North Los Angeles County Regional Center
**Nominating Committee Meeting Minutes**

August 5, 2026

**Present:** Curtis Wang, Sharmila Brunjes, Juan Hernandez **– Committee Members**

Evelyn McOmie, Arezo Abedi, Chris Whitlock – **Staff Members**

**Absent:** Lety Garcia

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## I. Call to Order

Board Secretary and Committee Co-Chair Curtis Wang read NLACRC'S mission statement and called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.

## II. Review of the Agenda and Approval of Agenda

**M/S/C (Sharmila Brunjes/Juan Hernandez) To approve the agenda. Motion carried.**

## III. Public Input

There was no additional public input.

## IV. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes from the April 1, 2026 Meeting

**M/S/C (Sharmila Brunjes/Juan Hernandez) to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.**

## V. Action Items

A. Elect Nominating Committee Chair(s) for FY 2026-27

Evelyn McOmie facilitated the election of the Nominating Committee Chair for FY 2026–2027. Curtis Wang expressed interest in serving as Chair, with no other members expressing interest. The Committee agreed to conduct a verbal vote and confirmed that Curtis was permitted to vote in the election.

**Curtis Wang was elected Nominating Committee Chair for FY 2026–2027. The selection of a Co-Chair was tabled until the next Nominating Committee meeting.**

ACTION: Lindsay Granger will add the election of Committee co-chair to the September agenda.

B. Review and Approve 2026 Board Composition Survey and Plan of Correction to Submit to DDS

Evelyn McOmie presented the draft FY 2026–2027 Board Composition Plan for the Committee's review and input. Evelyn McOmie explained that, while the Board currently meets several statutory composition requirements, one additional Hispanic/Latino trustee is needed to meet the current Board composition requirement. The Nominating Committee will therefore need to re-engage recruitment efforts and submit a plan to DDS outlining how the Board intends to achieve compliance as expeditiously as possible.

Evelyn McOmie reviewed the recruitment approach previously established under the Juntos en la Mesa – Where Every Voice Builds the Future campaign. The strategy included outreach to Hispanic/Latino networks, Chambers of Commerce, community-based organizations, culturally relevant media outlets, and social media platforms, including LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook. Recruitment progress would continue to be measured through key performance indicators, including candidate outreach, partnerships formed, and Board applications received.

Sharmila Brunjes raised the recent legislative changes under SB 163 and the potential impact on the Board's recruitment strategy. Evelyn McOmie reviewed the updated requirements under Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4622, which become effective January 1, 2028. The changes provide that regional center governing boards may have no more than 17 members and must include individuals with expertise in California law, management, board governance, fiscal or financial matters, and administration of developmental disability programs. The Committee discussed proactively considering these areas of expertise when recruiting prospective candidates while recognizing that the immediate composition need is one additional Hispanic/Latino trustee.

Chris Whitlock discussed the effectiveness of the previous recruitment campaign and reported that digital and social media outreach had been more successful than print advertising. Chris Whitlock recommended focusing recruitment resources on digital outreach and continuing engagement with Hispanic/Latino Chambers of Commerce.

Sharmila Brunjes recommended more intentional outreach to organizations and professional networks that could help identify Hispanic/Latino candidates who also possess areas of expertise identified in the new statutory requirements. Juan Hernandez agreed that identifying a candidate who meets multiple desired criteria could be challenging and recommended continuing Chamber of Commerce outreach and exploring additional community-based and geographically targeted networks. The Committee also discussed outreach through schools, hospitals, professional organizations, support groups, and other community networks.

The Committee supported expanding targeted digital outreach, including greater use of LinkedIn to reach prospective candidates with relevant professional backgrounds. Members also discussed geographically targeted social media outreach and the possibility of engaging disability-related organizations and influencers through NLACRC's existing social media platforms. The Committee favored prioritizing targeted, lower-cost digital strategies before committing significant resources to a broader paid recruitment campaign.

Evelyn McOmie incorporated the Committee's recommendations into the draft plan during the meeting. The revised strategy included continued use of the Juntos en la Mesa campaign; engagement with established Hispanic/Latino networks, Chambers of Commerce, support groups, schools, and community-based organizations; and increased use of social media and digital platforms to identify prospective Board members who meet established qualifications and criteria. The Committee also discussed potentially using WhatsApp as an additional outreach platform. Evelyn McOmie noted that further review would be necessary because WhatsApp is not currently an NLACRC platform and its use could involve Board budget considerations.

The Committee agreed to continue tracking recruitment progress through key performance indicators, including candidate outreach, partnerships formed, and Board applications received, while maintaining a consistent posting schedule and appropriate budget to maximize reach and impact.

Evelyn McOmie asked the Committee to establish a timeline for filling the current composition vacancy. The Committee agreed on a 90-day goal to recruit and onboard a qualified candidate. Evelyn McOmie clarified that a qualified candidate identified during this period could move forward through the interview and election process without waiting for the regular annual recruitment cycle because the vacancy is necessary to address the current Board composition deficiency.

Sharmila Brunjes noted that additional Board vacancies are anticipated when current trustee terms expire and discussed the importance of continuing recruitment beyond the immediate vacancy. The Committee discussed beginning interviews earlier, potentially fast-tracking qualified candidates when appropriate, and maintaining other prospective candidates for consideration through the regular Board recruitment and election process.

Evelyn McOmie also proposed language recognizing the significant progress the Nominating Committee has made toward achieving Board composition compliance. The revised plan would state that the Committee remains actively engaged in recruitment efforts and that, as qualified applicants are identified, the Committee will determine whether to proceed with interviews. If qualified applicants are not identified, NLACRC will continue active recruitment efforts until suitable candidates are secured. Evelyn McOmie explained that, following Committee approval, the revised Board Composition Plan would be finalized, routed for the appropriate signatures, and presented to the Board of Trustees for approval before submission to DDS.

**M/S/C (Sharmila Brunjes/Juan Hernandez) to recommend the revised FY 2026–2027 Board Composition Plan to the full Board of Trustees for approval and subsequent submission to DDS. Motion carried.**

## VI. Committee Business

A. Orientation

a. Bylaws
b. Guidelines & Procedures
c. Review Committee Planning Calendar for FY 2026-2027
d. Review Meeting Schedule for FY 2026-27

Evelyn McOmie noted that the Nominating Committee meeting was taking place before the upcoming Board Orientation, when new Board members would receive information about the various committees and have an opportunity to express interest in committee participation. Evelyn McOmie explained that the Nominating Committee orientation, including review of the bylaws, Guidelines & Procedures, and meeting schedule, is typically conducted after committee membership has been established.

Evelyn McOmie recommended either proceeding with the orientation or postponing the discussion until the September meeting, when additional members may have joined the Committee. Evelyn McOmie clarified that, under the bylaws, the Nominating Committee must consist of no fewer than three trustees and one representative from the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC). The VAC representative does not necessarily need to be the VAC Chair.

The Committee agreed that postponing the orientation would allow newly appointed Committee members and the VAC representative to participate in the full orientation and review. Committee Business Items 6A.1–6A.4, including the orientation, bylaws, Guidelines & Procedures, and meeting schedule, were therefore tabled until the September Nominating Committee meeting.

**M/S/C (Sharmila Brunjes/Juan Hernandez) to table Committee Business Items 6A.1–6A.4 until the September Nominating Committee meeting. Motion carried.**

B. Confidentiality Statements for Nominating Committee Members FY 2026-2027

Evelyn McOmie provided an update regarding the FY 2026–2027 Confidential Statements required for Nominating Committee members. Evelyn McOmie confirmed that all Committee members currently listed on the agenda have submitted their required Confidential Statements and thanked the members for completing the requirement.

Evelyn McOmie noted that reminders and follow-up will be provided to any additional members who join the Nominating Committee and need to complete the required statement.

C. Review Members Terms for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Evelyn McOmie reviewed the Board member terms for FY 2026–2027 with the Committee. Evelyn McOmie noted that Nicholas Abrahms and Lety Garcia have terms ending January 15, 2027, representing the next upcoming term expirations.

The Committee reviewed the distribution of future term expiration dates to ensure that Board membership remains appropriately staggered. Evelyn McOmie emphasized the importance of avoiding multiple members terming out simultaneously in order to maintain continuity and experienced membership on the Board and its committees.

The Committee also reviewed upcoming term expirations in future years. Evelyn McOmie noted that the largest concentration of term expirations is currently anticipated in 2030, with four members reaching the end of their terms, while other expiration dates are more evenly distributed. The Committee acknowledged the importance of monitoring these dates to anticipate future recruitment needs.

D. Review Committee Actions for FY 2025-2026

Evelyn McOmie provided a year-end review of the Nominating Committee's actions during FY 2025–2026, noting that the Committee had a particularly active year, largely due to Board recruitment and composition efforts.

Evelyn McOmie highlighted the Committee's work throughout the fiscal year, including Board membership renewals, review of Board member terms, Board composition and corrective action planning, review of Board applicants and applicant interviews, and ongoing development of the Board recruitment campaign. A special meeting was held during the year to review five applicants as recruitment activity increased.

The Committee also reviewed and updated its Guidelines & Procedures, established the practice of having a Committee Co-Chair, and regularly reviewed DDS Board composition requirements. Recruitment remained a significant focus, with the Committee reviewing numerous applicants and conducting multiple candidate interviews. Evelyn McOmie noted that approximately 13 applicants were under consideration during a particularly active period of recruitment.

Additional actions during the year included reviewing and approving Board membership terms, continuing applicant interviews, closing the Board application period as candidates were identified, discussing the applicant rating process, and reviewing updates to the Board Recruitment Plan.

Evelyn McOmie noted that the Committee met monthly during portions of FY 2025–2026 due to the significant recruitment workload. Later actions included reviewing the Nominating Committee critical calendar, developing and approving the proposed slate of officers, and reviewing Committee actions and items requiring placement on the Board agenda.

Sharmila Brunjes recognized the Committee's significant work during the prior fiscal year and noted that the Committee was beginning FY 2026–2027 in a strong position. Evelyn McOmie noted that the Committee's recruitment progress was also recognized in the FY 2026–2027 Board Composition Plan.

## VI. Review of Meeting Action Items and Board Agenda Items

Evelyn McOmie reviewed the actions taken by the Nominating Committee during the meeting. The Committee's action items included forwarding the FY 2026–2027 Board Composition Plan/Plan of Correction to the Board of Trustees for approval, tabling the Committee orientation, bylaws, Guidelines & Procedures, and meeting schedule until the September meeting, and tabling the Co-Chair nomination and election until the next Nominating Committee meeting.

Sharmila Brunjes requested that the Committee receive an update on the Board recruitment and marketing strategy at the September 2 meeting, particularly regarding the increased focus on social media and targeted outreach. Evelyn McOmie confirmed that Chris Whitlock would be invited to provide an update on recruitment efforts and progress at the September meeting.

The Committee also discussed the 90-day recruitment goal and the potential need to conduct candidate interviews in late September, October, or early November. Evelyn McOmie noted that the existing recruitment campaign is already established and can be reactivated immediately, with recruitment now focused on filling the one remaining position needed to meet Board composition requirements. An update on recruitment progress and implementation of the Committee's outreach recommendations will be provided in September.

For the upcoming Board meeting, Evelyn McOmie confirmed that the Board Composition Plan/Plan of Correction and current Board Composition Report will be presented to the Board of Trustees for review and approval. The Board Composition Report will be included as an enclosure with the plan.

- Board Composition Plan: Present the revised FY 2026–2027 Board Composition Plan/Plan of Correction and Board Composition Report to the Board of Trustees for review and approval.
- Recruitment & Marketing Update: Invite Chris Whitlock to the September 2, 2026 Nominating Committee meeting to provide an update on recruitment and marketing efforts, including targeted social media outreach.
- Recruitment Timeline: Review progress toward the Committee's 90-day recruitment goal at the September meeting.
- Candidate Interviews: Discuss the potential scheduling of candidate interviews in late September, October, or early November, depending on recruitment progress.

- Committee Orientation: Conduct the Nominating Committee orientation and review of the bylaws, Guidelines & Procedures, and meeting schedule at the September meeting.
- Co-Chair Election: Revisit the nomination and election of the Nominating Committee Co-Chair at the next meeting.

## VII. Announcements/Public Input/Information

The next meeting is Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

## VIII. Adjournment

Curtis Wang adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

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