NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER (NLACRC)
9200 OAKDALE AVENUE, SUITE 100
CHATSWORTH, CA 91311

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
HYBRID MEETING – NLACRC CHATSWORTH VALLEY OFFICE/ZOOM
SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 6:00 P.M.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
Sharmila Brunjes (President), Juan Hernandez (Vice President), Anna Hurst (Treasurer), Curtis Wang (Secretary), Leticia Garcia (ARCA Rep), Tal Segalovitch (VAC Chair), Puja Trivedi, Kulwant Dosanjh, George Alvarado, Cathy Blin, Nicholas Abrahms, Jacquie Colton, Jeremy Sunderland, Laura Monge, Jennifer Koster, Jason Taketa

ABSENT:
Jacquie Colton, Sonia Campos, Tal Segalovitch, Curtis Wang

STAFF:
Angela Pao-Johnson - Executive Director, Evelyn McOmie – Deputy Director, Vini Montague – Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Carlo DeAntonio – Director, Clinical Services, Silvia Renteria-Haro, Arshalous Garlanian, Donna Rentsch, Sarah Yap, Elisa Hill, Lindsay Granger, Arezo Abedi

GUESTS:
Lori Walker – NLACRC SDLVAC Chair

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1. INTRODUCTIONS AND CALL TO ORDER

Upon confirmation of quorum, the meeting was called to order by President Sharmila Brunjes at 6:01 PM. Opening remarks included a welcome to the new Board of Trustees members, reminders for participants to display their full names, and guidance for Board members to state their names when making or seconding motions to support accurate minute-taking.

The Board reviewed the organization's mission and vision statements, reaffirming its commitment to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities in leading healthy, productive, and inclusive lives. Meeting protocols were also outlined, including public comment procedures—limited to agenda items at the beginning of the meeting, with general public input scheduled later—and adherence to the civility code to ensure respectful and inclusive dialogue.

Housekeeping items included confirmation that Spanish interpretation was available and instructions for Board members to update their display names to include their role and geographic designation.

2. IMPACT STORY FROM INDIVIDUAL SERVED

Executive Director Angela Pao-Johnson shared an impact story from Isaac Prendis an individual served.

3. BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE/QUORUM

Board members were confirmed in attendance on Zoom. Quorum was confirmed by staff.

4. AGENDA – APPROVAL

Sharmila Brunjes noted one change to the agenda an additional 15 minutes would be added to the closed session.

Absent objection, the agenda was approved as amended.

5. PUBLIC INPUT & COMMENTS—RESERVED FOR AGENDA ITEMS

During the public input portion of the meeting, Sharmila Brunjes reminded attendees that comments were limited to agenda items, with a three-minute time limit per speaker.

Lori Walker, Chair of the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee (SDLAC), shared ongoing feedback from participants and families regarding delays, administrative burdens, inconsistent information and support, and accountability and access within the Self-Determination Program (SDP). Lori Walker also emphasized participants' continued support for SDP, including its flexibility and participant choice. Lori Walker encouraged the Board to review the committee's monthly feedback and support efforts to address identified areas for improvement.

Claudia Wenger, Claudia Cares Consulting, expressed concerns regarding delays experienced by individuals entering SDP and those transitioning into subsequent program years. Claudia Wenger reported delays with POS authorizations, scheduling IPP meetings, and receiving IPP agreements. Claudia Wenger requested that the Board review and track turnaround times, consider additional service coordinator training related to SDP requests, and establish clear timelines for providing IPP agreements following meetings.

Jon Francis, SDLAC member and Board liaison, echoed concerns regarding SDP and discussed the need for greater transparency and continuity throughout the process. Jon Francis noted that clearer information regarding where participants are in the process could help families better understand delays and next steps.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Board President Sharmila Brunjes presented the consent calendar and noted that all consent items would be approved in one motion unless a Board member or member of the public requested discussion. No requests or objections were made. Sharmila Brunjes noted that Consent Item B had been removed from consideration.

The Board approved the following consent items:

A. Approval of the Board of Trustees meeting minutes from August 12, 2026

Sharmila Brunjes asked if there was any discussion.

Absent objection, it was resolved to approve the consent items. Motion carried.

7. ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Approval of Operations Contract – Spectrum Enterprise

Vini Montague presented a new three-year operations contract with Spectrum Enterprise for internet services at all three NLACRC office locations. The contract term is October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2029, for a total of $296,115. Vini Montague shared that NLACRC's IT Director assessed the available options and determined that remaining with Spectrum Enterprise, a Tier 1 service provider, was in NLACRC's best interest.

During discussion, Jeremy Sunderland and Jennifer Koster requested that staff attempt to negotiate removal of the $750 one-time upgrade fee. Vini Montague confirmed that the contracts team would attempt to negotiate the fee.

On a motion made by Jeremy Sunderland, seconded by Jennifer Koster, the Board approved the three-year Spectrum Enterprise contract for internet services in the amount of $296,115. Motion carried.

7.2 **Approval of Investment Strategy for PRMT Trust**; and

7.3 **Approval of Investment Strategy for CalPERS UAL Trust**

Vini Montague presented the annual review of the investment strategies for the Post-Retirement Medical Trust (PRMT) and CalPERS Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) Trust, which were reviewed and recommended by the PRMT Committee.

Vini Montague explained that the PRMT Trust has a longer-term investment outlook and currently maintains an allocation of approximately 60% stocks and 40% bonds. The higher stock allocation reflects the longer investment timeframe. The PRMT Committee recommended maintaining the existing investment strategy.

Vini Montague also reviewed the investment strategy for the CalPERS UAL Trust, which has a shorter investment timeframe due to annual distributions made toward NLACRC's unfunded liability obligation with CalPERS. The UAL Trust currently maintains an allocation of approximately 40% stocks and 60% bonds. The PRMT Committee recommended maintaining the existing investment strategy.

Sharmila Brunjes recognized the strong performance of the accounts and Vini Montague and the Finance team's management of the investments.

As both recommendations came from the PRMT Committee, no motion or second was required. The Board approved maintaining the existing investment strategies for the PRMT Trust and CalPERS UAL Trust. Motion carried.

7.4 **Review and Approve Fiscal year 2026-2027 Committee Assignments**

Sharmila Brunjes provided an overview of the Board's current committee structure, including the committee consolidations implemented during FY 2025–26. Sharmila Brunjes encouraged Trustees to evaluate the effectiveness of the current structure over the coming months, including meeting frequency and whether the combined committees are serving the Board effectively.

Sharmila Brunjes explained that the Bylaws require Board approval of committee assignments and committee chairs. Trustees may attend and participate in discussions at any committee meeting but may only vote on committees to which they are assigned. Committee assignment changes may be brought back to the Board for approval at future meetings.

On a motion made by Jennifer Koster, seconded by Kulwant Dosanjh, the Board approved the FY 2026–27 committee assignments and committee chairs. Motion carried.

7.5 Approval of Change in Community Relations Committee Name to Community and Government Relations Committee

Jeremy Sunderland presented the Community Relations Committee's recommendation to rename the committee following the consolidation of the Consumer Services Committee and Government and Community Relations Committee during the previous fiscal year. Jeremy Sunderland explained that the committee considered a new name that would better represent the responsibilities of the combined committee and encompass NLACRC's stakeholders and broader community.

The committee recommended changing the name to the Community and Government Relations Committee to better reflect the scope and purpose of the combined committee.

As the recommendation was brought forward by the committee, no second was required. The Board approved changing the committee's name to the Community and Government Relations Committee. Motion carried.

7.6 Approval of Board of Trustees Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Priorities

Sharmila Brunjes presented the proposed FY 2026–27 Board of Trustees priorities, which were developed through discussions at the June Board Retreat and subsequent Board trainings. Sharmila Brunjes explained that while the Strategic Plan guides the Regional Center, the Board priorities are intended to focus on the Board's specific governance and leadership responsibilities and how the Board can support the organization in achieving its goals.

The proposed Board priorities are to listen to consumer and family experiences and what they communicate about the Regional Center as a whole; guide the Strategic Plan through regular dialogue regarding progress, adjustments, and outcomes; advance the Regional Center through a strong and accountable partnership with the Executive Director; reinforce the policies, practices, conduct, and roles through which the Board governs; and build a Board that is equipped, well-integrated, and prepared for the work ahead. Sharmila Brunjes noted that strategies and desired outcomes associated with each priority are still being developed and will return to the Board separately.

During discussion, Lety Garcia expressed support for the priorities but emphasized the importance of establishing timelines, strategies, and accountability measures to ensure the priorities result in meaningful action. In particular, Lety Garcia discussed the priority of listening to consumer and family experiences and the importance of demonstrating how feedback received from individuals served and families will be translated into action. Lety Garcia initially suggested returning within 30 days with strategies and implementation goals and later suggested having at least a draft available by the November Board meeting.

Anna Hurst agreed with the importance of moving from priorities to actionable strategies and discussed the need for an intentional process that captures meaningful consumer and family feedback rather than focusing solely on quantitative outputs. Anna Hurst suggested considering a workgroup or utilizing the Community and Government Relations Committee to identify strategies for obtaining feedback from groups experiencing service barriers and other areas of concern.
Sharmila Brunjes clarified that the item before the Board was limited to approval of the priorities and that the specific process for developing strategies and outcomes did not need to be determined during the meeting. Sharmila Brunjes stated that the Board would organize

next steps following the meeting, which could include committee work, a workgroup, or Board volunteers, with the goal of developing strategies and outcomes for discussion or presentation at the November Board meeting.

On a motion made by George Alvarado, seconded by Jennifer Koster, the Board approved the FY 2026–27 Board of Trustees priorities. Motion carried.

ACTION: The Board will organize next steps to develop strategies and outcomes associated with the priorities, with the goal of bringing progress forward at the November Board meeting.

8. BOARD BUSINESS

8.1 Presentation on Clinical Services Department

Dr. Carlo DeAntonio, Director of Clinical Services, provided an overview of NLACRC's Clinical Services Department and the scope of clinical support provided to individuals served, families, case management, service providers, and Regional Center operations. Dr. Carlo DeAntonio explained that the department consists of three primary areas: Behavioral Services, Intake and Psychological Services, and Medical and Nursing Services, with additional dental consultation and coordination services.

Dr. Arpi Arabian provided an overview of Behavioral Services, which is staffed by Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs). Behavioral Services provides behavioral consultation and observation, reviews Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) service requests, participates in interdisciplinary consultations for complex cases, reviews program designs, assists with due process testimony and complex care reviews, and provides clinical oversight and support for Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes (EBSH) and Community Crisis Homes (CCH). Dr. Arpi Arabian explained that EBSH and CCH homes serve individuals with highly complex care needs.

Dr. Arpi Arabian highlighted the volume and complexity of Behavioral Services' work. The team receives approximately 400 behavioral consultation and observation referrals and approximately 400 initial ABA service requests for minors each month. The team also completes approximately 65 interdisciplinary clinical consultations monthly for complex cases requiring multidisciplinary expertise. Behavioral Services currently participates in monitoring four operational EBSH and CCH homes, with four additional homes planned to open during the year, which would bring the total under oversight to eight.

Dr. Carlo DeAntonio presented an overview of Medical and Nursing Services on behalf of Dr. Margaret Swain. The nursing team provides more than 100 consultations each month and assists with determining medical levels of care for respite requests and out-of-home residential placements. The team also reviews approximately 60–70 medically related Special Incident Reports each month, completes approximately 50 ICF recertification forms monthly, assists with complex hospital discharge planning and post-discharge levels of care, and participates in required monitoring of EBSH and CCH homes. Dr. Carlo DeAntonio also noted that Clinical Services includes a registered dental hygienist who serves as a dental consultant.

Dr. Sandy Fischer, Intake and Psychological Manager, reviewed the department's role in determining eligibility for Regional Center services. Intake and Psychological Services evaluates children transitioning from the Early Start program as well as individuals over age three applying for Regional Center services. Dr. Sandy Fischer reported that the team conducts approximately 470 evaluations each month for children exiting Early Start, approximately 450 evaluations for individuals over age three, and approximately 521 psychological assessments monthly.

Dr. Sandy Fischer explained that psychological assessments are used to determine whether an applicant has a qualifying developmental disability. Licensed and supervised psychologists conduct the assessments, and a multidisciplinary clinical team meets daily to review cases and make eligibility determinations. Individuals determined eligible are transitioned to case management. When an individual is determined not eligible, the team works to identify appropriate community resources, including medical, mental health, and school-based services, and individuals retain due process rights regarding eligibility determinations.

Dr. Carlo DeAntonio highlighted the significant volume of individuals entering NLACRC services and the effect of continued growth on the organization. Dr. Carlo DeAntonio noted that the volume of Early Start and over-age-three intake referrals can result in the addition of multiple new caseloads each month, creating an ongoing need for additional case management capacity as NLACRC continues to grow.

In response to a question from Lety Garcia regarding staffing, Dr. Carlo DeAntonio reported that Clinical Services has approximately 40–45 staff, including approximately 28 staff within Intake, six nursing staff, and six Behavioral Services staff, along with administrative and scheduling support. Dr. Carlo DeAntonio stated that the department is fully staffed under its current staffing plan, with one intake position being actively recruited, but noted that additional positions may be necessary to accommodate continued growth.

In response to questions from Laura Monge, Dr. Carlo DeAntonio discussed assistance available to families needing conservatorship or other benefit-related documentation. Dr. Carlo DeAntonio explained that families are generally directed first to the individual's treating physician or provider; however, Clinical Services may assist on a case-by-case basis when the treating provider is unavailable or unable to complete the required documentation. Some conservatorship documentation may require a new psychological evaluation before the forms can be completed.

Dr. Carlo DeAntonio also reviewed dental coordination services available to individuals served. NLACRC's dental coordinator, Lisa Butters, assists families with identifying appropriate dental resources, including providers capable of providing treatment under sedation or anesthesia when necessary. Dr. Carlo DeAntonio noted that some specialized dental services can be difficult to locate due to limitations in the available provider network. Families needing assistance may contact their case manager for a referral to the dental coordinator to help identify an appropriate community resource.

No additional questions were raised.

8.2 <u>5-Minute Fiscal Brief: Purchase of Services Expenditure Projection (PEP)</u>

Vini Montague presented a five-minute fiscal brief on the Purchase of Services Expenditure Projection (PEP) Report and explained how the report is used by NLACRC and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The PEP is required under NLACRC's contract with DDS and identifies actual and projected Purchase of Services (POS) expenditures for the fiscal year.

Vini Montague explained that the PEP estimates NLACRC's total POS expenditures for the fiscal year and requires analysis of several factors that can affect projected spending. These include actual year-to-date expenditures, anticipated late billing, projected caseload growth and the expenditures necessary to support that growth, changes in service utilization compared with prior years, provider rate changes, health and safety rates, minimum wage increases, new vendor programs, program closures, legislative changes through trailer bills, and other changes affecting services and expenditures. Vini Montague noted that although

the report may appear straightforward, developing an accurate projection is a complex process.

Vini Montague explained that NLACRC compares the PEP projection against its DDS allocation to assess whether the organization is projected to have sufficient funding for the fiscal year and whether a surplus or deficit is anticipated. The PEP also assists NLACRC in assessing cash sufficiency because the cash advance received from DDS is based on the allocation. Understanding the relationship between projected expenditures and the allocation helps NLACRC anticipate its cash needs throughout the year.

Vini Montague further explained that DDS uses PEP reports submitted by all 21 regional centers to evaluate funding needs across the statewide regional center system. DDS uses the information to assess overall funding sufficiency as well as the adequacy of individual regional center allocations. Depending on expenditure projections and the timing within the fiscal year, DDS may adjust allocations between regional centers when one is projecting a surplus and another is projecting a deficit. The reports also assist DDS in estimating funding requirements for future fiscal years.

Vini Montague demonstrated how the results of the PEP are reflected in NLACRC's financial statements. Within the POS section, the financial statements identify NLACRC's allocation and PEP projection, allowing the Board to see whether current projections indicate an anticipated surplus or deficit.

In response to a question from Lety Garcia regarding the reporting schedule, Vini Montague clarified that under the standard schedule, the first PEP report for a fiscal year is due December 10, with reports generally submitted monthly through September 10 of the following year. Vini Montague noted that DDS has waived the PEP reporting requirement for certain months due to the significant workload associated with rate implementation.

Lety Garcia also asked about the factors contributing to the approximately $11 million projected POS shortfall reflected in the financial information. Vini Montague explained that the projected deficit results from a combination of factors. DDS typically does not provide 100% of projected funding needs in the initial allocations and may hold back a portion of funding while monitoring expenditure trends throughout the fiscal year. DDS may subsequently provide additional allocations, and in some years may issue a third allocation based on demonstrated needs.

Vini Montague also identified rate implementation as a significant factor affecting the current projection. Rate implementation has made it more challenging for both regional centers and DDS to accurately forecast expenditures. In particular, FY 2025–26 included the movement or "crosswalk" of expenditures from one service code to another, which further complicated expenditure projections.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Angela Pao-Johnson provided updates on NLACRC initiatives, service delivery, staffing and caseloads, legislative developments, compliance activities, and community engagement efforts.

Angela Pao-Johnson recognized Javier Zepeda, NLACRC's LGBTQ+ Specialist, for being invited to present at the ARCA Cultural Specialist Meeting. Javier Zepeda shared NLACRC's work and experience supporting and engaging diverse communities with Cultural Specialists from regional centers statewide. Angela Pao-Johnson also highlighted the LGBTQ+ support group facilitated by Javier Zepeda and encouraged individuals, families, and community members who may benefit from the group to participate. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that the

recognition reflects NLACRC's efforts toward meaningful engagement with its diverse community.

Angela Pao-Johnson reported that Case Management finalized a new Self-Determination Program (SDP) Manual for individuals served and their families. The manual is intended to provide information and guidance regarding the Self-Determination Program and is currently being translated into Spanish. NLACRC plans to release the English and Spanish versions together once the translation is completed.

During discussion, Lety Garcia asked about the anticipated release date and distribution of the SDP Manual. Evelyn McOmie reported that the manual had been sent for translation approximately two weeks earlier and estimated that the translation could take approximately six weeks due to the size of the document. Evelyn McOmie stated that staff would obtain a more specific estimated completion date and provide that information to the Board. The manual is currently in digital format, and NLACRC will work with Public Information to develop a distribution plan. Distribution options may include online access, QR codes linking directly to the manual, and hard copies for individuals who need them.

Angela Pao-Johnson announced that NLACRC will be joining the LANES Medical Information Exchange, a secure health information exchange that allows participating healthcare organizations to share and access patient medical information. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that obtaining medical information can create delays during the intake process and that participation in LANES is expected to improve access to necessary records and reduce the time spent waiting for medical information.

Angela Pao-Johnson reported continued progress in reducing Adult and Transition caseloads. Santa Clarita Valley Adult and Transition units are currently in the mid-60s, bringing the office closer to statutory caseload requirements. Adult and Transition caseloads in the Antelope Valley and San Fernando Valley are generally in the mid-70s, with the exception of the San Fernando Valley Transition unit, which has increased into the 80s. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that NLACRC continues to hire staff to address caseload needs.

Angela Pao-Johnson provided an update regarding Senate Bill 163 and potential changes affecting the Consumer Advisory Committee and Board composition. Under the new requirements described during the presentation, the Board will appoint an advisory group composed of individuals with lived experience with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The advisory group will select two of its members and one family member or legal guardian of a member to serve on the Board. At least one of the designees must also serve as a voting member of the Board committee responsible for recruitment.

Angela Pao-Johnson discussed concerns regarding how the new structure could affect the independence of consumer representation. Because the Board would appoint the advisory group that subsequently selects individuals to serve on the Board, Angela Pao-Johnson noted concerns regarding potential Board influence over the composition of the group. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that NLACRC's current Consumer Advisory Committee intentionally maintains an open membership model in which an individual automatically becomes a member after attending five meetings, allowing individuals served to participate without the Board determining who may hold membership in the committee. Angela Pao-Johnson reported that the Consumer Advisory Committee would like to preserve this structure.

Angela Pao-Johnson also discussed how the new requirements interact with existing Board composition requirements, including requirements related to representation of individuals receiving Regional Center services and family members. Additional concerns were raised regarding the requirement for a family member or legal guardian to be included among the advisory group's Board designees and whether this could unintentionally suggest that

individuals served require another person to represent their interests. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that regional centers have until January 1, 2028 to comply and that ARCA continues advocacy efforts related to implementation. Angela Pao-Johnson recommended that NLACRC remain engaged, seek clarification regarding implementation, and retain its current Consumer Advisory Committee structure while awaiting further direction.

Angela Pao-Johnson reported that NLACRC currently has 985 filled positions and continues to make progress in recruitment. Angela Pao-Johnson reported eight new hires at the beginning of the September hiring cycle and five confirmed hires for the next cycle, with additional hires anticipated. During discussion, Lety Garcia recognized NLACRC's progress in reducing vacancies and noted that the organization had previously averaged significantly more open positions. Lety Garcia acknowledged Human Resources, staff training, and other staff involved in recruitment for their efforts. Angela Pao-Johnson stated that the recognition would be shared with Human Resources.

Angela Pao-Johnson reported that NLACRC currently serves 43,371 individuals. During August, 573 Early Start intakes and 554 intakes for individuals over age three were opened. These figures represent newly opened intakes during August and do not include cases that remained in the intake process from previous months. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that the intake volume reflects the significant workload discussed earlier during the Clinical Services presentation.

Angela Pao-Johnson also provided an update on compliance activities. NLACRC completed 132 residential visits, including 36 unannounced in-person visits. Three corrective action plans were issued, and no plans of improvement were issued for non-licensed providers during the reporting period.

Angela Pao-Johnson highlighted the Vietnamese Lotus Village gathering, which was developed in response to feedback received from Vietnamese families during previous focus groups. The gathering was designed to provide families with an opportunity to connect with one another while celebrating culture and building community. NLACRC also provided information regarding Regional Center services and generic community resources available to families. Twelve families attended the gathering and participated in the potluck-style event. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that NLACRC does not currently have a Vietnamese support group and expressed interest in the possibility of continued engagement opportunities for the community.

Angela Pao-Johnson concluded the report by highlighting upcoming meetings and opportunities for engagement, including the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee meeting on September 17, Disability Rights California's Board meeting on September 19, and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities Council meeting on September 29.

10. PUBLIC INPUT & COMMENTS

Sharmila Brunjes opened public input and allotted approximately 30–35 minutes for comments, with each speaker provided up to three minutes.

Diem Johnson expressed concern about delays in processing a recreational service request, reporting that approval took 43 days. Diem Johnson emphasized the need for timely decisions, clear communication, and accountability.

Fernando Gomez, Co-Founder of the Integrated Community Collaborative (ICC), expressed concern about increased issues within NLACRC's service area. Fernando Gomez supported the Board's consideration of a Community and Government Relations Committee and recommended establishing a community liaison to improve communication. Fernando Gomez

raised concerns about meeting chat restrictions and emphasized the importance of open community participation. Fernando Gomez indicated plans to contact Executive Director Angela Pao-Johnson to address concerns. Sharmila Brunjes clarified that the meeting chat was closed and a participant was removed due to a violation of the Code of Conduct shared in the chat.

Elizabeth Gomez, Integrated Community Collaborative (ICC), shared concerns reported by families regarding service and reimbursement delays, unanswered communications, and lengthy SDP transitions. Elizabeth Gomez encouraged clearer SDP timelines and more open opportunities for community feedback.

Manuela Herrera raised concerns regarding the accuracy of interpretation services, the lack of regional center services for the speaker's son for two years, unanswered communications, and limited opportunities for parent participation in Board meetings.

Josefina Romo, Integrated Community Collaborative (ICC), expressed concern about restrictions on meeting microphones and chat, questioning how effective communication could occur. Josefina Romo also raised concerns about delays and barriers in transitioning to the Self-Determination Program despite beginning the process months in advance. Josefina Romo emphasized that regional center services should reflect participants' individual preferences rather than decisions made by service coordinators.

Janeth Vargas discussed difficulty reaching service coordinators and extended waits for services. Janeth Vargas also expressed concern regarding lengthy SDP transition timelines and requested greater attention to these delays.

Mary Angela Flores expressed concern about delays in service approvals, previously approved services being questioned without clear justification or explanation of policy changes, and recurring communication issues. Mary Angela Flores stated that these delays can effectively result in denial of services without formal notification. Mary Angela Flores requested that the Committee review the causes of delays, the justification for questioning previously approved services, and measures to ensure timely communication and approvals. Mary Angela Flores emphasized the need for a formal, transparent, and objective review.

Rosa Crespo expressed concern about service delays, the discontinuation of a service for her son, and difficulty obtaining responses by telephone and email. Rosa Crespo reported waiting since July for a response regarding the Self-Determination Program and urged NLACRC to address families' concerns.

Sharmila Brunjes noted that comments submitted through the meeting chat could be translated and reviewed following the meeting.

Gabriela Alatorre expressed concern about administrative delays, unanswered communications, and service disruptions affecting individuals' safety and well-being and creating financial burdens for families. Gabriela Alatorre also raised concerns about delays in the Self-Determination Program, including vendor changes and annual transitions, and urged the Board to address these issues.

Karla expressed concern about confusion surrounding the Self-Determination Program transition process, including unfamiliar folders and unanswered questions. Karla also expressed support for other parents who raised similar concerns.

Christina Canarella, former Board member, expressed concern about ongoing service coordination issues, barriers to accessing services, and delays in transitioning to the Self-Determination Program. Christina Canarella reported that DDS found violations of her son's

rights following a Section 4731 complaint and that service coordination concerns continued following corrective action. Christina Canarella also raised concerns about delayed services, unanswered communications, and being asked to agree to her son's day program termination as a condition of receiving music therapy.

Yolanda Gracia echoed concerns about service delays and barriers affecting families, including a pending service request. Yolanda Gracia encouraged NLACRC to identify ways to reduce delays, simplify processes, and prevent disruptions to services.

Laura Olide expressed concern about longstanding, unresolved parent complaints, restrictions on the meeting chat, and the lack of responses to requests for assistance. Laura Olide urged the Board to listen to parents, provide meaningful responses and solutions, and recognize the importance of parents advocating for children who may be unable to express their needs independently.

Sharmila Brunjes concluded public input after the allotted time and encouraged individuals with additional comments to submit them by email or participate at a future meeting.

With no additional public comments, the Board proceeded to closed session.

11. CLOSED SESSION

Sharmila Brunjes announced that the Board would move into closed session to discuss personnel and the Executive Director Performance Evaluation.

Absent objection the Board moved into closed session at 8:05 p.m.

A motion was made by the Negotiating Committee. An amendment was made by Juan Hernandez, seconded by Lety Garcia. An amendment to the amendment was made by Sharmila, seconded by Anna Hurst, and the motion was carried regarding the topic on personnel.

No other votes were made.

Absent objection, the Board left closed session at 9:19 p.m.

12. SDLVAC LIAISON REPORT AND SELF-DETERMINATION (SDP) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Jennifer Koster provided an update following attendance at the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee meeting. Jennifer Koster reported that participants and families raised concerns similar to those shared during public comment, including delayed responses, lengthy transitions into the Self-Determination Program (SDP), and delays during various stages of the process.

Jennifer Koster noted that concerns involved coordination with Client Services Coordinators, supervisors, and staff overseeing SDP. Sharmila Brunjes noted that Jennifer Koster's more comprehensive written report was included in the Board packet. Jennifer Koster also requested that SDP-related concerns raised during public comment be reflected in the meeting minutes.

Evelyn McOmie reported that as of September 1, 2026, NLACRC had 958 certified budgets, 896 approved plans, 30 spending plans in progress, and 777 completed Person-Centered Plans. The co-employer model remains the most commonly used FMS model, and SDP transitions continue to generally trend upward.

Evelyn McOmie concluded with reminders regarding SDP orientations, the upcoming Self-Determination Support Group, and the September 17 Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee meeting.

13. ITEMS 13-20

The Board received the following committee reports for information:

- Association of Regional Center Agencies presented by Jeremy Sunderland.

  Jeremy Sunderland reported that ARCA's upcoming priorities include supporting DSP workforce training and retention, developing benefits counseling services, and pursuing adequate funding under the regional center allocation methodology. Jeremy Sunderland also encouraged Trustees to attend the upcoming ARCA Academy for training and networking with regional center Board members statewide.

  The next ARCA meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2026, in San Diego.

- Consumer Advisory Committee presented by Juan Hernandez

  Jennifer Koster provided an update in Juan Hernandez's absence and reported that the committee held elections and approved two co-chair positions. The next CAC meeting is scheduled for November 5 at 5:00 p.m.

- Executive Finance Committee presented by Sharmila Brunjes and Anna Hurst.

  Sharmila Brunjes reported that the Executive Finance Committee completed its orientation and reviewed insurance, audit requirements and updates, financial reports, whistleblower logs, Human Resources, program closures, and conflict-of-interest matters. The next EFC meeting is scheduled for September 24 at 5:00 p.m.

- Community Relations Committee presented by Jeremy Sunderland and Cathy Blin.

  Jeremy Sunderland and Cathy Blin reported that the committee completed its orientation, reviewed its priorities and meeting schedule, and received regular departmental reports. The Legislative Town Hall is scheduled for November 17, and the committee's next meeting is November 18.

- Nominating Committee presented by Curtis Wang.

  Evelyn McOmie reported that the committee tabled the co-chair election until its next meeting to allow additional time for interested members to come forward. The committee also reviewed Board recruitment efforts and interest forms received to date. The next meeting is scheduled for November 4.

- Post-Retirement Medical Trust Committee presented by Sharmila Brunjes.

  Sharmila Brunjes reported that the committee reviewed the investment strategies addressed earlier under action items and received an economic and market update from its investment advisors. The next PRMT Committee meeting is scheduled for November 19 at 5:00 p.m.

- Vendor Advisory Committee presented by Tal Segalovitch.

  Sharmila Brunjes reported on behalf of Tal Segalovitch that the VAC welcomed Lea Munoz and Alona Yorkshire, bringing membership to 15 vendors. The committee also received an update from accounting regarding the ticketing system used to assist vendors with authorization and billing matters.

The Board acknowledged the committee and liaison reports and proceeded to the next agenda item.

14. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Sharmila Brunjes reminded Trustees to review the attendance records, committee assignments, and meeting calendar included in the Board packet.

No additional old or new business was presented.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION

Evelyn McOmie announced the upcoming Santa Clarita Family Expo and dance for individuals served.

16. NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. as a hybrid meeting from the Santa Clarita Valley office and Zoom.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Absent objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above document should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.