

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

**MINUTES OF THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HYBRID –CHATSWORTH OFFICE / ZOOM  
APRIL 9, 2026, 9:30 A.M.**

**MEMBERS:**

Alex Kopilevich, Jaklen Keshishyan, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Jen Pippard, Sharon Weinberg, Cal Enriquez, Jason Gillis, Tal Segalovitch, David Ebrami, Ricki Macken-Chilvers,

**STAFF:**

Angela Pao-Johnson, Evelyn McOmie, Vini Montague, Arshalous Garlanian, Vipin Gautam, Valeria Soto, Belinda Abatesi, Lindsay Granger

**GUESTS:**

**ABSENT:** Vahe Mkrtchian, Desiree Misrachi

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, VAC Chair Alex Kopilevich called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. read the NLACRC Civility Code.

**2. COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE**

Members were asked to identify themselves when speaking or making a motion.

**3. SHARE IMPACT STORY FROM INDIVIDUAL SERVED**

Executive Director Angela Pao-Johnson shared an impact story from Ruby, a parent of an individual served.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

**5. CONSENT ITEMS**

**On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Jaklen Keshishyan, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on March 12, 2026, as presented. Motion carried.**

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

## **6. ACTION ITEMS**

### **6.1 Vote on Applicant Interviews**

- **Applicant 1**
- **Applicant 5**
- **Applicant 6**
- **Applicant 8**
- **Applicant 10**

Alex Kopilevich presented the action item regarding the discussion and vote on applicants for Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) membership for the upcoming fiscal year. Alex Kopilevich provided an overview of the selection process, noting that 12 applications were initially received, with 7 applicants advancing to the interview stage. Of those, 5 applicants participated in interviews, while 2 withdrew their interest.

The VAC previously discussed whether to interview additional applicants but ultimately agreed to proceed with only the candidates who had already completed interviews. The interview panel unanimously recommended Applicant #1 and Applicant #8 for advancement to the VAC. Alex Kopilevich explained that the VAC currently has 17 members and may have up to 18 members. It was clarified that due to members terming out, approving the two recommended applicants would result in the VAC operating with 16 members, which remains within committee guidelines as there is no minimum membership requirement.

Alex Kopilevich reviewed the voting process, explaining that members could vote yes, no, or abstain for each applicant using either paper ballots or the online form distributed to virtual attendees. Sharon Weinberg requested clarification regarding the recommendation process and asked why Applicants #1 and #8 were recommended over the other candidates.

Alex Kopilevich and Tal Segalovitch shared that the interview panel considered factors including applicant availability, communication skills, participation potential, professional experience, ability to collaborate within a team environment, and how each applicant's background would contribute to the overall diversity and skill set of the VAC. Tal Segalovitch also provided additional feedback regarding Applicants #5, #6, and #10 based on interview responses and preparedness.

Alex Kopilevich emphasized that although the interview panel recommended Applicants #1 and #8, VAC members were permitted to vote for any applicant. It was also explained that applicants selected by the VAC would move forward to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

**Following completion and tabulation of ballots, Lindsay Granger announced that Applicants #1 and #8 would move forward to the Board of Trustees for final approval at the next board meeting. Applicants #5, #6, and #10 were not selected.**

Alex Kopilevich confirmed that all applicants would be formally notified following the Board's action.

### **6.2 Discuss Vendor Advisory Committee Chair Opening**

Alex Kopilevich announced that Alex Kopilevich's six-year term on the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) would be concluding and invited members interested in serving as VAC

Chair to submit their interest to Lindsay Granger by May 5. Alex Kopilevich explained that the deadline would allow the item to be placed on the May meeting agenda and, if necessary, allow for a vote should multiple members express interest. It was also noted that if only one member expressed interest, that individual would assume the VAC Chair role beginning in August, following the July meeting recess.

Alex Kopilevich shared that several current VAC members, including Tal Segalovitch and Daniel, would also be terming out, resulting in multiple open positions on the committee. Members were informed that a Microsoft Forms interest survey would be distributed via email for members interested in serving as VAC Chair.

During discussion, members asked questions regarding the time commitment and length of service associated with the VAC Chair role. Alex Kopilevich explained that the Chair position is selected annually and that members may choose to serve for one year without affecting their overall VAC membership term.

A question was also raised regarding the Alternate Chairperson position. Following discussion, it was agreed that the interest form would also include an option for members interested in serving as Alternate Chairperson. Alex Kopilevich encouraged interested members to reach out directly with any questions regarding the role or responsibilities of the position. No additional questions were raised.

## **7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Introduction of IT Specialist**

Alex Kopilevich introduced Vipin Gautam as the new IT Director for NLACRC. Vipin Gautam shared that he had recently joined the organization approximately three weeks prior and would be leading the Information Technology and cybersecurity teams. Vipin Gautam also shared having approximately 25 years of experience in IT and cybersecurity prior to joining NLACRC.

VAC members welcomed Vipin Gautam to the organization. No questions were raised following the introduction.

### **7.2 Introduction of Aging Specialist**

Alex Kopilevich introduced Valeria Soto, Aging Adult Specialist with NLACRC's Consumer Services Department. Valeria Soto shared that the role supports all three NLACRC offices and serves as a resource to Consumer Services Coordinators by providing specialized guidance and conducting in-depth case reviews to support aging consumers.

Valeria Soto also discussed participation in several community and statewide collaborative groups, including Aging and Disability Resource Center meetings, Regional Center Roundtable meetings with DDS Aging Services representatives and other regional centers, and quarterly IDD and ADRD meetings focused on services and ongoing needs for aging individuals.

During discussion, members asked questions regarding the age range considered for aging services and how consumers or families could access support and consultation services. Valeria Soto shared that reviews generally begin for individuals age 50 and older and noted that referrals for consultation can be made through a consumer's CSC. Members also discussed the importance of incorporating aging and future planning discussions into the IPP process.

Jen Pippard commented on Valeria Soto's collaborative approach and participation in community groups, noting appreciation for the relationships and partnerships being developed to better support the aging population served by NLACRC.

### **7.3 Self-Determination Update**

VAC Chair Alex Kopilevich introduced the Self-Determination Program update. Evelyn McOmie presented the Self-Determination Program (SDP) update on behalf of Silvia Renteria-Haro. Evelyn McOmie reported that, since 2019, a total of 1,365 participants had completed SDP orientation, reflecting an increase of 28 participants since the previous report.

It was noted that effective April 1, the State Council assumed responsibility for conducting all SDP orientations statewide, and NLACRC discontinued conducting SDP orientations effective March 31.

Additional SDP data shared included 828 budget certifications, 751 approved spending plans, 48 spending plans in progress, and 703 completed person-centered plans (PCPs). Staff also reported that 3 families chose not to continue in SDP after receiving their budgets, 17 participants opted out of the program, and 13 interregional center transfer cases remained in shared caseload management during their transition period.

Evelyn McOmie further reported that 751 participants had fully transitioned into SDP, representing an increase of 23 transitions since the previous report. Participant totals by office location included 524 in the San Fernando Valley, 105 in Antelope Valley, and 123 in Santa Clarita.

Members were also informed that the SDP Local Volunteer Advisory Committee meeting would be held virtually on April 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and would be open to SDP vendors and other interested participants.

No additional questions were raised.

## **8. REPORT OUTS**

### **8.1 Deputy Director Officer's Report**

Evelyn McOmie provided the Deputy Director's report and shared several operational and program updates. Evelyn McOmie advised vendors to prepare for the possibility of increased service needs related to a potential LA Unified School District strike, particularly for respite, personal assistance, and in-home daycare services. Service providers were informed that service coordinators would work quickly to authorize additional supports for impacted families if needed.

Evelyn McOmie reported that NLACRC continues to maintain a consistent cadence of approximately 6,100 Purchase of Service (POS) authorizations approved each month, noting that the organization had significantly increased authorization processing capacity over time. Updates were also provided regarding staffing and recruitment efforts, with vacant caseloads across all three offices reduced to 12 positions. Evelyn McOmie acknowledged the continued efforts of Human Resources and management staff, including dedicated interview time by case management teams, to support hiring and retention efforts.

Residential providers were reminded to promptly report placement vacancies through the residential provider vacancy hotline and were provided updated contact information for placement staff responsible for maintaining vacancy lists and coordinating residential placements.

Evelyn McOmie also discussed trends related to vendorization and provider compliance. It was noted that some newer vendors had expressed concerns regarding a lack of referrals. Evelyn McOmie clarified that regional centers do not guarantee referrals to vendors and explained that the increase in newly vendored providers has created greater competition among service providers. Discussion emphasized that while increased vendorization expands choice and options for families, it does not necessarily result in immediate referrals for all vendors.

Additional concerns were discussed regarding vendor compliance with required background clearances and fingerprinting standards for staff working with individuals served. Evelyn McOmie reported that several newer vendors had recently been closed due to noncompliance with clearance requirements and emphasized the importance of maintaining all required licensing, fingerprinting, and background check standards to protect the health and safety of individuals served.

Members engaged in discussion regarding coordination between residential providers, service coordinators, and outside service agencies, particularly related to required clearances for outside staff providing services within residential settings. Discussion emphasized the importance of communication prior to placement of additional services in residential homes and the need for residential providers to participate in IPP meetings and planning discussions whenever possible.

Further discussion took place regarding IPP signature requirements and authorization procedures. Evelyn McOmie clarified that signed IPP agreements have always been required under the Lanterman Act and explained that pandemic-related emergency practices resulted in temporary flexibility around obtaining signatures. Staff noted that the state-issued IPP signature process and electronic signature systems are now being more consistently enforced across all regional centers to ensure compliance and documentation standards are met.

Members also discussed challenges related to technology access and electronic signatures for aging consumers and family members. Jen Pippard raised concerns regarding technology barriers experienced by older families and caregivers. In response, Evelyn McOmie shared that NLACRC is developing technology training opportunities for individuals served through the Regional Center computer lab and noted that additional initiatives focused on supporting aging families are currently being explored.

During additional discussion, members sought clarification regarding fingerprinting and clearance requirements for independent consultants and licensed professionals working within residential facilities. Staff clarified that certain licensed professionals may be exempt from additional fingerprinting requirements if their professional licensure already includes required background clearances, though residential providers remain responsible for verifying and maintaining current licenses and ensuring compliance with all applicable licensing requirements.

No additional questions were raised.

## **8.2 Chief Financial Officer's Report**

Vini Montague presented the Chief Financial Officer's report and provided an overview of NLACRC's current financial status. Vini Montague reported that, as of the January 2026 service month, NLACRC's DDS allocation totaled approximately \$1.416 billion, with monthly expenditures of approximately \$118 million and year-to-date expenditures of \$746.1 million. Projected annual expenditures were estimated at approximately \$1.428 billion, resulting in a projected Purchase of Services (POS) deficit of approximately \$11.5 million. Vini Montague

noted that DDS had been informed of the projected deficit and that additional funding would typically be anticipated due to the entitlement nature of the regional center system.

Vini Montague also shared updates regarding fiscal year-end rollover activities, including rollover training for service coordinators and closure of Fiscal Year 2024 billing activity. Service providers were informed that authorization lists could be requested in Excel format through their accounting specialist prior to receiving mailed rollover authorizations.

Additional updates were provided regarding the Accounting Department's development of a customer service ticketing system intended to improve tracking and responsiveness to vendor inquiries through a centralized email and phone support process.

Members discussed delays in receiving responses from accounting staff and POS authorization documents. Vini Montague encouraged members to follow up with accounting staff and copy management, including Controller Justice Agony, if additional assistance was needed.

Discussion also took place regarding DDS audits, FACT referrals, and representative payee processes for residential consumers. Vini Montague clarified that service coordinators are responsible for discussing representative payee options with consumers and facilitating referrals, while accounting staff would provide notification letters to residential providers. Vini Montague further clarified that the DDS financial audit process differs from residential facility audits conducted separately by DDS.

Additional discussion addressed the projected POS deficit and factors impacting expenditure projections, including caseload growth, authorizations, utilization trends, and rate implementation. Members also noted concerns regarding delays in receiving mailed POS authorization documents.

### **8.3 Community Services Director's Report**

VAC Chair Alex Kopilevich introduced the Community Services Director's Report.

Arshalous Garlanian presented the Community Services Director's report and provided several reminders and updates for service providers regarding compliance, vendorization, provider directory requirements, and upcoming community events. Arshalous Garlanian encouraged providers to conduct "spring cleaning" of their vendor and personnel files to ensure ongoing compliance with Quality Incentive Program (QIP) requirements, vendorization standards, and audit readiness.

Providers were reminded to review and maintain current documentation, including DS1891 forms, insurance records, personnel files, fingerprint clearances, CPR and First Aid certifications, staff training records, resumes, and other required compliance documentation. Arshalous Garlanian emphasized the importance of ensuring all staff records remain current to prevent future compliance issues during regional center or DDS audits and site visits.

Additional reminders were provided regarding ongoing communication with Gallagher related to insurance verification and renewals. Arshalous Garlanian noted that Gallagher continues to actively monitor insurance compliance and regularly contacts providers regarding expiring or missing insurance documentation. Providers were encouraged to promptly respond to requests and maintain updated insurance records on file with the Regional Center.

Arshalous Garlanian also reminded providers to notify NLACRC regarding any program changes, address updates, contact information changes, home renovations, or facility modifications. It was emphasized that early notification allows the Regional Center to assist

with any necessary IPP planning, program design updates, licensing coordination, or service adjustments during renovations or facility changes. Arshalous Garlanian shared support for providers making improvements and upgrades to their facilities while emphasizing the importance of maintaining communication with the Regional Center throughout the process. Updates were also provided regarding the upcoming Spring Vendor Fair. Arshalous Garlanian explained that, based on community feedback, a separate session had been added specifically for Early Start providers due to the unique nature and needs of Early Start services. The additional session was intended to provide more targeted information and support for providers serving infants and toddlers.

Arshalous Garlanian further discussed updates related to QIP survey completion requirements and provider directory compliance. Providers who previously experienced technical issues and had communicated with the department regarding survey access problems were being contacted and provided additional opportunities to complete required surveys prior to the April 10 deadline. It was reported that approximately 147 North Los Angeles County Regional Center vendors remained in communication with the department regarding incomplete surveys or technical difficulties. Providers were advised that DDS was actively reconciling records and updating website information, though updates may take several weeks to appear publicly.

Discussion also focused extensively on technical challenges associated with the new vendorization and provider directory portal. Members shared concerns regarding system glitches, delayed notifications, submission tracking difficulties, and uncertainty regarding whether submitted information had been successfully received by the Regional Center. Arshalous Garlanian acknowledged that DDS and regional centers are aware of the ongoing technical issues and shared that DDS planned to host webinars for regional center staff to review provider-facing and regional center-facing portal functionality and identify areas requiring system improvements. Examples of reported issues included incomplete submission processing, nonfunctional “complete” buttons, delays in status updates, and confusion regarding provider directory validation timelines.

Additional clarification was provided regarding provider directory validation and QIP survey requirements for newly vendored providers and supplemental services. Arshalous Garlanian advised providers experiencing technical issues to continue communicating with DDS and retain documentation of all outreach efforts to help avoid missed compliance deadlines or reimbursement issues related to provider directory requirements.

At the conclusion of the discussion, members commented on the frequency of deficiency notifications from Gallagher and suggested that confirmation notifications indicating providers were fully compliant would help reduce confusion and anxiety among providers. Arshalous Garlanian acknowledged the feedback and discussion concluded without additional questions.

## **9.1 Legislative Report**

VAC Chair, Alex Kopilevich introduced the Legislative Report Out, presented by Belinda Abatesi.

Belinda Abatesi provided updates on legislation and advocacy efforts aligned with ARCA priorities. Belinda Abatesi highlighted several bills currently being tracked, including legislation related to behavioral health background checks, epilepsy services, dental supports for individuals requiring behavioral assistance during treatment, Medi-Cal eligibility and redetermination changes, CalFresh benefit protections, workforce development, paid work-based learning opportunities, and continuity of services for individuals impacted by caregiver detention or deportation.

Belinda Abatesi also discussed current state budget concerns and advocacy efforts related to proposed cuts affecting IHSS and Medi-Cal Dental services. Members were informed of proposed reductions to IHSS programs, including potential elimination of the backup provider and residual programs, as well as proposed Medi-Cal Dental funding reductions that could impact provider payments and access to care. Community members were encouraged to participate in upcoming hearings and advocacy opportunities using links and sample messaging included in the presentation materials.

Additional updates were provided regarding federal advocacy efforts. Belinda Abatesi shared that ARCA had joined disability advocacy organizations in Washington, D.C. to brief Congress on developmental services priorities and concerns, including SSI savings penalties, HCBS impacts, healthcare, education, and DD Act advocacy efforts. Members were encouraged to contact federal representatives and participate in advocacy opportunities.

Belinda Abatesi also highlighted a recent federal executive order related to anti-fraud oversight in public benefit programs, including enhanced eligibility verification, prepayment controls, and data-sharing measures. Staff noted that NLACRC would continue monitoring developments and provide updates to the committee.

The report concluded with reminders regarding upcoming legislative meetings, advocacy events, the May budget revise timeline, and the upcoming June primary election. No questions were raised following the report.

No questions were raised following the report.

## **9.2 Executive Director's Report**

Angela Pao-Johnson presented the Executive Director's report and highlighted several organizational achievements, statewide initiatives, and operational updates. Angela Pao-Johnson shared that NLACRC continues to lead all regional centers statewide in enrollment for the Paid Internship Program (PIP), with 491 participants enrolled as of 2025. Angela Pao-Johnson acknowledged the ongoing efforts of employment specialists, Community Services staff, and vendors in supporting employment opportunities and emphasized the continued need to expand competitive integrated employment opportunities beyond internship participation. It was also noted that NLACRC has been engaging local city leaders and legislators to encourage greater community employment partnerships and opportunities for individuals served.

Angela Pao-Johnson provided updates regarding statewide IPP survey participation efforts, noting that DDS continues to target a 15% survey response rate across regional centers. Angela Pao-Johnson reported that NLACRC had significantly increased participation rates from approximately 2% to 9% in January and 8% in February through outreach efforts, multilingual flyers, and ongoing promotion at meetings and within the community. Flyers have been translated into threshold languages and distributed to families and individuals served to allow surveys to be completed at their convenience.

Angela Pao-Johnson recognized Kai Brennan for presenting at Cal-TASH and acknowledged the work of Vipin Gautam, highlighting Vipin Gautam's proactive efforts to meet with departments, vendors, and staff to better understand operational needs and strengthen cybersecurity protections. Angela Pao-Johnson also noted ongoing efforts to streamline technology platforms and address existing technology-related concerns experienced by staff and vendors.

Additional updates were provided regarding the SB 188 Pathways Pilot Program. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that the pilot program, which launched in June 2024 with \$8.2 million in

funding, experienced significantly higher utilization than originally anticipated, with approximately \$7 million expended by December 2025. Due to limited remaining funding, no new enrollments would be accepted, participation would be limited to 12 months, and participants would transition to alternative employment support services. Angela Pao-Johnson also noted that service caps had already been implemented and that notice of action procedures and transition planning were underway to ensure continuity of supports for affected individuals.

Angela Pao-Johnson discussed statewide efforts to maximize federal funding participation through increased enrollment in the Self-Determination Program waiver. It was noted that approximately 2,000 SDP participants statewide were not currently enrolled in the waiver despite potentially qualifying for Medi-Cal-supported federal funding. Angela Pao-Johnson shared that NLACRC had already begun proactively reviewing and increasing waiver enrollment efforts prior to the recent statewide directive.

Additional updates were provided regarding AB 2423 rate review implementation efforts. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that DDS continues to develop cost estimates and conduct data analysis related to future rate reform considerations, including administrative costs, provider sustainability, public input, and future rate increases.

Angela Pao-Johnson also discussed emergency preparedness planning efforts involving DDS and Community Care Licensing to develop emergency surge sites and expedited licensing procedures for use during emergencies and natural disasters. Discussion included consideration of temporary overnight shelter locations and reimbursement structures for providers serving as emergency surge sites.

Operational updates included staffing and recruitment efforts, with Angela Pao-Johnson reporting continued onboarding progress through twice-monthly orientation sessions and ongoing recruitment efforts. NLACRC was reported to currently serve approximately 42,013 individuals, reflecting continued organizational growth. Compliance staff completed 144 residential visits, including 54 unannounced visits, and issued four corrective action plans during the reporting period.

Angela Pao-Johnson further reported that approximately 4,800 individuals had received support through social recreation reimbursements, with approximately 10,000 authorizations processed. Significant improvements in reimbursement processing timelines were also noted, with intake averaging approximately 7.4 days and payments averaging approximately one week. Additional outreach efforts regarding social recreation services were being conducted through multiple cultural and community support groups, including Hispanic, Farsi-speaking, Black and African American, and Filipino communities.

Angela Pao-Johnson concluded the report by highlighting ongoing community outreach activities, including participation in the SHINE LA Resource Fair and other community events aimed at increasing awareness of NLACRC services and strengthening partnerships with community-based organizations.

## **10. OPEN DISCUSSION TOPICS**

### **10.1 DOR Order of Selection Process**

Members discussed the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Order of Selection process and concerns regarding individuals being placed on waiting lists for employment services. Discussion focused on the recently added job development subcode available through existing

service providers and concerns regarding continuation of job coaching services when individuals obtain employment while still awaiting DOR support services.

A member shared an example involving an individual who obtained employment while on the DOR waiting list and expressed concern that delays or misunderstandings regarding funding responsibility for job coaching services could negatively impact employment outcomes. Staff clarified that these situations should be treated as unique circumstances and elevated to supervisors and employment specialists for review and coordination. Staff also noted that additional guidance and training for service coordinators regarding supplemental employment supports and DOR waiting list situations would be helpful.

No additional questions or comments were raised.

## **10.2 Parent/Guardian Requirement to Sign Off on Services Prior to Authorization Issued**

Members discussed requirements related to parent and guardian signatures for service authorizations and IPP agreements. Discussion clarified that signatures are required not only when services are initially authorized, but also when services are extended beyond the originally approved authorization period.

Staff explained that extending a service beyond the original end date constitutes a change to the agreement and therefore requires updated approval and signatures, even when the service itself otherwise remains unchanged. Members acknowledged the clarification and no additional questions were raised regarding the topic.

## **11. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP INFORMATION**

### **11.1 Early Start Services**

Alex Kopilevich introduced the Early Start Services report. Jodie Agnew-Navarro provided the Early Start Workgroup report and shared that the group met during the previous month. Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that Fran Chasen attended the meeting as a guest speaker to discuss legislation and policy issues impacting Early Start providers. Discussion focused on advocacy efforts, legislative visits, and ongoing concerns related to rate reform and challenges affecting Early Start services. The workgroup expressed interest in partnering with the Infant Development Association on future advocacy and legislative outreach efforts.

The workgroup also discussed concerns regarding delays experienced by children transitioning from Early Start services to school district services after turning three years old. Members noted that delays in school district assessments and IEP development have resulted in some children experiencing service gaps of several months before preschool services begin. Discussion focused on the impact these delays have on regional center clients and families during the transition process.

Jodie Agnew-Navarro thanked NLACRC staff for responding to requests from the Early Start provider community to create vendor fairs specifically dedicated to Early Start providers. It was noted that Early Start providers have historically faced challenges participating in larger vendor fairs due to limited space and the smaller size of the Early Start provider network. Separate Early Start Vendor Fairs were scheduled for the San Fernando Valley on April 22 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and for Antelope Valley on April 29 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Jodie Agnew-Navarro also clarified that the next Early Start Workgroup meeting would take place on Thursday, May 21 at 9:00 a.m., correcting a typographical error listed on the agenda. Members interested in participating in future meetings were encouraged to contact the workgroup directly for additional information.

## **11.2 School Age Services**

Alex Kopilevich introduced the School-Age Services report. Cal Enriquez reported that the School-Age Services Workgroup had not yet met for the current reporting period and therefore had no new updates to present. It was shared that the workgroup's next meeting would take place the following Tuesday, and additional updates would be provided at the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting.

Cal Enriquez encouraged members interested in school-age services and regional center-related topics to participate in the workgroup, noting that the group regularly discusses issues affecting school-age consumers and families. Members were informed that there is no formal nomination or application process required to participate in the workgroup. The School-Age Services Workgroup meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

No further updates were provided.

## **11.3 Adult Services**

VAC Chair Alex Kopilevich introduced the Adult Services Workgroup update. Octavia Watkins presented the Adult Services Workgroup report and shared that the group's March 16 meeting focused primarily on housing priorities and affordable housing opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

The workgroup welcomed Kimberly Johnson-McNeil and introduced Katie Warden. Updates were provided regarding NLACRC's efforts to expand affordable housing opportunities, including a partnership with Homes and Hope to develop a 44-unit apartment complex in Palmdale, with at least 11 units designated for NLACRC consumers. Additional updates included discussion of two existing HUD housing projects in the Antelope Valley, where more than 60 referrals had been made over the past two years.

The workgroup also discussed efforts to develop a roommate matching service for individuals with IDD. Members were informed that NLACRC is currently seeking a vendor to operate the service and is accepting applications for the role.

Discussion further addressed the growing demand for affordable housing and independent living opportunities due to increasing housing costs and limited affordable housing availability. Kimberly Johnson-McNeil also clarified the distinction between housing developers and service providers within housing projects, explaining that housing organizations such as Homes and Hope focus solely on housing development while individuals maintain the ability to choose their own service providers through the IPP planning process.

Octavia Watkins announced that the next Adult Services Workgroup meeting would be held on May 18 at 11:00 a.m. During discussion, a member shared concerns regarding difficulties accessing recent meetings. Octavia Watkins offered to resend the meeting link and encouraged members experiencing technical issues to reach out directly for assistance.

No questions or comments were raised.

## **12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **12.1 Community Relations Committee**

VAC Chair Alex Kopilevich introduced the Community Relations Committee report presented by Sharon Weinberg.

Sharon Weinberg shared that many of the reports and updates discussed during the Community Relations Committee meeting are available on the NLACRC website. Sharon Weinberg noted that a major focus of the meeting was NLACRC's continued efforts to expand community engagement through social media outreach, including increased activity on Instagram and other social media platforms.

Members engaged in discussion regarding strategies to increase community involvement, outreach, and public engagement through social media and other communication efforts.

## **12.2 Executive Finance Committee**

VAC Chair Alex Kopilevich introduced the Executive Finance Committee report presented by Jaklen Keshishyan. Jaklen Keshishyan shared that the Executive Finance Committee meeting was held on March 24. Jaklen Keshishyan noted an inability to attend both the March and upcoming April 30 meetings due to personal scheduling conflicts and shared plans to return for the May meeting.

## **12.3 Nominating Committee**

Alex Kopilevich then provided the Nominating Committee report and shared that the committee met on April 1. The committee approved the planning calendar containing key dates and activities, as well as the recommended slate of officers and Executive Finance Committee member slate for the upcoming fiscal year. It was also announced that the next Nominating Committee meeting would be held on August 5.

## **13. BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

VAC Chair Alex Kopilevich invited Lindsay Granger to provide an update regarding upcoming Board of Trustees agenda items.

Lindsay Granger shared that the recommended slate of additional Vendor Advisory Committee members for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 would be presented to the Board of Trustees at the May board meeting, with formal approval and voting scheduled to take place during the June board meeting.

## **14. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT**

VAC Chair Alex Kopilevich opened the public input portion of the meeting and invited comments and questions from attendees.

Laura Schmieder raised questions regarding Cal/OSHA site visits and requests for information related to regional center-funded programs and services. Members discussed experiences with Cal/OSHA inspections and noted that providers are generally expected to cooperate with site visits and provide information regarding their services and operations as requested. Laura Schmieder also shared concerns regarding ongoing communication challenges with Gallagher related to insurance compliance determinations. Arshalous Garlanian explained that the Regional Center's Contracts and Compliance team works directly with Gallagher and encouraged follow-up communication with staff to resolve specific concerns offline.

Alona Yorkshire provided updates regarding the recent discontinuation of Service Code 956 coordinated career pathways services and described the significant impact on providers, students transitioning from high school, and families awaiting employment services. Alona Yorkshire shared that DDS would be holding a stakeholder meeting to discuss possible solutions and alternatives, including temporary use of existing job development service codes while longer-term solutions are explored.

Additional updates were shared regarding ongoing DDS discussions related to employment services, including efforts to establish a “no wrong door” policy between the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and regional centers to reduce barriers for individuals seeking employment services. Alona Yorkshire also shared updates regarding the delayed rollout of DSP University and the language differential initiative, noting that DDS is reportedly continuing development efforts following challenges identified during the pilot phase.

Jason Gillis added that providers already vendored with DOR for supported employment services may also pursue customized employment vendorization as an additional option to support individuals impacted by the coordinated career pathways changes.

Leticia Aguilar raised concerns regarding Purchase of Service authorizations reflecting zero-dollar amounts and resulting reimbursement delays for respite and non-skilled service providers. Discussion clarified that some authorizations may temporarily display zero-dollar amounts while processing is completed and providers were encouraged to follow up directly with their assigned accounting contacts regarding unresolved reimbursement concerns.

**15. NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting is on May 14, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Clarita office.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:53 a.m.**