



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Main 818-778-1900 • Fax 818-756-6140 | 9200 Oakdale Avenue #100, Chatsworth, CA 91311 | www.nlacrc.org

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 13, 2025

To: Alex Kopilevich, Chair, Jaklen Keshishyan, Alt. Chair, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Octavia Watkins, Masood Babaeian, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Cal Enriquez, Ute Escorcia, Ricki Macken Chivers, Vahe Mkrtchian, Daniel Ortiz, Jen Pippard, Sharon Weinberg

From: Lindsay Granger
Executive Administrative Assistant

Re: Information and materials for the next Nominating Committee meeting on **Thursday, March 13, at 9:30 a.m.**

Attached is information for the next committee meeting. Please review this information prior to the meeting.

The meeting is a Hybrid Meeting and will be remotely accessible via Zoom. We will send you the Zoom access information via email.

If you have any questions, or if you are unable to attend the meeting, please send us an email to boardsupport@nlacrc.org. Thank you!

Attachments

c: Angela Pao-Johnson, NLACRC Executive Director,
Evelyn McOmie, Deputy Director

Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting 3.13.25

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VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 13, 2025

9:30 am (*Hybrid*)

Zoom/NLARC Antelope Valley Office

~AGENDA~

- I. **Call to Order & Introductions** - Alex Kopilevich, Chair (*1 min*)
- II. **Committee Member Attendance/Quorum** (*1 min*)
- III. **Share Impact Story From Individual Served** (*5 min*)
- IV. **Public Input** - Agenda Items only (*3 min per person, 3-person limit*)
- V. **Consent Items**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the February 13, 2025, Meeting (*1 min*)
 - B. Approval of the Agenda (*1 min*)
- VI. **Action Items**
 - A. Discussion and Vote on (4) VAC Member Applications to Forward to Nominating Committee (4 open positions) — Alex Kopilevich (*25 min*)
 - i. Applicant 1
 - ii. Applicant 2
 - iii. Applicant 3
 - iv. Applicant 4
- VII. **Committee Business**
 - A. NLACRC Grassroots Week Update — Belinda Abatesi (*5 min*)
 - B. Update on Service Provider Vendor Training/Mentorship Program Updates — Alex Kopilevich (*1 min*)
 - C. Self-Determination Update — Silvia Renteria-Haro (*1 min*)
- VIII. **Report Outs**
 - A. **Deputy Director Officer's Report** — Evelyn McOmie (*5 min*)
 - B. **Chief Financial Officer's Report** — Vini Montague (*5 min*)
 - C. **Community Services Director's Report** – Arshalous Garlanian (*5 min*)
 - D. **Legislative Report** – Belinda Abatesi (*5 min*)

Supporting people with developmental disabilities in the San Fernando, Santa Clarita, and Antelope Valleys since 1974.

E. **Executive Director's Report** – Angela Pao-Johnson (*5 min*)

IX. Open Topics for Discussion - Alex Kopilevich

X. Committee Work Group Information:

A. **Early Start Services** (Jodie Agnew-Navarro)
For meeting schedule and information
Contact: Jodie Agnew-Navarro - jodie.agnew-navarro@chimeinstitute.net
Next workgroup meeting: March 20, 2025 @ 9:30am (via Zoom).

B. **School Age Services** (Paul Borda & Cal Enriquez)
For meeting schedule and information
Contact: Paul Borda - paul@abatherapypartners.com
Next workgroup meeting: March 10, 2025 @ 11:00am (via Zoom).

C. **Adult Services** (Octavia Watkins)
For meeting schedule and information
Contact: Octavia Watkins - excellencecrp@gmail.com
Next workgroup meeting: March 10, 2025 @ 10:00am (via Zoom).

XI. Committee Work Group Final Reports

A. Early Start Services (Jodie Agnew-Navarro) (*3 min*)
B. School Age Services (Paul Borda & Cal Enriquez) (*3 min*)
C. Adult Services (Octavia Watkins) (*3 min*)

XII. Board Committee Reports

A. Administrative Affairs (Jaklen Keshishyan -VAC Rep.) (*1 min*)
B. Consumer Services (Sharon Weinberg -VAC Rep.) (*3 min*)
C. Government & Community Relations (Jodie Agnew-Navarro -VAC Rep.) (*3 min*)
D. Nominating (Alex Kopilevich - Committee Member) (*1 min*)
E. Strategic Planning (Octavia Watkins - Committee Member) (*3 min*)

XIII. Board Meeting Agenda Items

XIV. Announcements/Public Input/Information Items (*3 min per person 3-person limit*)

A. Next Meeting: Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Hybrid – In-person location Chatsworth Office
B. Committee Attendance

XV. Adjournment

XVI. Review of Meeting Action Items (Item Owner and Due Date)

**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 / TELECONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 13, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS:

Alex Kopilevich, Jaklen Keshishyan, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Octavia Watkins, Masood Babaeian, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Cal Enriquez, Ute Escorcia, Ricki Macken Chivers, Vahe Mkrtchian, Jen Pippard, Sharon Weinberg

STAFF:

Angela Pao-Johnson, Vini Montague, Arshalous Garlanian, Silvia Renteria-Haro, Betsy Monahan, Evelyn McOmie, Belinda Abatesi, Chris Whitlock, Arezo Abedi, Lindsay Granger, Arezo Abedi

GUESTS:

Mark Wolfe – DDS Tech Advisor, Sasha Chernik- Minute Solutions
Other than panelists, there were 82 other attendees.

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, the meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. Alex Kopilevich presided as Chair.

2. COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Members were asked to identify themselves when speaking or making a motion.

3. PUBLIC INPUT

ACTION – Staff will follow up with DDS about which providers qualify for the ACRE training incentive.

Scott Shepard, Avenues SLS:

Noted that service providers who have an IPP goal may not have the information on how to get receipts reversed. He also inquired about the payments for ACRE training completed by staff.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Jaklen Keshishyan, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on January 9, 2025, as amended. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Masood Babaeian, seconded by Paul Borda, it was resolved to approve the agenda of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on February 13, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Discussion and Vote on VAC Member Applications

On a motion duly made, it was resolved to defer the discussion and vote on the VAC member applications to the next VAC meeting. Motion carried.

ACTION – Staff will email the VAC nominee information to the Board members via encrypted email.

ACTION – Alex Kopilevich will inquire if the fourth applicant is interested in a VAC or Trustee Board position.

The Board noted that there was not enough information provided on the applicants to discuss and make a decision. A personal interest statement and resume would provide the necessary information. Some Board members also had issues accessing the Dropbox folder with the applicant information.

6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.1 Nominations for Annual Jynny Retzinger Community Service Award

Chris Whitlock reported that the nominations for the Jynny Retzinger Community Service Award are open. Jynny Retzinger was a long time NLACRC Board member who was very active in the legislative system and grass roots. A legislative breakfast will be held in 2025 to commemorate Jynny Retzinger.

6.2 Local Grass Roots Visits Update

The team will visit Sacramento in March of 2025. After the Sacramento visit and town hall, the team will focus on forming delegation teams, who will go to Sacramento regularly to continue partnerships with the legislators.

6.3 Service Provider Vendor Training and Mentorship Program Updates

There will be a meeting with the community services team on March 4, 2025. NLACRC will work to provide more support to new vendors.

6.4 Self-Determination Update

If a consumer is transitioning out of the program, vendors need to establish contracts to support the consumer and the vendor. The Board discussed that when consumers enter self-determination, the service codes change, so they are subject to a different skill environment and standards.

6.5 VAC Members' Terms

ACTION – Board Support will complete the outstanding columns in the VAC members' term list.

Several members' terms are expiring. Board Support will provide a letter so members can file official extensions to continue to serve on the Board.

7. REPORT OUTS

7.1 Deputy Director Officer's Report

Evelyn McOmie presented the Deputy Directory Officer's Report. There are currently 912 applicants in the vendor portal. Of those 140 are pending with IT and 146 are pending vendor acceptance. There are 565 vendors up and running and 21 requests submitted with errors which will be followed up with the IT team.

7.2 Chief Financial Officer's Report

Vini Montague presented the Chief Financial Officer's Report. Phase 2B of the rate model implementation has been completed, which included implementation of the rate increase from July of 2024 and processing of retro payments.

Of Phase 3, 23 service codes were implemented before processing the turnaround invoices in January of 2025. There are still 6 service codes which the accounting team is working on internally: 862, 868, 062, 113, 116, 616. Once the service codes are processed, any retroactive payments that are due will be calculated automatically.

All the 1099s were mailed to vendors the week of January 27, 2025.

The current NLACRC controller is leaving his position; his last day will be on February 14, 2025. The team is actively recruiting for a new controller.

Vini Montague provided the contact information for NLACRC accounting staff and explained who to contact for various issues.

7.3 Community Services Director's Report

ACTION – Staff will resend the staff directory to all the people who receive notification of the VAC meetings.

ACTION – Staff will investigate if it is possible to hold an additional management training.

ACTION – Staff will inquire with the team if there are any upcoming person-centered trainings.

Arshalous Garlanian reviewed the Community Services Director's Report, highlighting certain items. She noted that the information from DDS has been received for Codes 862 and 113. NLACRC is working on validating and sending them to accounting as soon as possible. A large portion of the QIP incentives have also been received and will be included as part of the providers' Phase 3 rates. NLACRC will be communicating with providers about the rate letters shortly, with a deadline of March 31, 2025. There are rate reform office hours every two weeks, and NLACRC will also host an in-person meeting for residential providers about rate reform.

The dates for the vendor fair are being finalized for April of 2025. The dates and registration will be announced at the next VAC meeting.

The Board noted that some members still have not received a list of NLACRC service coordinators and staff emails and phone numbers.

Only a few responses have been received to the vendor support forum survey. All attendees were encouraged to complete the survey so staff can draft the agenda for the forum.

7.4 Legislative Report

Belinda Abatesi presented the Legislative Report.

7.5 Executive Director's Report

Angela Pao-Johnson presented the Executive Director's Report and highlighted significant items. She also noted that one of the Board members requested that an individual served impact story is shared at the start of every meeting. Attendees were asked to recommend consumers who may want to be highlighted with a testimonial, live presence or a video.

Sharon Weinberg:

Inquired if anyone has checked in with the 38% of new hires to the new hire survey.

Angela Pao-Johnson:

Explained that there are lead trainers who conduct regular check-ins and mentors who guide each new hire through the process. Anyone with concerns and suggestions can bring them to the vendor forum.

Alex Kopilevich:

Expressed a desire for feedback from service providers about the career building system for service coordinators. He noted that it is important that leads and supervisors are also provided with growth opportunities.

Octavia Watkins:

Inquired when the SDP lead specialist position will be implemented.

Angela Pao-Johnson:

Responded that the position will likely be posted soon, but it will take time to fully deploy the program because it is necessary to hire and train many people.

8. OPEN TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 Admission Agreements

The Board discussed that the admission agreements take an excessive amount of time to generate. This is partially due to the training on admission agreements being insufficient and partially due to the issues with FACT, the third-party payee system. Staff noted that they will be meeting with FACT to discuss the issues, and in the meantime NLACRC will loan the money to continue making the payments. On the case management end, the internal form for placements has been streamlined and the instructions were improved. Staff are working to streamline the process further and provide more information to providers.

9. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP INFORMATION

9.1 Early Start Services

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that the Early Start Services Committee Work Group met on January 16, 2025. There was a very productive conversation about the assessment tool requested by the regional center for intakes and the social and emotional development closing report. Several members felt very strongly that the tool was not good, so there was a discussion with NLACRC early start staff about a tool that would be more appropriate. Rate reform and QIP were also discussed. There was a continuation of the discussion about lack of funding for six-month progress reports, which is very costly to vendors and has led to the quality of the progress reports diminishing over time. Approximately 50 to 70 people attend the Early Start Services Committee Work Group meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

9.2 School Age Services

Paul Borda and Cal Enriquez reported that the School Age Service Committee Work Group met the week of February 10, 2025. The meeting was lightly attended. Rate reform was discussed briefly and the other items were deferred. The next meeting will be on March 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Approximately 10 to 15 people attend the School Age Services Committee Work Group meetings.

9.3 Adult Services

Octavia Watkins reported that the Adult Services Committee Work Group met on January 13, 2025. Some of the topics discussed were ACRE training, PIPs and ageing specialist resources, with invitees from employment support staff and outside sources attending to provide information. The next meeting will be on March 10, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. There are approximately 15 attendees at the Adult Services Committee Work Group meetings.

10. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP FINAL REPORTS

All the final committee work group reports were provided in the previous meeting.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Administrative Affairs

Jaklen Keshishyan reported that the Administrative Affairs Committee will meet on February 20, 2025.

11.2 Consumer Services

Sharon Weinstein reported that the Consumer Services Committee will meet the week of February 17, 2025.

11.3 Government and Community Relations

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that the last meeting of the Government and Community Relations Committee was on January 15, 2025. Board recognition and the ARCA grassroots day were discussed. There will be a legislative town hall on February 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

11.4 Nominating

Alex Kopilevich reported that the Nominating Committee met multiple times, focusing on filling officer positions. The new President of the Board of Trustees is Juan Hernandez, who is a consumer of NLACRC. Three new Board members have also joined. The Nominating Committee is still meeting at least once a month to discuss open positions and interview applicants. The next meeting will be held on March 5, 2025.

11.5 Strategic Planning

Octavia Watkins reported that the Strategic Planning Committee will meet on February 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

There were no agenda items for the next Board meeting.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT

ACTION – Staff will share the council meeting information through NLACRC channels.

Attendee:

Noted that the annual resource fair will be on March 15, 2025, with over 30 exhibitors already confirmed.

Scott Shepard, Avenue SLS:

Noted that there will be a brunch on March 27, 2025. There will be a flyer and link provided at the next VAC meeting. He also noted that the Cal-TASH conference will be on March 28, 2025, and March 29, 2025. Three legislators will be recognized, with two of them in the NLACRC area, for their support in ensuring that vendors were included in the budget increase.

Ricki Macken Chivers:

Noted that there will be a council meeting on March 14, 2025, and that residents, families, consumers and service coordinators are invited to represent the community and support the city's acknowledgement.

13.1 Committee Attendance

It was noted that if a Board member has three consecutive absences, they will likely be disqualified from the Board.

14. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on March 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the NLACRC Antelope Valley office.

15. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:27 a.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.

Director

Director

Date

Date

Potential Interview Questions

VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Background

The VAC must comprise a variety of professional leaders representing the various service categories from which the regional center purchases services.

- **Question:** Please give us a brief overview about yourself.
- **Question:** What personal, professional, or volunteer experience do you think you could bring to the VAC?
- **Question:** Have you attended a VAC meeting?
- **Question:** Why do you want to volunteer to serve on our VAC?

2. Communication/Interpersonal Relationships

- **Question:** Please tell us about your experience working with groups or committees.
- **Question:** Are you able to speak up and share your thoughts with others who may have a difference of opinion?
- **Question:** What experience do you have working as a team member and finding common ground with others?

3. Commitment

- **Question:** Can you make the commitment to attend the monthly VAC meeting?
- **Question:** Would you also be willing to participate in our annual legislative events and meetings with legislators?
- **Question:** If you were elected to serve on the VAC, can you see yourself in the future assuming increased responsibilities, for instance becoming the committee chair?

4. **Work Management**

- **Question:** One week prior to each monthly VAC meeting, you will be sent the agenda and meeting materials. Are you willing to take some time to review these materials prior to coming to the meeting so you are prepared to discuss the issues at hand?

Question: Do you have any questions for us?

VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Additional Interview Questions

The developmental disabilities system will be facing some big hurdles in the next couple of years to implement The CMS Final Rule and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) – not to mention the push to get our legislators and governor to do something about the sustainability of our system into the future.

1. Are you aware of these changes and do you understand what they entail?
2. Would you be willing to work with the Vendor Advisory Committee to help the center's Board of Trustees implement these actions?

NLACRC Applicant Information

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

VAC	#		Notes
	Last Name	Reyes	
	First Name	Olga	
	Vendor Affiliation	Speech Associates	
	Occupation	Program Director	
	Service Delivery Location	SFV / SCV / AV	
	Member of Other Orgs.	Yes	
Role	Individual		
	Agency Staff Member	X	
	Agency Board Member		
Living Arrangements	Community Care Facility		
	Health Licensed Facility		
	Other		
Skill Development Program	Infant/Early Intervention	X	
	Adult Day Training		
	Supported Employment		
	Supported/Independent Living	X	
	Habilitation		
	Other		
Support Services	Respite/Home Health		
	Behavior Consultation	X	
	Transportation		
	Day Care/After-School/Sat. Program		
	Mobility Training		
	Other		
	Referred?	VAC Meeting	

North Los Angeles County Regional Center																								
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE - COMPOSITION SUMMARY																								
NAME & (AGENCY)	Term Information			Role			Living Arrangements			Skill Development						Support Services					Geography			
	Year of Term	Expiration of Term	Expiration of Final Term	Individual	Agency Staff	Agency Board	Community Care Facility	Health Licensed Facility	Other	Early Intervention	Adult Day Training	Supported Employment	Supported / Independent Living	Habilitation	Other	Respite/Home Health	Behavior Consultation	Day Care / After School / Saturday Programs	Transportation	Mobility Training	San Fernando Valley	Santa Clarita Valley	Antelope Valley	Other
Orli Almog (Care 4 U, Respite Agency)	2nd	6/2020	6/2022		X											X					X		X	
Erica Beall (Modern Support Services)	1st	6/2021	6/2025	X								X									X			
Suad Bisogno (Integrated Resources Inst.)	1st	6/2021	6/2024		X					X	X	X		X							X	X		
Catherine Carpenter (Comforcare)	1st	6/2021	6/2025	X					X							X	X		X		X			
Cal Enriquez (Accredited Home Care)	1st	6/2023	6/2029		X											X		X	X		X	X	X	
Bob Erio (Community Integration Services)	1st	6/2020	6/2023		X						X	X		X					X		X	X		
Kenny Ha (Premier Healthcare Services)	1st	6/2023	6/2029	X						X						X					X	X	X	
Sharoll Jackson (New Horizons)	2nd	6/2022	6/2022		X		X				X	X	X			X				X	X			
Dana Kalek (Child Development Institute)	1st	6/2021	6/2024		X					X											X			
Alex Kopilevich (K&L CARE)	1st	6/2023	6/2029									X												Adaptive Skills
Don Lucas (Right Choice In-Home Care)	2nd	6/2022	6/2023		X							X				X					X	X		
Jenni Moran (Desert Haven Enterprises)	2nd	6/2022	6/2022		X						X	X											X	
Daniel Ortiz (ETTA)	1st	6/2023	6/2029		X						X	X	X						X		X	X	X	
Kevin Shields (Build Rehabilitation Industries)	1st	6/2022	6/2025		X			Assisted Lvg			X	X	X		Rehab.		X	X	X		X			
Nick Vukotic (Maxim Healthcare Services)	2nd	6/2021	6/2023			X										X					X	X	X	
Totals:	16			5	10	2	1	0	2	2	6	5	8	0	3	8	2	3	5	1	14	7	6	1
% of Current VAC (16)				31.3%	62.5%	12.5%	6.3%	0.0%	12.5%	12.5%	37.5%	31.3%	50.0%	0.0%	18.8%	50.0%	12.5%	18.8%	31.3%	6.3%	87.5%	43.8%	37.5%	6.3%



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Self Determination Program Report - Implementation Updates

March 1, 2025

North Los Angeles County Regional Center Statistics

Participants have completed Orientation from 2019-Present: **1,104** (increased by 23)

Total number of budgets that are certified: **600** (increased by 17)

Total number of spending plans that are approved: **537**

Total number of spending plans in progress: **58**

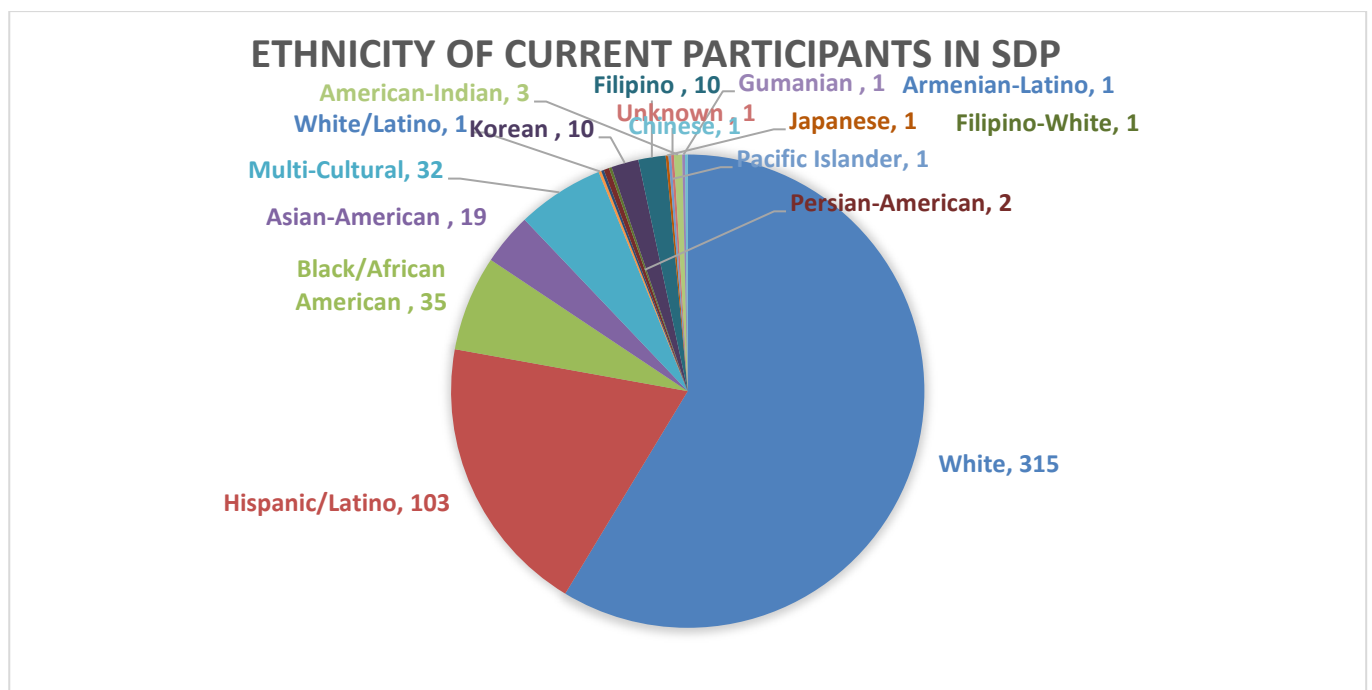
Total number of PCP's completed: **519** (did not increase)

Total number of participants that did not continue after receiving budget: **3**

Total number of participants that have opted out of SDP: **8**

Total number of Inter-Regional Center Transfers (out): **7**

Participants that have fully transitioned into SDP with approved spending plans and active SDP IPPs: **537** (30 transitions)



Transitions based on ethnicity:

White: 22

Latino/Hispanic: 4

African American: 2

Filipino: 2

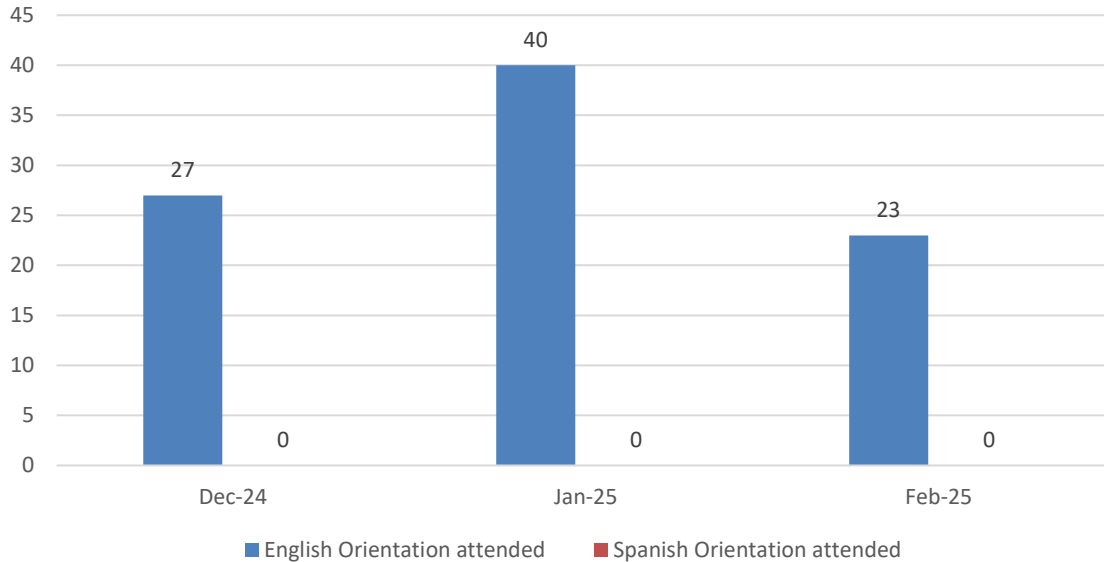


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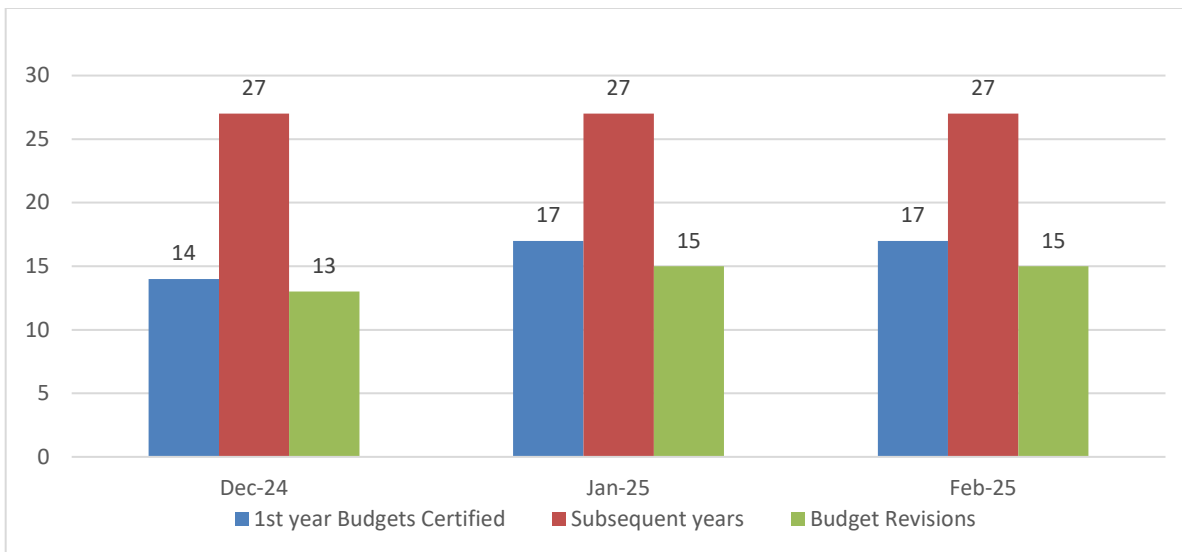
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Monthly Participants Attending SDP Orientation



Monthly Budgets Certified



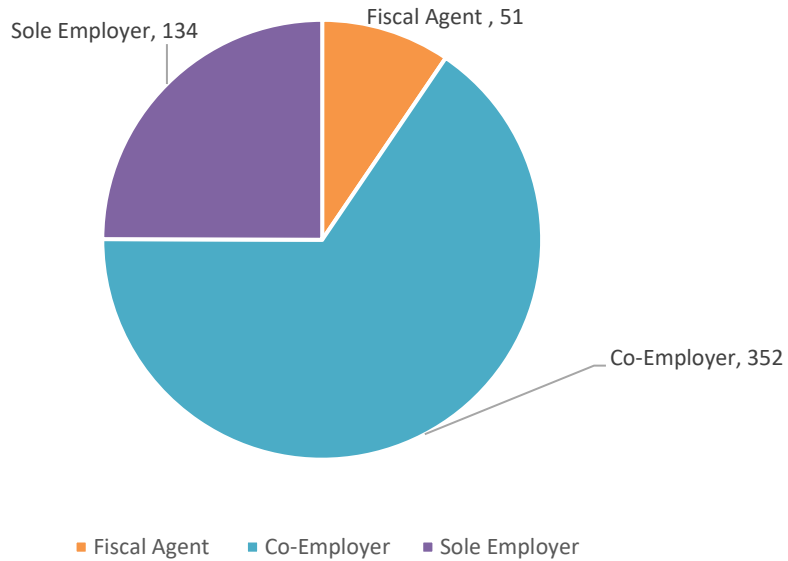


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SDP Participants By FMS Model



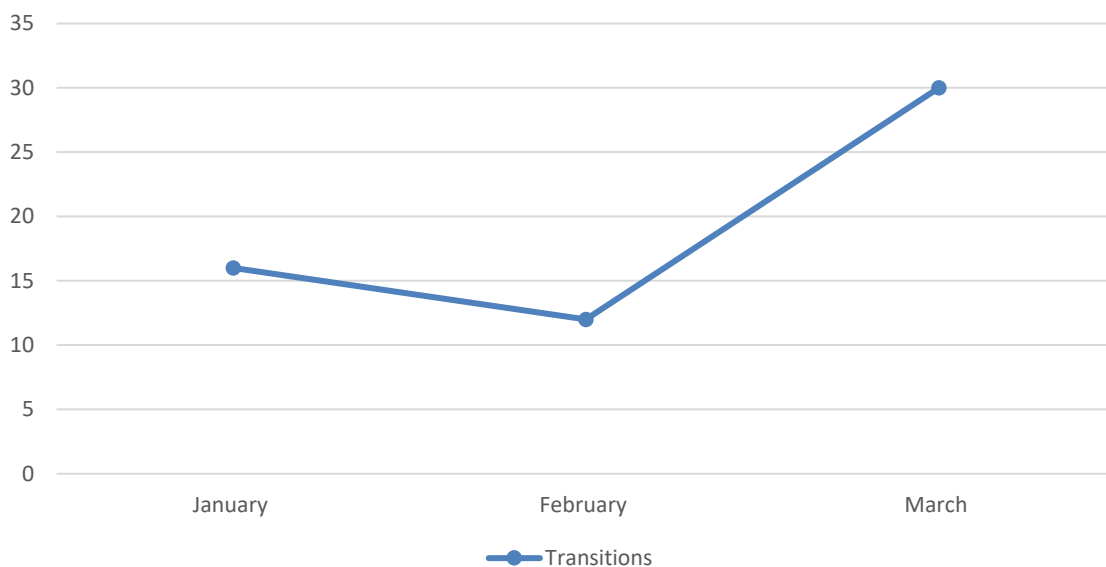
Transitions this month:

Bill Payer: 1

Co-Employer: 26

Sole Employer: 3

Transitions 2025



Total transitions this year: 58

Supporting people with developmental disabilities in the San Fernando, Santa Clarita, and Antelope Valleys since 1974



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NLACRC Implementation Updates/ information:

- SDP Orientation is available:
 1. Through State Council <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
 2. Virtual through NLACRC on the 1st Monday of the month in English and 3rd Monday of the month in Spanish (unless there is a holiday, day may change).
RSVP: selfdetermination@nlacrc.org
 - Next Virtual Orientation meetings:
 - Monday April. 7 2025 (English) from 9AM-12:00PM
 - Monday April 21, 2025 (Spanish) from 9AM-12:00PM
- Self Determination Support Group – April 2nd at 4:30pm via Zoom. [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
- SDP Local Volunteer Advisory Committee- Thursday March 20 from 6:30PM-8:30PM
 - The meeting will be held virtually. The Zoom link can be found on NLACRC's calendar [Self Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting | Calendar of Events | NLACRC](#)Everyone is welcomed to attend meetings!
- Support for participants and families: NLACRC has coaches available to support with SDP transition process or if you are in the program and need assistance. Ask your CSC for a referral.
 - AACcolades
 - Claudia Cares Consulting
 - HelpGrow Freedom
 - Integrated Community Collaborative (ICC)
- NLACRC & SDP Local Volunteer Advisory Committee Best Practices Subcommittee
 - The Best Practices Subcommittee is reviewing workflows and processes related to NLACRC's implementation of Self Determination. The committee meets monthly.

Resources:

- Disability Voices United – SDP Connect Meetings (Every other Wednesday at 4:30-6pm) [Upcoming Events | Disability Voices United](#)
- Self Determination Program Service Definitions:
https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/SDP_Service_Definitions.pdf

FMS Agencies	Model	Language Spoken:	Accepting participants?	Employee Burden Cost	Budget Limits	Contact Info
Ace	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English & Farsi	Yes, Free consultation available to prospective clients.	24.86% Co-employer 15.68% Sole Employer	Max budget: \$120,000	Phone: 833-4-ACE FMS (833-422-3367), Option 1 Info@acefms.com Web: Http://AceFMS.com
Action	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English & Spanish	Yes, new clients call and leave message or fill out a contact us request on the website.	25%-Co-employer 17% Sole Employer	No budget limits	Main office: (310) 867-8882 Website: actionfms.com Email: contact@actionfms.com
Acumen	Bill Payer, Sole Employer	English & Spanish But have translators for other languages.	Yes. Consult required and it may take up to 2 months to transition.	21.25%	\$200,000	Yvette Torres (424) 210-8810 yvettet@acumen2.net
Aveanna	Bill Payer and Co-Employer (with nursing through home health agency only)	English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin and Trieu Chau	Consult required. Date to be given my FMS agency.	17.37%	Anything above \$150,000 requires additional review. They have a "hard limit" of \$200,00.000 annually.	(866) 979-1182 fmsinfo@aveanna.com
Cambrian	Bill Payer, Co- Employer	English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Farsi	Yes	22.20%	Budgets over \$120,000 require review.	David Ellis (562) 498-1800 Ext. 2231 davide@cfms1.com
Casa Fiscal/Essential Pay	Bill Payer, Co-employer	English, Spanish, Mandarin	No	19.15%	None	(510) 336-2900 (833) 268-8530 contact@essentialpay.com

FACT	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English	Waiting list	20%	Unknown	(310) 475-9629 FMS@factfamily.org
FMS Pay LLC	Bill Payer	English Spanish Translation available for other languages		N/A	No budget limit	Phone: (858) 281-5910 Website: www.myfmsspay.com connect@fmsspay.com
GT Independence	Bill Payer, Sole Employer, Co- Employer	All Languages are supported to assist Individuals in the language of their choice	Require a certified budget & spending plan draft to start onboarding process.	Co-employer 24% Sole Employer- 18% All FMS models- Non-payroll burden 1%	None	Elva Chavez (877) 659-4500 tjones@gtindependence.com
Mains'l	Bill Payer, Sole Employer, and Co- employer	English & Spanish	Require certified budget & spending plan draft to start onboarding process.	17.23% for Sole Employer 17.13% for Co- employer	None	Jason Bergquist (866) 767-4296 jmbergquist@mainsl.com
Ritz	Bill Payer, Co-Employer	English, Spanish & Mandarin	New clients- visit website to fill out an inquiry form. Waitlist-June 2024	18.90%	\$120,000	Website: Ritzfms.com Kitleng Pui kpui@ritzvocational.com (626)-600-4703
SequoiaSD, Inc.	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English, Spanish, Translation available for other languages	Yes, but have certified budget.	20.64%	\$250,000	Website: sequoiasd.com sequoiaenrollment@sequoiasd.com

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER
Board Member Reporting Out Form

Name: Silvia Renteria-Haro

Meeting: SDLVAC

Date of Meeting: February 20, 2025

1.	Number of Attendees	23
2.	Public Input:	<p>Chair: NLA SDP Email: selfdetermination@nlacrc.org NLACRC website: www.nlacrc.org NLACRC SDLAC Email: nlacrcsdac@gmail.com</p> <p>SDP DVU Connect Self-Determination Disability Voices United NLACRC Support Group- 1st Wednesday of the month. IF Round Table- 2nd Thurs of the month NLACRC SDLAC Self-Governance Document- https://www.nlacrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/NLACRC-SDLAC-Self-Governance-8-17-23-SIGNED.pdf</p> <p>Lia Cervantes Lerma SDCC: If you have any questions about SDP or any other Regional Center matter, contact them at (818) 543-4631. SCDD Statewide Trainings Mondays at 10:00am available in English and Spanish separately.</p>
3.	Points of Discussion:	<p>The RFP award recipients were introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaching will be provided by: Accolades for Achievement, Claudia Cares Consulting, Integrated Community Collaborative (ICC), and HelpGrow. Both HelpGrow and ICC offer coaching in Spanish. IF mentoring: Claudia Cares Consulting. This service is for IF's working with consumers in NLA's catchment area. Support group and joint training: Disability Voices United (DVU)
4.	Reported out to Committee/Meeting:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair is hoping to start the RFP process for the new funds as soon as possible to avoid service interruption. Lori would prefer if we did not have to go through the RFP process again and we could contract with those that are providing the services and are doing it well. Megan Briley was introduced as the new SDP Supervisor; Robin is the new Manager for the Santa Clarita Branch Office as well as SDP. Kristianna discussed the success of the support group, which had ninety-nine attendees in February. Lori discussed the board report, highlighting the election of new board members and the focus on SDP.
5.	Area of Concerns:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the past, there have been misunderstandings/miscommunication with RFP recipients which is why Lori proposed for NLA's SDP team to reinstate the RFP meetings, due to current projects and Megan transition into her new role as supervisor, Silvia and Robin recommended that we revisit this in April/May. Concerns about employer responsibilities in self-determination programs. Some of the participants enrolling in SDP don't realize the responsibility they are taking on. DVU is working on a training. The LVAC would like for the systems to improve at NLACRC.

6.	Action Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silvia to investigate extending the contract deadline for The Legacy Center's remaining coaching funds. • Robin to provide recording to the SDLAC committee on the SDP training (logistics to be determined). • Lia to conduct outreach for filling the vacant SDLAC seat before the July membership committee meeting. • Silvia and Robin to interview potential Latino/Hispanic candidates for the open North LA SDLAC position.
7.	Questions for the Board:	None
8.	Miscellaneous	

Vendor Advisory Committee: March 13, 2025

Community Services Department: Director's Report

General Updates:

❖ Rate Reform

- Directives: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/rate-reform/directives-updates/>
- Trainings: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/rate-reform/meetings/>
- Office Hours 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 3 pm
 - Zoom:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85054576563?pwd=FLmxmJd5oP2ryUfbAASMtwE0XbsMzX.1>
Meeting ID: 850 5457 6563
Passcode: 595837
- Rate letter agreements continue to be sent from RatesQuestions@nlacrc.org

❖ Service Provider Directory: Per DDS directive D-2024-QIP-003 from 9/23/2024

- Step 1: Data Collection (7/15/24 - 10/4/24)
- Step 2: Validation (approx. 10/29/24 - 11/29/24)
 - Status: Group 5: Did not complete the original survey - Service providers will have 45 days to create their Provider Directory account and submit their information. Pending further guidance from DDS.
 - Group 6: New vendor numbers created after September 2024: No action needed, DDS will contact when data is available to register/validate
- Reference: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/provider-directory/>
 - The lists of vendors per each of the above categories is updated each Thursday.
 - Vendor lists are posted to identify: “QIP Eligible”, “Need Survey” and “New Providers” to clarify eligibility to receive QIP
- Questions:
 - ProviderDirectory@dds.ca.gov
 - ProviderDirectory@nlacrc.org

❖ Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Update: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/quality-incentive-program/>

NOTE: For the below incentive payments, NLACRC will issue payment after DDS approval.

- **Service Provider Directory one-time lump sum:**
 - Not yet received from DDS.
 - https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/D-2024-QIP-003_Quality_Incentive_Program_Provider_Directory.pdf
- **Prevention and Wellness:**
 - ARFPSHN, EBSH, FHA, RCFE- pending from DDS
- **Employment Access / Employment Capacity (available through 6/30/2025)**

NOTE: RC approval from DDS for requests submitted to DDS between July – December 2023 only

 - Access: no DDS approvals received yet
 - Capacity: Approvals received by NLACRC were paid Dec 24 / Jan 25
- **Early Intervention Service Delivery for CY2024:**
 - Quarter 1 January – March 2024 will be available for billing on 1/31/25
- **DSP Training Stipend** – ended 8/31/2024 (\$775 incentive)

- Questions about payment: VendorIncentiveProgram@nlacrc.org
- **2023 DSP Workforce Data Collection Survey (submitted June 2024):** RCs have not yet received the approved list from DDS.
- ❖ **Vendor Portal:** NLACRC's vendor portal launched on 9/23/2024
 - Email invitations with registration form were sent to all NLACRC providers from vendorportal@nlacrc.org email
 - Action needed:
 - Step 1 – registration
 - Step 2 – accept invitation
 - Step 3 – log-in through authentication process
 - Community Services is contacting providers who are on Step 2 (pending acceptance of invitation) but have not yet clicked on the email which is from invites@microsoft.com
 - Questions: vendorportal@nlacrc.org
- ❖ **2025 Spring Vendor Fair Save the Date:** Registration Opens March 17th @ 9am
Invite will be shared March 14th via email
 - Tuesday, May 6th 9:00am – 1:30pm SFV
 - Wednesday, May 7th 9:00am – 1:30pm SFV
 - Wednesday, May 14th 9:00am – 1:30pm AV
 - Thursday, May 15th 9:00am – 1:30pm AV

HCBS:

- ❖ **Open Futures Learning for Services Providers - Resource**
<https://www.openfuturelearning.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Login.EnterCode&AccountCode=OFL%2DNLACRC> For more information, please contact David Ramos, HCBS Specialist, dramos@nlacrc.org.
- ❖ Through HCBS Funding NLACRC is offering FREE ASL workshops through the ASL Shop. New Classes will begin during the summer. ASL Shop is updating their Self-paced platform to include Spanish Classes. Both English and Spanish will be offered in May. For more information contact Ted Horton-Billard – thortonbillard@nlacrc.org.
- ❖ Through HCBS Funding Employment Workshops Provided by Thomas Iland for Individuals Served, Families, & Vendors. If you would like a workshop provided at your site, please contact Dramos@nlacrc.org.
 - Come to Life in the Workplace: For Individuals/Families
 - SCV – April 11th 9:30 – 12:30
 - AV – May 1st 9:30 – 12:30

DHH

- ❖ **Deaf Sensitivity Training for Vendors**
 - April 1st, 9:30am – 12:00pm via ZOOM – registration forth coming

Compliance Corner:

- ❖ **Vendorization maintenance:**
 - General reminder to submit your insurance and organizational charts, or any questions related to compliance activities (DS 1891, annual program evaluations), rate adjustments to Contract&Compliance@nlacrc.org.

- Provide notice of changes (address, entity, name) to ResourceDevelopment@nlacrc.org
- Provide updated DS 1891 at <https://sanctionscreeningnow.com/OIGComplianceVendor/Customer.aspx/Login>

Employment Services:

- ❖ New Addition to the Employment Team – Geraldine Orellana, Workforce Employment Specialist (gorellana@nlacrc.org). Counterpart to Employment Specialist, Kai Brennan, (kbrennan@nlacrc.org) and both are available to support your employment needs.
- ❖ General reminder to submit PIP workbook claims and CIE/PIP Incentives request CIE&PIP@nlacrc.org
- ❖ Free, 3 - hour training workshop designed for Service Providers and families on how to support individuals seeking employment. Instructor will be Author, Certified Human Potential Coach, and Toastmasters International Speaker, Thomas Iland, [Sharpening Your Saw! Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)
- ❖ **Quality Incentive Program:**
 - **Employment Access & Equity Incentive Payments:** To request incentive payments available through the QIP Employment Access measure, every service provider must submit a certification form to DDS at QIPEmpAccess@dds.ca.gov.
 - **Employment Capacity Incentive Payments:** To request incentive payments available through the QIP Employment Capacity measure, service providers must submit a certification form to DDS at QIPEmpCapacity@dds.ca.gov.
 - For additional info, including FAQ and Certification and Payment forms, visit the “Employment” tab here <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/quality-incentive-program/>
- ❖ **NLACRC Employment Initiative Office Hours**
 - 2nd Wednesday of the month, 11 am via Zoom
 - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82517702766?pwd=1tyUrdPePi7JnhGDFUUXcPm4JAPXPb.1>
 - Meeting ID: 825 1770 2766 Passcode: 857310
 - +14086380968,,82517702766#,,,857310# US (San Jose)
 - +16694449171,,82517702766#,,,857310# US

Resource Development:

- ❖ **For information on various Requests for Vendorization (RFV) or to receive technical assistance with the vendorization process through our Open Proposal Period (OPP) please visit our website at [RFPs & RFVs -North Los Angeles County](#):**
 - Open Proposal Period (OPP) – Various Service Codes
 - Coordinated Career Pathways (CCP) Service Code 956
 - Coordinated Family Supports (CFS), Service Code 076
 - Soc Rec RFV, Various Service Codes
 - Transportation services, Service Code 875
 - Money Management services, Service Code 034

- Self-Directed Support Services for the Self Determination Program (Service Code 099)
- ❖ **Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)** - DDS hosted office hours are on-going. For more information, please visit DDS website <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/evv/>.

Quality Assurance:

- ❖ **Community Care Licensing Updates: New PINs**
 - [PIN 25-01-CCLD](#) - Winter Storm Preparedness
 - [PIN 25-02-CCLD](#) - Administrator Certification Program Waivers And Response To The 2025 Wildfires In Los Angeles And Ventura Counties
 - [PIN 25-03-CCLD](#) - Guardian Training Webinar for Licensees and Providers on Feb 26, 2025, from 11am-12pm.
 - [PIN 25-04-CCLD](#) - Upcoming Administrator Certification Bureau Webinar on March 20, 2025, at 1:30pm [Registration Link](#)
 - [PIN 25-01-ASC](#) - Waivers Due to Wildfires in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
- ❖ **Client's Rights Training** by Clients' Rights Advocate, Erica Rodriguez, and NLACRC Community Services Specialist, Bill Wood.
 - March 27, 2025, 10am – 12pm, via Zoom
 - [Registration Link](#)
 - 2 CEUs available
- ❖ **P & I Management & Recordkeeping Training** by NLACRC Community Services Specialist, Gabriela Salazar.
 - April 15, 2025, 10am – 12pm, via Zoom
 - [Registration Link](#)
 - 2 CEUs available
- ❖ **Restricted Health Care Condition Planning, Medication Administration, & Standard Precautions Training** by NLACRC Nursing Services Supervisor, Cristiana Agopian, and NLACRC Community Services Specialist, Nayeli Salinas.
 - April 21, 2025, 10am – 12pm, via Zoom
 - [Registration Link Forthcoming](#)
 - 2 CEUs available
- ❖ **LGBTQ+ Training** by NLACRC LGBTQ+ Specialist, Javier Zepeda, and NLACRC Community Services Specialist, Lisseth Carrillo.
 - April 30, 2025, 9:30am – 11:30am, via Zoom
 - [Registration Link Forthcoming](#)
 - 2 CEUs available
- ❖ **Winter Weather Safety- Emergency Preparedness Bulletin**
 - [Emergency Preparedness Bulletin - Winter Safety 2024 Edition](#)

Community and Legislative Educator Report March 2025

INTRODUCED BILLS

AB 277 (Alanis) Autism: Behavioral Technician Certification – This bill would require the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to establish a certification process for behavioral technicians working with individuals under 18 years of age who have autism. The certification process must include a criminal background check, and individuals convicted of crimes involving minors would be prohibited from obtaining certification. Additionally, developmental centers, facilities, or programs serving minors would be prohibited from employing behavioral technicians who lack this certification.

Status: Introduced on **January 21, 2025**; re-referred to Committee on Human Services on **February 21st, 2025**.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB277

AB 308 (Ramos) The Family Urgent Response System – This bill would authorize a county behavioral health director to develop procedures for the county's mobile response system, which may include procedures for handling an emergency situation involving an individual with autism, a behavioral health issue, or another developmental disability.

Status: Introduced on **January 23, 2025**; re-referred to Committee on Human Services on **March 4, 2025**.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB308

AB 341 (Arambula) Oral Health for People with Disabilities Technical Assistance Center Program – This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services, no later than July 1, 2027, to contract with a public California dental school or college to administer the Oral Health for People with Disabilities Technical Assistance Center Program. The program aims to improve dental care services for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities by reducing or eliminating the need for sedation and general anesthesia.

Status: Introduced on **January 28, 2025**; referred to Committees on Human Services and Higher Education on **February 18, 2025**.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB341

AB 416 (Krell) Involuntary commitment – This bill would amend the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act to authorize emergency physicians to initiate involuntary holds for individuals who, as a result of a mental health disorder, are deemed a danger to themselves or others, or gravely disabled. Under current law, only peace officers and designated mobile crisis team members have this authority. The bill would also exempt emergency physicians from criminal and civil liability when detaining an individual under these provisions.

Status: Introduced on **February 5, 2025**; referred to Committees on Health and Judiciary on **February 18, 2025**.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB416

AB 1172 (Nguyen) Adult Day Programs: Administration of Inhalable Emergency Antiseizure Medications – This bill would authorize trained staff at adult day programs to administer inhalable emergency antiseizure medication to participants with epilepsy or seizure disorders during a seizure emergency, provided they have received appropriate training and the participant has a prescription for the medication. This measure aims to enhance the safety and well-being of individuals with seizure disorders in adult day programs by ensuring timely intervention during seizure emergencies.

Status: Introduced on **February 21, 2025**; pending legislative review.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1172

SB 402 (Valladares) Health Care Coverage: Autism – This bill would relocate the definitions of “qualified autism service provider,” “qualified autism service professional,” and “qualified autism service paraprofessional” from the Health and Safety Code and Insurance Code to the Business and Professions Code.

Status: Introduced on **February 14, 2025**; referred to the Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development on **February 26, 2025**.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB402

SB 422 (Grayson) California Workforce Development Board: developmental services – This bill would require the board, on or before January 1, 2027, to review existing recommendations and to research and provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature including recommendations on the most compelling strategies for addressing the workforce shortage in California’s developmental services system, as specified. The bill would require the State Department of Developmental Services to provide staff support and expertise to the board for this purpose.

Status: Introduced on **February 18, 2025**; referred to the Committees on Labor, Public Employment & Retirement, and Human Services on **February 26, 2025**.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB422

SB 471 (Menjivar) Office of the Lanterman Ombudsperson – This bill would establish the Office of the Lanterman Ombudsperson as an autonomous entity within the Department of Developmental Services to assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in resolving issues related to their care, placement, or services. The bill would outline the office’s duties, including disseminating information, providing training and technical assistance, and receiving and investigating complaints made by or on behalf of consumers of developmental services. Additionally, the bill would clarify that the Office of the Self-Determination Ombudsperson is a separate entity but would require the Lanterman Ombudsperson to oversee its operations.

Status: Introduced on **February 19, 2025**; referred to Committees on Human Services and Judiciary on **February 26, 2025**.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB471

FEDERAL FUNDING

Detailed information on Federal Funding: [Jan.-29-Medicaid-Webinar-for-Advocates.pptx](#)

Use this link to easily send a message to your reps asking them to protect Medicaid for everyone, including the I/DD community. <https://lnkd.in/g3qs9HEY>

Need more info on why Medicaid is important? Check this out: <https://lnkd.in/gggp2zhD>

Need help on how to talk about Medicaid with lawmakers? Check out this toolkit from The Arc: <https://lnkd.in/gmzBKdaW>

The Health Care Sabotage Tracker by Protect Our Care monitors policy changes, funding cuts, and administrative actions that threaten access to affordable health care in the U.S. This resource provides up-to-date information on efforts that may undermine Medicaid, Medicare, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and other critical health programs. Stay informed on how these changes could impact people with disabilities, low-income families, and vulnerable communities. [Health Care Sabotage Tracker — Protect Our Care](#)

DDS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

DDS Stakeholder Events

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/stakeholder-events/> (Use link to register for the event)

Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Workgroup Meeting

The QIP is designed to improve consumer outcomes, service provider performance, and the quality of services.

QIP upcoming meeting:

When: Monday, March 17, 2025 - 2:00pm- 4:00pm

Location: Zoom ([Registration](#))

Regional Center Performance Measures Workgroup Meeting

The RCPM program has six focus areas identified by the Workgroup.

[View the materials on the RCPM webpage.](#)

Tentative 2025 RCPM Workgroup Meetings:

- April 22, 2025 – 1:00-3:00 pm
- July 22, 2025 – 1:00-3:00 pm
- October 28, 2025 – 1:00-3:00 pm

DDS Employment Stakeholder Workgroup Meeting

This workgroup, facilitated by the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS), brings together advocates, service providers, regional center representatives, policymakers, and individuals with disabilities to discuss and enhance employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). **Currently, no workgroup meetings are scheduled.**

DDS Workforce Initiatives

DDS Workforce Initiatives are aimed to recruit, train, and retain workers from diverse communities who support individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

[Workforce Initiatives : CA Department of Developmental Services](#)

Rate Reform: Rate Model Implementation

The California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has issued multiple directives since the beginning of this year, outlining the implementation of rate reforms for employment services, effective January 1, 2025. For detailed information on service descriptions, rate models, and billing procedures, please refer to the full directives available here:

- **February 4, 2025:** [D-2024-Rate Reform-013 Rate Reform Implementation for Respite Services Employer of Record and Participant Directed Services](#)
- **February 4, 2025:** [D-2024 Rate Reform-011 REV Rate Reform Implementation for Residential Services](#)
- **January 22, 2025:** <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/D-2024-Rate-Reform-006-REV-Transportation-Services.pdf>
- **January 22, 2025:** <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/P-2024-Rate-Reform-002-REV-Service-Code-Crosswalk.pdf>
- **January 17, 2025:** https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/D-2024-RateReform-007_REV2_RateReformImplementationEmploymentServices.pdf
- **January 3, 2025:** https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/D-2024-RateReform-015_MileageCalculationForTransporationServicesProviders.pdf
- **January 2, 2025:** https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/D-2024-RateReform-016_RateReform_Guidance_Transitional_Rates.pdf

Additional Resources On Rate Reform: [Rate Reform : CA Department of Developmental Services](#)

Master Plan for Developmental Services

The upcoming Master Plan aims to strengthen connections between developmental services and other key sectors, including education, housing, employment, transportation, and healthcare.

<https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services/>

Master Plan Upcoming Meeting

When: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 - 10:00am - 3:30pm

Location: (Hybrid) CA Lottery 700 North 10th Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 ([Registration](#))

Early Start Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)

The Early Start Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) is a Governor-appointed advisory committee of advocates and state departments who provide advice and assistance to DDS on California's early intervention program.

<http://www.dds.ca.gov/services/early-start/state-icc-on-early-intervention-overview/>

Early Start ICC Upcoming Meeting

When: Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 12:00pm - 1:00pm ([Registration](#))

Location: Zoom

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR




- May 9th, 2025 - Last day for policy committees to report non fiscal bills to the Floor.
- June 6th, 2025 - Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house.
- June 15th, 2025 - Budget bill must be passed by midnight.

<https://www.assembly.ca.gov/schedules-publications/legislative-deadlines#month7>




LEGISLATIVE EVENTS

Community events are open to all community members and are not hosted by NLACRC. Please check the links for further information and RSVP if you plan to attend.

Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) - After Dark with President of LA City Council Marqueece Harris-Dawson




-  **Date:** Tuesday, March 18, 2025
-  **Time:** 5:30pm - 7:30pm
-  **Location:** Hope the Mission, 16641 Roscoe Plane ([Registration](#))

Cal-TASH 42nd Annual Conference: Rolling Out the Red Carpet – This year's conference will celebrate equity, opportunity, and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

-  **Date:** Friday, March 28 - Saturday, March 29, 2025
-  **Time:** Not mentioned
-  **Location:** Los Angeles Marriott, Burbank Airport, 2500 N Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505, USA ([Registration](#))




Assembly Member Pilar Schiavo – Tacos & Taxes Event

This event aims to provide free tax preparation services to eligible individuals and families.




-  **Date:** Sat, March 29, 2025
-  **Time:** 9am - 5pm
-  **Location:** College of the Canyons (Exact location provided upon appointment confirmation) ([Registration](#))

Assembly Member Celeste Rodriguez - César E. Chavez March for Justice and Resource Fair




March for Justice Peregrinación/Marcha por la Justicia

-  **Date:** Sunday, Mar 30, 2025
-  **Time:** 10 am
-  **Location:** Pacoima Charter Elementary School, 11016 Norris Ave. Pacoima, CA 91331

Cultural Arts Festival and Resource Fair/Festival de Arte Cultural y Feria de Recursos

-  **Date:** Sunday, Mar 30, 2025
-  **Time:** 12pm - 4 pm
-  **Location:** Ritchie Valens Park, 10736 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Pacoima, CA 91331

The Arc of California - DisCo at the Capitol: California Disability Community Advocacy Conference – This two-day event is designed to inspire, educate, and empower attendees to become advocates for Californians with disabilities and their families.

-  **Date:** Tuesday, April 1 – Wednesday, April 2, 2025
-  **Time:** 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM (**April 1st**); 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM (**April 2nd**)
-  **Location:** State Capitol West Steps, Sacramento, CA ([Registration](#))

ARCA GRASSROOTS DAY - March 3rd-4th, 2025

The **Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Grassroots Day** is an annual event held in Sacramento, where regional center representatives meet with California state legislators to advocate for policies that enhance services for individuals with developmental disabilities. It brings together **regional center staff, service providers, self-advocates, and family members** to discuss key legislative priorities.

On **March 3rd and 4th**, the NLACRC delegation team joined regional centers statewide to engage with legislators and staff within our **catchment area**, advocating for ARCA's proposed bills. These discussions aimed to secure legislative support for policies that strengthen the regional center system and improve services for the individuals we serve.

Please use the link to access the discussed bills, meeting summaries, and takeaways from ARCA Grassroots Day: [ARCA Grassroots Day 2025 - Meetings & Outcomes](#)

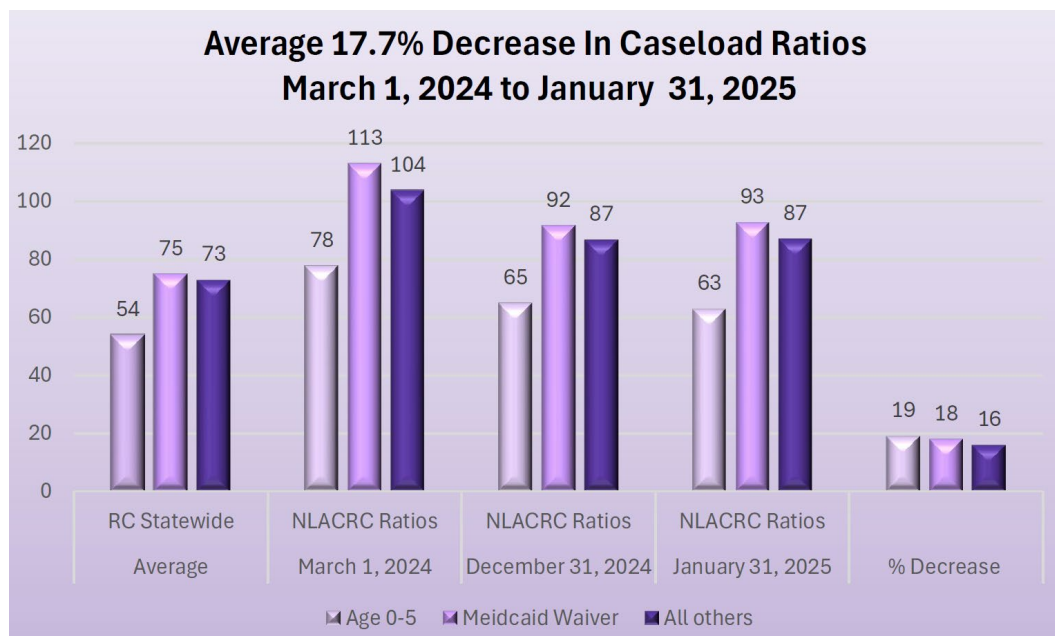


North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Director's Report
March 2025

1. NLACRC Spotlight:

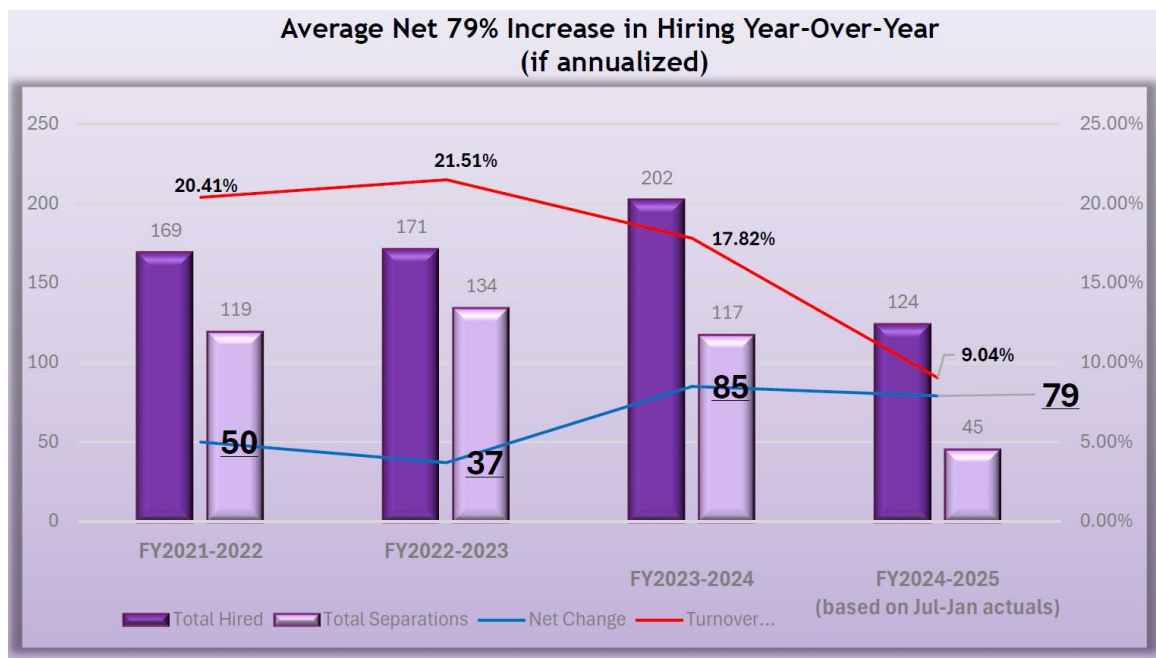
A. Caseload Ratios:

- I. Caseload Reduction: In just 11 months, we have successfully decreased caseload ratios by 17.7%.
- II. Future Projection: If Human Resources maintains the current recruitment pace and retention rates remain steady, NLACRC is on track to meet the statewide average for caseload ratios within a year.



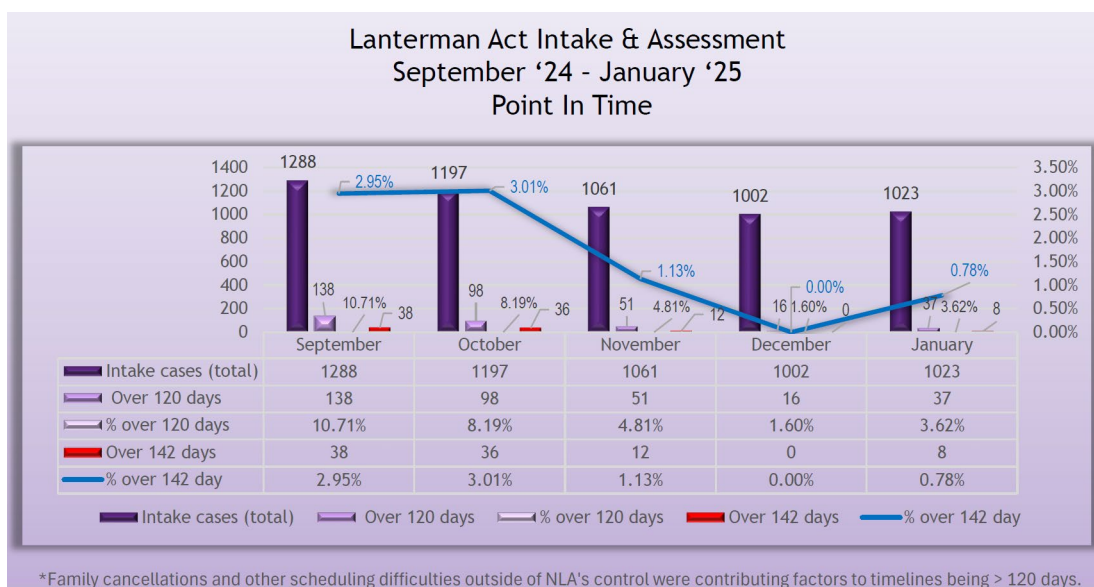
B. Recruiting:

- I. Employee Growth: NLACRC has a net gain of 84 employees for FY 2024/25. With five months remaining, we are already about to surpass last year's performance for recruiting and retention.
- II. Turnover Improvement: Our annualized turnover rate has dropped to 9.04%, a significant improvement from 17.82% last fiscal year.



C. Intake Volume and Timelines

- I. Intake Volume: NLACRC receives an average of 880 new intake consumers per month.
- II. Net Growth: On average, we see a net increase of 215 individuals served each month.
- III. Processing Timeliness: Despite this high volume, our team have been able to process intakes within the required 120-day timeframe 96.4% of the time, as stipulated by statute—an impressive feat given the demand.



D. Podcast

- I. NLACRC Podcast Pre-Production: NLACRC is in full pre-production for its podcast series.

- II. Launch Timeline: The first podcast is scheduled for mid-March. The following series are currently in development, though additional topics may be added:
1. Town Halls – Open discussions on key topics impacting the community.
 2. Community Learning Forums – Educational sessions on various subjects relevant to individuals and families.
 3. Self-Determination Program (SDP) – Information and updates on the Self-Determination Program.
 4. Early Start – Expert discussions on early intervention and services for young children.
 5. School Age – Insights from experts on navigating services for school-aged children.
 6. Transition – Guidance from experts on transitioning from school to adulthood.
 7. Legislative News – Updates on policies and legislation affecting the developmental disabilities community.
 8. NLACRC Internal News – Organizational updates and important announcements from NLACRC.
 9. Adult Services – Expert-led discussions on services and supports for adults.

2. Department Developmental Center (DDS) & ARCA Updates:

A. Family Needs Assessment Tool – Next Steps

- I. Following the kickoff webinar on the pilot tool for respite, daycare, and personal assistance, DDS decided to revise the tool to reduce its length and minimize duplication with the Individual Program Plan (IPP) process.
- II. DDS is exploring the potential use of newly available In-Home Support Services (IHSS) data to support the assessment of personal assistance needs. However, current data is limited to utilization rather than assessment metrics.

B. Rate Model Implementation

- I. Cash Flow: During their recent meeting, regional center chief financial officers raised concerns about potential cash flow issues due to higher payments resulting from the rate model implementation.
- II. DDS will soon share the A-2 calculations (financial assessments to help evaluate contract funding), allowing regional centers (RCs) to determine if contract amounts align with their needs.
- III. To increase visibility into contract limits and cash flow issues, Purchase of Service Expenditure Project (PEP) reports will be submitted again beginning in March.

C. Early Start Payments for Quality Incentive Program (QIP)

- I. Some Early Start providers recently reported missing expected QIP payments.
- II. The issue appears to be related to delays in shifting children from Status 0 to Status 1, as services under Status 0 were ineligible for the incentive.
- III. The intake standardization process will clarify the timeline for transitioning children to active Early Start status.

D. Vendorization Standardization Update:

- I. DDS must finalize the vendorization standardization process by June 30, 2025, with Regional Centers (RCs) implementing it by January 1, 2026.
- II. New provider vendorization is expected to be submitted through the Service Provider Directory portal, triggering a 45-day processing timeline once all necessary documents are received.
- III. Courtesy vendorization may become more efficient; however, lack of standardization in insurance requirements could present challenges.
- IV. Future initiatives will include the standardization of program design requirements.

E. Rate Implementation: Transportation

- I. Provider agreements will provide further insight into providers whose "held harmless" rates exceed the new model calculations.
- II. DDS is considering collecting additional data from a broader group of transportation providers to better understand systemic challenges.
- III. Transportation services (880) tied to base day programs are being addressed separately from standalone transportation services (875).
- IV. While DDS has the general authority to adjust rate models, significant modifications require legislative budget discussions due to funding constraints.

F. Generic and Commonly Available Services:

- I. By June 30, 2025, DDS will be submitting a legislative report defining generic services, identifying barriers to access, outlining current efforts to improve access, and providing recommendations for enhancement.
- II. DDS has initiated meetings with various cultural focus groups to inform this process.

G. Implicit Bias Training

- I. DDS has initiated an Implicit Bias Training program aimed at enhancing service access and equity for individuals with developmental disabilities.
 - a. This initiative seeks to raise awareness among regional center personnel and contractors about unconscious biases that affect decision-making processes.
 - b. DDS' Request for Proposal (RFP) can be found here for interested parties: https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/RFP_HD259003_Implicit_Bias_Training.pdf

H. Immigration Concerns:

- I. Publicly funded resources to address immigration legal issues can be found here: [Resources for ALL Californians : CA Department of Developmental Services](#)

I. Legislative Focus Areas (ARCA's Grassroot Event (March 3rd and 4th, 2025))

- I. AB 1172: Adult Day Programs- Administration of Inhalable Emergency Antiseizure Medications
 - a. AB 1172 allows licensed adult day programs and residential facilities to train volunteers to administer inhalable emergency antiseizure medication to individuals with seizure disorders, provided they have a seizure action plan on file.
 - b. The bill mandates the State Department of Social Services to establish minimum training standards and requires facilities to inform volunteers of their right to withdraw from participation at any time without penalty.
 - c. Trained volunteers who administer the medication in good faith and without compensation are protected from civil liability, criminal prosecution, or professional review for their actions.
- IV. SB 664: Blue Envelope Program
 - a. SB 664 requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to develop a Blue Envelope Program by January 1, 2027, to assist individuals with conditions or disabilities during interactions with law enforcement.
 - b. The blue envelope will contain relevant information about the individual's condition or disability to facilitate communication and ensure safety.
 - c. The program will also allow parents or legal guardians of passengers with disabilities to request a blue envelope on their behalf.
- V. SB 422: California Workforce Development Board- Developmental Services

- a. SB 422 requires the California Workforce Development Board to research and report on strategies to address the workforce shortage in California's developmental services system by January 1, 2027.
- b. The report will include a review of existing recommendations and propose the most effective solutions to strengthen the workforce.
- c. The State Department of Developmental Services will provide staff support and expertise to assist in this effort.

3. Center Updates:

A. Recruitment:

- I. Total # positions filled: 815
 - a. Total # of authorized: 985
- II. February New Hires
 - a. 1st cycle (2/10/2025): 6 (confirmed total)
 - b. 2nd cycle (2/24/2025): 7 (confirmed total)

B. Social Recreation Reimbursements:

- I. Expanded Services: NLACRC has worked with MIJI Healthcare Services, a financial management system (FMS) vendored provider to include parent reimbursement social recreation (service code 024) effective March 1st.
 - a. Direct Payments: MIJI Healthcare Services was selected for its ability to provide direct payments to social recreation services (non-vendored), reducing delays for families.
 - b. Streamlined Process: Internal processes have been streamlined by vendoring MIJI for parental reimbursements and direct payment to social recreation services.
 - c. Anticipated Impact: Social Recreation remains in high demand. Increased staffing and a more efficient system should result in noticeable improvements over time.
 - d. Backlog Resolution: NLACRC and MIJI Healthcare Services remain committed to addressing the backlog of parent reimbursements and continue to modify processes as needed.

C. Outreach:

- I. Outreach Event: Parent Center Presentation at Lowman Special Education and Transition Center
 - a. NLACRC, in partnership with Lowman Special Education & Transition Services, facilitated a presentation on regional center services for transition-age and adult individuals. The presentation provided an overview of available services and

eligibility requirements. Additionally, NLACRC staff assisted four parents with individual consultations regarding regional center services.

- II. Outreach Event: Effective Black Parenting Class
 - a. With Project Joy, NLACRC conducted a presentation on regional center services and the application process for parents attending the Effective Black Parenting Class. The session provided guidance on available supports and how to access them. NLACRC staff also assisted parents in navigating the online application process for regional center services.
- III. Outreach Event: Palmdale Aerospace Academy Resource Fair
 - a. NLACRC participated in the Palmdale Aerospace Academy Resource Fair, hosted by the Palmdale School District. As part of its outreach to K-12 schools, NLACRC provided information on regional center services and eligibility requirements to students, parents, and educators. This event allowed NLACRC to connect with families and school staff, ensuring they had access to essential resources and support.
- IV. Outreach Event: Disability Health Fair
 - a. NLACRC attended the Disability Health Fair at the LA LGBT Senior Center, focusing on disabled LGBTQ+ seniors. During the event, which had over 100 attendees, NLACRC staff provided information and literature on regional center services and eligibility. This outreach effort helped ensure that seniors in the LGBTQ+ community were aware of the available support and could connect with necessary services.
- V. Outreach Event: Presentation for Child and Family Center
 - a. NLACRC presented to 78 employees at the Child and Family Center during their all-staff meeting. This session was designed to inform mental health clinicians and center staff about regional center services, eligibility requirements, and the application process. The presentation also included an overview of available services, helping professionals better support individuals and families in need.

D. Consumer Statistics:

- I. Total served: 38, 678
 - a. Early Start 5,069
 - b. Lanterman 30,999
- II. Breakdown of all three valleys:

- a. AV 9,113 (Early Start & Lanterman)
 - b. SCV 4,231 (Early Start & Lanterman)
 - c. SFV 22,724 (Early Start & Lanterman)
- III. All other categories not captured in Early Start, Lanterman, and Intake, such as Provisional, Enhanced, Specialized, and other which total: 1,222

E. Quality Assurance:

- I. NLACRC's Quality Assurance Team conducted 111 residential visits
- II. 57 Unannounced In-Person Visits
- III. 6 Corrective Action Plans developed with residential providers

4. Upcoming Disability Organization Events/Activities:

- A. State Council on Developmental Disabilities next council meeting – March 18, 2025
- B. Disability Rights California's next board meeting – March 27, 2025

FY 2024-25	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Total
Vendor Advisory Committee	Dark					Dark						Dark	Absences
Alex Kopilevich, Chair		P	P	P	P		P	P					0
Jaklen Keshishyan, Alt. Chair		P	P	P	P		P	P					0
Jodie Agnew Navarro		P	P	P	P		P	P					0
Masood Babaeian		P	P	Ab	P		P	P					1
Paul Borda		P	P	P	P		P	P					0
Andrea Devers		P	Ab	P	P		P	P					1
Cal Enriquez		P	P	P	P		P	P					0
Ute Escorcía		P	P	P	P		P	P					0
Ricki Macken Chivers		P	P	P	P		P	P					0
Vahe Mkrtchian		Ab	P	Ab	P		P	P					2
Daniel Ortiz		Ab	P	Ab	Ab		P	P					3
Jen Pippard		P	P	P	P		Ab	P					1
Octavia Watkins		P	P	P	P		P	P					0
Sharon Weinberg		P	P	Ab	P		P	P					1
Meeting Time		2.50	1.75	1.50	1.75		1.25	2.00					

P = Present Ab = Absent

Attendance Policy: In the event a Trustee shall be absent from three (3) consecutive regularly-scheduled Board meetings or from three (3) consecutive meetings of any one or more committees on which he or she may be serving, or shall be absent from five (5) regularly-scheduled Board meetings or from five (5) meetings of any one or more Committees on which he or she may be serving during any twelve (12) month period, then the Trustee shall, without any notice or further action required of the Board, be automatically deemed to have resigned from the Board effective immediately. The secretary of the Board shall mail notice of each Trustee's absences during the preceding twelve (12) month period to each Board member following each regularly-scheduled Board meeting. (policy adopted 2-10-99)