

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

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
VIRTUAL MEETING – NLACRC CHATSWORTH VALLEY OFFICE/ZOOM  
JUNE 11, 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:**

Jeremy Sunderland

**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

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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 6:06 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 shared an impact story from individual served Emilio Lifonzo.

**3. BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE/QUORUM**

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

**4. AGENDA – APPROVAL**

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

**5. PUBLIC INPUT & COMMENTS—RESERVED FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

Richard Dier a member on the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee shared that he is in attendance as the committee's representative and would be taking notes to report back to the committee.

**6. CLOSED SESSION**

**Curtis Wang motioned, seconded by Anna Hurst, to enter closed session at 6:20pm. to discuss personnel matters and real estate negotiations.**

**Curtis Wang motioned to exit closed session, seconded by Alex Kopilevich at 6:58pm.**

**7. CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS**

**On a motion made by Alex Kopilevich, seconded by Curtis Wang, it was resolved to approve items A-E. Motion Carried.**

**On a motion made by Alex Kopilevich, seconded by Curtis Wang, it was resolved to approve items F-G. Motion Carried.**

- A. Approval of Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes May 14, 2025**
- B. Approval of Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes April 24, 2025**
- C. Approval of Consumer Advisory Committee Critical Calendar for Next Fiscal Year 2025-2026**
- D. Approval of Consumer Services Committee Critical Calendar for Next Fiscal Year 2025-2026**
- E. Approval of Government and Community Relations Committee Critical Calendar for Next Fiscal Year 2025-2026**
- F. Approval of Post-Retirement and Medical Trust Committee Critical Calendar for Next Fiscal Year 2025-2026**
- G. Approval of Board Priorities for Next Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

**8. ACTION ITEMS**

**8.1 Adoption of Updated Bylaws**

It was noted that there were no revisions to this draft of the bylaws returned by DDS. The Board of Trustees will be voting on the entire slate of changes. The full bylaws that the Board of Trustees would be voting on could be found on page 30 of the meeting packet.

**On a motion made by Curtis Wang, seconded by Nicholas Abrahms, it was resolved to adopt the updated Bylaws. Motion Carried.**

**8.2 Vote to Determine Additional Dark Month**

A previous survey went out to the board members to determine which month would be the additional dark month for fiscal year 2025-2026. October received the highest number of votes. Sharmila Brunjes asked if this would mean that October would be a fully dark month without

any committee meetings or trainings or if October would be dark for board meetings alone. The topic of committees being dark in October will be further discussed at the August Board of Trustees meeting.

**On a motion made by Juan Hernandez and seconded by Alex Kopilevich, it was resolved to approve October as the additional dark month. Motion carried.**

ACTION: Board Support will add discussing if the committees will be meeting in October to the August board agenda.

### **8.3 Vote to Elect Board Officers**

Curtis Wang, Chair of the Nominating Committee, conducted the vote to elect the board officers for next fiscal year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. A slate was presented at the May 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees meeting with the recommendations for the different positions by the Nominating Committee. It was explained that the slate does not include the roles of the Second Vice President or the ARCA alternate since the adopted bylaws remove both positions. The vote would be separated by each role, and the ballots were sent out electronically. Votes can not be cast by Trustees not present at the meeting.

Sharmila Brunjes was elected President by a majority vote for the next fiscal year.

Anna Hurst nominated Juan Hernandez from the floor for Vice President, seconded by Sharmila Brunjes. Juan Hernandez was elected Vice President by a majority vote for the next fiscal year.

Juan Hernandez conducted the vote for Board Secretary. The majority winner for Board Secretary was Curtis Wang.

Anna Hurst was elected Board Treasurer by a majority vote for the next fiscal year.

Lety Garcia was elected the ARCA Delegate by a majority vote for the next fiscal year.

The Board Officers for Fiscal Year 2025-26:

President: Sharmila Brunjes

Vice President: Juan Hernandez

Board Secretary: Curtis Wang

Board Treasurer: Anna Hurst

ARCA Alternate: Lety Garcia

### **8.4 Vote to Elect New Vendor Advisory Committee Members**

Curtis Wang, Chair of the Nominating Committee, conducted the vote to elect the new Vendor Advisory Committee members for next fiscal year. Four applicants were presented for four open positions. A ballot was sent out electronically, and a majority vote was received to elect all four members to the Vendor Advisory Committee for next fiscal year.

The four new members of the Vendor Advisory Committee:

David Ebrami, Care Connection Home Health Agency

Jason Gillis, Build Ability

Tal Segalovitch, Maxim Healthcare

Desiree Misrachi, Willow Tree Therapy

ACTION: Board Support will inform the four new members of the Vendor Advisory Committee that they were elected to join for next fiscal year.

#### **8.5 Approval of Committee Assignments for Next Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Anna Hurst motioned to table the agenda item until the next Board of Trustees meeting when it can be updated to align with the new Bylaws.

**On a motion made by Anna Hurst, seconded by Sharmila Brunjes, it was resolved to table the approval of committee assignments for next fiscal year 2025-2026 until the August Board of Trustees meeting. Motion carried.**

ACTION: Board Support will add this as an action item on the August Board of Trustees meeting agenda.

#### **8.6 Approval of City National Bank**

- **Board Resolution for Change in Officers**
- **Board Resolution for Supersedure Agreement**
- **Facsimile Signature Addendum**

Vini Montague, Chief Financial Officer, presented this agenda item, seeking a motion from the board to remove Juan Hernandez, outgoing Board President from the signature cards and to add Sharmila Brunjes, incoming Board President to the signature cards. For the bank accounts with City National Bank, the Board President and the Board Treasurer are authorized signers on the accounts. Also, the facsimile is to inform the Board of Trustees that the organization will be using a signature stamp and that Angela Pao-Johnson, Executive Director, and Vini Montague, Chief Financial Officer, are both authorized signers.

**On a motion made by Juan Hernandez, seconded by Curtis Wang, it was resolved to add the incoming Board President, Sharmila Brunjes, to the signature cards and remove the outgoing Board President, Juan Hernandez, from the signature cards. Motion carried.**

#### **8.7 Approval of US Bank Signature Cards**

- **Corporate Secretary Certificate**
- **Board Resolution for Change in Officer**
- **Board Resolution for Authorized Signer**

Vini Montague, Chief Financial Officer, presented this agenda item for the US Bank accounts. Seeking a motion from the board to remove Juan Hernandez, outgoing Board President as an authorized representative for both US Bank and the investment advisor and to add Sharmila Brunjes, incoming Board President as the authorized representative.

**A motion was made by Sharmila Brunjes, seconded by Curtis Wang to remove Juan Hernandez as the authorized representative for the US Bank accounts and the investment advisor and to add Sharmila Brunjes, incoming Board President, as the authorized representative for both the US Bank accounts and the investment advisory. Motion carried.**

#### **8.8 Approval of Purchase of Services Startup Contracts**

Vini Montague, Chief Financial Officer, presented three purchase of services startup contracts for approval. The first two contracts were previously presented to the Administrative Affairs committee. Brilliant Corners – West Avenue K6 (Project #2324-6), First Amendment, was presented as an amendment to the original contract that was approved by the Board of Trustees for \$750,000. This amendment revises maximum funding amount to \$1,087,796. The Free to Be Programs – Raywood Home (Project #2223-7), First Amendment is a first amendment to the previously approved amount of \$150,000. Based on the needs of the provider, this amendment seeks an increase of \$50,000, making the revised contract amount \$200,000, which was already approved by DDS. to the existing contract. The CPP Housing Agreement contract with Brilliant Corners is a new contract with the total amount of \$1,065,748 that was approved by DDS. Seeking a motion to approve these three contracts.

**On a motion made by Lety Garcia, seconded by Nicholas Abrahms, it was resolved to approve all three contracts. Motion carried.**

#### **8.9 Approval of Disbursement from CalPERS UAL Trust**

Vini Montague, Chief Financial Officer, presented this item to the Board of Trustees that was reviewed at the last PRMT meeting. Each year there is an unfunded liability that CalPERS requires the organization to deposit to CalPERS. For fiscal year 2026, the unfunded liability is \$1,053,618. This is a request to disburse funds from the CalPERS unfunded liability amount. There is a CalPERS unfunded liability account that is set aside that the organization has been depositing funds into, and the organization utilizes those funds for our unfunded liability payments. If NLACRC pays monthly to CalPERS, then the liability would be \$1,053,618 divided by 12. There is an option to do a lump sum prepayment at the beginning of the year that reduces the amount to \$1,019,524. Seeking authorization from the Board to make a disbursement of the \$1,019,524 out of the CalPERS unfunded liability trust.

**On a motion made by Juan Hernandez, seconded by Anna Hurst, it was resolved to approve the disbursement of 1,019,524 out of the CalPERS UAL Trust. Motion carried.**

#### **8.10 Approval of Contribution to CalPERS UAL Trust**

Vini Montague, Chief Financial Officer, presented this item to the Board of Trustees that was reviewed at the last PRMT meeting. This is a request to deposit funds into the CalPERS unfunded liability account. The annual payments every year through 2044 were noted. Two options were presented to the board: putting the funds into the CalPERS unfunded liability account or putting the funds into the Post Retirement Medical Trust account. Seeking a motion to put the available funds into the CalPERS unfunded liability account due to it having a shorter term obligation.

**On a motion made by Anna Hurst, seconded by Juan Hernandez, it was resolved to move the surplus into the CalPERS unfunded liability account. Motion carried.**

#### **8.11 Approval of Performance Contract Template for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Juan Hernandez presented the draft for the performance contract template for fiscal year 2025-2026. Angela Pao-Johnson recently presented on the performance contract for fiscal year 2024-2025. New additions made by DDS were noted: the public policy performance measures section, and sections 11 to 14 are newer sections. Seeking approval for the acceptance of this performance contract reporting draft, which is largely the same format as the previous years.

**On a motion made by Anna Hurst, seconded by Juan Hernandez, it was resolved to approve the performance contract template for fiscal year 2025-2026. Motion carried.**

#### **8.12 Approval of Board of Trustees Draft Critical Calendar for Next Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Anna Hurst motioned to table the agenda item until the next Board of Trustees meeting when it can be updated to align with the new Bylaws and the additional dark month of October.

**On a motion made by Anna Hurst, seconded by Sharmila Brunjes, it was resolved to table the approval of committee assignments for next fiscal year 2025-2026 until the August Board of Trustees meeting. Motion carried.**

ACTION: Board Support will add this as an action item on the August Board of Trustees meeting agenda.

#### **8.13 Discuss Next Steps After the Technical Advisors Leave**

With the DDS Technical Advisors contract ending shortly, next steps were discussed. Anna Hurst noted that there is currently an assessment of the needs of the board. Clarification was sought on the next steps and the timeline. Anna Hurst explained that there will be work on developing a process of collecting at least 3 bids to present in August to provide a timeline. A deadline of Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> was decided for the remaining board members to complete the survey. This discussion grew out of a conversation at the Executive Committee meeting in May, and the Executive Committee will continue to work on this further once the information gathering is complete.

#### **8.14 Approval of Updated ED Evaluation Timeline**

Betsy Monahan presented the amended ED Evaluation specific for the current first year, fiscal year 2024-2025 for the evaluation period for the Executive Director's performance evaluation. It was noted that changes were made to the timeframe, and this will guide the process for the remainder of the year one period. Seeking a motion to approve these changes.

**On a motion made by Alex Kopilevich, seconded by Sharmila Brunjes, it was resolved to approve the updated executive director evaluation timeline. Motion carried.**

### **9. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

#### **9.1 Board Retreat Update**

A draft schedule for the board retreat was presented to the board, and it was noted that there will be an orientation for new members of the board with senior staff and the President of the Board of Trustees in August. It was noted that Tony Anderson from ARCA will be doing a presentation on the new onboarding materials that have been prepared for the entire regional center system. Also, a training on new board software would be a portion of the retreat, and potentially staff could provide brief overviews of the different departments at NLACRC. There will be further updates at the August Board of Trustees meeting.

#### **9.2 Board Software Platform**

Megan Mitchell presented information on potential Board Software Platforms, specifically two different software platform links would be sent out the board members to test out during a demo period.

### **9.3 Discuss SDP Liaison Position**

Sharmila Brunjes presented the SDP Liaison Position. The position would be for a 1 year term with the following responsibilities: attending and participating in monthly committee meetings for the SDPLVAC, facilitating communication between the committee and the Board of Trustees on a monthly basis and reporting back to the Executive Committee, and completing a monthly SDP report for the board including issues that impact the implementation of the SDP program. Juan Hernandez volunteered to be the SDP Liaison.

### **9.4 Feedback on ARCA Onboarding Presentation**

Lety Garcia shared an onboarding presentation created by ARCA and reviewed the information on the different slides. It was asked that board members either share comments today at the board meeting or contact Lety Garcia separately by phone call or email to provide feedback to report back to ARCA.

## **10. PUBLIC INPUT & COMMENTS**

Richard Dier thanked the Board of Trustees and noted excitement for Juan Hernandez volunteering to become the new SDP Liaison.

Mark Wolfe commented on the great job that Juan Hernandez has done as Board President.

## **11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

- Parent University is a family focused initiative developed by the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) team and Evan Ingbar, training manager, compiled 19 videos making information easier to manage and condense. These videos are available on the NLACRC website and will be shared on social media too.
- NLACRC's psychological assessment has expanded with many new psychologists. In 2024, NLACRC averaged 362 psychological testing appointments a month to 599 appointments in 2025.
- In April, NLACRC facilitated the first Equity & Cultural Humility Training for newly hired staff.
- Net hires for fiscal year 2024-2025 are 129 new hires compared to 117 new hires from the previous fiscal year. Turnover was previously 17.82 and for the current fiscal year turnover has gone down to 10.56.
- DDS' May Revision for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 updates were presented.
- Federal Budget updates were also presented, noting that Congress approved a budget resolution.
- The Quality Assurance Report was presented noting that there were 112 residential visits and of those there were 3 correct action plans that were developed with residential providers.
- In recruitment, 867 positions have been filled with 1026 authorized; 9 new hires for the first cycle and 11 new hires will be starting for the second cycle.
- NLACRC participated in a dual event hosted by the Department of Mental Health that also helped to support the community of Antelope Valley.

- Reviewed consumer statistics.

**12. ITEMS 11-21**

The Board received the following committee reports for information:

- Self-Determination Program presented by Megan Briley.
- Administrative Affairs Committee.
- Consumer Advisory Committee.
- Executive Committee.
- Nominating Committee.
- Vendor Advisory Committee.

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

**13. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION**

**14. NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Juan Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 9:06 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.