

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Executive Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2025

Present: Board of Trustees President Juan Hernandez, First Vice President and Board Secretary Sharmila Brunjes, Board Treasurer Anna Hurst, ARCA Representative Leticia Garcia, Jacquie Colton, Jason Taketa, VAC Representative Jaklen Keshishyan – Committee Members

Executive Director Angela Pao-Johnson, Deputy Director Evelyn McOmie, Chief Financial Officer Vini Montague, Contract Administration & Privacy Manager Megan Mitchell, and Executive Administrative Assistant Lindsay Granger – Staff Members

Guests: Elizabeth Tom – DDS, Jacqueline Gaytan – DDS – Guests

Absent: Laura Monge – Board Member

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 5:04 p.m.

2. COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Sharmila Brunjes welcomed the new members of the Executive Finance Committee and reminded members to identify themselves prior to making a motion and reviewed the NLACRC Board of Trustees Civility Code.

3. AGENDA

The agenda was amended to change the time for the action items B and C to seven minutes instead of five minutes.

On a motion made by Sharmila Brunjes, seconded by Anna Hurst, it was resolved to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC INPUT – AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public input regarding the agenda.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approval of Minutes of the August 28, 2025, Executive Finance Committee Meeting

Absent objection the minutes from the August 28, 2025 Executive Finance Meeting were approved. Motion carried.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Approval to Authorize Officer to Secure Worker's Compensation for Calendar Year 2026

Sharmila Brunjes introduced the action item regarding authorization to secure workers' compensation insurance for calendar year 2026.

Chief Financial Officer Vini Montague explained that, unlike other insurance policies, the workers' compensation policy follows a calendar year rather than a fiscal year and is due for renewal for calendar year 2026. Vini requested that the Executive Finance Committee (EFC) forward the authorization to the full Board of Trustees for approval, allowing an officer to secure the necessary coverage.

On a motion made by Anna Hurst, seconded by Juan Hernandez, it was resolved to approve and authorize an officer to secure worker's compensation for calendar year 2026. Motion carried.

ACTION: Board Support will add this to the November board meeting agenda for approval.

6.2 Approval of Vendor to Conduct Executive Director Evaluation

Chair Sharmila Brunjes introduced the action item regarding the selection of a vendor to conduct Executive Director evaluations for years two and three of the evaluation process.

Megan Mitchell, Director of Privacy and Compliance presented an updated vendor comparison spreadsheet that incorporated feedback from Anna Hurst to ensure a more accurate, "apples-to-apples" comparison of the three proposals received. The vendors considered were Kinetic Flow, Avion Consulting, and 3D Group.

Megan Mitchell reported that Kinetic Flow proposed a three-year total of \$19,620, Avion Consulting proposed approximately \$57,000 over three years, and 3D Group offered variable pricing depending on contract length and additional services. Megan Mitchell explained that Kinetic Flow is a familiar partner, having previously worked with the regional center system, and offers an affordable and comprehensive approach that aligns with the organization's needs. Avion Consulting and 3D Group both specialize in executive 360 evaluations, but their higher rates reflect their experience working with larger, for-profit, and corporate clients.

During discussion, Anna Hurst summarized the workgroup's review process. She noted that while members appreciated 3D Group's presentation and found it professional and well-structured, the group ultimately favored Kinetic Flow due to its proven experience with regional centers, strong references, collaborative approach to developing evaluation tools, and significantly lower cost, which would allow for sustainability over multiple years. Jacquie Colton inquired about the wide price variation among the three vendors. Anna Hurst and Megan Mitchell clarified that 3D Group's pricing was tailored primarily to large, for-profit companies, while Avion Consulting—though experienced with non-profits—still presented a higher overall cost than Kinetic Flow.

On a motion made by Lety Garcia, seconded by Curtis Wang, it was resolved to approve and move forward to the full Board of Trustees Kinetic Flow as the vendor to conduct the Executive Director evaluations. Motion carried.

ACTION: Board Support will include this item at the next Board of Trustees meeting in November.

6.3 Approval of Board Leadership & Coaching Consultant

Chair Sharmila Brunjes introduced the action item regarding the selection of a Board Leadership and Coaching Consultant, noting that the recommendation to approve Kinetic Flow as the Executive Director evaluator would also move forward to the full Board of Trustees for final approval.

Megan Mitchell presented three vendor options for consideration: KH Consulting, Leading Resources, and Board Builders. KH Consulting proposed a one-year contract for 100 hours of professional consulting

time dedicated to leadership development, board coaching, and facilitation. Leading Resources, a California-based governance consulting firm, proposed an annual contract totaling approximately \$29,300, which included additional strategic planning and facilitation services. Board Builders offered a subscription-based membership model that provides access to online training libraries, governance resources, and live consultant-led coaching sessions. Although Board Builders did not submit a formal proposal, a link outlining its services and pricing was provided to the committee.

Megan Mitchell recommended KH Consulting as the preferred vendor, emphasizing the firm's familiarity with NLACRC operations, existing partnerships with various departments, and prior experience working with regional centers and service providers. Megan Mitchell added that KH Consulting's knowledge of NLACRC's structure and culture would allow for a more tailored and efficient coaching process.

Sharmila Brunjes noted that both KH Consulting and Leading Resources were also finalists in the agency's Strategic Plan Consultant selection process. Sharmila Brunjes explained that aligning the board's leadership and coaching consultant with the strategic planning consultant could enhance consistency, communication, and organizational alignment.

Executive Director Angela Pao-Johnson advised the committee to defer a final recommendation until the selection of the Strategic Plan Consultant is complete, stating that it would be more prudent to allow the full board to make a decision once that process concludes.

Anna Hurst stated that during the review process, KH Consulting appeared to have the most tailored proposal and best aligned with the committee's scope of work. Anna Hurst also emphasized that if the same consultant is selected for both strategic planning and board coaching, there would likely be efficiencies in reducing overlap between contracts, such as duplicative document review or strategic alignment meetings.

Lety Garcia agreed and requested access to the full proposals for transparency and comparison. Megan Mitchell confirmed that the proposals could be shared once the Strategic Plan Consultant contract is formally awarded. Megan Mitchell further clarified that both KH Consulting and Leading Resources had submitted proposals for both scopes of work.

Angela Pao-Johnson and Megan Mitchell discussed the value of creating synergy between strategic planning and board development, emphasizing that using one consultant for both projects could improve coordination, reinforce governance goals, and support a unified strategic direction for the board.

Anna Hurst made a motion to forward the item to the full Board of Trustees without a final recommendation at this time, allowing the board to make an informed decision after the Strategic Plan Consultant is selected. Lety Garcia seconded the motion.

During discussion, Lety Garcia suggested that once the Strategic Plan Consultant is chosen, the awarded proposal should be shared with the Executive Finance Committee to review alignment opportunities between the strategic planning and board coaching functions. Megan Mitchell confirmed this would be possible, and Angela Pao-Johnson agreed that sharing the proposals would promote transparency and support cohesive decision-making. This approach will allow the board to ensure alignment between strategic planning, leadership development, and board coaching initiatives.

On a motion made by Anna Hurst, seconded by Lety Garcia, it was resolved to forward the item to the full Board of Trustees without a final recommendation at this time, allowing the board to make an informed decision after the Strategic Plan Consultant is selected. Motion carried.

ACTION: Board Support will include this on the November Board of Trustees agenda for the full Board to review KH Consulting, Leading Resources, and Board Builders after the final selection of the Strategic Plan Consultant is chosen.

6.4 Amendment of Board Budget

Chair Sharmila Brunjes introduced the agenda item regarding a proposed amendment to the board budget. Vini Montague clarified that the amendment was not yet ready for presentation and would depend on the selection of the Board Leadership and Coaching Consultant.

Sharmila Brunjes confirmed that, absent any objections, the item would be deferred until additional information is available. No objections were raised.

Absent objections, this item will be deferred to the next meeting when additional information is available.

ACTION: This item will be added to the agenda for the meeting in November, pending the final selection of the Board Leadership and Coaching Consultant.

6.5 Approval of POS CPP Startup Contracts

Sharmila Brunjes introduced the agenda item regarding the approval of Purchase of Service (POS) and Community Placement Plan (CPP) startup contracts.

a. Brilliant Corners – Avenue N4, PL2187, Contract Amendment

Vini Montague clarified that the first contract, Brilliant Corners – Avenue N4, PL2187, Contract Amendment, was not yet ready for presentation. Sharmila Brunjes confirmed that, absent any objections, the item would be deferred until a future meeting. No objections were raised.

This item was deferred until additional information is received and the contract is ready.

b. Brilliant Corners – Wyse, PL1864, Contract Amendment

Vini Montague then presented the second contract, Brilliant Corners – Wyse, PL2184, Contract Amendment. Vini Montague explained that this item represents the fifth amendment to the existing CPP Housing Agreement with Brilliant Corners. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) approved an additional \$18,500 in funding for fiscal year 2024 to cover brush clearance, tree removal, and tree trimming at the Wyse property. The amendment increases the maximum funding amount to \$1,090,603.

Vini Montague further explained that these adjustments are standard in the DDS process. Once a home is identified for renovation, Brilliant Corners, NLACRC, and DDS hold regular meetings to review project progress. When unanticipated needs arise during construction or maintenance, DDS reviews and approves funding increases on a case-by-case basis, rather than authorizing a general contingency or buffer amount.

During discussion, Anna Hurst asked why such a small funding increase required multiple approval steps. Vini Montague explained that DDS policy requires formal approval for all adjustments to contract funding, regardless of size, to ensure accountability and transparency.

On a motion made by Curtis Wang, seconded by Juan Hernandez, it was resolved to approve and move forward to the full Board the Brilliant Corners – Wyse, PL1864, Contract Amendment for approval. Motion carried.

ACTION: Board Support will add the approved item to the agenda for the next Board of Trustees meeting in November.

6.6 Approval of Report on Personnel Classifications effective March 10, 2025

Sharmila Brunjes introduced the agenda item for approval of the Report on Personnel Classifications, effective March 10, 2025.

Angela Pao-Johnson explained that under CalPERS requirements, NLACRC must maintain and publish a current report listing all personnel classifications and corresponding pay ranges for every position within the agency. The report is formally updated whenever changes occur, must be approved by the Board of Trustees, and subsequently posted on NLACRC's website for public access.

The report outlines all active job titles and pay data, including hourly ranges for non-exempt employees and monthly ranges for exempt positions. Positions shown in red with strikeouts indicate classifications that have been removed, while positions shown in green represent new or recently added roles. Angela requested that the Executive Finance Committee advance the report to the full Board of Trustees for approval at the November meeting, so it may be published in compliance with CalPERS requirements.

During discussion, Anna Hurst requested clarification on how the pay ranges for new or modified positions are determined—specifically whether they are governed by the union or established internally. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that positions covered under the union contract follow pre-negotiated salary scales, while non-union and confidential positions are based on compensation analyses conducted by the Human Resources Director. These analyses use market comparisons drawn from other regional centers and organizations with similar size and cost-of-living factors.

Vini Montague added that for newly created confidential classifications, the HR Director conducts a market rate analysis to determine a fair and competitive pay range, which is then reviewed and approved by executive management. For union positions, classifications are aligned with existing roles and pay structures already defined in the collective bargaining agreement.

Anna Hurst requested that when the report is presented to the full Board of Trustees, staff provide a high-level explanation of how salary ranges are determined and benchmarked across the regional center system to enhance transparency. Angela Pao-Johnson agreed to include this additional context in the board presentation.

On a motion made by Curtis Wang, seconded by Juan Hernandez, it was resolved to approve and move forward to the full Board the Report on Personnel Classifications effective March 1, 2025 for approval and website posting. Motion carried.

Following the vote, Sharmila Brunjes congratulated Angela Pao-Johnson on her one-year anniversary as Executive Director, commending the leadership and positive progress made during the past year. Angela Pao-Johnson expressed appreciation to the board and staff for their support and collaboration, emphasizing that NLACRC's achievements were the result of a strong team effort. Juan Hernandez also thanked Angela Pao-Johnson for her dedication, participation across committees, particularly the Consumer Advisory Committee, and commitment to community engagement, noting the meaningful impact of her leadership during her first year.

ACTION: Board Support will add this item to the November Board of Trustees agenda for approval.

ACTION: Staff will gather and provide additional explanation on how salary ranges are determined at the next board meeting.

7. CLOSED SESSION

Absent objection closed session was entered at 5:47 p.m. to discuss real estate negotiations.

No motions were made during closed session.

Absent objection, closed session was exited at 5:52 p.m.

8. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

8.1 Financial Reports

Vini Montague presented the financial report for fiscal year 2025–2026, covering the service month of August 2025. The report reflected the first amendment to NLACRC's contract with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), bringing the total allocation to \$357 million.

At this point in the fiscal year, NLACRC is not projecting a surplus or deficit. Vini Montague explained that the first Purchase of Services (POS) expenditure projection for DDS will be completed by December 10, 2025. Once the projection is finalized, the center will have a clearer understanding of its financial position and whether any adjustments will be necessary for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Vini Montague provided an overview of the report structure, noting that the first page serves as a summary of total allocations and expenditures, while the subsequent pages provide detailed breakdowns of each funding category. The allocation is divided into two primary sections: Operations and Purchase of Services (POS).

Within the Operations section, Vini Montague highlighted funding specifically designated for reduced caseload ratios, including \$15.5 million allocated for achieving a 1:40 service coordinator-to-consumer ratio and \$10.8 million for all other caseload ratios. The total general operations allocation amounts to \$115,339,000. The report also includes line-item funding for other DDS-directed projects and initiatives, followed by the Purchase of Services allocation, which outlines funding available for consumer supports and vendor contracts.

The later pages of the financial report provide a consolidated overview of both operations and POS expenditures, as well as more granular detail of regular operational spending and cost categories. Vini Montague noted that this format is consistent with DDS reporting requirements and is intended to provide transparency into how funds are distributed across service and administrative areas.

After summarizing the report, Vini Montague invited questions from committee members. Anna Hurst and other members had no further questions at this time.

8.2 Admin vs. Direct Allocation Report

Vini Montague presented the Admin vs. Direct Allocations Report for the service month of August 2025, explaining that this report is prepared monthly to monitor compliance with the statutory limit on administrative spending.

Vini Montague clarified that, under state regulations, regional centers' administrative expenditures may not exceed 15% of total expenditures for the fiscal year. To ensure ongoing compliance, NLACRC tracks both monthly and year-to-date (YTD) figures comparing administrative expenditures (which include costs such as staff salaries, general administration, and overhead) to direct service expenditures (funds used for consumer services and vendor payments).

Because payments and reimbursements do not occur evenly throughout the year, the monthly percentage can occasionally rise above 15%. However, the year-to-date figure is the primary indicator used to assess compliance with DDS and state guidelines.

As of August 2025, NLACRC's year-to-date administrative expenditures stood at 13.5%, which remains comfortably below the 15% maximum threshold. Vini Montague noted that this demonstrates sound fiscal

management and proper allocation of resources between administrative operations and direct consumer services.

No committee members had additional questions.

8.3 Outstanding Authorizations Report

Vini Montague presented the Outstanding Authorizations Report, providing an update on efforts to address vendor authorization delays and improve processing efficiency. Vini Montague explained that approximately one year ago, NLACRC established a dedicated staffing initiative to focus specifically on resolving authorization issues that had been escalating in volume. The initiative created a coordinated process between Case Management, Accounting, and Community Services departments to identify and resolve delays more proactively.

The cross-departmental team now meets twice per month to review the outstanding authorizations queue, analyze trends, and expedite resolution for any pending items. During these meetings, the team tracks the number of open issues, new issues added, and those that have been resolved since the previous review.

As of August 31, 2025, NLACRC had 35 vendors with a total of 45 outstanding authorizations. These represent service authorizations that are either awaiting completion, documentation, or coordination between departments to finalize. Vini Montague noted that this continued monitoring process has improved timeliness and reduced the number of escalations compared to previous reporting periods.

Sharmila Brunjes asked for clarification on how this number compares to NLACRC's total vendor base to understand the overall scale of the issue. Deputy Director Evelyn McOmie responded that NLACRC currently contracts with approximately 700 active vendors, representing more than 1,600 vendorizations and nearly 1,700 active service lines. This means the 35 vendors currently in the queue account for a small portion of the overall vendor pool, demonstrating progress in reducing the backlog of outstanding authorizations.

Sharmila Brunjes thanked Vini Montague and Evelyn McOmie for the update and commended the team for its continued focus on timely authorizations and cross-departmental coordination.

8.4 Audits Update **a. CalPERS**

Vini Montague provided a audit update regarding the CalPERS audit, which was conducted approximately one year ago. The audit included several findings that NLACRC has since addressed.

One of the primary findings related to the Report on Personnel Classifications, which required revisions to meet CalPERS reporting standards. Vini Montague explained that previous reports were missing specific details such as exact effective dates (e.g., February 5, 2023, rather than February 2023) and needed clearer labeling to distinguish between monthly and hourly pay ranges. The updated report presented to the committee earlier in the meeting was revised to ensure full compliance with these audit requirements.

Additional findings were related to how ABX salary adjustments were documented and reported. NLACRC has provided all necessary supporting documentation and responses to CalPERS to address those findings.

Vini Montague reported that all corrective actions have been completed, and NLACRC is now awaiting final confirmation and closeout from CalPERS.

b. Independent Audit

Vini Montague provided an update on the annual independent audit for Fiscal Year 2024–2025. The audit entrance meeting took place in August 2025, with the formal audit beginning on September 22, 2025. The audit is being conducted in two phases—the first phase involved preliminary documentation and submission of required materials, which NLACRC has completed. The audit team is now in the second phase, actively reviewing documentation and issuing additional requests for information.

Anna Hurst asked whether the audit is on track for timely completion, noting that in recent years there had been delays in submitting materials to the auditors. Vini Montague confirmed that, aside from one prior year in which information submission was delayed, all audits have been completed on schedule, and the current audit remains on track for timely completion.

Anna Hurst also asked whether staffing shortages, particularly in the Accounting Department, continue to impact the audit process. Vini Montague confirmed that staffing challenges persist in several administrative areas. The additional funding received by regional centers to improve staffing ratios was limited to service coordinators and did not extend to administrative or accounting staff. NLACRC continues to operate with lean staffing in accounting, as several long-tenured employees have retired—one after 42 years and another after over 30 years of service. The Accounting Supervisor was also on leave for six months, during which time the Controller assumed supervisory responsibilities. Despite these challenges, staff have worked extended hours to ensure audit documentation is provided promptly and accurately.

Anna Hurst asked whether it would be helpful for NLACRC representatives attending ARCA to explore how other regional centers are addressing non-case management staffing shortages. Vini Montague agreed that this is a statewide issue driven by the core staffing formula, which determines how much funding regional centers receive for operational staff. The formula has not been updated since the 1990s and still uses outdated salary benchmarks. Vini Montague noted that ARCA has submitted a proposed revision of the core staffing formula to DDS, and discussions are ongoing to modernize the funding structure for all regional centers.

c. DDS Audit

Vini Montague provided an update on the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) audits. Vini Montague reported that DDS had issued a final audit report covering Fiscal Years 2021–2022 and 2022–2023, which included an overpayment finding of approximately \$1.5 million.

The finding was related to transportation service code 880 and how provider rates were calculated during the statewide rate implementation. Service providers using that code submitted rate calculation spreadsheets to DDS based on DDS-developed templates, which led to discrepancies later identified in the audit. After reviewing the findings, DDS requested NLACRC to submit a formal audit appeal, which Vini Montague has completed and submitted. The appeal is currently under DDS review, and a response is pending.

Additionally, under the special contract language (SCL) with DDS, North LA Regional Center is subject to an annual audit. DDS conducted its Fiscal Year 2023–2024 audit earlier this year, but final results are pending, as DDS is waiting to finalize the prior audit's appeal outcome before completing the newer audit report.

Sharmila Brunjes thanked Vini Montague for the update and commended the accounting and finance teams for their diligence and commitment. Sharmila Brunjes emphasized that managing an operating budget of approximately \$1.4 billion is a significant responsibility, especially given staffing shortages, and expressed gratitude for the team's continued dedication and professionalism.

Vini Montague thanked Sharmila Brunjes for her acknowledgment and stated that the appreciation would be shared with the accounting team. Sharmila Brunjes added that her gratitude comes not only from her role as Board President but also as the parent of a consumer, recognizing the direct impact of the team's work on families served by NLACRC.

8.5 Annual Reporting of FY24-25 Whistleblower Complaints

Angela Pao-Johnson presented the Whistleblower Report for Fiscal Year 2024–2025 and provided both an annual and monthly summary.

For the fiscal year, a total of 47 whistleblower complaints were filed. Of those, 10 remain open and under active investigation. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that this summary serves as a year-end recap, as a formal overview had not been presented at the previous Executive Finance Committee (EFC) meeting.

8.6 Monthly Whistleblower Log for August 16, 2025 – September 15, 2025

For the monthly reporting period covering August 16 through September 15, 2025, a total of 7 new complaints were received. Of these, 4 remain open, and 1 case is pending further direction from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on how to proceed.

NLACRC continues to track and monitor these reports to ensure timely investigation and resolution.

No questions were raised by committee members.

9. CENTER OPERATIONS

Angela Pao-Johnson presented the Center Operations Report, highlighting major organizational updates, DDS initiatives, and community engagement activities.

Angela Pao-Johnson reported a major staffing improvement across all three NLACRC office locations. The number of vacant caseloads—defined as consumer caseloads without an assigned service coordinator—decreased from 81 at its peak to 18, reflecting significant progress in recruitment and retention. During periods of high vacancies, existing service coordinators supported unassigned families to ensure continuity of services and timely completion of IPPs.

DDS directed all regional centers to reach out to Early Start and newly eligible families as part of an upcoming standardized intake redesign. NLACRC successfully contacted more than 4,500 families across all threshold languages and became the first regional center in the state to fully complete this DDS request.

Angela Pao-Johnson also provided updates on statewide policy discussions. DDS is exploring a shift to standardize day program billing to a daily rate rather than hourly billing, with ongoing discussions about how this change could affect Tailored Day Services and Employment programs. Remote services authorization has been extended through December 2026, and DDS will provide a legislative report by May 2026 summarizing findings and community feedback.

In addition, DDS and state legislators are reviewing potential expansions of overtime protections to include regional center-funded programs such as Supported Living Services and Respite, which are not currently covered under Senate Bill 156. DDS will also begin requiring vendors to disclose any use of generative AI. Regional centers will be responsible for approving or denying vendor requests under forthcoming DDS guidance, which will prohibit large-scale marketing or AI model training activities.

NLACRC has filled 896 positions, reflecting strong progress in recruitment. The current consumer count is 40,442, up from 40,404 earlier in the month, showing continued growth in individuals served.

The Outreach Team participated in the MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity) Diaper and Food Distribution Event in Pacoima, a central San Fernando Valley community hub. The event allowed NLACRC staff to connect with families in need, share information about available services, and strengthen partnerships within the community.

Angela Pao-Johnson reviewed upcoming meetings for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), Disability Rights California, and the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee (SDLAC).

Lindsay Granger confirmed that the next SDLAC meeting will take place on October 16, 2025, and will distribute updated dates for the State Council and Disability Rights board meetings to the full board.

10. BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS/ACTION ITEMS

- Board Support will add the Report on Personnel Classifications Effective March 10, 2025 to the Board of Trustees November meeting agenda for approval.
- Staff will provide additional explanation on how salary ranges are determined at the next board meeting.
- Board Support will add Brilliant Corners – Wyse, PL1864, Contract Amendment to the November board meeting agenda for approval.
- Brilliant Corners – N4, PL2187, Contract Amendment will be deferred until the contract is ready.
- Amendment of Board Budget will be deferred until the next meeting pending additional information and the selection of the Board Leadership and Coaching Consultant.
- Board Support will add Approval of Board Leadership & Coaching Consultant to the next board meeting agenda for review and approval of KH Consulting, Leading Resources, and Board Builders.
- Board Support will add Approval of Kinetic Flow as Vendor to Conduct Executive Director Evaluation to the November board meeting agenda.
- Board Support will add Approval to Authorize an Officer to Secure Worker's Compensation for Calendar Year 2026 to the November board meeting agenda.
- Board Support will send a follow-up email with official meeting links and participation details for interested board members for the Disability Rights California Board Meeting and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Council Meeting.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS / PUBLIC INPUT / INFORMATION ITEMS

Sharmila Brunjes opened the floor for announcements, public input, and any final information items, noting that up to three speakers would be allotted three minutes each. She encouraged all participants, including community partners and board members, to share relevant updates or upcoming opportunities.

Sharmila Brunjes announced that *The Help Group* will host its annual summit on November 14, 2025, at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. The event, titled "The Help Group Summit: A Celebration of Neurodiversity," will feature expert speakers, panel discussions, and interactive workshops centered on child and adolescent development, autism, and inclusive education. She shared the website — thehelpgroupsummit.org — for additional details and registration. Angela Pao-Johnson added that she attended the event last year, highlighting its high-quality programming and dynamic presenters, and encouraged board and community members to attend if possible, noting it as both an educational and inspiring experience.

Evelyn McOmie provided updates on NLACRC's upcoming community outreach events. She shared that the Antelope Valley (AV) Empower Expo will take place Saturday at the Lancaster and Palmdale Marriott

Embassy Suites. The event has received a strong response, with over 220 registered participants and all vendor and community organization tables reserved. Evelyn noted that the event will feature information booths, community partners, and a dance for individuals served, which already has 120 registrations, exceeding the venue's capacity of 64. Due to high demand, wristbands and a waitlist will be used for entry. She emphasized the excitement among staff and vendors and thanked all involved for their collaboration.

Evelyn also announced the upcoming San Fernando Valley Empower Expo on Sunday, October 12, 2025, at California State University, Northridge (CSUN), held in partnership with the Family Focus Resource Center (FFRC). The San Fernando Valley event is expected to draw twice the attendance of the AV Expo and will include a red carpet entrance, music, mocktail bar, and community resource booths. The event theme centers on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), promoting independence, choice, and inclusion for individuals served.

Board Member Lety Garcia asked whether her son could attend the CSUN event independently. Evelyn McOmie confirmed that individuals who are independent are welcome to attend on their own. Those needing assistance should be accompanied by a member of their support circle. Evelyn reaffirmed that the Expo's purpose is to promote autonomy and self-determination, aligning with the HCBS philosophy.

The Disability Rights California Board Meeting will take place on November 21, 2025.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Council Meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2025.

Board Support will send a follow-up email with official meeting links and participation details for interested board members.

Anna Hurst expressed appreciation to Jason Taketa, Jacquie Colton, and members of the NLACRC Executive and Leadership Team for their continued presence and collaboration during the meeting. She noted the value of having leadership actively participate in board discussions. Sharmila Brunjes echoed these remarks, extending gratitude to the entire leadership team, staff, and board members for their engagement and teamwork throughout the meeting.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive Finance Committee will be November 20, 2025 at 6:05 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

It was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes 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.

