

**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
June 11, 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, Daniel Ortiz, Jen Pippard

STAFF:

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

GUESTS:

ABSENT:

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 one of individuals served, Ardeshir Farman.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Alona Yorkshire shared that the organization has launched a client-led content creation team that films and edits client success stories. Alona Yorkshire asked how the stories could be submitted to NLACRC for consideration. Staff noted that a call for impact story submissions had previously been shared through social media and the newsletter and will confirm and provide the submission information.

Alexandrina Sanchez attempted to provide public input but experienced connection issues. The Committee agreed to return to her later in the meeting if the connection improved.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Ricki Macken-Chilvers, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on May 14, 2026, as presented. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Ricki Chilvers, seconded by Jason Gillis, 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

Jason Gillis and Jaklen Keshishyan submitted interest in serving as the 2026–2027 VAC Alternate Chair. Members voted by ballot, with in-person members voting on paper and virtual members voting electronically.

Following a vote of the Vendor Advisory Committee, Jaklen Keshishyan was elected to serve as Alternate Chair for the 2026–2027 term.

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

7.1 Strategic Plan Alignment Workshop

Heather Sims of KH Consulting Group provided an update on NLACRC's strategic planning process and solicited feedback from the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC). Heather Sims explained that the process began in late December 2025/early January 2026 and has included development of the work plan, kickoff meetings, document review, internal and external interviews, a SWOT/environmental scan, a staff strategy lab, Board and Consumer Advisory Committee input, and internal and external strategic direction surveys. Approximately 72 members of NLACRC leadership and staff were interviewed, along with representatives from committees, ARCA, DDS, and other stakeholders. Heather Sims noted that common themes emerged regarding organizational strengths, challenges, and opportunities.

Heather Sims reported that NLACRC has entered the plan development and action-planning phase. Four action-planning teams are developing goals and objectives that will ultimately form the roadmap for the strategic plan. The teams will present draft action plans at a Strategic Planning Summit, after which the plans will undergo additional review before the final strategic plan and implementation roadmap are presented to the Board for review and approval.

Heather Sims reviewed the four strategic priorities identified through the planning process: Fulfilling and Person-Centered Culture, Empowered Workforce, Aligned and Resilient Operations, and Empowered Partners. Preliminary areas of focus include transparency and trust, individual support and consumer-centered service; staff recruitment and retention, leadership development, training, mentorship, collaboration and innovation; adaptable processes, role clarity, shared decision-making, resource alignment and streamlined practices; and vendor support and oversight, partnerships with generic and community organizations, alignment with DDS, and collaboration among regional centers. Heather Sims explained that the priorities are interconnected and ultimately support NLACRC's consumer-centered mission.

As part of the Empowered Partners portion of the workshop, Heather Sims asked VAC members what should be included in the priority and what successful outcomes should look like. Jaklen Keshishyan emphasized the importance of continued dialogue, growth, education, and ongoing collaboration between NLACRC and vendors as requirements and directives

from DDS continue to change. Heather Sims noted that continued partner development and vendor education had also been identified during action-planning discussions.

Alex Kopilevich recommended greater collaboration between DDS, the 21 regional centers, and VAC Chairs before new directives are implemented so that the vendor community has an opportunity to provide practical input and identify potential implementation challenges. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that DDS works closely with the California Disability Services Association (CDSA), which represents a significant portion of the vendor community, and encouraged vendors to participate through CDSA. Ricki Macken-Chilvers noted that DDS may not always incorporate stakeholder feedback and emphasized the importance of keeping the ultimate outcome—effectively serving individuals—at the center of decisions rather than applying requirements too rigidly.

Ricki Macken-Chilvers also emphasized the need for greater consistency in processes, responses, and procedures across the Antelope Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, and San Fernando Valley, as well as among CSCs within the same office. Ricki Macken-Chilvers noted that vendors working across multiple valleys may encounter different processes or responses and that inconsistent processing can affect continuity of services for individuals served. Heather Sims acknowledged that this issue overlaps the Empowered Partners and Aligned and Resilient Operations priorities and indicated that the planning teams would consider how consistency should be addressed in the strategic plan.

In discussing potential outcomes for Empowered Partners, Ricki Macken-Chilvers identified timely access to services as an important measure of success but noted challenges in measuring the time from referral and POS request through actual service implementation. Ricki Macken-Chilvers explained that vendors sometimes absorb administrative delays or continue supporting individuals despite authorization challenges in order to avoid disrupting services, making the actual impact of delays difficult to measure. Jaklen Keshishyan added that individual and family preferences regarding when to begin services can also affect timelines and create outliers in the data.

Cal Enriquez emphasized community awareness and culturally responsive outreach as important components of empowerment. Cal Enriquez noted that families from some cultural and ethnic communities may not be familiar with the regional center system or available resources and stressed the importance of helping families understand and navigate the system without allowing administrative processes to become barriers. Cal Enriquez also recognized NLACRC's community outreach efforts and emphasized that increasing awareness of available services and supports is itself an important outcome.

Jodie Agnew-Navarro recommended expanding Child Find and Early Start outreach, particularly for historically underserved populations. Jodie Agnew-Navarro noted that some families continue to receive late referrals despite raising developmental concerns with pediatricians or health clinics, resulting in children entering Early Start close to age three, when Early Start services end. Jodie Agnew-Navarro recommended increased outreach to pediatricians, health clinics, and community centers and suggested potential collaboration with vendors to provide developmental screenings at community events.

Angela Pao-Johnson discussed lessons from NLACRC's Community Listening Sessions and emphasized the importance of having staff and providers who understand the languages, cultures, and experiences of the communities served. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that culturally responsive communication and trusted community relationships can be especially important when families are receiving difficult or unfamiliar information. Angela Pao-Johnson also acknowledged the challenges both NLACRC and service providers face in recruiting qualified staff with specific language skills, cultural awareness, and relevant lived or community experience.

Jen Pippard emphasized the needs of the aging population and the importance of flexibility as individuals and caregivers age. Jen Pippard noted progress through NLACRC's hiring of an aging specialist but identified opportunities for greater flexibility in IPPs, housing, services, and supports as individuals approach later stages of life and family circumstances change.

Sharon Weinberg discussed coordination between NLACRC and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Sharon Weinberg acknowledged NLACRC's establishment of a DCFS liaison but identified continued opportunities for stronger collaboration, education, and earlier intervention. Sharon Weinberg noted that DCFS/CPS staff and families may not fully understand how to access the regional center system and expressed concern that some children may enter the child welfare system after opportunities for earlier services have been missed. Heather Sims noted that the issue had also been raised by the DCFS liaison participating on the action-planning team and that the discussion included clearer roles, responsibilities, collaboration, and earlier outreach.

Sharon Weinberg further emphasized that a person-centered approach should focus on how systems can work together to obtain needed services rather than shifting responsibility between agencies. Sharon Weinberg noted that coordination before individuals age out of the child welfare system is particularly important so that benefits, services, and other supports are in place and individuals do not fall through gaps between systems.

The workshop then moved into the Aligned and Resilient Operations priority, with Heather Sims asking VAC members for feedback regarding internal processes, streamlined practices, and consistent application of person-centered values. Jason Gillis emphasized the importance of evaluating whether new requirements and processes can be practically implemented and whether they achieve their intended outcomes. Jason Gillis cited delays associated with SIPP signature pages and referral packets containing incomplete service history, support needs, or contact information as examples of processes that may unintentionally delay access to services despite positive intentions.

Jason Gillis also referenced new staffing requirements affecting behavior day programs as an example of the need to evaluate whether sufficient workforce capacity exists before implementing requirements. Jason Gillis emphasized considering whether policies and directives are producing meaningful improvements for individuals served rather than focusing solely on technical compliance.

Ricki Macken-Chilvers discussed the challenge of reconciling longstanding statutory and regulatory requirements with newer person-centered and HCBS principles. Ricki Macken-Chilvers noted that older statutory language may not always align easily with current person-centered approaches and emphasized the importance of finding practical ways to bridge regulatory requirements with consumer-focused outcomes. Jason Gillis suggested that regional centers may be able to provide flexibility within allowable requirements when serving as the bridge between DDS and vendors.

Angela Pao-Johnson discussed the broader relationship between legislation, DDS directives, regional centers, vendors, and community advocacy. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that laws often lead to directives and emphasized the importance of ensuring that legislators hear a broad range of perspectives from the developmental services community. Angela Pao-Johnson encouraged stronger alignment among regional centers, vendors, and organizations such as CDSA in legislative advocacy and noted that regional center executive directors do raise concerns with DDS when directives appear difficult or unsustainable to implement. Heather Sims noted that legislative education and stronger collaboration with policymakers had also been discussed by the Empowered Partners action-planning team.

Alex Kopilevich raised concerns regarding timely service delivery and vendor reliance on service coordinators for IPPs, authorizations, and other required documentation. Alex Kopilevich noted that although caseload ratios have improved, vendors do not always experience corresponding improvements in the timeliness of paperwork and responses. Alex Kopilevich also discussed differences in experience levels among service coordinators and suggested that newer staff may benefit from additional opportunities for in-person interaction with experienced staff to obtain guidance and share institutional knowledge.

Ricki Macken-Chilvers agreed and noted that, based on prior experience as a service coordinator, informal interaction with more experienced colleagues can be an important way to transfer institutional knowledge. Sharon Weinberg acknowledged NLACRC's mentorship program and expressed concern that newer service coordinators may sometimes have mentors located in different valleys, which can make immediate consultation on complex cases more difficult. Sharon Weinberg suggested that closer access to experienced staff could help support consistency and confidence in case-related decisions.

Angela Pao-Johnson responded that NLACRC is actively working to address these concerns and explained that new hires remain in the office for their first three months before becoming eligible for the hybrid work model. During that period, new service coordinators receive mentorship, training materials, and are gradually introduced to their caseloads. Angela Pao-Johnson acknowledged that opportunities for continued improvement remain and stated that NLACRC is exploring solutions to the issues raised by VAC members.

Sharon Weinberg noted that the service coordinator role involves a significant amount of information and that some processes may be used infrequently, making continued reinforcement and access to resources important even after initial training. Alex Kopilevich similarly noted the large number of programs, service codes, and frequently changing directives service coordinators are expected to understand and suggested that aspects of NLACRC's hybrid work model be revisited to determine whether additional in-person interaction could further support staff learning, responsiveness, and service quality.

Angela Pao-Johnson explained that recruitment and retention must also be considered, as hiring qualified staff remains challenging and the hybrid work model is an important recruitment tool. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that the hybrid model has helped NLACRC attract service coordinators and reduce caseload ratios and cautioned that extending in-office requirements could reduce the number of applicants and potentially create additional staffing challenges.

Jason Gillis agreed that hybrid positions are valuable in the current employment market and suggested focusing on ways to make the hybrid model more effective. Sharon Weinberg suggested considering a competency-based approach in which service coordinators demonstrate readiness before transitioning to hybrid work rather than relying solely on a fixed period of time. Cal Enriquez clarified that opportunities for continued learning and improvement should apply to all service coordinators, not only newly hired staff.

Jaklen Keshishyan emphasized that support needs may vary by individual staff member and suggested using supervision to identify where additional training, coaching, or support may be appropriate rather than applying the same intervention broadly.

Ricki Macken-Chilvers discussed vendors' experiences providing feedback when concerns arise in service coordination and expressed a desire for follow-up approaches that go beyond general retraining when a specific issue has been identified. Ricki Macken-Chilvers emphasized the importance of addressing concerns in a way that supports continued collaboration between vendors and service coordinators while keeping advocacy for individuals served at the center of the discussion. Ricki Macken-Chilvers also noted the importance of acknowledging recurring concerns, identifying where practices may need to

change, and creating space for constructive feedback without affecting future working relationships.

Angela Pao-Johnson acknowledged the concerns and feedback shared by VAC members and emphasized that NLACRC is aware of the issues discussed and has heard many of them previously. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that organizational and cultural shifts take time, particularly when changing longstanding practices, and stated that NLACRC is actively working on these areas. Angela Pao-Johnson emphasized that it will take time for changes to become established practices and habits but reassured the Committee that efforts are underway to address the areas discussed.

Alex Kopilevich thanked Angela Pao-Johnson and Heather Sims. Heather Sims thanked VAC members for their time and input and noted that the feedback provided was valuable to the strategic planning process. The Committee then proceeded to the Chief Financial Officer's Report.

7.2 Self-Determination Update

Silvia Renteria-Haro reported that, as of June 1, 2026, 807 individuals were participating in the Self-Determination Program, with 26 participants transitioning into the program during the month. The Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (LVAC) will meet virtually the following Thursday from 6:30–8:30 p.m. and currently has two vacancies through the State Council. Meeting information is available on the NLACRC website.

No additional questions were raised.

8. REPORT OUTS

8.1 Deputy Director Officer's Report

A. Presentation on New SIR Form – Examples

Donna Rentsch provided an update on NLACRC's development of a revised Special Incident Report (SIR) template for vendor use. The updated template is intended to simplify the submission process for vendors and align with the new Title 17 SIR reporting requirements that became effective May 1, 2026.

Donna Rentsch reported that NLACRC developed and tested an initial version of the updated SIR template; however, the trial version did not communicate properly between NLACRC's systems. NLACRC has since been communicating with other regional centers that developed alternative template versions that appear to be compatible and is collaborating with those regional centers to identify a workable template.

Once a compatible template is finalized, NLACRC plans to pilot the revised form with a small group of vendors to identify and resolve any technical or operational issues before a full rollout. If development and testing proceed as anticipated, NLACRC hopes to have the updated SIR template ready for rollout in August 2026. Until the revised template is finalized and implemented, vendors should continue using the current SIR format and follow the SIR reporting guidance that became effective May 1, 2026.

B. Presentation on Signature Pages

Donna Rentsch Donna Rentsch provided clarification regarding the different IPP signature pages currently in circulation. Donna Rentsch explained that DDS implemented the Standardized Individual Program Plan (SIPP) in January 2025. IPPs completed prior to

January 2025 continue to use the legacy signature page. Because most IPPs occur every three years, with annual and quarterly reviews occurring between triennial IPP meetings as applicable, legacy signature pages will remain in circulation until individuals served have transitioned to the SIPP.

Once a SIPP is completed, the standardized SIPP signature page is used and is required across all 21 regional centers. Donna Rentsch explained that amendments or addenda correspond with the version of the IPP currently in place. Amendments to legacy IPPs use the legacy signature page, while amendments to SIPPs use the shortened SIPP amendment signature page. Annual reviews for both legacy IPPs and SIPPs currently use the legacy signature page because DDS has not yet implemented a standardized annual review signature page.

Donna Rentsch presented the standardized SIPP Signature Agreement Form and reviewed its primary sections with the Committee. The form documents authorized services, including regional center-funded services and generic resources. The form also addresses Self-Determination, agreement regarding services, the Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA) process when there is disagreement regarding services, and extensions when additional time is needed to make a decision.

Donna Rentsch reviewed acknowledgement sections addressing participant-directed services, Self-Determination, the appeals process, Section 4731 complaints, the Whistleblower Policy, employment, national voter registration, the Transportation Access Plan, and caregiver succession. The form also includes signature sections for participants involved in the IPP planning process and a QR code linking individuals served to a DDS survey.

Jaklen Keshishyan asked for confirmation that DDS requires the standardized signature page for SIPPs, that the survey included on the form is submitted to DDS, and that all regional centers are required to use the standardized form. Donna Rentsch confirmed that the standardized SIPP signature page is used across all 21 regional centers.

Cal Enriquez asked whether DDS has also implemented a universal IPP for use across all 21 regional centers. Donna Rentsch confirmed that the standardized IPP is used statewide and aligns with the standardized signature page.

Sharon Weinberg asked whether annual reviews continue to use the legacy signature page even when an individual has transitioned to a SIPP. Donna Rentsch confirmed that the legacy signature page will continue to be used for annual reviews until DDS implements a standardized annual review signature page. Sharon Weinberg also asked whether information discussed during the IPP meeting, such as whether a service is being offered or discontinued, would be handwritten on the signature page. Donna Rentsch confirmed that best practice is to have the signature page present at the meeting.

Ricki Macken-Chilvers asked whether the DDS survey accessed through the QR code is also offered during annual reviews and whether offering the survey at annual reviews could increase response rates. Donna Rentsch clarified that the survey is intended for SIPP meetings and collects SIPP-related data. Angela Pao-Johnson added that NLACRC is receiving approximately three to four times the number of survey responses compared with other regional centers and indicated that response levels are not currently a concern.

Alex Kopilevich raised concerns regarding delays in obtaining signed agreement pages and the impact on service authorizations and continuity of services. Alex Kopilevich provided the example of adaptive skills training, where a vendor may submit a six-month report but be unable to receive an extension of services while waiting for a required signature page. Alex Kopilevich explained that delays can place vendors in the position of determining whether to

pause services and reassign staff, potentially disrupting established relationships with individuals served, and asked whether this issue has been discussed with DDS or whether additional guidance is available.

Donna Rentsch advised vendors to submit reports sufficiently in advance to allow time for NLACRC's internal review and authorization process. If a case does not have an assigned CSC or a vendor is not receiving a timely response, vendors should elevate the matter to an on-duty worker, supervisor, manager, or director. Donna Rentsch emphasized that timely authorization and preventing interruptions in services are priorities and noted that these circumstances should occur less frequently as more positions have been filled.

Donna Rentsch further explained that whether a new signature page is necessary may depend on how the IPP and its outcomes are written, including when the service is scheduled for review. If there is a change in service hours or another recommendation requiring modification of the plan, a new addendum and signature page would be required.

Alex Kopilevich noted that vendors have generally experienced improved responsiveness from service coordinators but sometimes assist with obtaining signed agreement pages from families. Donna Rentsch clarified that determining which signature page is required is ultimately the responsibility of the CSC and is not the responsibility of the vendor.

Sharon Weinberg asked what providers should do if the required signature page is not available at the beginning of an in-person IPP meeting and whether the meeting should proceed. Donna Rentsch recommended proceeding with the scheduled meeting and clarified that the CSC is responsible for following up and obtaining the required signature page afterward.

8.2 Chief Financial Officer's Report

Vini Montague reported that, as of the March service month, NLACRC's B4 allocation was approximately \$1.4 billion, with year-to-date expenditures of \$976.1 million. NLACRC was projecting a Purchase of Services deficit of approximately \$11.5 million. Vini Montague noted that NLACRC had received a B5 allocation from DDS; however, the allocation did not include additional regular Purchase of Services funding for regional centers, although it did include CPP funding. Vini Montague stated that an additional allocation is expected later in the year to address the projected deficit.

Vini Montague also provided an update on the fiscal year-end rollover process, scheduled for June 30, 2026. NLACRC will close out Fiscal Year 2025–2026 and roll eligible authorizations into Fiscal Year 2026–2027. Case Management has been reviewing authorizations in advance to ensure they are correctly set up in the system.

Vini Montague advised that printing and mailing the new Fiscal Year 2026–2027 authorizations will take several weeks, with mailing anticipated toward the end of July. Vendors needing their new authorization numbers before receiving the mailed authorizations may contact their Accounts Payable Specialist after June 30 to request an Excel list of the new authorization numbers.

Jason Gillis asked when vendors could contact their Accounts Payable Specialist to request the Excel authorization list. Vini Montague confirmed that vendors may make the request after June 30.

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

8.3 Community Services Director's Report

Arshalous Garlanian highlighted several items from the Community Services Director's report. Arshalous Garlanian reported that remote services tracking went into effect June 1, 2026, with a new e-billing field requiring providers to report the number of days remote services are provided for applicable service codes.

Arshalous Garlanian also reported that NLACRC received the 2027 Quality Incentive Program (QIP) list, which will be published on the DDS website. Providers whose rates will decrease from 100% to 95% or 90% effective July 1 will receive notification from NLACRC by June 30. Providers remaining at 100% will not receive a notification.

Arshalous Garlanian highlighted several free training opportunities for providers, including Deaf Plus Training 101, ACRE training, Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) training scheduled for June 24, a CalABLE "Working While Saving" training on June 29, and an LGBT and Inclusive Practices training on June 23.

Arshalous Garlanian also announced that BuildAbility will host a Lunch and Learn in the Antelope Valley on July 24 at American Heroes Park. The event is intended for businesses and employers to learn about the PIP CIE program and opportunities to partner with providers to employ individuals served.

Arshalous Garlanian reported that the DSP Collaborative website is now live and will be promoted through KTLA beginning June 17. The collaborative, involving seven local regional centers, is intended to promote employment opportunities in the direct support professional field. Providers may register on the website and participate in future job fairs. Two additional job fairs are being planned, one in the fall led by Harbor Regional Center and one in the winter led by NLACRC.

Sharon Weinberg asked for clarification regarding how the DSP Collaborative differs from a previously presented DSP opportunity and whether it is available to providers serving all levels. Arshalous Garlanian clarified that the DSP Collaborative functions similarly to a job-posting platform where providers can advertise employment opportunities and participate in job fairs to recruit candidates throughout the greater Los Angeles County area. Sharon Weinberg also asked whether future job fair dates had been scheduled. Arshalous Garlanian reported that dates had not yet been finalized and that additional information is expected by August.

Angela Pao-Johnson asked whether website traffic and participation data would be available to providers. Arshalous Garlanian stated that data collection is being handled by the company supporting the website and that current efforts are focused on expanding outreach throughout Los Angeles County through the website, commercials, and job fairs.

Arshalous Garlanian also noted that DDS launched DSP University on May 6, a voluntary, competency-based training and certificate program for direct support professionals.

Arshalous Garlanian concluded with upcoming NLACRC Family Expo dates. The Santa Clarita Family Expo is scheduled for September 12, with vendor registration expected to begin in mid-July, and an Antelope Valley Family Expo is planned for October 24.

8.4 Legislative Report

Belinda Abatesi reminded attendees that NLACRC's Annual Legislative Breakfast would be held the following day from 9:00–11:45 a.m. in Granada Hills, with registration closing at 3:00 p.m. that day.

Belinda Abatesi provided an update on the Governor's May Revision, released May 14, and reported that the developmental services budget remained relatively stable, with a proposed DDS budget of approximately \$21.6 billion and no identified DDS service cuts at that time. Funding was included for regional center operations and infrastructure to support continued caseload growth, with DDS projecting more than 39,700 additional individuals receiving services in the next fiscal year.

Belinda Abatesi also highlighted proposals affecting Medi-Cal, IHSS, and CalFresh. The May Revision proposed reinstating Medi-Cal asset limits of \$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple, which could affect IHSS eligibility because IHSS eligibility is tied to Medi-Cal. CalFresh proposals also included changes to time limits and work requirements, although exemptions may apply to individuals with disabilities and certain caregivers. Belinda Abatesi noted that the budget was still under negotiation and had not yet been finalized.

Belinda Abatesi reported that the Senate Health and Human Services Budget Subcommittee took action on several May Revision proposals on May 29. The Subcommittee rejected proposals including the return of Medi-Cal asset limits, additional IHSS cost shifts to counties, elimination of the IHSS backup provider system, rollback of Adult Protective Services expansion, and a proposed increase to UIS medical premiums. Several other proposals were delayed until October 1, 2027.

The Subcommittee also adopted or modified several proposals, including funding to update the rate methodology for certain early intervention services, extending remote services for two years with data collection requirements, and modifying the Regional Center Board proposal to preserve parent and family member representation. NLACRC will continue monitoring the budget process and provide an update at the August VAC meeting.

Belinda Abatesi also noted that new CalFresh work and community engagement requirements took effect June 1 as a result of federal legislation enacted in 2025. Exemptions are expected to apply to many individuals receiving disability benefits and certain caregivers.

Belinda Abatesi reviewed the status of bills being tracked during the current legislative session and noted that May 29 was the deadline for bills to pass out of their house of origin. Some bills advanced while others became inactive. Attendees were encouraged to review the ARCA website and other advocacy resources for additional information.

Belinda Abatesi concluded with upcoming election and voter education information. The primary election took place June 2, and the general election is scheduled for November 3. NLACRC is partnering with OCRA to provide voter education training for individuals served, families, and community members, with additional information to be shared.

No questions were raised following the report.

8.5 Executive Director's Report

Angela Pao-Johnson reported that NLACRC recently held its annual Employee Recognition Event at Santa Clarita Central Park, bringing employees from all three locations together. Employees celebrating milestone anniversaries were recognized, including approximately 28 employees reaching 20-, 25-, 30-, and 35-year anniversaries, as well as one employee with 43 years of service. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that approximately 7% of NLACRC employees have been with the organization for more than 20 years, reflecting strong retention and institutional knowledge.

Angela Pao-Johnson also discussed NLACRC's newer workforce, noting that approximately 20% of employees have been with the organization for less than one year. Angela Pao-

Johnson highlighted the new perspectives and energy these employees bring and noted that continued hiring has helped reduce caseload ratios and strengthen the organization's capacity to improve services and support long-term sustainability.

Angela Pao-Johnson provided an update on the Community Listening Session series, which will engage five different communities over approximately five months. The first session, held with members of the Armenian community, included 12 participants. Key themes included language access, cultural responsiveness, and stigma surrounding developmental disabilities, which can make it difficult for some families to discuss or receive information about available services and supports. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that sessions are being held in person at different locations to promote accessibility and encourage open conversation. Following completion of the series, NLACRC plans to share overall findings and next steps with the public during a virtual meeting later in the year.

Angela Pao-Johnson announced that NLACRC hired a new Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and emphasized the importance of having behavioral expertise that extends across the lifespan, including services for adults.

Angela Pao-Johnson also highlighted NLACRC's podcast featuring Assemblymember Juan Carrillo, which is available online, and announced plans for an upcoming podcast with former NLACRC Executive Director George Stevens. The discussion is expected to explore how the regional center system has evolved over time, including similarities and differences between past and current practices.

Angela Pao-Johnson briefly acknowledged the legislative updates previously presented and expressed cautious optimism regarding recent legislative actions and responses to proposals affecting the developmental services system.

Angela Pao-Johnson reported that NLACRC completed 116 residential compliance visits, including 63 unannounced visits, resulting in four corrective action plans and one plan of improvement. NLACRC had filled 979 positions and was serving 42,651 individuals. Four new employees were onboarded during the first orientation of the month, with 11 additional new hires confirmed for the next orientation.

Angela Pao-Johnson highlighted NLACRC's participation in the Connect Autism Resource Fair in Santa Clarita at the invitation of Senator Valladares' office. NLACRC provided families with information regarding early intervention and available regional center services. Angela Pao-Johnson noted the importance of continued partnerships with legislative offices and encouraged attendees to remain informed about upcoming community events and activities.

Following the report, Alex Kopilevich reminded VAC members that proposed topics for future discussion should be submitted to incoming Chair Tal Segalovitch at least one week before a meeting to allow sufficient time for inclusion on the posted agenda.

9. OPEN DISCUSSION TOPICS

10. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP INFORMATION

10.1 Early Start Services

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that the Early Start Services Work Group met the previous month and discussed the Quality Incentive Program as it relates to Early Start services.

Jodie Agnew-Navarro also shared that NLACRC plans to pilot a new Early Childhood Unit for children ages 3–5. The unit is intended to help reduce school-age caseloads and support children transitioning from Early Start into Lanterman services.

The Work Group also discussed identifying safe and appropriate community settings for intervention services. Jodie Agnew-Navarro noted challenges staff may experience providing services in homes and community locations during the summer, including homes without air conditioning and outdoor settings that may be too hot for intervention. The group discussed potential strategies to address these concerns.

The next Early Start Services Work Group meeting is scheduled for July 16 at 9:00 a.m.

10.2 School Age Services

Cal Enriquez reported that the School Age Services Work Group met earlier in the week and reflected on the group's work and accomplishments. Cal Enriquez thanked the Work Group members for their collaboration and contributions over the years and noted that the group has provided valuable input and insight to the VAC and community.

The Work Group also discussed the upcoming fiscal year rollover process. Cal Enriquez emphasized the importance of collaboration, patience, and communication among vendors, service coordinators, authorization teams, and accounting departments to support a smooth rollover process and minimize potential payment delays.

Alex Kopilevich thanked Cal Enriquez for the service and announced that Paul Borda will also be stepping away from leading the School Age Services Work Group for the upcoming fiscal year. Leadership of the Work Group will therefore be open for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. VAC members will determine leadership for the Work Groups and subcommittees at the August meeting and were encouraged to consider serving in this role.

10.3 Adult Services

Octavia Watkins reported that the Adult Services Work Group met on May 18. Ricki Macken-Chilvers presented to the group and shared knowledge from prior experience as a service coordinator, with a focus on Purchase of Service (POS) and authorization processes.

Key points included verifying authorizations in SANDIS, retaining copies of authorization documents, and confirming units, rates, and service codes before billing. The group also discussed ensuring new authorizations are active before existing authorizations end, monitoring authorization rollovers and contract changes, obtaining required signatures before services begin whenever possible, promptly reporting authorizations showing zero units, and maintaining detailed documentation to support billing and payment processes.

Octavia Watkins also reported that Vini Montague discussed the “Power to the PIN” initiative and emphasized obtaining required signatures before services begin. Signatures may be obtained electronically or as wet signatures and should be captured on applicable documents, including the IPP or addendum.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Community Relations Committee

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

11.2 Executive Finance Committee

Jaklen Keshishyan reported that the Executive Finance Committee met on May 26. The Committee received a financial update from Vini Montague and a Human Resources update regarding filled positions and positions that remain open for recruitment. The Committee also discussed outstanding authorizations and NLACRC's process for identifying and tracking them to support follow-up and completion.

Jaklen Keshishyan asked whether, as Alternate Chair, Jaklen Keshishyan would continue attending Executive Finance Committee meetings. Alex Kopilevich explained that VAC representation on Board committees will be determined at the first VAC meeting of the new fiscal year in August. Alex Kopilevich noted that the VAC Chair typically serves on the Executive Finance Committee with voting rights and that other VAC representatives may be assigned to committees, such as the Nominating Committee, when appointments are determined in August.

11.3 Nominating Committee

Alex Kopilevich reported that the Nominating Committee had not met during the previous one to two months and that its next meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2026. VAC representatives to the Nominating Committee and Executive Finance Committee will be determined at the August 13 VAC meeting.

12. BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

No items were identified to forward to the Board of Trustees.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT

Alex Kopilevich thanked NLACRC staff and VAC members for their support and collaboration during Alex Kopilevich's six years of service on the Vendor Advisory Committee, including the years served as Chair. Alex Kopilevich expressed confidence in incoming Chair Tal Segalovitch's continued leadership and commitment to the community.

Alex Kopilevich also recognized outgoing VAC members Cal Enriquez and Daniel Ortiz for their service and noted that recognition plaques would be provided to them.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format at the Chatsworth office and via Zoom.

15. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:33 a.m.