



**Membership Committee Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2025**

Attending Members

Kara Ponton, Chair (SA)
Sonia Jones (SA)
Eric Ybarra (SA)
Harold Ashe (FA)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
Austin Murphy
Beth Hurn
DJ Tomko
Julie Eby-McKenzie

Others Attending (continued)

Lisa Hooks
Lori Walker
Makayla Rustigian
Pierre Landry
Rene Bauer
Robin Maitino-Erben

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Kara Ponton (SA) called the meeting to order at 1:02 P.M.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Members and others introduced themselves as indicated.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lori Walker, Chair of the North Los Angeles County Regional Center Self-Determination Advisory Committee, noted that she also made a public comment at the February membership meeting regarding a vacancy on her local Self-Determination Advisory Committee that has remained unfilled since April 2024. She noted that two qualified candidates applied but were not accepted due to eligibility criteria. She emphasized the importance of including local advisory committees in the assignment process, as they are best positioned to understand local membership needs, and expressed concern that a member was assigned despite having previously been rejected by the regional center.

5. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2025 MINUTES

It was moved/seconded (Ashe [FA]/Jones [SA]) and carried to adopt the

February 4, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. (The motion passed with an abstention from Ybarra [SA]. All other member present voted to approve. See Page 1 for the full list of voting members).

6. **MEMBERSHIP WORKGROUP REPORT**

Committee Chair Kara Ponton (SA) provided a summary of the April 2025 Membership Workgroup Report, which included an overview of the status of reappointments and vacancies for the Regional Advisory Committees and the Local Self-Determination Advisory Committees.

7. **DEMOGRAPHIC MAP**

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers reviewed a map showing the current demographic makeup of the Council.

8. **APPOINTMENT AND VACANCIES**

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers presented the current Appointment and Vacancies Tracking Form to the Committee.

9. **APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL**

The Committee reviewed candidates with expiring first terms and recommended that Julie Gaona be reappointed for a second term. The Committee then evaluated applications for expiring second-term and vacant seats in the At-Large, North Coast, North State, Sacramento, and San Bernardino Region categories. The following actions were taken:

It was moved/seconded (Ashe [FA]/Jones [SA]) and carried to move applicants 917, 926, 930, 944, 946, and 947 forward to the interview process. (Motion passed unanimously. [See Page 1 for the full list of voting members]).

It was moved/seconded (Ashe [FA]/Jones [SA]) and carried to hold applicants 916, 931, 940, and 063 to allow Managers additional time to become more acquainted with the candidates. (Motion passed unanimously. [See Page 1 for the full list of voting members]).

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting at adjourned at 3:11 P.M.