

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Nominating Committee Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2026

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

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

Absent:

I. Call to Order

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

II. Review of the Agenda and Approval of Agenda

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

III. Public Input

Board President **Sharmila Brunjes** shared information regarding a proposed trailer bill distributed to the Board. The bill is not yet finalized and, if approved, would take effect January 2027 with anticipated passage in June or July.

Sharmila Brunjes explained that the proposal introduces expertise expectations for governing boards, including legal, management, governance, fiscal and financial, and developmental disability program experience. The Board as a whole would also need to reflect the geographic, disability, and ethnic characteristics of the regional center's service area. The proposal would limit board size to 10–15 members and require at least two members to be consumers selected from the Consumer Advisory Committee. The new requirements would supersede certain Lanterman provisions, and DDS may place a regional center on notice if the requirements are not met.

Sharmila Brunjes noted that not every individual member must meet all expertise criteria, but the Board collectively must satisfy them. Sharmila Brunjes emphasized the potential impact on future recruitment and retention, including the possibility that membership adjustments could be required if the Board exceeds the size cap.

Lety Garcia clarified that the legislation is expected to pass mid-year and would become effective January 2027, providing time for planning and compliance preparation.

There was no additional public comment.

IV. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes from the January 7, 2026 Meeting

M/S/C (Sharmila Brunjes/Juan Hernandez) to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

V. Action Items

A. Review and Discuss Updated Nominating Committee Procedures and Guidelines

Curtis Wang introduced the agenda item to review and discuss updates to the Nominating Committee procedures and guidance.

Lindsay Granger presented the redlined document and outlined the proposed revisions. Documents previously labeled as policies, but not functioning as formal Board policies, were renamed to guidelines or procedures. The content was updated to align with the revised bylaws, including removal of language assigning Nominating Committee responsibilities to the Vendor Advisory Committee and general formatting adjustments for clarity and consistency.

Discussion focused on voting procedures. Lindsay Granger initially suggested removing the sentence stating voting shall be by voice vote because electronic ballots can be created quickly and floor nominations can be added during meetings. Lety Garcia clarified that the existing language distinguishes between situations: when a slate is presented and there are no nominations from the floor, the Board approves the slate by voice vote; when nominations are made from the floor, voting occurs by secret ballot. Sharmila Brunjes confirmed this reflects current Board practice, and the committee agreed to retain the language. Lindsay Granger confirmed the provision would remain.

Additional revisions aligned officer titles with the bylaws. The positions of First Vice President and Second Vice President were removed and replaced with a single Vice President position. The ARCA Alternate was also removed as an officer position, leaving President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and ARCA Delegate as the officer slate.

Further discussion addressed Vendor Advisory Committee content removed from the Nominating Committee document. Lety Garcia recommended transferring the VAC selection procedures into the Vendor Advisory Committee bylaws so the process would be formally documented. Alex Kopilevich agreed the material should be provided to the VAC for review and inclusion, and Lindsay Granger confirmed the content would be moved rather than deleted.

The committee also discussed how the Nominating Committee presents the slate to the Board. Clarification was made that officer elections and the selection of the three additional Executive Finance Committee members would occur during the same election cycle but through different methods. Sharmila Brunjes and Juan Hernandez supported electing the three additional Executive Finance Committee members by ballot to ensure fairness since those positions are not officer roles. The group agreed a separate section should be added describing procedures for selection of additional Executive Finance Committee members and specifying election by ballot.

Lindsay Granger confirmed the document will be updated to include the new section, retain the voice vote language, align officer titles, and remove VAC references. The revised document will return to the Nominating Committee at the March meeting for final review and approval.

ACTION: Lindsay Granger will present another red-lined draft of the Nominating Committee Guidelines and Procedures to present for review and approval at the March meeting.

ACTION: Lindsay Granger will add this to the March Nominating Committee agenda.

B. Review New Applicant for Board of Trustees

a. Applicant 7

Curtis Wang opened the review of new Board of Trustees applicants, beginning with Applicant 7.

Lety Garcia recommended the committee consider each applicant individually by motion, allowing the committee to either move an applicant forward to interview, retain the application for future consideration, or close the application. The committee agreed this approach would prevent scheduling unnecessary interviews and allow case-by-case evaluation.

No motion was made to advance Applicant 7 to the interview stage. Lindsay Granger clarified prior practice, explaining applicants may be moved forward, retained for future openings, or closed with a notification letter inviting reapplication.

Sharmila Brunjes made a motion to table Applicant 7 for consideration at a later date, which was seconded by Juan Hernandez. The motion carried with Lety Garcia abstaining. Applicant 7 was retained for future consideration.

M/S/C (Sharmila Brunjes/Juan Hernandez) to save Applicant 7 for consideration at a later date. Lety Garcia abstained. Applicant 7 was saved for future consideration. Motion carried.

b. Applicant 8

Curtis Wang introduced review of Applicant 8 and requested a motion regarding whether to move the applicant forward for interview.

Sharmila Brunjes made a motion to advance Applicant 8 to the interview stage, seconded by Juan Hernandez. During discussion, Sharmila Brunjes noted the applicant's experience supporting an older family member with disabilities and familiarity with regional center services.

Lety Garcia raised concern that the applicant works in home care and is pursuing licensure for a care service, which may create a conflict of interest and make the applicant more appropriate for the Vendor Advisory Committee rather than the Board.

Alex Kopilevich confirmed that individuals working for or operating a vendor agency typically serve on the Vendor Advisory Committee rather than the Board. Additional discussion acknowledged the distinction between disability experience and vendor involvement.

Following discussion, the motion to move Applicant 8 forward for interview did not carry.

M/S/C (Sharmila Brunjes/Juan Hernandez) to move Applicant 8 forward for interview. Motion failed.

M/S/C (Juan Hernandez/Sharmila Brunjes) to refer Applicant 8 to the Vendor Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

c. Applicant 9

Curtis Wang opened discussion on Applicant 9 and requested a motion regarding advancement to the interview stage.

The committee discussed whether the applicant's consulting business created a vendor conflict. Lety Garcia clarified the applicant is a regional center consumer with a consulting business providing independent facilitator services and is not a vendor. Members agreed additional information would be helpful and could be obtained through an interview.

M/S/C (Sharmila Brunjes/Alex Kopilevich) to move Applicant 9 forward for interview. Motion carried.

d. Applicant 10

Curtis Wang called for consideration of Applicant 10 and requested a motion to move the applicant forward for interview. No motion was made to advance Applicant 10. Sharmila Brunjes recommended closing the application, noting the committee's current needs and that similar expertise is already represented on the Board.

M/S/C (Sharmila Brunjes/Juan Hernandez) to close Applicant 10 and not move forward. Motion carried.

e. Applicant 11

Members identified Applicant 11 as a physician and professor who resides in the catchment area. Juan Hernandez made a motion to move Applicant 11 forward for interview, seconded by Sharmila Brunjes. Lety Garcia raised a concern regarding the time commitment given the candidate's professional responsibilities and noted prior estimates of board time requirements. Members agreed the committee could not assess availability without an interview.

M/S/C (Juan Hernandez/Sharmila Brunjes) to move forward with Applicant 11 to interview. Motion carried.

f. Applicant 12

Curtis Wang called for consideration of Applicant 12 and requested a motion regarding advancement to interview.

During discussion, Sharmila Brunjes noted the applicant's leadership experience in nonprofit and Head Start programs and the value of the applicant's community representation. Lety Garcia added the applicant also has recruitment, enrollment, and management experience.

M/S/C (Sharmila Brunjes/Lety Garcia) to move Applicant 12 forward for interview. Motion carried.

g. Applicant 13

Curtis Wang opened consideration of Applicant 13.

Sharmila Brunjes noted the applicant is a co-owner of an Adult Residential Facility and appears closely connected to service provision. Lety Garcia confirmed the applicant

would be more appropriate for the Vendor Advisory Committee.

M/S/C (Alex Kopilevich/Juan Hernandez) to move Applicant 13 to the Vendor Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

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

- C. Review Board of Trustees Applicant Interviews
- a. Applicant 4
 - b. Applicant 5
 - c. Applicant 6

Curtis Wang introduced discussion regarding previously conducted Board of Trustees applicant interviews.

Sharmila Brunjes recommended postponing consideration of interviewed applicants until interviews for Applicants 7 through 13 are completed, to ensure all candidates are evaluated consistently. Alex Kopilevich, Lety Garcia, and Juan Hernandez agreed. Decisions on interviewed applicants were tabled pending completion of all interviews.

M/S/C (Sharmila Brunjes/Juan Hernandez) to table decisions on the previously interviewed applicants until all remaining interviews are conducted. was approved unanimously. Motion carried.

V. Committee Business

A. Update on Board Recruitment Marketing Plan

Curtis Wang introduced the update on the Board recruitment marketing plan. Chris Whitlock reported that the current campaign has generated 23 completed interest forms and 5 completed applications, which were reviewed during the meeting. The committee discussed whether to continue the existing approach or modify the strategy.

Chris Whitlock described updates to the recruitment process, including a mobile-friendly online interest form and a digitized application. Individuals complete a Microsoft interest form and are then directed to a JotForm application, allowing staff to track how many interested individuals convert into applicants and enabling follow-up contact using collected information.

The committee reviewed outreach effectiveness and targeting. Chris Whitlock confirmed geo-targeted marketing is being requested to specifically reach the Santa Clarita area. Alex Kopilevich recommended reducing print advertising with low engagement and prioritizing digital outreach. Unique QR codes are being used to identify which channels generate responses. Early results show social media platforms are producing the strongest engagement and most submissions.

Sharmila Brunjes suggested creating recruitment support materials and guidance so Board members can responsibly share outreach through their personal networks, as well as scheduling optional recruitment videos coordinated by the communications team.

Lety Garcia requested that staff provide a more comprehensive report at the next meeting, including performance data by outreach source and how funds previously used

for print advertising will be reallocated toward higher-performing digital strategies.

ACTION: Chris Whitlock will report out at the next Nominating Committee meeting with an update on the Board Marketing Plan.

B. Review Board Members' Terms and Upcoming Renewals

Curtis Wang introduced the review of upcoming Board member term renewals. Lindsay Granger confirmed that renewal applications and signed renewal notices have been received for all listed members and noted which individuals are approaching completion of their first year of service.

Lety Garcia explained that the Nominating Committee must formally recommend renewals to the Board at the next meeting as an action item. The recommendation will specify whether each member is being renewed for a one-year or three-year term. The committee discussed presenting each renewal as a separate line item so members may either vote individually or approve the renewals as a slate, depending on consensus at that meeting.

The committee clarified term lengths. Certain members will receive standard three-year renewals, while others will receive a shorter renewal period extending to January 2027 based on a prior Nominating Committee decision aligning terms with the Board's election cycle. Lindsay Granger will update the renewal list to clearly indicate the recommended term length next to each member's name and reflect the adjusted end dates.

ACTION: Lindsay Granger will update the Board Members Terms Tracker before the next Nominating Committee meeting.

ACTION: Membership renewals will be added to the March Nominating Committee agenda to be voted on at the next meeting.

C. Review DDS Board Composition

Curtis Wang opened the agenda item to review the Board composition Excel and confirmed Lindsay Granger would walk the committee through the updated worksheet.

Lindsay Granger explained the composition worksheet was the same tool reviewed previously, updated to show scenarios up to 22 total Board representatives. Lindsay Granger stated the calculations were based on current consumer distribution statistics by region and noted that 5.84 percent of consumers are not assigned to a specific region. Lindsay Granger kept that percentage as a separate variance category so the totals remain at 100 percent.

Lindsay Granger reviewed how the worksheet translates regional consumer percentages into target counts of Board members needed from each area to align representation with the consumer population. Lety Garcia confirmed that at a total Board size of 14, the 25 percent consumer threshold equates to four consumer members and noted the Board currently has five consumers, which remains compliant.

Lety Garcia asked whether the representation section should show an even split under a 14-member Board and sought clarification on how "individuals served" and "parent or legal guardian" categories are calculated. Lindsay Granger explained that the DDS form combines those categories and counts "individuals served" within multiple requirements,

consistent with DDS reporting rules. Lindsay Granger also clarified that disability categories are counted across each applicable category when someone identifies with more than one, which affects totals.

Sharmila Brunjes thanked Lindsay Granger for the updated sheet and asked the committee to confirm whether the previously stated Board recruitment goal of reaching 18 total members remains appropriate given the current Board size. Lety Garcia stated the committee's prior decision was to target a total Board size of 18, not a fixed number of additions, and noted that when two members rotate off in January 2027, the Board will drop by two seats. The committee discussed how future compliance could be affected depending on whether proposed trailer bill language is adopted and acknowledged the possibility that maintaining a higher total now could require non-renewal decisions later if membership limits change.

Lety Garcia highlighted additional elements referenced in the trailer bill language, including plain-language requirements for materials provided to Board members and an expectation that recruitment materials encourage parents and consumers to apply. Sharmila Brunjes noted these changes could require adjustments to how the Nominating Committee manages renewals and recruitment over time.

Lindsay Granger pointed out that the DDS composition survey was included in the packet as a reference. Juan Hernandez asked for clarification about "fifth category." Evelyn McOmie explained that fifth category generally refers to developmental delay with cognitive deficits that are below the threshold for intellectual disability and is used as a classification when individuals are accepted into the system. Evelyn McOmie clarified that conditions such as ADHD or dyslexia alone do not qualify for Regional Center services and that fifth category is often interpreted as more consistent with certain learning disability profiles, though not equivalent to an intellectual disability classification.

VI. Review of Meeting Action Items and Board Agenda Items

Curtis Wang transitioned the committee to a review of meeting action items. Lety Garcia initially noted there were two interviews pending, and Lindsay Granger requested confirmation of the applicant dispositions to ensure the action item list was accurate. The committee confirmed the outcomes as follows: Applicants 9, 11, and 12 were approved to move forward to interviews; Applicant 10 was closed; Applicant 7 was tabled for future consideration; and Applicants 8 and 13 were referred to the Vendor Advisory Committee. Sharmila Brunjes corrected that the previously interviewed applicants to be tabled pending completion of the new interviews were Applicants 4, 5, and 6.

Lindsay Granger confirmed next steps and assignments. Lindsay Granger will send official letters to all new applicants reviewed at the meeting and begin scheduling interviews for Applicants 9, 11, and 12, with the intent to complete interviews prior to the next Nominating Committee meeting. Lindsay Granger will also contact Applicants 4, 5, and 6 to provide an update that the applications will be revisited at the next Nominating Committee meeting after the additional interviews are completed.

The committee discussed managing the open application period. Sharmila Brunjes raised the question of when to close nominations for the year, noting the committee was approaching a point where there could be more candidates than available slots. Lety Garcia agreed the committee needs a formal stopping point and noted that applications can also be retained for future cycles if strong candidates continue to apply. Sharmila Brunjes suggested treating the current pool as a "Phase 1" group that would be closed to new applicants, with a potential "Phase 2" later. Because the item was not on the agenda, the committee agreed to revisit and take

formal action at the next meeting. Lety Garcia asked Lindsay Granger to include an agenda item for the next meeting to formally close nominations and/or finalize the candidates to recommend to the Board.

Alex Kopilevich requested coordination with Lindsay Granger on scheduling, noting the Vendor Advisory Committee also has interviews and a meeting the following week. Alex Kopilevich requested connecting within the next one to two weeks so interview schedules for Board applicants and Vendor Advisory Committee applicants can be coordinated and avoid conflicts. Lindsay Granger agreed.

Additional action item updates were confirmed. Lindsay Granger stated renewal materials have been prepared and renewal recommendations will include the requested term language, including a one-year term noted with a specific end date for Lety Garcia and Nicholas, and three-year renewals for the remaining members. Lindsay Granger will also update the term tracker to correct Sharmila Brunjes's date. Lindsay Granger confirmed revised Nominating Committee procedures and guidelines will be brought back at the next meeting, including the added section previously requested, retention of the voice vote provision, and removal of Vendor Advisory Committee references as reflected in the redline. Lindsay Granger will also separate the Vendor Advisory Committee selection procedure content into a standalone document for Vendor Advisory Committee review.

Sharmila Brunjes requested clarification on the renewal process, and Lety Garcia confirmed the committee discusses renewals and makes recommendations to the Board, the renewals are presented to the Board in May, and the Board votes in June. The committee noted that as requirements and board composition targets evolve, renewal decisions may not always be as straightforward in future years.

The committee briefly discussed Board meeting agenda items and agreed Curtis Wang could provide a short update at the Board meeting indicating the Nominating Committee will continue with interviews.

ACTIONS:

- Lindsay Granger summarized follow-up items and next steps, including reaching out to all applicants with an update on their application and to schedule interviews with applicants selected before the next Nominating Committee meeting.
- An email would be sent to Applicants 4, 5, and 6 to inform them that their applications would be reviewed again at the March meeting.
- An action item will be added to the March agenda to close phase 1 of board applications.

VII. Announcements/Public Input/Information

Curtis Wang opened the floor for public input and announcements.

Alex Kopilevich shared information regarding pending state legislation proposing a mileage-based tax intended to offset declining gas tax revenue due to increased electric vehicle usage. Alex noted the proposal could significantly affect service providers and direct support professionals who regularly travel to individuals' homes, potentially creating additional financial burden and negatively impacting workforce recruitment and retention. The tracking method and possible replacement of the gas tax remain unclear as the proposal moves to the State Senate.

NLACRC Nominating Committee Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2026

Lety Garcia acknowledged the importance of the issue and indicated it may be appropriate to monitor whether ARCA takes a formal position. Committee members thanked Alex Kopilevich for bringing the matter to the group's attention.

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

VIII. Adjournment

Curtis Wang adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

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

