2 School Age Services**

Cal Enriquez reported on the School Age Services Committee work group. The Medicaid waiver and the potential impact was discussed at the meeting. Also, the workgroup discussed their goals. 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. There was a presentation on resources for the adult community. The next meeting will be on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **11.1 Administrative Affairs**

Jaklen Keshishyan reported that the Administrative Affairs Committee meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>. There was a report on the current credit line and cashflow, service payments, reports, and audit reports from DDS and CalPers.

### **11.2 Consumer Services**

Sharon Weinberg reported that the Consumer Services Committee primary discussion was on financial output for residential services and that the disparity data was presented in many different ways.

### **11.3 Government and Community Relations**

Jodie Agnew-Navarro was unable to attend the last meeting. There was discussion on the Legislative Breakfast planning and the legislative podcast.

## **12. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT**

Evelyn McOmie did note that additional information would be provided regarding the vendor surveys at the next meeting.

Lety Garcia announced that currently NLACRC is looking for board members, specifically Hispanic/Latino members to meet Lanterman requirements.

Alex Kopilevich announced that the new Bylaws were updated at the last board meeting, and the VAC will have more flexibility selecting members. It will still need to be approved by the Board of Trustees, but it will not need to go the Nominating Committee. The Jynny Retzinger award will be announced at the Legislative breakfast.

**13. NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting is August 14, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Chatsworth office.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:24 a.m.**