

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

**MINUTES OF THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HYBRID –SANTA CLARITA VALLEY OFFICE / ZOOM
May 14, 2026, 9:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

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

GUESTS:

ABSENT:, Daniel Ortiz, Jen Pippard

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 9:32 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 one of the CSCs at the regional center.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by David Ebrami, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on April 9, 2026, as presented. Motion carried.

An amendment was made to the meeting packet memo to correct Tal Segalovitch's last name as it appears on the meeting packet memo. On a motion made by Tal Segalovitch, seconded by Alex Kopilevich, it was resolved to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Vote on Vendor Advisory Committee Chair and Alternate Chair for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

VAC Chair Alex Kopilevich announced that Alex Kopilevich's six-year term with NLACRC will conclude in June 2026 and that the committee would be selecting a new Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) Chair for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. Alex Kopilevich reflected on the experience of serving on the committee, noting that it had been a valuable and rewarding opportunity.

Alex Kopilevich reported that the deadline to submit statements of interest for the Chair position was May 5, 2026. Tal Segalovitch was the only committee member who submitted a statement of interest by the deadline. Prior to proceeding with the election, Alex Kopilevich invited any additional nominations or expressions of interest from committee members attending either in person or virtually to ensure a transparent nomination process. No additional nominations were received.

Although only one candidate was nominated, Alex Kopilevich stated that a formal vote should still be conducted to ensure the election was properly reflected in the committee's records and meeting minutes.

A motion made by Alex Kopilevich, seconded by Sharon Weinberg, to elect Tal Segalovitch as Vendor Advisory Committee Chair for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Motion carried.

Vote:

Ayes: Unanimous

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Tal Segalovitch was elected Vendor Advisory Committee Chair for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. Committee members offered congratulations following the vote. During brief transition remarks, Alex Kopilevich expressed confidence in Tal Segalovitch's upcoming leadership and noted that the incoming Chair would have the support of NLACRC leadership and staff. Tal Segalovitch acknowledged the transition and noted that strong leadership and support from the current Chair and NLACRC staff would help ensure continuity for the committee.

Following the election of the Chair, the committee proceeded to the election of the Vendor Advisory Committee Alternate Chair for Fiscal Year 2026–2027.

Alex Kopilevich provided an overview of the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) Alternate Chair role, explaining that the Alternate Chair supports the Chair and assumes responsibilities when the Chair is unavailable or unable to fulfill VAC duties.

Alex Kopilevich reported that two committee members had expressed interest in serving as VAC Alternate Chair for Fiscal Year 2026–2027: Jason Gillis and Jaklen Keshishyan. Rather than conducting the election at the current meeting, the committee agreed to provide members with additional information about each candidate prior to voting.

Jason Gillis and Jaklen Keshishyan were asked to submit a brief written statement to Lindsay Granger by June 2, 2026, outlining their interest in serving as Alternate Chair, relevant

experience, and qualifications for the role. The statements will be included in the June meeting materials to allow committee members an opportunity to review candidate information prior to the election. Alex Kopilevich noted that the June 2 deadline was necessary to ensure materials could be distributed in accordance with agenda posting requirements. Committee members expressed agreement with the proposed process, and no questions or concerns were raised.

Alex Kopilevich also announced that the Board of Trustees had approved the appointment of two new members to the Vendor Advisory Committee for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 during its meeting the previous evening. Alona Yorkshire and Lea Munoz were selected to join the committee beginning in FY 2026–2027.

Alex Kopilevich welcomed Alona Yorkshire and Lea Munoz to the Vendor Advisory Committee and noted that additional information regarding committee membership and leadership transitions would be finalized at the June meeting.

ACTION: Jason Gillis and Jaklen Keshishyan will send Lindsay Granger their statements for the position of VAC Alternate Chair by June 2, 2026.

6.2 Review and Approve Draft Planning Calendar for next Fiscal Year 2026-2027

The committee reviewed the draft Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) meeting calendar for Fiscal Year 2026–2027, referred to as the VAC Critical Calendar.

Alex Kopilevich explained that July is a dark month and that the committee does not meet during July. Alex Kopilevich also noted that the VAC calendar generally follows the Board of Trustees meeting schedule. While October and December are typically dark months, October was intentionally left available should a committee meeting be needed to address time-sensitive matters.

Alex Kopilevich highlighted that the election of the VAC Chair and Alternate Chair was scheduled earlier in the fiscal year planning process to allow sufficient time to complete elections and ensure leadership transitions are finalized before the start of the new fiscal year.

Committee members were provided an opportunity to ask questions or suggest revisions to the calendar. No questions, changes, or concerns were raised.

On a motion made by Jaklen Keshishyan, seconded by Jason Gillis, it was resolved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Vendor Advisory Committee Planning Calendar as presented. Motion carried.

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

7.1 Discuss Committee Goals for Next Fiscal Year

Alex Kopilevich introduced a discussion of the Vendor Advisory Committee's goals and objectives for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. Committee members reviewed the proposed goals for each of the committee's service-specific subgroups, including Early Start Services, School-Age Services, and Adult Services.

Alex Kopilevich explained that the purpose of the review was to familiarize committee members with the objectives and priorities established for each subgroup. No action or vote was required.

Following the review, Alex Kopilevich invited questions and feedback regarding the proposed goals and objectives. No questions or concerns were raised by committee members.

Alex Kopilevich also reminded committee members that each subgroup is led by designated committee members and noted that leadership assignments for the upcoming fiscal year would be discussed once the FY 2026–2027 committee membership is finalized. Committee members interested in serving as subgroup leads were encouraged to coordinate with Lindsay Granger. Current subgroup leaders may continue in their roles or new leaders may be selected based on committee interest.

With no further discussion, the committee concluded its review of the FY 2026–2027 goals and objectives.

7.2 Community Engagement Discussion: Language, Identity, and Inclusion

Angela Pao-Johnson facilitated a discussion regarding the terminology used to refer to individuals receiving regional center services. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that the term "consumer," which is currently used in statute, has generated feedback from some community members who feel the term is transactional and does not accurately reflect how they wish to be identified. Angela Pao-Johnson reported that a statewide effort led by the Association of Regional Center Agencies is currently gathering feedback through a survey to identify preferred terminology and inform potential statutory changes.

Angela Pao-Johnson shared concerns about regional centers independently adopting different terminology. While individual regional centers could choose to use different terms locally, Angela Pao-Johnson noted that inconsistent language across the state could create confusion for legislators, policymakers, service providers, families, and members of the public who may not understand that different terms refer to the same population. Angela Pao-Johnson expressed support for a unified statewide approach while recognizing the importance of local community input.

Jason Gillis agreed that consistency across regional centers would provide greater clarity while emphasizing that the primary goal should be ensuring individuals receiving services feel respected by the terminology used. Jason Gillis noted that while a preferred term may not be every individual's first choice, it should meet the standard of being respectful and acceptable to the community.

Committee members discussed the broader impact that inconsistent terminology can have on advocacy and public awareness efforts. Ricki Macken-Chilvers compared the discussion to ongoing efforts within the developmental services field to standardize terminology for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), noting that the use of multiple titles across organizations and regions can dilute messaging and make it more difficult to build momentum around shared issues. Ricki Macken-Chilvers suggested that adopting consistent statewide terminology could strengthen communication and understanding across the developmental services system.

The discussion also explored the distinction between terminology used in official documentation and terminology used in individual interactions. Committee members noted that while a single term may be necessary for reports, policies, aggregate data, and statewide communication, individuals may have personal preferences regarding how they wish to be identified. Several participants emphasized the importance of honoring those individual preferences whenever possible.

Angela Pao-Johnson cautioned against making decisions regarding terminology without meaningful input from the individuals directly affected. Angela Pao-Johnson recommended promoting participation in the ARCA survey and encouraging individuals receiving services to

provide feedback before any recommendations are made. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that once survey results are available, the committee would be better positioned to evaluate whether statewide preferences align with local community perspectives.

During the discussion, members raised questions about whether changes in terminology could also affect job titles and program names currently associated with the term "consumer," highlighting the importance of considering continuity and consistency throughout the service system. Angela Pao-Johnson shared that preliminary survey responses suggest that some individuals continue to prefer the term "consumer," underscoring the importance of collecting broad community feedback rather than making assumptions about preferred language.

Additional comments focused on person-centered practices and the importance of asking individuals how they wish to be identified. One committee member shared that their organization has begun documenting preferred language and identity preferences as part of individual service planning, including preferences related to disability identity and other aspects of self-identification. Members agreed that regardless of any statewide terminology ultimately selected, respecting individual preferences remains an important component of person-centered services.

Alex Kopilevich emphasized that consistency in terminology is particularly important for documentation, reporting, and communication across NLACRC's three catchment areas. Alex Kopilevich expressed support for aligning with whichever terminology is ultimately selected through the statewide process to reduce confusion and maintain continuity.

Evelyn McOmie shared that the decision should ultimately be guided by the preferences of the individuals receiving services and noted that many people have expressed concerns about the term "consumer" for many years. Evelyn McOmie emphasized the importance of allowing the community to determine the terminology that best reflects their preferences and identities.

7.3 Self-Determination Update

Silvia Renteria-Haro provided an update on the Self-Determination Program (SDP). As of May 1, 2026, NLACRC had 781 participants enrolled in the program. Silvia Renteria-Haro also reported that 131 individuals had transitioned into the Self-Determination Program during the current year.

Silvia Renteria-Haro stated that there were no new directives or guidance from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) at this time; however, discussions at the state level suggest that changes to the program may be forthcoming during the summer.

Silvia Renteria-Haro also announced that there are currently two vacancies on the Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (LVAC). The committee meets virtually on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Committee members were encouraged to share the opportunity with individuals who may be interested in serving.

During discussion, Alex Kopilevich asked whether there was any additional information available regarding the anticipated changes to the Self-Determination Program. Silvia Renteria-Haro noted that one area under discussion involves cost-effectiveness requirements. Silvia Renteria-Haro explained that cost-effectiveness has traditionally been assessed under the Lanterman Act and indicated that potential changes related to spending plan requirements and rate-setting authority may be forthcoming.

The committee received the update and no further discussion followed.

No additional questions were raised.

8. REPORT OUTS

8.1 Deputy Director Officer's Report

A. New SIR Form Implementation

Evelyn McOmie provided an update on case management operations, workforce development efforts, and organizational priorities. Evelyn McOmie reported significant progress in reducing service coordinator vacancies, noting that the Regional Center currently has nine vacant caseloads, compared to a previously reported 81 vacant caseloads affecting more than 5,800 individuals served. Evelyn McOmie stated that, given the Regional Center's continued growth and ongoing intake volume, maintaining only nine vacant caseloads reflects substantial progress. Reducing caseloads and filling remaining vacancies continue to be major organizational priorities, with some departments now maintaining caseloads in the 70s.

Evelyn McOmie also reported on NLACRC's continued investment in staff development. A 12-month leadership development and coaching program for Case Management Supervisors began in May 2026. The program includes assessments, coaching, observation of supervisory practices, and leadership development opportunities designed to strengthen supervisors' ability to support service coordinators and respond to the increasing complexity of case management responsibilities. Evelyn McOmie noted that 64 supervisors are participating in the pilot program, which may later be expanded to other management staff throughout the organization.

Evelyn McOmie provided an update on the "Power of the Pen" campaign, an initiative intended to improve understanding of IPP signature requirements among families, providers, and stakeholders. Evelyn McOmie explained that some families mistakenly believe they are signing approval of the IPP document itself, rather than documenting agreement or disagreement with services discussed during the planning process. Providers were encouraged to help educate families regarding the importance and purpose of IPP signature documentation.

Evelyn McOmie further reported that NLACRC has hired more than 200 new service coordinators over the past three years and that the organization now has more employees with fewer than five years of tenure than long-term staff. Evelyn McOmie acknowledged the learning curve associated with onboarding a large number of new employees and encouraged providers to continue partnering with service coordinators while utilizing supervisory and management support when necessary.

Following the Deputy Director's report, Kaitlyn Condreay, SIR Specialist, presented an overview of revised Title 17 Special Incident Reporting (SIR) requirements that became effective on May 1, 2026. Kaitlyn Condreay explained that the changes were developed by DDS to improve consistency in reporting practices across regional centers. The presentation included an overview of expanded reporting requirements, revisions to the definition of vendor care, new and expanded victim-of-crime categories, additional abuse and neglect reporting requirements, expanded serious injury reporting criteria, new hospitalization reporting requirements, and updated missing person reporting standards.

Kaitlyn Condreay explained that the definition of vendor care has been expanded to include situations where services were scheduled or expected to be provided, even if a provider was not physically present at the time of an incident. Additional reporting categories now include incidents involving fraud, identity theft, credit theft, stalking, hate crimes, human trafficking, and other criminal offenses. Abuse and neglect reporting requirements have also been

expanded to include additional forms of emotional abuse, exploitation, isolation, abandonment, and certain neglect-related incidents.

Kaitlyn Condreay reviewed changes related to serious injury reporting, including requirements to report certain seizure-related injuries, head injuries requiring medical attention, pressure injuries, injuries resulting from aggression between individuals that require medical treatment, and specific bruising or hematoma incidents based on location or severity. New reporting requirements also include emergency room stays of five or more days and certain unplanned hospitalizations. Missing person reporting requirements were revised to formalize existing practices and expand circumstances under which incidents must be reported to DDS.

Kaitlyn Condreay announced that NLACRC is developing a new electronic SIR submission form that will incorporate all revised Title 17 reporting categories. The electronic form will be available through the NLACRC website and will allow vendors to submit reports online and receive a PDF copy for their records. Providers were advised to continue using existing reporting procedures until the new system is officially launched.

Committee members engaged in an extensive discussion regarding implementation of the revised reporting requirements. Questions were raised regarding reporting responsibilities for day programs, Self-Determination Program services, residential providers, hospitalization scenarios, and situations in which individuals decline services or choose not to return to a provider's care. Kaitlyn Condreay provided clarification regarding each scenario and emphasized that reporting determinations would continue to be based on the specific circumstances of each incident and whether the individual was considered to be under vendor care.

Alex Kopilevich requested clarification regarding reporting timelines. Kaitlyn Condreay confirmed that vendors must notify the Regional Center within 24 hours of learning about a reportable incident and submit a written SIR within 48 hours. Kaitlyn Condreay clarified that reporting timelines begin when the vendor becomes aware of the incident rather than when the incident originally occurred.

The committee also discussed challenges related to IPP signature forms and documentation requirements. Committee members noted that multiple versions of signature pages are currently in circulation and requested clarification regarding which forms should be used and retained. Evelyn McOmie explained the differences between IPP signature forms, SIPP signature documentation, and annual review forms, noting that electronic versions entered into the Regional Center system serve as the official version of record. Providers were encouraged to request the finalized version from service coordinators when discrepancies arise.

Committee members suggested that a future VAC meeting include a presentation reviewing current IPP signature forms, templates, and documentation requirements to improve provider understanding and consistency. Staff agreed that additional education on the topic would be beneficial.

In closing, Alex Kopilevich commended NLACRC's progress in reducing vacant caseloads despite continued organizational growth and increasing service demands. The committee thanked Evelyn McOmie and Kaitlyn Condreay for their presentations and detailed responses to provider questions.

8.2 Chief Financial Officer's Report

Vini Montague, Chief Financial Officer, provided a financial update for the committee. NLACRC's B4 allocation was reported at approximately \$1.4 billion. Expenditures for the

February 2026 service month totaled \$118.3 million, with year-to-date expenditures reaching approximately \$864 million. Vini Montague reported that NLACRC continues to project a Purchase of Services (POS) deficit of approximately \$11.5 million and noted that DDS has been informed of the projected shortfall.

Vini Montague also provided an update regarding DDS requirements for tracking remote service delivery. Vini Montague explained that DDS is expected to issue a new directive requiring providers to track remote services through the eBilling system beginning with services provided on or after May 1, 2026. The new process will add a field within eBilling where providers will enter the number of days remote services were delivered to each individual served. The enhancement is intended to allow DDS and regional centers to better monitor the frequency of remote service utilization.

During discussion, Jaklen Keshishyan asked whether the new reporting requirement would affect provider rates or billing practices. Vini Montague clarified that there are no rate changes associated with the new requirement and that providers will continue billing as they currently do. The additional field is solely for tracking purposes and will not impact reimbursement amounts.

Committee members also asked how the requirement would apply to providers that do not offer remote services. Vini Montague explained that providers whose service codes do not permit remote service delivery will not see the new eBilling field. Providers authorized to provide remote services will be required to enter the number of remote service days, including entering zero when no remote services were provided during the billing period.

Staff noted that DDS plans to conduct informational sessions for providers regarding the new eBilling functionality and reporting requirements. Information regarding those sessions will be distributed once available.

Vini Montague concluded the report with an update regarding the annual fiscal year rollover process. The rollover process will occur on June 30, 2026, and will generate new authorizations for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. New authorizations are expected to be printed and mailed during the last week of July. Vini Montague noted that the volume of authorizations requires significant processing time and reiterated NLACRC's goal of implementing a future provider portal that would allow authorizations to be distributed electronically. Until such a system is available, providers needing authorization information earlier may contact their Accounts Payable Specialist to request authorization reports in Excel format.

Following the report, a committee member commended Accounts Payable staff member Julie Chuffin for providing exceptional support and responsiveness. Vini Montague acknowledged the feedback and indicated that the recognition would be shared with staff.

The committee received the report and no further questions were raised.

8.3 Community Services Director's Report

A. All's Well Healthcare

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

Arshalous Garlanian provided updates on Quality Incentive Program (QIP) activities, provider compliance requirements, and workforce development initiatives. Arshalous Garlanian reported that Community Services staff continue to reconcile QIP records and are contacting providers who have not completed required QIP survey activities for Fiscal Year 2026–2027.

Arshalous Garlanian informed the committee that DDS would release proposed QIP reporting measures on May 15, 2026, with a public comment period open through June 15, 2026. Providers were encouraged to review the proposed measures and submit feedback directly to DDS. Several anticipated changes were highlighted, including conducting QIP surveys at the vendor-number level, expanding eligibility for Supported Living Services (SLS) providers to participate in Prevention and Wellness reporting measures, and creating voluntary participation opportunities for certain service types that were previously excluded from QIP because they were not included in rate reform. Arshalous Garlanian emphasized the importance of provider participation in the public comment process, as the proposed measures will help shape future quality and performance expectations.

Providers were also reminded to complete required DDS 1891 documentation and to promptly notify NLACRC Resource Development of any changes to provider information. Arshalous Garlanian noted that updates entered into the DDS Service Provider Directory do not automatically update NLACRC systems and stressed the importance of notifying both DDS and NLACRC to ensure provider information remains accurate and current.

Arshalous Garlanian then introduced Daisy Alvarez, Recruiter Manager with Allswell Healthcare, to provide an update on the DDS-funded Direct Support Professional (DSP) Internship Program. Arshalous Garlanian noted that the internship program had been extended and relaunched and that many participating providers had reported positive outcomes and successful workforce recruitment through the program.

Daisy Alvarez explained that Allswell Healthcare partners with DDS to administer a paid three-month shadow-training internship program designed to recruit, train, and develop future Direct Support Professionals. Interns may work up to 30 hours per week and receive hands-on training while paired with experienced DSP mentors. The program is intended to introduce individuals to careers in developmental services, strengthen the DSP workforce pipeline, and create opportunities for long-term employment within the field.

Daisy Alvarez reported that participating providers may hire interns into permanent positions at any point during the internship period. Allswell Healthcare manages recruitment, candidate screening, onboarding, payroll administration, workers' compensation coverage, and other employment-related responsibilities, allowing providers to focus on mentorship and training. Interns hired into permanent positions may also qualify for retention incentives after six and twelve months of employment. Daisy Alvarez further noted that Allswell Healthcare recently added completion of LIC 503 documentation on behalf of providers as part of the onboarding process.

During discussion, committee members asked questions regarding placement eligibility and internship requirements. Daisy Alvarez clarified that DSP interns may not currently be placed in Level 6 or higher residential facilities but may participate in eligible lower-level residential settings. Daisy Alvarez also explained that internships are limited to direct support positions and cannot be used for office-based or administrative roles because interns must work alongside a DSP mentor and receive direct service experience.

Committee members shared positive experiences with the program. One provider reported successfully converting a DSP intern into a full-time employee and commended Allswell Healthcare staff for their responsiveness and support throughout the placement process. The provider also noted that Allswell Healthcare had been helpful when an intern was not an appropriate fit, assisting the organization in navigating the situation and identifying alternatives.

Following the presentation, a provider expressed appreciation for NLACRC's efforts to implement rate reform and update provider rates in a timely manner. The provider explained that, as a courtesy vendor with multiple regional centers, they continue to experience payment delays from other regional centers that have not yet completed all rate conversions. The provider thanked NLACRC staff for their responsiveness and acknowledged the significant effort required to complete the conversion process.

The provider also raised concerns regarding ongoing challenges with FACT, noting that the issue was discussed extensively among providers during a recent training related to Social Security and representative payee services. The provider stated that the challenges associated with FACT are affecting not only service providers but also individuals receiving services and emphasized the importance of continued efforts to address the issue.

In response, Arshalous Garlanian thanked the provider for both the recognition and the feedback. Arshalous Garlanian acknowledged the efforts of Community Services staff involved in supporting providers through rate reform implementation and stated that the concerns regarding FACT would be shared with the appropriate teams for further review.

The committee thanked Arshalous Garlanian and Daisy Alvarez for their updates and presentations and proceeded to the next agenda item.

This version is closer to the level of detail typically seen in strong VAC minutes because it captures what changed, why it matters, provider questions, provider feedback, and staff responses, rather than simply documenting that a presentation occurred.

9.1 Legislative Report

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

Belinda Abatesi provided a high-level overview of current legislative and budget developments affecting the developmental services system. Belinda Abatesi reported that the Governor's May Revision was being released on May 14, 2026, with the budget briefing taking place that morning. Belinda Abatesi noted that additional information specific to Health and Human Services budget proposals would be discussed during a stakeholder call later that day and stated that a more detailed analysis of the May Revision's impact on the developmental services community would be presented at a future meeting once staff had an opportunity to review the proposal.

Belinda Abatesi emphasized the importance of staying informed and engaged during the budget process, noting that budget decisions would move quickly before the Legislature's June 15 constitutional deadline for adopting a budget bill. As context for ongoing discussions, Belinda Abatesi referenced a recent Senate Budget Subcommittee hearing that reviewed the Governor's January budget proposals related to DDS and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS). The hearing included testimony from stakeholders who raised concerns regarding various budget proposals. Committee members were encouraged to review the hearing materials and agenda for additional background information.

Belinda Abatesi highlighted several upcoming advocacy opportunities available to individuals served, families, providers, and community partners. These opportunities were intended to help stakeholders stay informed, participate in policy discussions, and advocate for the preservation and strengthening of developmental services. Particular attention was given to the California Disability Leadership Alliance (CDLA) Day of Action scheduled for May 26, 2026, at the State Capitol. Belinda Abatesi described the event as a statewide advocacy effort that would include a rally and legislative visits and encouraged participation from members of the

developmental services community. Belinda Abatesi also noted that additional advocacy events and rallies may be announced following release of the May Revision and encouraged stakeholders to subscribe to advocacy alerts and newsletters to remain informed.

Belinda Abatesi provided an update on implementation of California's Master Plan for Developmental Services. The first annual implementation report has been released since publication of the Master Plan in March 2025. Belinda Abatesi explained that the report reflects California's transition from planning and recommendations toward implementation activities. Key focus areas include continued development of language access initiatives, workforce development efforts, improvements to Early Start and early intervention services, supported decision-making initiatives, and efforts to standardize intake and respite assessment processes statewide. Belinda Abatesi reported that the Master Plan Committee will continue meeting twice annually to review progress and identify operational and funding changes necessary to advance implementation efforts.

Belinda Abatesi also reviewed legislative proposals currently being tracked by NLACRC and the Association of Regional Center Agencies. Committee members were directed to ARCA's legislative tracking resources for additional information regarding bills being monitored, supported, or opposed by the association. Belinda Abatesi further highlighted upcoming legislative meetings, advocacy events, and election-related deadlines, reminding attendees that voter registration for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election would close on May 18, 2026. Information regarding voter registration, ballot tracking, and voting locations was made available to attendees.

During committee discussion, Alex Kopilevich asked for clarification regarding Assembly Bill 277 and provisions related to background checks for behavioral health providers. Specifically, Alex Kopilevich asked whether the proposed requirements differed from existing Live Scan and Department of Justice background check requirements already used by many service providers. Belinda Abatesi reviewed the bill language and explained that the proposal appeared to relate to background check requirements for individuals providing behavioral health treatment and to licensing and regulatory requirements affecting organizations serving minors. Belinda Abatesi indicated that additional review would be needed to determine how the proposal compares to existing Live Scan requirements and agreed to provide further clarification at a later date.

No questions were raised following the report.

9.2 Executive Director's Report

Angela Pao-Johnson provided updates on several organizational initiatives, workforce development efforts, advocacy priorities, community engagement activities, and progress related to NLACRC's Special Contract Language requirements.

Angela Pao-Johnson announced the launch of a new self-direction educational resource designed to help individuals and families better understand the various self-directed service options available through the Regional Center system. The handout compares traditional services, the Self-Determination Program, and participant-directed services, and is intended to support informed decision-making by clearly outlining the differences, benefits, and limitations associated with each model.

Angela Pao-Johnson also reported that NLACRC has established a new partnership with California State University, Bakersfield, expanding upon the Regional Center's existing partnership with California State University, Northridge. The initiative is designed to create a workforce pipeline by recruiting students and recent graduates into Associate Consumer Services Coordinator positions. Participants gain exposure to the Regional Center system

while developing skills and experience that may lead to long-term careers as Service Coordinators. Angela Pao-Johnson emphasized the value of partnering with universities to connect graduates with meaningful employment opportunities while supporting NLACRC's workforce needs.

An update was provided regarding efforts to reduce Service Coordinator caseloads. Angela Pao-Johnson reported that the number of Service Coordinators carrying caseloads over 100 had decreased significantly from 81 at the end of March 2026 to 42 at the end of April 2026. While acknowledging that additional improvements are still needed, Angela Pao-Johnson noted that the organization continues to make substantial progress in reducing caseload ratios and improving staffing levels.

Angela Pao-Johnson also announced the hiring of Karen Waters as NLACRC's new Human Resources Director. Karen Waters brings more than 16 years of human resources experience, including experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities and large multi-state organizations. Angela Pao-Johnson expressed enthusiasm regarding the addition of Karen Waters to the leadership team and noted that the appointment allows executive leadership positions to focus exclusively on their designated responsibilities.

The report included an update on legislative advocacy efforts. Angela Pao-Johnson highlighted support for Assembly Bill 1670, sponsored by the Association of Regional Center Agencies and authored by Joaquin Arambula. The legislation would allow reimbursement for dental desensitization visits intended to help individuals become more comfortable receiving dental care and improve successful completion of future dental appointments. Angela Pao-Johnson also discussed concerns related to the expiration of Proposition 56 funding, which has helped supplement Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for dental providers. The potential loss of this funding could affect provider participation and dental access for individuals served. Ongoing advocacy efforts related to dental access and workforce development were highlighted as continuing priorities.

Angela Pao-Johnson encouraged participation in a series of Executive Director Community Listening Sessions focused on understanding service awareness gaps among historically underserved communities. The listening sessions are intended to gather feedback regarding how families learn about services, identify barriers to accessing information, and explore strategies to improve outreach and communication. Targeted communities include Hispanic/Latino, Armenian, Farsi-speaking, Filipino, and Black/African American communities. Sessions are being hosted in both Chatsworth and Antelope Valley to improve accessibility, with participation intentionally limited to encourage meaningful discussion and engagement.

Angela Pao-Johnson provided a detailed update regarding NLACRC's Special Contract Language status. Special Contract Language was imposed by DDS in July 2024 due to concerns regarding board governance and caseload ratios. Angela Pao-Johnson reported that the governance-related component has been successfully resolved and removed. Caseload ratios and survey response measures remain active areas of monitoring. Current caseload ratios were reviewed and compared to statewide averages and statutory requirements. Angela Pao-Johnson reported that DDS acknowledged NLACRC's significant progress in reducing caseload ratios and indicated that the Regional Center is no longer considered an outlier in several reporting categories. If statewide averages are maintained for six consecutive months, NLACRC may be eligible for removal from the remaining Special Contract Language requirements related to caseload ratios.

Angela Pao-Johnson also reviewed performance on the IPP Survey measure. While DDS established a target response rate of 15 percent, the statewide average response rate is approximately 1.7 percent. NLACRC currently maintains an 8 percent response rate, significantly exceeding the statewide average. Overall satisfaction scores remain above 90

percent. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that one area requiring continued improvement is increasing awareness and understanding of the Self-Determination Program among families. Additional staffing and organizational metrics were shared. Filled positions exceeded 90 percent as of April 2026, compared to 86 percent during the same period in 2025. Angela Pao-Johnson also reported that NLACRC continues to experience significant monthly growth in the number of individuals served and highlighted ongoing recruitment efforts to keep pace with increasing service demands.

Angela Pao-Johnson highlighted a recent Inclusion in Action event focused on adult and transition-age services. The event attracted approximately 85 participants and featured presentations from Self-Determination Program staff, clinical staff, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing specialists. The event was offered both in person and virtually to maximize accessibility and provide participants with information regarding available services and supports.

The committee also received information regarding upcoming Performance Measures planning meetings. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that DDS has combined previous Performance Contract and Performance Measure requirements into a single framework. Community members were encouraged to participate in upcoming meetings and complete a public survey to help identify priorities, activities, and strategies that should be included in NLACRC's future performance planning efforts.

During committee discussion, members asked how historically underserved communities were identified for the Executive Director Listening Sessions. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that the selected communities were identified based on demographic information, service utilization data, and historical disparities in Purchase of Service expenditures. Additional discussion focused on the Regional Center's enhanced caseload approach for individuals receiving low or no Purchase of Service expenditures and efforts to reduce disparities in service access.

Committee members also discussed emerging efforts to collect demographic information related to gender identity and sexual orientation. Staff shared information regarding existing LGBTQ+ support groups and upcoming training opportunities focused on supporting LGBTQ+ individuals receiving services.

The committee thanked Angela Pao-Johnson for the report and organizational updates.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION TOPICS

11. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP INFORMATION

11.1 Early Start Services

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that the Early Start Services Subcommittee did not meet during the current month and therefore had no substantive updates to provide. Jodie Agnew-Navarro announced that the next Early Start Services Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for the following Thursday at 9:00 a.m. and noted that meetings are held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Committee members and interested participants were invited to attend.

11.2 School Age Services

Cal Enriquez reported that the School-Age Services Subcommittee met on May 12, 2026, and finalized updates to its Fiscal Year 2026–2027 goals and objectives.

During the meeting, members discussed information shared by Teresa Querrer of the Family Focus Resource Center regarding a concurrent Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board meeting addressing Nonpublic Agency (NPA) contracts related to Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services. Preliminary information suggested that LAUSD may be considering changes to its use of contracted ABA providers and potentially expanding internal service delivery. Committee members noted that any changes could have broader implications for ABA service providers and service delivery systems. However, no final outcome from the LAUSD Board meeting was available at the time of the discussion.

The subcommittee also discussed workforce-related concerns within ABA services, including reports of increased compensation opportunities that could affect provider recruitment and retention efforts. Members acknowledged that additional information would be needed before assessing any potential impact on services.

Additional discussion included the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and platforms within provider organizations. Members briefly shared how some providers are exploring AI applications to improve operations and service delivery, while recognizing that the technology continues to evolve.

Cal Enriquez announced that Cal Enriquez will be terming off the Vendor Advisory Committee at the conclusion of the current fiscal year after more than six years of service and leadership of the School-Age Services Subcommittee. Cal Enriquez encouraged committee members and providers to participate in the School-Age Services Subcommittee, noting that school-age issues represent a significant portion of Regional Center services and frequently generate important discussions regarding service delivery, educational supports, and community needs.

During the discussion, Cal Enriquez also commented on the importance of cultural competency and outreach to underserved communities. Examples were shared regarding cultural perspectives that may affect awareness and utilization of Regional Center services, emphasizing the importance of tailoring outreach and education efforts to meet the needs of diverse communities. Committee members noted that underserved populations vary by regional center and that ongoing efforts to improve language access and culturally responsive services remain important priorities.

Alex Kopilevich thanked Cal Enriquez for years of service and leadership within the School-Age Services Subcommittee and acknowledged the significant contributions made to the Vendor Advisory Committee and the Regional Center community.

11.3 Adult Services

Octavia Watkins reported that the Adult Services Subcommittee did not meet during the previous month and therefore had no updates or recommendations to present.

Octavia Watkins announced that the next Adult Services Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. Upcoming discussions will focus on refining the subcommittee's ongoing workgroup priorities and reviewing the distinction between Purchase of Service (POS) expenditures and service authorizations. Committee members and interested providers were encouraged to participate in the meeting, and Octavia Watkins offered to provide the Zoom meeting information upon request.

The committee received the update and no questions were raised. The meeting then proceeded to Board Committee Reports.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1 Executive Finance Committee

No Executive Finance Committee report was provided, as Jaklen Keshishyan had departed the meeting prior to this agenda item.

12.2 Community Relations Committee

Sharon Weinberg announced that the next Community Relations Committee meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

12.3 Nominating Committee

Alex Kopilevich provided an update regarding the Nominating Committee, noting that the next meeting will occur in August 2026 and will be led by a new representative following the conclusion of Alex Kopilevich's term in June. Alex Kopilevich reminded committee members that appointments to Board committees, including the Executive Finance Committee, Community Relations Committee, and Nominating Committee, will be determined during the August meeting. Alex Kopilevich clarified that any Vendor Advisory Committee member may serve on the Nominating Committee; however, the Vendor Advisory Committee Chair serves as the committee's representative to the Executive Finance Committee in order to maintain voting rights.

Alex Kopilevich also noted that leadership assignments for the Vendor Advisory Committee workgroups and subcommittees will be discussed and determined at the August meeting.

13. BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

During discussion of future agenda items, Alex Kopilevich identified a request for a future presentation regarding the various IPP and signature page forms currently in use. Lindsay Granger noted that the Board of Trustees would also be informed of the election of Tal Segalovitch as Vendor Advisory Committee Chair for Fiscal Year 2026–2027.

With no additional committee business identified, the meeting proceeded to announcements and public input.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT

During public input, Erica Beall commented on the proposed development of an electronic Special Incident Report (SIR) portal. Erica Beall expressed support for collaboration between NLACRC and service providers during the design and implementation process and encouraged a partnership-based approach.

Erica Beall recommended that providers not be required to exclusively use a new reporting system if implemented, noting that many providers already utilize case management systems, electronic health records, and other operational platforms. Erica Beall expressed concern that requiring providers to navigate multiple systems could create administrative challenges and disrupt existing workflows, particularly for staff who spend much of their time providing services in the field.

Erica Beall also noted appreciation for the positive budget information shared earlier in the meeting and expressed relief regarding the Governor's proposed budget, particularly as it relates to early intervention services.

Alex Kopilevich thanked Erica Beall for the comments and feedback.

During public input, Sharon Weinberg requested additional information regarding a recent DDS directive related to Regional Center access to In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) information. Sharon Weinberg expressed interest in understanding how the new access would be implemented operationally and when the changes would become available.

Staff responded that DDS is continuing to develop the system and incorporate feedback received from regional centers. Additional enhancements are currently being made before implementation, and further information will be shared with the vendor community once DDS finalizes and rolls out the process.

During the discussion, staff noted that increased access to IHSS information could improve coordination of generic resources and services provided in the home. Clarification was also provided that IHSS services are generally associated with individuals living in their own homes rather than individuals residing in licensed residential settings. Committee members briefly discussed how IHSS eligibility relates to residential service models and agreed that additional guidance would be helpful once DDS provides further details.

15. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting is on June 11, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the in-person at the Antelope Valley office and on Zoom.

16. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:37 a.m.