

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Nominating Committee Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2026

Present: Curtis Wang, Sharmila Brunjes, Lety Garcia, Juan Hernandez, Alex Kopilevich – **Committee Members**

Angela Pao-Johnson, Evelyn McOmie, Lindsay Granger – **Staff Members**

Absent:

I. Call to Order

Board Secretary and Committee Chair Curtis Wang called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

II. Review of the Agenda and Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (Lety Garcia/Alex Kopilevich) To approve the agenda. Motion carried.

III. Public Input

Alex Kopilevich, Vendor Advisory Committee Chair, provided public comment, noting the importance of being thoughtful and cautious when selecting board applicants. He emphasized that the goal should not be to reach an arbitrary number of board members (e.g., 20 or 22), but to select applicants who understand the commitment and are genuinely willing to participate and engage in board service.

There was no additional public comment.

IV. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes from the September 3, 2025 Meeting

M/S/C (Lety Garcia/Alex Kopilevich) to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

V. Action Items

A. Vote on Committee Co-Chairs

Curtis Wang introduced Action Item A, a vote to appoint a Co-Chair for the Nominating Committee. Deputy Director Evelyn McOmie provided background that the committee had previously discussed the importance and benefits of having a Co-Chair, and noted that Lety Garcia had been nominated for the role during prior discussions. Evelyn stated the purpose of the item was for the committee to formally vote on Lety Garcia serving as Co-Chair for the current standing year, alongside Curtis Wang.

M/S/C (Alex Kopilevich/Juan Hernandez) to approve Lety Garcia as Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

ACTION: Board Support will update the committee list to reflect Lety Garcia as the new co-chair of the committee.

B. Review New Applicant for Board of Trustees

Curtis Wang introduced Action Item B to review a new Board of Trustees application (Applicant #6). Lety Garcia shared that she reviewed the application and felt the applicant appeared professionally qualified. She noted the application stated the applicant is a parent, but not necessarily a parent of a regional center consumer, which stood out to her. Lety Garcia emphasized that any qualified individual may serve on the Board, and that the committee welcomes applicants whose skills support the Board's purpose and goals. She also expressed concern about the applicant's availability due to significant professional and community involvement, including serving as a chairperson of an LA Unified committee.

Alex Kopilevich confirmed he reviewed the application and shared similar concerns regarding whether the applicant would have enough time to remain engaged and actively participate. Juan Hernandez asked the committee whether they wanted to invite the applicant for an interview and agreed that time and dedication are important considerations. Alex Kopilevich asked whether the applicant had attended any meetings previously; the committee noted the application did not indicate prior attendance.

The committee discussed setting clearer expectations with candidates regarding the time commitment for Board service. Lety Garcia noted that while the commitment is often described as approximately 10 hours per month, it can be higher depending on committee meetings, mandatory trainings, and participation in workgroups. Alex Kopilevich added that in prior interviews, the committee had shared a more realistic estimate of approximately 12–15 hours per month. The committee also acknowledged that new Board members may take 1–2 years to become fully acclimated and comfortable participating.

The committee agreed to clarify the applicant's ability to meet the time commitment and to ask additional questions regarding their background and connection to services.

M/S/C (Alex Kopilevich/Juan Hernandez) to move forward with an interview for Applicant 6. Motion carried.

ACTION: Board Support will schedule interviews for Applicant #6 with the Nominating Committee.

ACTION: Board Support will reach out to clarify information on the applicant's background and time commitment for the Board of Trustees.

C. **Review Interviews for Applicants for Board of Trustees**

Lety Garcia opened the discussion by sharing that both Applicant #4 and Applicant #5 came across as strong candidates during the interview process. Lety Garcia stated both candidates seemed articulate, professional, and capable, and that each candidate brought "good elements" that would contribute positively to the Board. Based on the overall interview impressions, Lety Garcia made a motion to move Applicants #4 and #5 forward for recommendation to the full Board.

During discussion, Sharmila Brunjes shared that nine additional individuals had recently submitted interest in Board service and expressed concern about making recommendations before reviewing the full pool. S Sharmila Brunjes clarified that Applicants #4 and #5 appeared to be strong candidates and agreed that both interviewed well. However, Sharmila Brunjes expressed concern that making

recommendations immediately could be premature given the larger pool now available. Sharmila Brunjes recommended waiting until the committee had an opportunity to review the remaining applicants so that all candidates could be evaluated fairly and compared within the same selection process. Sharmila Brunjes noted that reviewing the additional applicants could result in a more informed decision and potentially identify exceptionally strong candidates.

Lety Garcia reiterated that the recommendation was based on the interview performance and qualifications of Applicants #4 and #5 and raised an operational concern regarding Board capacity, noting the Board was currently at 14 members, which is the minimum threshold. Lety Garcia expressed concern that if another Board member resigned, the Board could risk falling out of compliance or struggle to maintain quorum and operations.

Angela Pao-Johnson clarified that the bylaws include a contingency allowing the Board to continue functioning with a minimum of 11 members, which had been added in response to circumstances experienced the prior year. Sharmila Brunjes confirmed that 11 members is the minimum and added context that the Board's current membership level was impacted by a personal emergency situation rather than a pattern of members leaving without commitment, and expressed hope that additional resignations would be unlikely.

The committee also discussed whether the new interest submissions might include candidates who support compliance priorities, including Latino representation. Lety Garcia asked whether any of the new applicants were Latino candidates. Lindsay Granger clarified that the submissions were received through an interest form, not the full application, and that the interest form collected contact information but did not request race or ethnicity information at this stage. Sharmila Brunjes noted that candidates would need to self-identify and that determining demographic representation would require reviewing full applications.

Alex Kopilevich emphasized the importance of conducting due diligence and selecting the best-qualified individuals based on competence and merit. Alex Kopilevich stated that reviewing or interviewing the additional applicants before making final recommendations would support a stronger and more informed recommendation process to best serve the Board's interests. Curtis Wang also commented on the value of having a strong applicant pool and selecting the best candidates for Board service.

M/S/C (Lety Garcia/Juan Hernandez) to move Applicant #4 and Applicant #5 to the full Board. The vote was tied 2-2 and 1 abstention. Motion failed.

Yes – 2 (Lety Garcia and Curtis Wang)
No – 2 (Sharmila Brunjes and Alex Kopilevich)
Abstain – 1 (Juan Hernandez)

Under Robert's Rules of Order, a tie vote meant the motion failed. Sharmila Brunjes confirmed the motion did not pass, and the committee concluded that Applicants #4 and #5 would not be forwarded to the Board at that time.

Following the failed motion, Lindsay Granger noted that a separate motion would be needed to formally table the decision.

M/S/C (Sharmila Brunjes/Alex Kopilevich) to continue considering Applicant #4 and Applicant #5 alongside the larger applicant pool expected for review in February and

March. Motion carried.

V. **Committee Business**

A. Update on Board Recruitment Marketing Plan

Curtis Wang introduced the agenda item for an update on the Board recruitment marketing plan. Chris Whitlock presented a report on the Board recruitment campaign results from August 2025 through December 2025, comparing digital and printed outreach efforts. Chris Whitlock reported that digital campaigns outperformed printed campaigns by approximately three to one. Total spending was \$2,325 for digital campaigns and \$3,070 for printed campaigns, with an estimated cost per click or scan of approximately \$1.04 for digital outreach compared to \$4.52 for printed materials.

Chris Whitlock reviewed campaign performance by source, including La Opinión, AV Magazine, flyers distributed through community-based organizations, VICA's digital newsletter, and NLACRC social media platforms. In total, the campaign generated 2,908 clicks to the Board application, with total campaign costs of approximately \$5,395.

Lety Garcia asked whether it was possible to identify where letters of intent or interest originated. Chris Whitlock explained that, beginning January 5, the campaign shifted from directing individuals to the full Board application to a simplified interest form designed to collect basic contact information. Chris Whitlock reported that nine interest forms were received within one week, allowing staff to follow up directly and build a larger pool of potential applicants.

Alex Kopilevich commented that the data suggested printed advertising, particularly La Opinión and AV Magazine, was not cost-effective compared to lower-cost outreach methods. Alex Kopilevich asked whether future expenses could be reduced. Chris Whitlock responded that the interest form allows improved tracking by outreach source and enables evaluation of which platforms yield higher-quality applicants. Chris Whitlock also noted that unboosted posts on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram generated strong engagement at no additional cost.

Sharmila Brunjes suggested allocating funds to develop training materials or templates for Board members to support recruitment outreach through personal social media channels. Sharmila Brunjes also proposed creating videos of Board members sharing their experiences to support recruitment efforts. Sharmila Brunjes shared that a recent LinkedIn post resulted in 34 views, noting this level of engagement exceeded that of some paid print placements.

Lety Garcia raised concerns regarding the characterization of the campaign as bilingual, noting that the advertisements included only limited Spanish-language content. Chris Whitlock clarified that the materials were primarily in English and acknowledged that a single Spanish sentence did not constitute a fully bilingual advertisement. Lety Garcia emphasized the importance of accurately describing campaign language moving forward. Angela Pao-Johnson and Sharmila Brunjes noted that the recruitment materials had been presented to and approved by the full Board, and clarified that Chris Whitlock had not made decisions independently.

Lety Garcia also asked about the status of incorporating targeted audience and Board composition information into recruitment materials, referencing a motion approved at a prior Board meeting. Sharmila Brunjes clarified that the motion applied to any new recruitment materials created going forward, not to reprints of previously approved

materials.

Chris Whitlock stated that the campaign was intended to run through the next Nominating Committee meeting, at which time next steps would be determined. Alex Kopilevich expressed concern about continuing expenditures if the committee already had multiple candidates and limited capacity to interview additional applicants. Sharmila Brunjes recommended deferring decisions regarding changes to campaign spending until the committee could review the quality of applications at the next meeting. Chris Whitlock confirmed that staff could continue posting the interest form through the next meeting at no additional cost.

The Committee confirmed that this agenda item was informational only and not an action item and agreed to receive another campaign report at the next meeting.

B. Review Board Members' Terms and Upcoming Renewals

Curtis Wang introduced the agenda item to review Board member terms and upcoming renewals, presented by Lindsay Granger. Lindsay Granger provided a brief overview of upcoming term renewals and shared that the term renewal tracking sheet had been reformatted to make it easier for the Nominating Committee to review, including fields such as date elected, current term start and end dates, and upcoming renewal timelines. Lindsay Granger reported that signed interest forms had been received from Board members needing to submit renewals.

Lindsay Granger noted upcoming changes impacting Board composition, including that Alex Kopilevich would be terming out as the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) representative, requiring a new VAC Chair and Board representative. Lindsay Granger also stated that Lety Garcia and Nicholas Abrahms would be terming out next, and referenced the prior discussion regarding maintaining applicants "on standby" to support continuity. Curtis Wang indicated there were no questions on the renewal sheet. Sharmila Brunjes noted a typo in the roster listing Sharmila Brunjes' name, and Lindsay Granger confirmed the correction.

Sharmila Brunjes asked Alex Kopilevich whether there would be advance notice of who would replace the VAC representative role. Alex Kopilevich explained that the VAC Chair election typically occurs around May–June to allow for transition planning. Alex Kopilevich stated the VAC currently has four open positions, including the Chair seat, and the selection process would occur after reviewing applicants; if more than one person volunteers, a vote would be held. Angela Pao-Johnson and Sharmila Brunjes expressed appreciation for Alex Kopilevich's service, and Alex Kopilevich thanked the committee and noted the next VAC Chair would be selected through the VAC process.

C. Review DDS Board Composition

Lindsay Granger presented an overview of the DDS Board composition data and explained that the spreadsheet breaks down Board composition using DDS's algorithm and census-based minimum thresholds, including representation by catchment area, diagnosis, and race/ethnicity. Lindsay Granger noted the document included updated tables consistent with the DDS layout and clarified that the labeling on the 4th table should reflect "race/ethnicity." Lindsay Granger stated an updated version had been emailed to members and that the analysis was modeled up to 22 Board members.

Lindsay Granger explained that the top portion of the worksheet was based on a prior

2020 composition sheet that had been provided by Lety Garcia as a guide, while the lower tables reflected the official DDS composition layout.

Lety Garcia requested additional analysis on geographic representation by region (San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, and Antelope Valley) and asked whether the committee could identify a fair target distribution by region if the Board increased to 18 members. Lindsay Granger explained DDS census data does not break down the catchment areas at that level and suggested using alternative data sources if the committee wanted regional targets. Lety Garcia and Alex Kopilevich described a prior approach using consumer counts by region to calculate percentages and apply them to the total Board size. Lindsay Granger agreed to update the document with percentage breakdowns by region using consumer distribution data, and Lety Garcia confirmed that would be helpful.

Lety Garcia asked whether recruitment outreach could be targeted more toward Santa Clarita Valley. Chris Whitlock confirmed geo-targeting could be done via social media. Lety Garcia stated this would be helpful because Santa Clarita Valley remained an area of focus for recruitment and it was unclear whether any of the recent interest forms originated from that region.

Lety Garcia requested clarification on why there were two “ethnicity” sections shown. Lindsay Granger explained that the top section reflected an earlier attempt to replicate the 2020 composition sheet format, which listed that information under “ethnicity,” although it would be more accurately labeled “race/ethnicity.” Lindsay Granger further explained that the DDS format separates race and ethnicity because individuals must select both categories and are counted in each. Lindsay Granger noted that combining race and ethnicity into a single table can result in totals exceeding 100% and recommended using the DDS-formatted race and ethnicity tables for accuracy.

Lety Garcia asked about DDS’s allowed variance for compliance. Lindsay Granger explained DDS allows variance because census percentages are highly specific and Board representation must be calculated using whole individuals. Lindsay Granger noted that one Board member equates to approximately 7% and that the compliance range shifts as Board size changes because the spreadsheet recalculates the allowable variance based on updated totals. Lety Garcia confirmed the understanding that compliance does not require meeting exact census percentages and provided an example where a category could remain compliant even if one member below a calculated target due to variance. Sharmila Brunjes asked a brief clarifying question about the percentage calculations and then confirmed understanding of the current gap relative to the 44% target discussed. The committee confirmed there were no further questions and concluded the review.

ACTION: Lindsay Granger will update the board composition worksheet and provide them to the committee. The updated format will provide predictive percentage breakdowns by region based on consumer distribution.

VI. Review of Meeting Action Items and Board Agenda Items

Curtis Wang moved the committee to the agenda item for reviewing meeting action items. During the review of the meeting action items, it was reported that the document previously referred to as “policies” would be revised and brought back to the committee in February for review and feedback, including discussion of whether the document title should be revised to “guidelines” or another term.

Lety Garcia requested that the bylaws also be reviewed to ensure all necessary updates are captured. Lindsay Granger confirmed the bylaws review and redlined updates would be included as part of the February agenda.

No items would be going to the Board from this committee meeting.

ACTIONS:

- Lindsay Granger summarized follow-up items and next steps, including reaching out to Applicant 6 to schedule an interview with the Nominating Committee prior to February.
- An email would be sent to Applicants 4 and 5 to inform them that their applications would be reviewed again at the February meeting.
- Additional applications received through the new interest forms would be gathered and presented to the Nominating Committee at the February meeting.
- The committee roster will be updated to reflect Lety Garcia as the new Co-Chair.
- Lindsay Granger will send out an updated Board composition worksheet would be provided, including predictive percentage breakdowns by region based on consumer distribution.
- Lindsay Granger will add to the February Nominating Committee agenda a review of the updated Nominating Committee document, previously referred to as “policies” with redlines.

VII. Announcements/Public Input/Information

During public input, Chris Whitlock provided a brief additional update regarding potential future outreach strategies to support Board recruitment marketing. Chris Whitlock shared that staff were exploring additional marketing avenues, including radio, possible television outreach, and meeting with previous legislators as part of broader recruitment efforts. Chris Whitlock noted that any radio or television outreach would be evaluated to ensure the efforts provide value-added benefits to the overall marketing campaign. Lety Garcia thanked Chris Whitlock for the update.

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

Curtis Wang adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Submitted by:
Lindsay Granger
Executive Administrative Assistant – Board Relations Liaison

