



# North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Main 818-778-1900 • Fax 818-756-6140 | 9200 Oakdale Avenue #100, Chatsworth, CA 91311 | [www.nlacrc.org](http://www.nlacrc.org)

## Director's Report September 2024

### **Legislative:**

NLACRC has established collaboration with LA County Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC). In April 2021 through a motion by Supervisor Janice Hahn, the Board of Supervisors began the process to create a new County department dedicated to providing aging and disability services. Their current mission is to establish an inclusive network that offers extensive support and services to older adults aged 60 and above, individuals with disabilities, their families, and caregivers within the Los Angeles region. Los Angeles County ADRC provides a coordinated system for people seeking reliable information and access to Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS).

ADRC Services include:

- 1) Enhanced information and referral services
- 2) Options counseling
- 3) Short-term service coordination
- 4) Transition services

### **Department of Developmental Services:**

DDS has a new newsletter named **Bridges** that emphasizes their goals:

1. To connect our communities to each other; and
2. To build accessible pathways to services and supports for people and their families.

"Sharing timely information and the stories of our communities helps get us there. Much of what is shared in this newsletter shows how individuals, families, Regional Centers, Service Providers, and so many other partners are working together for the betterment of all Californians." This platform was created to share about those efforts and successes.

[Bridges Newsletter Archives - CA Department of Developmental Services: CA Department of Developmental Services](#)

### **Center Operations:**

Staffing Data

Total # positions filled: 754

Total # of positions authorized: 952

August New Hires

- 1st cycle: 7
- 2nd cycle: 4

### **Center Updates:**

NLACRC's Board of Trustees has hired Angela Pao-Johnson as the new Executive Director. Angela has over 20 years of experience serving people with developmental disabilities. She is currently the Executive Director of the non-profit organization MERCI, which provides services and housing for adults with developmental disabilities in Los Angeles. Angela holds a master's degree in psychology from Pepperdine University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, San Diego. Her official start date at NLACRC is September 23, 2024.

The Columbus Organization is conducting Employee Driven Self-Managed Work Groups to provide input and explore collaborative discussions as part of the special contract agreement. The areas to receive feedback are workspace utilization, recruitment and retention of staff and case management support and stabilization

Public Information is thrilled to announce that [NLACRC's new website is officially live!](#) This project has been a collaborative effort with all internal departments.

IDEA specialist and Early Start supervisor participated in this year's Office of Special Education Programs/OSEP Combined Leadership and Project Directors' Conference on Aug. 6-8, in Crystal City, Virginia. The theme was Early Beginnings to Bright Futures.

On July 1, 2024, NLACRC rolled out a comprehensive Workplace Violence Prevention Plan for employees as a requirement by the State of California per SB553. As part of our process to implement the plan with the recent state law, we have developed specific training for each office (SFV, SCV, AV). The training is now required to be completed yearly. In addition, we will need to complete office specific training.

### **Two (2) Required Trainings in LMS:**

- Getting Real About Workplace Violence - Employee Version or Manager Version
- NLACRC Workplace Violence Prevention Plan - (SFV, SCV, or AV)

Through our annual membership with VICA (Valley Industry and Commerce Association) we participated in the local officeholder's luncheon on 8/29/2024 to hear from local elected officials representing the City of Los Angeles and other Valley cities and for networking opportunities with fellow business leaders.

### **Consumer Statistics:**

As of July 2024, the Center served 37,155 consumers and applicants.

### **Introducing Transition Liaison Deyanira Soriano**

Each regional center received funding in 2022, for a Transition Liaison position to focus on developing collaborative partnerships with local school districts and other agencies to achieve effective and timely school transitions that promote inclusive options for regional center children who are transitioning to preschool or kindergarten. The position does not carry cases but assists the regional center to establish procedures and policies that further the recommendations of the statewide Part C to B.

The responsibilities of the School Transition Liaisons include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Serving as the regional center's primary point of contact for interagency collaboration regarding school transitions of consumers up to age 5.
- 2) Facilitating coordinated efforts within the regional center to meet Part C to B transition requirements.
- 3) Establishing recommended practices for family engagement during transitions, in collaboration with the regional center's diverse communities and stakeholders.
- 4) Assisting with regional center efforts to improve family connections with Local Educational Agencies.
- 5) Educating families on the school transition process.
- 6) Assisting the regional center with the development of materials that regional center staff can use to improve the transition process.
- 7) Identifying promising transition practices to assist the regional center.
- 8) Monitoring implementation and supporting the continuous improvement of the transition policies and procedures outlined in local memorandums of understanding (MOU) between the regional center and Local Educational Agencies.
- 9) Participating in regular Part C to B coordination calls with the Department.

### **Special Events:**

Upcoming ARCA Academy event that will be held on Friday, September 6th and Saturday, September 7th. The location for Friday's event will be the Doubletree Hotel in San Bernardino, and the location for Saturday's event will be the Inland Regional Center.

**Target Audience:** ARCA Board Delegates, Regional Center Board Members, and Regional Center Directors and other center leadership staff.

### **Community Events and Educational Training Opportunities**

NLACRC's Calendar of Events: [Calendar of Events | NLACRC](#)

\*Additional training and support groups are offered as well! Please see NLACRC's Calendar of Events, which includes a link for the Family Focus Resource Center, for information regarding dates, times and links for these events, trainings and more.

Family Focus Resource Center: [Events | California State University, Northridge \(csun.edu\)](#)

\*Additionally, the Family Focus Resource Center coordinates several support groups including "Black & African American Family Focus Support Group" "Mamas Latinas Grupo de Apoyo" and the "Parent Check-In and Chat". Please see NLACRC's Calendar of Events, which includes a link for

the Family Focus Resource Center, for information regarding more support groups, training opportunities, dates, times, and links.

**Upcoming Disability Organization Events/Activities**

State Council on Developmental Disabilities next council meeting - September 24, 2024

Disability Rights California's next board meeting - September 20, 2024

Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (LVAC SDP)- September 19, 2024