

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

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
ZOOM
MARCH 11, 2026 6:00 P.M.**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Sharmila Brunjes (President), Juan Hernandez (Vice President), Anna Hurst (Treasurer), Curtis Wang (Secretary), Leticia Garcia (ARCA Rep), Alex Kopilevich (VAC Chair), George Alvarado, Cathy Blin, Nicholas Abrahms, Jacquie Colton, Jason Taketa, Jeremy Sunderland, Laura Monge, Jennifer Koster

ABSENT:

STAFF:

Angela Pao-Johnson - Executive Director, Evelyn McOmie – Deputy Director, Vini Montague – Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Carlo DeAntonio – Director, Clinical Services, Silvia Renteria-Haro, Donna Rensch, Sarah Yap, Arezo Abedi, Lindsay Granger, Megan Mitchell, Sheila King, Elisa Hill,

GUESTS:

Xochitl Gonzalez – DDS, Charlotte Tay—Lindquist, Von Husen & Joyce, Thea Edolsa – Lindquist, Von Husen & Joyce, Diana Manipor – Lindquist, Von Husen & Joyce

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Sharmila Brunjes at 6:05 PM, who welcomed attendees and opened with brief remarks. The NLACRC Mission and Vision Statements were read aloud, reaffirming the organization’s commitment to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities to live inclusive and fulfilling lives.

Attendees were reminded to state their name when making or seconding motions to support accurate recordkeeping. Public comment procedures were clarified, noting that comments on agenda items are taken at the beginning of the meeting, while general public comments are reserved for the end.

The Board of Trustees Civility Code was reviewed, emphasizing respectful, inclusive, and non-discriminatory engagement. It was also confirmed that Spanish interpretation services were available for the meeting.

Instructions were provided for public attendees to enter their names in the chat, and for board members to update their Zoom display names to include their full name, board position, and geographic location.

Following these remarks, the meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. **IMPACT STORY FROM INDIVIDUAL SERVED**

Angela Pao-Johnson shared a video from board member and individual served Nicholas Abrahms.

3. **BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE/QUORUM**

Board members were confirmed in attendance on Zoom. Quorum was confirmed by staff.

4. **AGENDA – APPROVAL**

President Sharmila Brunjes announced two corrections to the agenda: Action Item E was included in error as it had already been previously approved by the Board, and the allotted time for Action Item B was adjusted from 10 minutes to 3 minutes.

A reminder was provided regarding Robert’s Rules of Order, noting that once the agenda is approved, the listed time allocations become binding. Any extension of discussion would require a motion, a second, and Board approval. Board members were also asked to hold questions until after presenters finish to ensure efficient progression through the agenda.

Absent objection, the agenda was approved as amended.

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

There was no public input.

6. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Sharmila Brunjes listed the consent items as approval of the Board of Trustees meeting minutes from February 11, 2026. Sharmila Brunjes asked if there was any discussion.

Absent objection, it was resolved to approve the meeting minutes from the February 11, 2026, board meeting. Motion carried.

7. **ACTION ITEMS**

7.1 **Lindquist, Von Husen & Joyce Presentation of NLACRC FY2024-25 Audited Financial Statements**

President Sharmila Brunjes introduced the audit presentation by emphasizing the importance of the annual audit in maintaining NLACRC’s financial accountability and invited Board members to raise questions as needed during the discussion.

Charlotte Tay, audit partner with Lindquist, Von Hewson and Joyce, introduced the audit team, including Diana Manipor, supervisor, and Thea Edosa, audit manager. The auditors presented a condensed Board-level summary of the completed audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, noting that a more detailed version had previously been reviewed with the Administrative Affairs Committee and management on February 20, 2026.

The audit team reviewed required communications, including the auditors’ responsibilities, management’s responsibilities, and the standards governing the audit. The audit was

conducted under generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards, and Uniform Guidance due to federal funding associated with the Early Start Part C program. The auditors clarified that the role of the audit team is to evaluate financial reporting, internal controls, and compliance, while management remains responsible for preparing the financial statements, maintaining internal controls, and ensuring accurate disclosures. The auditors also stated that no fraud concerns had been reported by management or committee members.

The auditors then discussed key audit risks, including revenue recognition, expense recognition, and compliance with grant and regulatory requirements. The auditors explained that because NLACRC operates as a cost reimbursement organization, revenue and expense recognition are closely connected and require careful review to ensure proper reporting.

Diana Manipor presented highlights from the financial statements, reporting that total assets increased by approximately \$19 million and total liabilities increased by approximately \$11.7 million compared to the prior fiscal year. These changes were attributed primarily to increased DDS contract funding, changes in receivables and employee benefit-related balances, operating lease accounting adjustments, and increased accounts payable related to higher expenses, vendor rate increases, and consumer growth. Diana Manipor also reported that total support and revenue increased by approximately \$220 million and total expenses increased by approximately \$222 million, driven by increased claims activity, service utilization, consumer count growth, rate model increases, minimum wage increases, and higher salaries and benefits.

Charlotte Tay reported that NLACRC received a clean audit opinion on both the June 30, 2025 financial statements and the Part C major federal program. Charlotte Tay explained that this means the financial statements were found to comply, in all material respects, with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and that the federal program was found to be in compliance with applicable requirements.

The auditors also reviewed management letter comments and recommendations. The auditors noted that the prior-year material weakness involving approximately \$9.6 million in undeposited checks was considered resolved and isolated to the prior audit period. For the current year, approximately \$587,000 in undeposited DDS checks were identified, but the auditors explained this was a routine timing issue involving checks received at year-end and deposited in the following fiscal period, rather than a repeat of the prior-year control problem. The auditors stated that the prior material weakness did not recur in the June 30, 2025 audit.

The auditors further noted that management submitted approximately 18 journal entries during the audit as part of the reconciliation process. While this reflected the need for continued cleanup, the auditors commended management for taking ownership of the reconciliation work and indicated that stronger check-and-balance processes had been put in place. The auditors recommended that reconciliations continue to be completed monthly to support a smoother audit process going forward.

Chief Financial Officer Vini Montague provided additional context, explaining that the cleanup process had been affected by staffing transitions, including a controller change mid-year and an extended leave of absence by the accounting supervisor, all within an outdated accounting system. Vini Montague assured the Board that the issues had been addressed and expressed confidence that the next audit would proceed more smoothly. The auditors echoed that expectation and commended staff, including Justice, for the reconciliation work completed.

Board Treasurer Anna Hurst shared appreciation for the progress made, noting that as a committee member Anna Hurst had observed a significant turnaround and expressed gratitude to Vini Montague and the team for the work completed.

Charlotte Tay then explained the final steps in the audit process, noting that upon Board approval the firm would complete subsequent-event testing through the date of approval, obtain a management representation letter, and issue the final financial statements.

On a motion made by Jeremy Sunderland, seconded by Jennifer Koster, it was resolved to approve the audited financial statements. Motion carried.

Charlotte Tay confirmed that the financial statements would be dated March 11, 2026.

7.2 Approval and Adoption of Updated Board Policies – Board Recruitment Plan

President Sharmila Brunjes presented the revised Board Recruitment Plan, noting it is required under the special contract. She explained that the plan was originally developed and approved by the Board in November 2024, submitted to DDS for review, and recently returned with feedback and approval. The plan was subsequently reviewed by the Nominating Committee at its March 4, 2026 meeting and is now being presented for Board approval as the current recruitment policy.

President Brunjes shared that, upon approval, the plan will be posted on the NLACRC website for public access and incorporated into the Board policies within the Board manual. Sharmila Brunjes also informed the Board that a potential trailer bill, expected to be considered in July 2026, may impact Board composition requirements, which could necessitate future updates to the recruitment plan and bylaws by January 2027.

On a motion made by Nicholas Abrahms, it was resolved to approve and adopt the Board Recruitment Plan policy. As this came from the Nominating Committee, only a motion was required. Motion carried.

7.3 Approval of Updated Report on Personnel Classifications

a. Approval of Updated Report on Personnel Classifications, Effective February 26, 2025

Sheila King presented the updated Personnel Classifications Report effective February 24, 2025, noting that it had been previously reviewed at the Executive Finance Committee meeting and was being brought forward for Board approval.

On a motion made by George Alvarado, it was resolved to approve the updated report on personnel classifications, effective February 26, 2025. As this came from the Executive Finance Committee, only a motion was required. Motion carried.

b. Approval of Updated Report on Personnel Classifications, Effective March 10, 2025

Sheila King presented the updated Personnel Classifications Report effective March 10, 2025, noting that it had been previously reviewed at the Executive Finance Committee meeting and was being brought forward for Board approval.

On a motion made by Jennifer Koster, it was resolved to approve the updated report on personnel classifications, effective March 10, 2025. As this came from the Executive Finance Committee, only a motion was required. Motion carried.

7.4 Approval of Updated Report on Personnel Classifications, Effective June 21, 2021

Sheila King presented an updated Personnel Classifications Report effective June 21, 2021, explaining that the update reflects an adjustment to the salary range for a Nurse Consultant who had exceeded the established range due to tenure and cost-of-living increases.

On a motion made by Jennifer Koster, seconded by George Alvarado, it was resolved to approve the updated report on personnel classifications, effective June 21, 2021. Motion carried.

It was also noted that Action Item E was no longer necessary and was removed from the agenda.

8. BOARD BUSINESS

8.1 Real Estate Negotiation Update

Vini Montague provided an update on real estate negotiations, announcing that the lease for the Oakdale office has been fully executed. The renewed lease secures the location for the next 13 years.

Vini Montague expressed appreciation to the Board for their support and involvement throughout the negotiation process. Board members acknowledged and congratulated staff on the successful completion of the lease agreement.

8.2 SDP Board Liaison for FY2026-27

President Sharmila Brunjes informed the Board that, as part of planning for the upcoming fiscal year, trustees are encouraged to consider serving in Board roles. Sharmila Brunjes specifically invited members to volunteer for the Self-Determination Program (SDP) Liaison position, currently held by Vice President Juan Hernandez.

The SDP Liaison is responsible for attending monthly SDP meetings and reporting updates back to the Board during public meetings. President Brunjes emphasized the importance and growth of the program and encouraged interested members to contact her or Board Support. Vice President Juan Hernandez offered to be available to answer questions about the role.

8.3 Review of Board Policies List

At the request of a Board member, Angela Pao-Johnson presented an overview of the Board Policies list, providing a comprehensive update on the status of existing, revised, and newly developed policies. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that recent policy activity was driven by special contract requirements from DDS, which required the review, revision, and creation of several Board policies.

Angela Pao-Johnson shared a visual summary that categorized policies into original policies, newly created policies, revised policies, and discontinued policies. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that some policies were discontinued because they are now addressed in the bylaws or fall outside the Board's scope. The report also identified which policies have been approved by the Board following DDS review, which remain pending DDS approval, and which continue unchanged.

Board members expressed appreciation for the clarity and organization of the summary, noting it provided a helpful understanding of the Board's policy status and ongoing governance work.

President Sharmila Brunjes added that policy development was conducted through Board workgroups, with policies drafted in collaboration with legal counsel in accordance with special contract requirements.

8.4 2025 Individual and Family Survey Results

Ami Sullivan of Kinetic Flow presented a high-level overview of the 2025 Individual and Family Satisfaction Survey results. Ami Sullivan explained that the survey is a follow-up to the 2023 survey and is intended to measure progress on strategic plan priorities and identify areas for continued improvement based on the experiences of individuals and families served by NLACRC.

Ami Sullivan reported that the survey collected feedback from 5,075 respondents out of a total service population of 38,728 and was conducted from September 30 through November 24, 2025. Responses were gathered through multiple methods, including online surveys, text messaging, and live phone interviews, and were made available in multiple languages to support broad participation. Ami Sullivan also provided context for the results, highlighting significant system growth, increased service demands, staffing changes, expanded programs, and ongoing DDS directives during the survey period.

The presentation showed that overall survey results remained above “good” across all metrics, with average scores slightly higher than in 2023. Of the 23 trended metrics, 18 improved and 5 declined. Areas rated most positively included individuals being treated with dignity and respect, service coordinators listening, explaining information clearly, and understanding individual and family needs. Lower-scoring areas generally related to access to information, including community services, regional center services and supports, and decision-making resources; however, these areas also showed improvement from the prior survey.

Ami Sullivan also reviewed findings aligned with strategic plan priorities, including IPP/IFSP participation, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, workforce engagement, employment, and housing. Results indicated that 77% of respondents reported their most important goals were included in their IFSP or IPP, and 69% reported being able to access needed services, supports, information, and referrals. Survey responses also reflected that many individuals and families experienced at least some level of discussion regarding employment and housing during planning meetings. Overall, most strategic plan measures showed improvement or remained stable.

During discussion, Lety Garcia raised a question regarding a slide on primary language access, noting a possible discrepancy between the percentages presented and the stated improvement. Ami Sullivan acknowledged the concern and stated that a review of the data would be conducted and clarification would be provided to the Board. President Sharmila Brunjes asked for clarification on the data collection period, and Ami Sullivan confirmed that the survey was conducted from September 30 to November 24, 2025.

Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and noted the positive overall results, while also recognizing the importance of continuing to address areas for improvement.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Sharmila Brunjes announced the Board would move into closed session.

On a motion made by Jennifer Koster, seconded by Jeremy Sunderland, board entered closed session at 7:29 p.m. Motion carried.

Closed session was entered to discuss personnel and legal. No motions were made.

Absent objection the board exited closed session at 8:42 p.m. Motion carried.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Angela Pao-Johnson presented the Organizational Spotlight and departmental updates. Angela Pao-Johnson reported continued positive feedback from Organizational Insights Forums (OIFs), noting that staff consistently rated the forums 4 out of 5 for transparency and communication. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that these meetings, held across all offices, provide opportunities for staff feedback, reinforce organizational values, and support staff awareness of legislative updates and community changes.

Angela Pao-Johnson provided updates on policy and regulatory changes, including the delay of the federal grievance procedure implementation under the Access Act to December 31, 2027. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that NLACRC will also delay related internal changes, while DDS may begin implementation efforts this year to allow for training. Angela Pao-Johnson also shared that proposed federal HIPAA updates, aimed at strengthening privacy and security requirements, are expected to take effect in May 2026, and that impacts are currently being assessed.

Angela Pao-Johnson reported on the Quality Incentive Program, stating that approximately 75% of vendors completed required activities to qualify for incentives. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that vendors needing assistance would still be considered eligible once submissions are completed, and that DDS will review the process, with rate updates anticipated in April.

Angela Pao-Johnson shared updates related to rate reform, noting that hold harmless rates ended in February and standardized rate billing began March 1. Angela Pao-Johnson also reported that a calculation issue impacting Level 7 residential providers was identified and is expected to result in higher adjusted rates once corrected.

Angela Pao-Johnson provided Self-Determination Program (SDP) updates, including upcoming DDS-hosted community meetings and proposed changes such as SCDD assuming responsibility for SDP orientations and updates to Financial Management Services standards. Angela Pao-Johnson noted concerns from smaller providers regarding potential increased costs associated with new requirements.

Angela Pao-Johnson reported operational updates, including approximately 940 positions filled and a service population exceeding 41,600 individuals. Angela Pao-Johnson shared that the Quality Assurance Department conducted 133 residential visits, including 58 unannounced visits, resulting in four corrective action plans.

Angela Pao-Johnson provided updates on social recreation services, noting that approximately 4,500–4,600 individuals have been served, with about 8,700 active authorizations. Angela Pao-Johnson highlighted improved processing timelines through the financial management system, with approximately a two-week turnaround for complete submissions. Outreach efforts continue through support groups, staff training, and development of a Parent University video.

Angela Pao-Johnson also shared highlights from ARCA Grassroots advocacy efforts and noted plans for a local advocacy event, "Pastries and Policy," which will include participation from legislators and opportunities for Board and community engagement.

Jennifer Koster asked a question regarding upcoming grassroots events, and Angela Pao-Johnson clarified that a local event is being organized.

President Sharmila Brunjes thanked Angela Pao-Johnson for the presentation.

11. **PUBLIC INPUT & COMMENTS**

President Sharmila Brunjes opened the public comment period, noting a three-minute limit per speaker and confirming no additional public comments from attendees.

Board member, George Alvarado, provided public comment, sharing interest in a gaming-related activity encountered at a CSUN event. George Alvarado noted that while the activity appeared engaging, participation was not feasible due to time and complexity constraints.

President Sharmila Brunjes thanked George Alvarado for the comment. No additional public comments were received, and the meeting proceeded to the next agenda item.

12. **SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM (SDP) REPORT**

President Sharmila Brunjes requested an update on the Self-Determination Program (SDP). Silvia Renteria-Haro provided a brief report, stating that as of March 1, there were 730 participants in the program. Silvia Renteria-Haro reported 22 transitions during the month and 60 transitions year-to-date.

Silvia Renteria-Haro noted a correction to the report, clarifying that English orientation attendance was 29 participants, not 57, due to a duplication error in registration data.

Silvia Renteria-Haro also shared that recent discussions at the Local Volunteer Advisory Committee focused on SDP implementation funds, which are currently set to sunset by 2027. Silvia Renteria-Haro reported that the committee is actively advocating for DDS to continue funding beyond that timeline.

President Sharmila Brunjes thanked Silvia Renteria-Haro for the update and additional context.

13. **ITEMS 13-20**

The Board received the following committee reports for information:

- Association of Regional Center Agencies presented by Lety Garcia.

Lety Garcia, ARCA Delegate, stated that there were no updates to provide.

The next ARCA Meeting will be Friday, March 20th.

- Consumer Advisory Committee presented by Juan Hernandez

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

On a motion made by Jennifer Koster, seconded by Curtis Wang, it was resolved to defer this update to the next board meeting. Motion carried.

- Executive Finance Committee presented by Sharmila Brunjes and Anna Hurst.

President Sharmila Brunjes provided an update on the Executive Finance Committee (EFC) meeting, noting that the committee reviewed several items also presented during the Board meeting, including the audit. President Sharmila Brunjes highlighted

the strong performance of the NLACRC financial team, recognizing the accounting staff and Chief Financial Officer Vini Montague for their work in preparing the audit materials.

President Sharmila Brunjes reported that additional topics discussed at the EFC meeting included the DDS contract, financial updates related to North County, a CalPERS update, the monthly whistleblower report, and progress on the strategic plan, noting that Phase 1 has been completed. President Sharmila Brunjes shared that EFC meeting minutes will be posted in April and that the next meeting is scheduled for March 26 at 5:00 p.m.

Jennifer Koster asked whether the CAC report would be deferred, and President Sharmila Brunjes confirmed it will be presented at the next Board meeting.

- Community Relations Committee presented by Jeremy Sunderland.

The committee had not met since the last board meeting. The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday, March 18th at 5:00 p.m.

- Nominating Committee presented by Curtis Wang.

Curtis Wang provided a Nominating Committee update, reporting that at the March 4 meeting, the committee reviewed applicant interviews, voted on board member renewals, and discussed the proposed slate of officers for the upcoming fiscal year. Curtis Wang stated that the committee plans to present three candidates to the Board in May, along with the proposed slate of officers, renewals, and additional Executive Finance Committee members. Curtis Wang noted that the next Nominating Committee meeting is scheduled for April 1 at 5:30 p.m. Lety Garcia confirmed that the update was complete.

- Post-Retirement Medical Trust Committee presented by Sharmila Brunjes.

The next PRMT Committee meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

- Vendor Advisory Committee presented by Alex Kopilevich.

The next VAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12th at 9:30 a.m. and will be hybrid at the Antelope Valley office.

14. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

President Sharmila Brunjes reviewed administrative items with the Board, including attendance sheets, time reports, acronym listings, meeting calendar, and committee list, and asked members to confirm accuracy.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION

16. NEXT MEETING

President Sharmila Brunjes announced that the next Board meeting will be held on April 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Absent objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 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.