



# 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)

## MEMORANDUM

Date: April 10, 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 Vendor Advisory Committee meeting on **Thursday, April 10, 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 by Zoom. We will send you the Zoom access information via email. The in-person meeting location will be at the NLACRC Chatsworth Office: 9200 Oakdale Ave., Chatsworth, CA 91311.**

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

### Attachments

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

# Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting 4.10.25

## Table of Contents

<b>Memorandum.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Agenda.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Agenda Item V. A. Approval of Meeting Minutes .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Agenda Item VII. C. Self-Determination Update</b>	
Self-Determination Progress Report – Implementation Updates .....	11
SDP February Board Liaison Report .....	12
<b>Agenda Item VIII. C. Community Services Director’s Report .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Agenda Item VIII. D. Legislative Report .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Agenda Item VII. E. Executive Director’s Report .....</b>	<b>32</b>
Disability Scoop Article.....	38
HHS Restructure .....	41
<b>Agenda Item XIV. B. Committee Attendance .....</b>	<b>43</b>



# 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)

## VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 10, 2025

9:30 am (*Hybrid*)

Zoom/NLARC Chatsworth 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 March 13, 2025, Meeting (*1 min*)
  - B. Approval of the Agenda (*1 min*)
- VI. **Action Items**
  - A. Discuss and Approval for VAC Committee Chair and Alternate Chair for the next Fiscal Year 2025-26 – Alex Kopilevich (*10 min*)
    - i. Review additional duties for VAC Chair
- VII. **Committee Business**
  - A. NLACRC's Local Delegation Team – 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*)
  - E. **Executive Director's Report** – Angela Pao-Johnson (*5 min*)
- IX. **Open Topics for Discussion** – Alex Kopilevich (*5 min*)

- A. Attendance Commitments by Consumers and Families to Vendors

**X. Committee Work Group Information/Committee Work Group Final Reports:**

- A. **Early Start Services** (Jodie Agnew-Navarro) *(3 min)*  
For meeting schedule and information  
Contact: Jodie Agnew-Navarro - jodie.agnew-navarro@chimeinstitute.net  
**Next workgroup meeting: May 15, 2025 @ 9:30am (via Zoom).**
  - i. Early Start Services
- B. **School Age Services** (Paul Borda & Cal Enriquez) *(3 min)*  
For meeting schedule and information  
Contact: Paul Borda - paul@abatherapypartners.com and Cal Enriquez - cal.enriquez@aveanna.com  
**Next workgroup meeting: April 8, 2025 @ 10:00am (via Zoom).**
  - i. School Age Services
- C. **Adult Services** (Octavia Watkins) *(3 min)*  
For meeting schedule and information  
Contact: Octavia Watkins - excellencecrp@gmail.com  
**Next workgroup meeting: May 19, 2025 @ 11:00am (via Zoom).**
  - i. Adult Services

**XI. 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)*

**XII. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

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

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Hybrid – In-person location Santa Clarita Valley Office
- B. Committee Attendance

**XIV. Adjournment**

**XV. 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 – ANTELOPE VALLEY OFFICE / TELECONFERENCE  
March 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 Chilvers, 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, Rebecca Ernewein- Minute Solutions

---

**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 9:37 a.m. Alex Kopilevich presided as Chair.

**2. COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE**

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

**3. SHARE IMPACT STORY FROM INDIVIDUAL SERVED**

Alex Kopilevich shared a story about an anonymous individual who had gained full employment through the agency and was now learning to drive.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

Alex Kopilevich noted a career fair had been scheduled for April 8, 2025 and April 10, 2025.

**5. CONSENT ITEMS**

On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Ricki Macken Chilvers, it was resolved to approve all consent items, as amended. Motion carried.

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**6.1 Discussion and Vote on VAC Member Applications**

On a motion made by Jaklen Keshishyan, seconded by Andrea Devers, it was resolved to forward the five VAC member applications to the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

## **7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **7.1 NLACRC Grassroots Week Update**

Belinda Abatesi stated that legislative support was discussed in regard to strengthening the regional center and improving services for individuals and further noted that relationships are being built with legislators in various districts. Site visits are currently being coordinated with staff, and Belina Abatesi stated they would keep the Committee updated as plans progress.

### **7.2 Service Provider Vendor Training Updates**

Alex Kopilevich noted that training ideas would be reviewed, and the mentorship program is being finalized. Another finalization meeting will be scheduled within the coming months, and all vendors were encouraged to participate.

### **7.3 Self-Determination Update**

Silvia Renteria-Haro stated that 537 people are currently enrolled in the program, and the program continues to grow. It was noted there were fewer people attending orientation, with approximately 58 transitions.

#### **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.

## **8. REPORT OUTS**

### **8.1 Deputy Director Officer's Report**

Evelyn McOmie confirmed that standardization assessment tools are to be rolled out shortly, and a pilot of the tool is currently being tested, with all feedback due by April 4, 2025. The Sandis IPP was launched in January 2025, and technical issues are still being resolved. The signature form for the IPP is not yet in circulation, and Sandis is aware of the situation. Evelyn McOmie noted that a timeline has not yet been confirmed. The Sandis addendum is approximately 75% complete, with deployment expected later in the year.

Evelyn McOmie stated that a vendor survey would be deployed during the fiscal year for staff feedback. A vendor forum was held on February 20, 2025, for providers who offered feedback for those in attendance, and a plan based on said feedback is in progress.

Evelyn McOmie confirmed that accurate numbers for the percentage of users on the portal would be reflected in the April 2025 report.

### **8.2 Chief Financial Officer's Report**

The total NLACRC projected annual budget was \$1,102,607,364, with a monthly expenditure of \$84,441,043. The projected annual expenditures are \$1,105,339,056, with a projected deficit of \$2,741,692.

Vini Montague confirmed an alternate contact had been implemented for any e-pay users having login issues and noted that if a contact is unavailable, an accounts payable representative should be contacted.

**Alex Kopilevich:**

Inquired if the deficit is a result of onboarding new vendors.

**Vini Montague:**

Responded that the deficit is uncertain due to the lack of a month of rate adjustments and that the deficit could grow.

**Jaklen Keshishyan:**

Inquired if there would be a rate or code change in the near future.

**Vini Montague:**

Responded that a rate change would happen now with a code change later.

Vini Montague confirmed that the rollover planning is scheduled for June 30, 2025, and all new authorizations will be generated for the following fiscal year. She noted that authorizations will no longer be mailed once all service providers are on the portal.

**Keisha Carroll:**

Inquired if the service code 810 is changing.

**Vini Montague:**

Responded that they do not have code 810 on their list and will investigate the matter.

### **8.3 Community Services Director's Report**

Arshalous Garlanian confirmed an upcoming vendor fair is scheduled for May 6, 2025, and May 7, 2025, with registration starting Monday, March 17, 2025. The customer service team is working on rate reform letters to providers with a deadline of March 31, 2025. She noted that updates are being sent regarding QIPs, and members should see relevant updates within their next billing cycle and for any service providers not yet in the directory to inform customer service.

Arshalous Garlanian stated that the vendor portal would continue registering and onboarding the provider community. Office hours would also be indicated for providers with login concerns implemented on March 19, 2025.

There was an inquiry if prevention and wellness are identified in e-billing to share with service providers.

**Arshalous Garlanian:**

Responded that a letter would be sent out to identify eligible people.

**Alex Kopilevich:**

Inquired if the rate reform agreements are for vendors to review or if additional information needs to be provided.

**Arshalous Garlanian:**

Responded that service providers would be informed of any additional information needed.

Also, there was an inquiry if there would be a potential deadline extension due to delays in DDS's guidance.

**Arshalous Garlanian:**

Responded that an extension would be provided if needed as no one would be required to sign anything until all information is clarified.

**Ricki Macken Chilvers:**

Inquired about the status of employee internships.

**Arshalous Garlanian:**

Responded that they would investigate and follow up after the meeting.

**Angela Pao-Johnson:**

Recommended that more people use the NLACRC portal to help manage communication concerns.

**Ricki Macken Chilvers:**

Suggested follow-ups with vendors every two years after vendorization is established.

**Alex Kopilevich:**

Responded that they would consider it for their mentorship program.

**Sharon Weinberg:**

Inquired how many registrations are allowed for staff members on the portal.

**Arshalous Garlanian:**

Responded that the portal currently only allows one registration per department or role.

**Sharon Weinberg:**

Inquired if the portal can be used to upload additional agreements besides POS.

**Arshalous Garlanian:**

Responded that the portal can only upload POS with the plans to allow for more types in the future.

#### **8.4 Legislative Report**

Belinda Abatesi stated they have been closely monitoring recently introduced bills that were referred to multiple service committees. They noted upcoming meetings and events and added that a grassroots update was available on a website link provided in the Zoom chat.

#### **8.5 Executive Director's Report**

Angela Pao-Johnson presented the Executive Director's Report and highlighted significant items. She also highlighted that Evelyn McOmie was presenting at the CSUN Alumni to discuss the benefits of working at NLACRC. It was also confirmed that the podcast sessions are currently being recorded and are scheduled to launch before the end of March 2025.

### **9. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP INFORMATION**

#### **9.1 School Age Services**

Paul Borda stated the recent meeting involved discussions of rate reform, QIP, portal access, along with recruitment and retention strategies.

#### **9.2 Adult Services**

Octavia Watkins confirmed they had 21 participants at their last conference, with employment metrics, support services, financial literacy, and housing solution initiatives discussed.

### **10. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **10.1 Administrative Affairs**



Jaklen Keshishyan confirmed the next meeting was scheduled for April 17, 2024. They added that DDS had conducted an audit that detected a discrepancy regarding a service code causing overpayment for some vendors. They confirmed they are currently working with DDS to identify a resolution

## **10.2 Consumer Services**

Sharon Weinberg confirmed that all consumer service reports are available on the NLACRC website and asked that any audit-related questions be brought to the next meeting for potential revisions to the audit process.

## **10.3 Government and Community Relations**

Jodie Agnew-Navarro confirmed the next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2025.

## **10.4 Nominating**

Alex Kopilevich confirmed the next meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2025.

## **10.5 Strategic Planning**

Octavia Watkins confirmed the prior meeting discussed planning for the current fiscal year, updates to the special contract language, and the sunsetting of the current strategic plans. They added that the Board is seeking new candidates due to many resignations early in the year.

## **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT**

Jodie Agnew-Navarro requested the work group's final reports be removed from next month's agenda as they have already been provided. Alex Kopilevich confirmed they would review this at the next meeting.

Mark Wolfe requested that DDS's instructional videos on the IPP template be reviewed.

Sharon Weinberg thanked Angela Pao-Johnson for organizing the vendor forum in February 2025.

Angela Pao-Johnson commented that DDS may remove NLACRC from Special Contract Language if the committee can sustain caseloads.

## **12. NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on April 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Chatsworth Office Location.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:10 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

DRAFT

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER**  
**Board Member Reporting Out Form**

**Name:** Silvia Renteria-Haro  
**Meeting:** SDLVAC  
**Date of Meeting:** March 20, 2025

<b>1.</b>	<b>Number of Attendees</b>	Approx. 20
<b>2.</b>	<b>Public Input:</b>	<p><b>Chair:</b> NLA SDP Email: selfdetermination@nlacrc.org  NLACRC website: www.nlacrc.org  NLACRC SDLAC Email: nlacrcsdlac@gmail.com</p> <p>Master Plan is in its final draft, Lori highlighted the importance of the plan for regional centers.</p> <p><b>Lia Cervantes Lerma SDCC:</b> 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>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Points of Discussion:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving engagement with the Board. The LVAC committee feels that there should be more engagement with the Board, this would allow them to understand the barriers of the SDP and would promote transparency. The committee is exploring ideas on how to have better communication with the Board beyond public comment.</li> </ul>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Reported out to Committee/Meeting:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair wants to reinstate RFP meetings with NLACRC staff to avoid miscommunication.</li> <li>The committee will be reviewing NLACRC's staff training and provide their feedback.</li> </ul>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Area of Concerns:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of engagement with the Board.</li> <li>Miscommunication with RFP award recipients.</li> <li>Lack of guidance when it comes to services such as stipends.</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Action Items:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The committee to explore ideas on how to increase engagement with the Board.</li> <li>NLACRC to reinstate RFP meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Questions for the Board:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you have ideas on how the Board and SDP Local Volunteer Advisory Committee can collaborate to improve the program?</li> </ul>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	



# 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)

## Self Determination Program Report - Implementation Updates

April 1, 2025

### *North Los Angeles County Regional Center Statistics*

Participants have completed Orientation from 2019-Present: **1,124** (increased by 20)

Total number of budgets that are certified: **608** (increased by 18)

Total number of spending plans that are approved: **546**

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

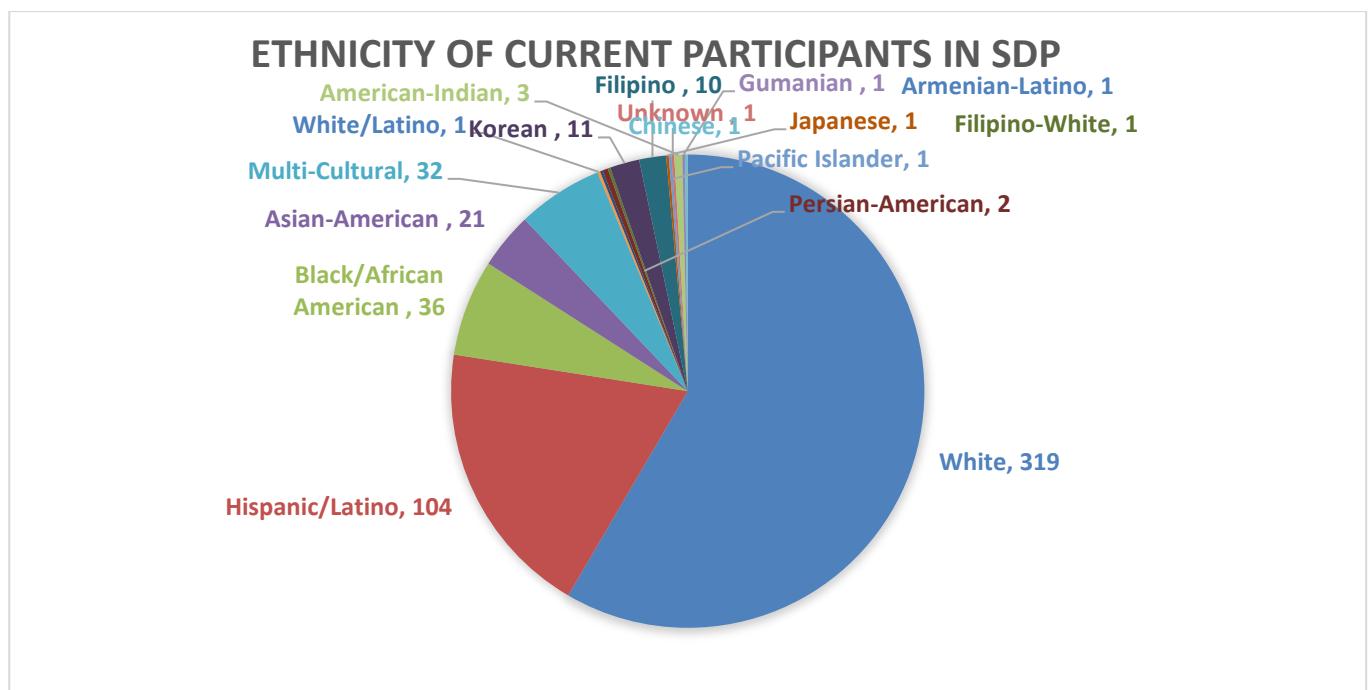
Total number of PCP's completed: **528** (increased by 9)

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: **546** (8 transitions)



### Transitions based on ethnicity:

White: 3

Latino/Hispanic: 1

African American: 1

Asian: 2

Korean: 1

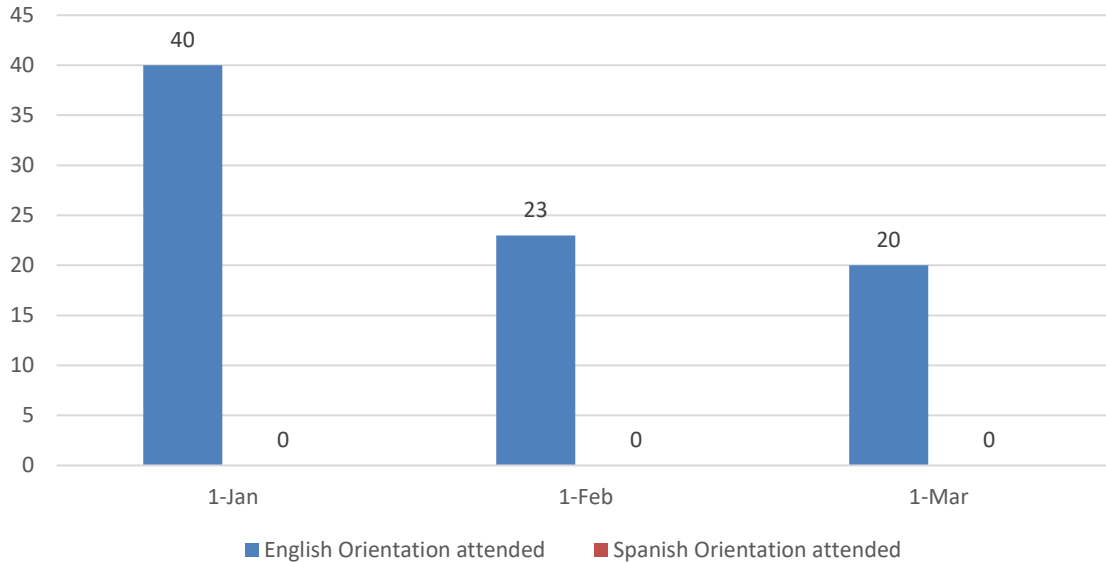


# North Los Angeles County Regional Center

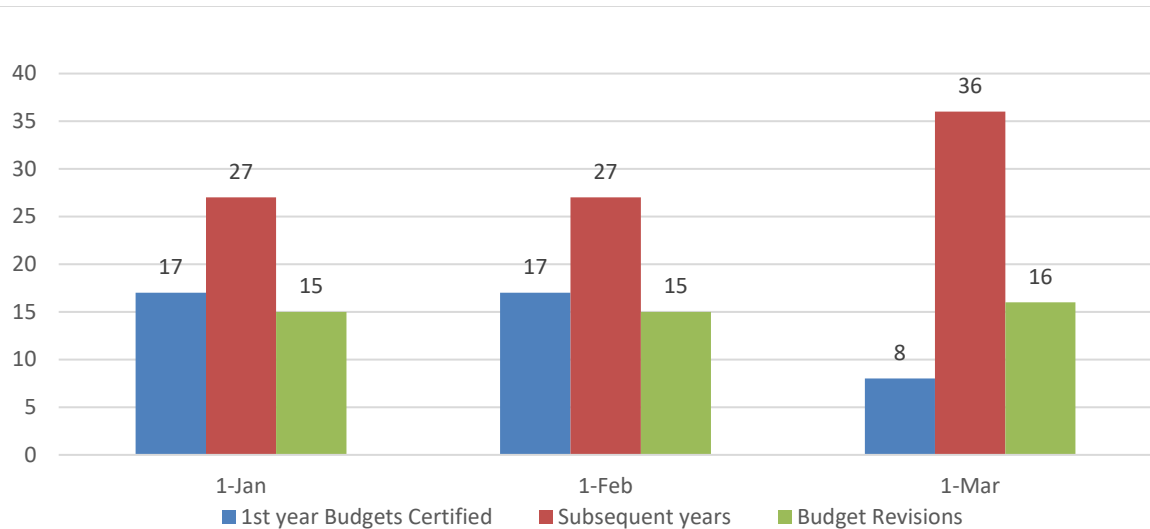
Main 818-778-1900 • Fax 818-756-6140 | 9200 Oakdale Avenue #100, Chatsworth, CA 91311

| [www.nlacrc.org](http://www.nlacrc.org)

## Monthly Participants Attending SDP Orientation



## Monthly Budgets Certified



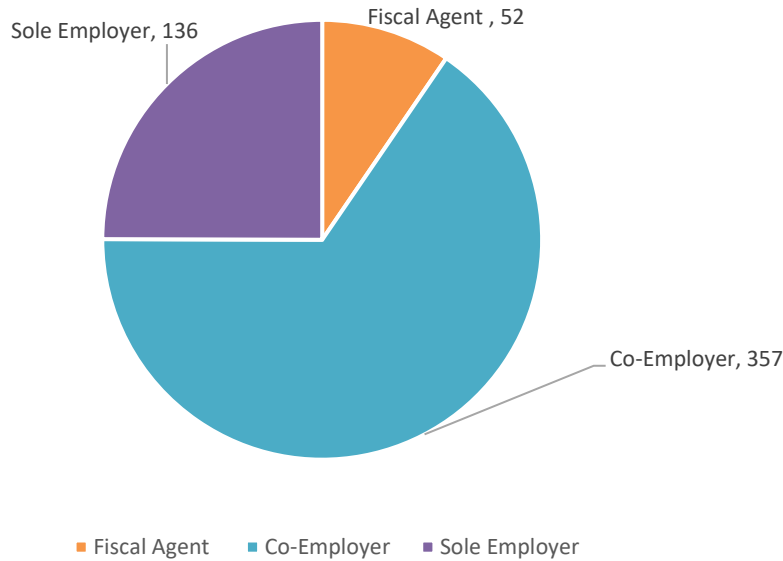


# North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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

| [www.nlacrc.org](http://www.nlacrc.org)

SDP Participants By FMS Model



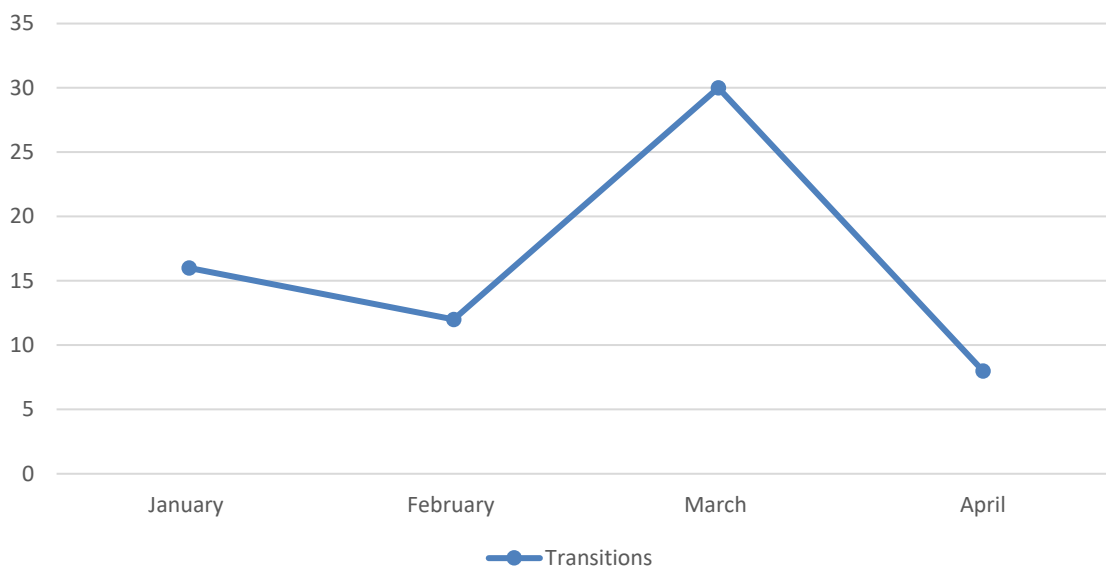
## Transitions this month:

Bill Payer: 1

Co-Employer: 5

Sole Employer: 2

Transitions 2025



**Total transitions this year: 66**

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



# 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)

## *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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month in Spanish (unless there is a holiday, day may change).  
RSVP: [selfdetermination@nlacrc.org](mailto:selfdetermination@nlacrc.org)
    - Next Virtual Orientation meetings:
      - Monday May 5, 2025 (English) from 9AM-12:00PM
      - Monday May 19, 2025 (Spanish) from 9AM-12:00PM
- Self Determination Support Group – May 7 at 4:30pm via Zoom. [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
- SDP Local Volunteer Advisory Committee- Thursday April 17 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](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 <a href="mailto:Info@acefms.com">Info@acefms.com</a>  Web: <a href="http://AceFMS.com">Http://AceFMS.com</a>
Action	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English & Spanish	Yes, new clients call and leave message or fill out a <a href="#">contact us</a> request on the website.	25%-Co-employer 17% Sole Employer	No budget limits	Main office: (310) 867-8882 Website: <a href="http://actionfms.com">actionfms.com</a> Email: <a href="mailto:contact@actionfms.com">contact@actionfms.com</a>
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 <a href="mailto:yvettet@acumen2.net">yvettet@acumen2.net</a>
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 <a href="mailto:fmsinfo@aveanna.com">fmsinfo@aveanna.com</a>
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 <a href="mailto:davide@cfms1.com">davide@cfms1.com</a>
Casa Fiscal/Essential Pay	Bill Payer, Co-employer	English, Spanish, Mandarin	No	19.15%	None	(510) 336-2900 (833) 268-8530 <a href="mailto:contact@essentialpay.com">contact@essentialpay.com</a>



FACT	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English	Waiting list	20%	Unknown	(310) 475-9629 <a href="mailto:FMS@factfamily.org">FMS@factfamily.org</a>
FMS Pay LLC	Bill Payer	English Spanish Translation available for other languages		N/A	No budget limit	Phone: (858) 281-5910 Website: <a href="http://www.myfmsspay.com">www.myfmsspay.com</a> <a href="mailto:connect@fmsspay.com">connect@fmsspay.com</a>
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  <a href="mailto:tjones@gtindependence.com">tjones@gtindependence.com</a>
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  <a href="mailto:jmbergquist@mainsl.com">jmbergquist@mainsl.com</a>
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: <a href="http://Ritzfms.com">Ritzfms.com</a>  Kitleng Pui <a href="mailto:kpui@ritzvocational.com">kpui@ritzvocational.com</a> (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: <a href="http://sequoiasd.com">sequoiasd.com</a>  <a href="mailto:sequoiaenrollment@sequoiasd.com">sequoiaenrollment@sequoiasd.com</a>

# Vendor Advisory Committee: April 10, 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 will be the 3 pm 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month effective 4/01 (instead of every 2 weeks)
  - Zoom:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85054576563?pwd=FLmxmJd5oP2ryUfbAASMtwE0XbsMzX.1>  
Meeting ID: 850 5457 6563  
Passcode: 595837
- All questions related to rates, Service Provider Acknowledgement Rate Letters should be routed to [RatesQuestions@nlacrc.org](mailto:RatesQuestions@nlacrc.org)

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

- As onboarding continues, DDS updates their list approximately every Friday  
<https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/provider-directory/>
- Questions:
  - [ProviderDirectory@dds.ca.gov](mailto:ProviderDirectory@dds.ca.gov)
  - [ProviderDirectory@nlacrc.org](mailto: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](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 January – March 2024 only a
  - Access: no DDS approvals received yet
  - Capacity: RC received approved list from DDS. Providers will receive an email notification with billing instructions end of April.
- **Early Intervention Service Delivery for CY2024:**
  - Quarter 1 January – March 2024 All invoices available for billing since 1/31/2025.
  - Quarter 2 April – June 2024 received March 14, 2025, providers will receive an email notification with billing instruction end of April.
- **DSP Training Stipend** – ended 8/31/2024 (\$775 incentive)
  - Questions about payment: [VendorIncentiveProgram@nlacrc.org](mailto:VendorIncentiveProgram@nlacrc.org)
- **2023 DSP Workforce Data Collection Survey (submitted June 2024):** RCs have received the approved list from DDS. Providers will receive an email notification with billing instructions at the end of May.

- ❖ **CFS Coordinated Family Support Pilot** Implementation incentive payment; RC received monthly report for approval of submitted surveys. Payment issued to providers with no further action.
- ❖ **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](mailto: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](mailto:invites@microsoft.com)
  - Questions: [vendorportal@nlacrc.org](mailto:vendorportal@nlacrc.org)
- ❖ **2025 Spring Vendor Fair Save the Date:** Registration Open. Notification confirmations will be sent to providers by mid-April. Due to increased interest and limited space, we will not be able to accept all requests. For questions, please contact [rortega@nlacrc.org](mailto:rortega@nlacrc.org).
  - Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 1:30pm SFV
  - Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 1:30pm SFV
  - Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 1:30pm AV
  - Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dramos@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](mailto:Dramos@nlacrc.org).
  - Come to Life in the Workplace: For Individuals/Families
    - SCV – April 11<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 12:30
    - AV – May 1<sup>st</sup> 9:30 – 12:30

### **DHH**

- **ASL Classes:** Instructor Lead and Self-Paced Classes Coming Soon – May/June for participants, families and vendors. For more information contact Ted Horton-Billard – [thortonbillard@nlacrc.org](mailto:thortonbillard@nlacrc.org).

### **Compliance Corner:**

- ❖ **Insurance Announcement!!** NLACRC is partnering with Gallagher Verify to collect, process and track service provider insurance certificates. NLACRC and Gallagher will be emailing welcome letters to all service providers in the next few weeks with further details and instructions. We look forward to their assistance in ensuring our compliance efforts.
- ❖ **Vendor Update Reminders:**
  - Submit license renewals and organizational charts to [Contract&Compliance@nlacrc.org](mailto:Contract&Compliance@nlacrc.org)
  - Submit notice of changes (address, entity, name, tax ID) to [ResourceDevelopment@nlacrc.org](mailto:ResourceDevelopment@nlacrc.org)
  - DS 1891 updates should be submitted through the OIG Compliance Now website: <https://sanctionscreeningnow.com/OIGComplianceVendor/Customer.aspx/Login>

### **Employment Services:**

- ❖ General reminder to submit PIP workbook claims and CIE/PIP Incentives request [CIE&PIP@nlacrc.org](mailto:CIE&PIP@nlacrc.org)
- ❖ **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](mailto: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](mailto:QIPEmpCapacity@dds.ca.gov).
- ❖ **NLACRC Employment Initiative Office Hours**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](#):**
  - 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 25-01-ASC](#) - Waivers Due to Wildfires in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
  - [PIN 25-02-ASC](#) - Update on COVID-19 Workplace Requirements and Reminders of Guidance on Respiratory Viruses
- ❖ **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](#)
  - 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](#)
  - 2 CEUs available
  
- ❖ **Winter Weather Safety- Emergency Preparedness Bulletin**
  - [Emergency Preparedness Bulletin - Winter Safety 2024 Edition](#)

## Community and Legislative Educator Report April 2025

### INTRODUCED BILLS - SUPPORTED BY ARCA

**AB 38 (Lackey) Crimes: Serious and Violent Felonies** – This bill proposes to expand the list of offenses considered 'violent felonies' under current law. Specifically, it would include certain crimes involving the sexual exploitation of minors with developmental disabilities—offenses that are currently not categorized as violent under the Penal Code. The goal is to ensure stronger protections and accountability in these cases.

**Status:** Introduced on **December 2, 2024**; In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of the author on **March 30, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB38](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB38)

**AB 251 (Kalra) Elders and Dependent Adults: Abuse or Neglect** – This bill would authorize a court to apply a preponderance of the evidence standard to any claim brought against residential care or skilled nursing facilities if the facility has been destroyed or tampered with evidence. However, this rule becomes invalid if it's determined that the state must reimburse these facilities through Medi-Cal and the Legislature doesn't allocate enough funding. The bill would make conforming changes to a related provision.

**Status:** Introduced on **January 15, 2025**; Read third time, passed, and ordered to the Senate on **April 1, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB251](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB251)

**AB 257 (Flora) Specialty Care Networks: Telehealth and Other Virtual Services** –

This bill would, subject to an appropriation, require the California Health and Human Services Agency, in collaboration with the Department of Health Care Access and Information and the State Department of Health Care Services, to establish a demonstration project for a grant program. Under the bill, the grant program would be aimed at facilitating a telehealth and other virtual services specialty care network-or networks that are designed to serve patients of safety-net providers consisting of qualifying providers, as defined.

**Status:** Introduced on **January 16, 2025**; Re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations on **March 28, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB257](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB257)

**AB 259 (Rubio) Open Meetings: Local Agencies: Teleconferences** – This bill would extend the use of alternative teleconferencing procedures for local legislative bodies indefinitely by removing the January 1, 2026, expiration date. These procedures allow members to participate remotely under specific conditions, such as requiring a quorum to meet in person at a publicly accessible location within the agency's jurisdiction, while also complying with transparency requirements.

**Status:** Introduced on **January 16, 2025**; Re-referred to the Committee on Local Government on **February 10, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB259](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB259)

**AB 276 (Bennett) Background Checks** - This bill would allow a licensee of a community care facility to temporarily approve an individual to care for children before completing an out-of-state

child abuse and neglect registry check, provided specific conditions are met. It would also require immediate removal of the individual and notification to the department within 3 business days if disqualifying information is received.

**Status:** Introduced on **January 21, 2025**; Passed and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee on **April 2, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB276](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB276)

**AB 282 (Pellerin) Discrimination: Housing: Source of Income** – This bill would clarify that prioritizing applicants who receive or qualify for rental assistance does not constitute discrimination based on source of income under the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA).

**Status:** Introduced on **January 22, 2025**; Pass and re-refer to Assembly Judiciary Committee on **March 26, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB282](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB282)

**AB 308 (Ramos) Mobile Crisis Teams or Units: Procedures** – This bill would authorize county behavioral health directors to develop procedures for mobile crisis teams or units to handle emergencies involving individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities or behavioral health conditions.

**Status:** Introduced on **January 23, 2025**; In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of the author on **March 25, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB308](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB308)

**AB 315 (Bonta) Medi-Cal: Home and Community-Based Alternatives Waiver** – This bill would recast provisions related to the Home and Community-Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver to require the enrollment of all eligible applicants and direct the Department of Health Care Services to seek amendments to ensure adequate waiver capacity by March 1, 2026.

**Status:** Introduced on **January 23, 2025**; Passed and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee on **March 25, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB315](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB315)

**AB 322 (Ward) Pupil Health: School-Based Services and School-Based Mental Health Services** – This bill would expand current law to include county offices of education and charter schools in efforts to provide school-based health and mental health services, including establishing “Health Days.”

**Status:** Introduced on **January 24, 2025**; Passed and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee on **March 13, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB322](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB322)

**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 pursuant to Assembly Rule 96 on **March 24, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB341](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB341)

**AB 346 (Nguyen) In-Home Supportive Services: Licensed Health Care Professional Certification** – This bill would broaden the definition of a "licensed healthcare professional" authorized to certify an individual for IHSS eligibility, allowing a wider range of medical professionals to provide necessary documentation.

**Status:** Introduced on **January 29, 2025**; Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee on **February 18, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB346](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB346)

**AB 349 (Dixon) Foster Care Supplement** – This bill would require the monthly \$489 foster care supplement provided for a child living with a parent receiving AFDC-FC, Kin-GAP, or ARC benefits to be adjusted annually for inflation.

**Status:** Introduced on **January 29, 2025**; Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee on **February 18, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB349](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB349)

**AB 350 (Bonta) Health Care Coverage: Fluoride Treatments** – This bill would require a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2026, to provide coverage for the application of fluoride varnish in the primary care setting for children under 21 years of age.

**Status:** Introduced on **January 29, 2025**; Referred to Assembly Health Committee on **February 18, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB350](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB350)

**AB 563 (Jackson) – Childcare: Strategic Planning Councils** – This bill would rename local childcare planning councils to "strategic planning councils," revise their membership and responsibilities, and allow for consolidation across counties to better address local early childhood education and childcare needs.

**Status:** Introduced on **February 12, 2025**; Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee; Hearing scheduled for **March 17, 2025** and canceled at the request of author.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB563](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB563)

**AB 636 (Ortega) Medi-Cal: Diapers** – This bill would establish diapers as a covered Medi-Cal benefit for children over 3 years of age with a diagnosed condition causing incontinence, and for individuals under 21 if necessary to address a medical condition. The bill requires federal approval, funding from the Legislature, and updates to the Medi-Cal provider manual to implement the provisions.

**Status:** Introduced on **February 13, 2025**; Passed and re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee on **April 2, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB636](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB636)

**AB 804 (Wicks) Medi-Cal: Housing Support Services** – This bill would make housing support services a covered Medi-Cal benefit for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, contingent upon legislative appropriation. It removes the requirement for a state-conducted



network adequacy analysis and directs the Department of Health Care Services to seek federal approval for this benefit.

**Status:** Introduced on **February 18, 2025**; Referred to Assembly Health Committee on **March 3, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB804](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB804)

**AB 815 (Ortega) Vehicle Insurance: Vehicle Classification** – This bill would prevent a vehicle from being classified as a commercial or for-hire vehicle solely because the driver, as part of their public social services job, provides transportation support to individuals with special needs.

**Status:** Introduced on **February 19, 2025**; Referred to Assembly Insurance Committee on **March 10, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB815](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB815)

**AB 906 (González) Planning and Zoning: Housing Elements** – This bill would require local governments to demonstrate that they have allocated a meaningful portion of their regional housing needs for lower-income households in higher-income, racially exclusive areas when completing housing element updates.

**Status:** Introduced on **February 19, 2025**; Referred to the Assembly Committees on Housing and Community Development and Local Government on **March 10, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB906](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB906)

**AB 951 (Ta) Health Care Coverage: Behavioral Diagnoses** – This bill would prohibit health plans from requiring individuals previously diagnosed with autism or a related disorder to undergo rediagnosis in order to maintain behavioral health treatment coverage. Treatment plans must be available upon insurer request.

**Status:** Introduced on **February 20, 2025**; Passed and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee on **March 26, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB951](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB951)

**AB 1076 (Addis) Qualified ABLE Program: CalABLE Accounts: Funding** – This bill would authorize the California ABLE Act Board to additionally accept grants, gifts, appropriations, and other moneys from a philanthropic entity, and would specify that the program can receive legislative appropriations. It also authorizes the board to use funds to promote ABLE account enrollment and usage, including financial incentives for eligible individuals.

**Status:** Introduced on **February 20, 2025**; Re-referred to the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation on **April 1, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB1076](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1076)

**AB 1099 (Bryan) Developmental Services: Initial Intake: Assessment** – This bill would require regional centers to refer foster children for additional assessment within 15 days if eligibility for services has not yet been determined. It prohibits denying an assessment solely due to missing documentation and requires the Department of Developmental Services to report annual intake data, including the number involving foster children.

**Status:** Introduced on **February 20, 2025**; Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee on **March 10, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB1099](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1099)

**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**; Referred to the Assembly Committees on Human Services and Judiciary on **March 13, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB1172](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1172)

**AB 1220 (Arambula) Developmental Services: Denials of Services and Notices of Actions –**

This bill would require a regional center to document in each consumer's individual program plan all of the consumer's denials of services, notices of actions, and appeals. The bill would also require the department and regional centers to include in their annual report data relating to denials of services and notices of action, and would make related findings and declarations.

**Status:** Introduced on **February 21, 2025**; Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee on **March 25, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB1220](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1220)

**AB 1335 (Gonzalez) Habilitation Services** – This bill would remove the requirement for work activity and support employment programs to comply with CARF accreditation standards. Instead, regional centers would evaluate service providers using department-adopted service standards.

**Status:** Introduced on **February 21, 2025**; Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee on **March 17, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB1335](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1335)

**AB 1386 (Bains) Health Facilities: Perinatal Services**

This bill would require general acute care hospitals to provide perinatal services as a basic service and submit compliance plans to the Department of Public Health. The bill also directs the department to create a process to approve or deny these plans.

**Status:** Introduced on **February 21, 2025**; Referred to Assembly Health Committee on **March 13, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB1386](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1386)

**ACR 55 (Gonzalez) ARC v. Department of Developmental Services: 40th Anniversary**

This resolution would recognize March 2025 as the 40th anniversary of the California Supreme Court decision in *ARC v. Department of Developmental Services* and commemorate the Legislature's 1969 passage of the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act.

**Status:** Introduced on **March 19, 2025**; Referred to Senate Rules Committee on **April 1, 2025**.

[https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/Bills/25Bills/asm/ab\\_0051-0100/acr\\_55\\_99\\_1\\_bill.pdf](https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/Bills/25Bills/asm/ab_0051-0100/acr_55_99_1_bill.pdf)

**SB 258 (Wahab) Crimes: Rape** – This bill would amend the definition of rape by removing the spousal exception, ensuring that rape laws apply equally regardless of marital status.

**Status:** Introduced on **February 3, 2025**; Referred to Senate Public Safety Committee on **February 14, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260SB258](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB258)

**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**; Passed and re-referred to Human Services Committee on **March 26, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260SB422](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB422)

**SB 470 (Laird) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing –** This bill would indefinitely extend alternative teleconferencing provisions under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, removing the January 1, 2026, sunset date. These provisions allow virtual participation by members under certain transparency and access conditions.

**Status:** Introduced on **February 19, 2025**; Passed and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee on **March 25, 2025**; Hearing scheduled for **April 8, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260SB470](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB470)

**SCR 11 (Cervantes) Epilepsy Awareness Month –** This resolution would proclaim November 2025 as Epilepsy Awareness Month and encourage all Californians to promote awareness and understanding of individuals living with epilepsy.

**Status:** Introduced on **January 9, 2025**; From committee: Ordered to third reading on **February 14, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260SCR11](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SCR11)

**SR 10 (Wahab) Foster Youth Awareness Month**

This resolution would designate May 2025 as Foster Youth Awareness Month in California.

**Status:** Introduced on **January 9, 2025**; From committee: Ordered to third reading on **January 22, 2025**.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260SR10](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SR10)

**MASTER PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES – FINAL VERSION RELEASED**

The Master Plan for Developmental Services (MPDS), released on March 28, 2025 by the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS), outlines a community-driven vision to enhance support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. The plan emphasizes services that are equitable, consistent, and accessible.

The 195-page document includes nearly **170 recommendations** across **six** key topic areas:

- **Systems Serving People with I/DD Are Centered on Equity** – Emphasizes consistency and fairness in access to services (page 21).
- **People with I/DD Making Their Own Life Choices** – Promotes self-determination and person-centered planning (page 27).
- **People with I/DD Accessing the Services They Need and Prefer** – Ensures access to culturally competent and preferred services (page 38).
- **Ensuring Accountability and Transparency in All Systems Serving People with I/DD** – Focuses on improving oversight, data transparency, and public trust to ensure systems are equitable, person-centered, and consistently meeting the needs of individuals with I/DD (page 125).
- **People with I/DD Being Part of a Strong Workforce and Receiving Services** – Encourages inclusion in employment and investment in the workforce providing support (page 149).
- **Shaping the Future of the Developmental Services System** – Focuses on innovation, sustainability, and responsiveness to future needs (page 164).

For a comprehensive understanding, the full report is available here: [Master Plan for Developmental Services](#)

### **TALKS TO CUT MEDICAID CONTINUES**

As Congress returns to Capitol Hill this week, they are continuing to consider legislation that could lead to significant cuts in Medicaid funding. Recently, the House passed a budget resolution that demands at least \$880 billion in cuts, primarily impacting Medicaid. The Senate is now debating whether to adopt the House's proposal. If this legislation is passed, it could have serious negative consequences for individuals with disabilities and the network of providers that support them.

If enacted, some impacts would be seen in the shift of Medicaid costs to states, forcing them to consider cuts to provider rates and reductions in essential services. It could also threaten home and community-based services, which could result in longer waitlists and increased rates of institutionalization. It may place individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) at risk of losing crucial supports that allow them to live independently.

Read full information here: [‘Not how this works’: The GOP agenda is stuck amid House vs. Senate infighting - POLITICO](#)

### **GOVERNOR NEWSOM PROCLAIMS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**

On March 19th, Governor Newsom proclaimed March 2025 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, recognizing the efforts behind the Master Plan for Developmental Services, led by California’s Health and Human Services Agency. The draft Master Plan, released on March 12th, outlines a roadmap to strengthen support for the developmental disabilities community.

Use this link to read more: [Governor Newsom proclaims Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month | Governor of California](#)

## **FEDERAL UPDATE: CONTINUING RESOLUTION AVERTS GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

On March 14th, the U.S. Senate approved a continuing resolution (CR) for the Fiscal Year 2025 budget, temporarily funding the federal government through September and narrowly avoiding a government shutdown. While the CR does not impact Medicaid funding, it ensures continued operation of federally funded programs and services by maintaining current spending levels. This stopgap measure allows Congress more time to negotiate final appropriations bills. It's important for service providers and regional centers to stay informed, as future changes to funding—particularly through the budget reconciliation process—could potentially impact programs that support individuals with developmental disabilities.

To read more about this process check [McDermottPlus](#) summary.

## **DDS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES**

### **DDS Stakeholder Events**

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

### **Standardized Assessment Tool Project Informational Webinar**

DDS will present information about an initiative to develop a standardized assessment tool to be used across regional centers to determine respite, day care and personal assistance service needs. This project will create a statewide process and build consistency for individuals accessing these services.

**When:** April 10, 2025, from 9:00-10:00 am — [Registration](#)

### **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, June 16, 2025

**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](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\\_MileageCalculationForTransportationServicesProviders.pdf](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/D-2024-RateReform-015_MileageCalculationForTransportationServicesProviders.pdf)
- **January 2, 2025:** [https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/D-2024-RateReform-016\\_RateReform\\_Guidance\\_Transitional\\_Rates.pdf](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**

**Last meeting was on** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 - 10:00am - 3:30pm

**Update:**

### **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:

- Apr 17, 2025 09:00 AM — [Registration](#)
- Apr 18, 2025 09:00 AM — [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.




### **Santa Clarita Valley Chamber - April Business After Hours Mixer at Sand Canyon Country Club**

This event offers the opportunity to expand your network, share insights, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

-  **Date:** Wednesday, April 16, 2025
-  **Time:** 5:30pm - 7:30pm
-  **Location:** 27734 Sand Canyon Rd, Santa Clarita, CA 91387— [Registration](#)




### **Santa Clarita Valley Chamber - Non-Profit Council - Volunteer Development**

This session will feature a dynamic panel discussion on building and sustaining impactful volunteer programs, offering strategies to enhance recruitment, retention, and engagement.

-  **Date:** Wednesday, April 23, 2025
-  **Time:** 9:00am - 10:30am
-  **Location:** SCV Senior Center - 27180 Golden Valley Rd, Santa Clarita, CA 91351 — [Registration](#)

### **Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel – Day of Service**

This event is a collaborative day of service bringing together community groups and nonprofits to support various service projects across the San Fernando Valley.

-  **Date:** Sun, May 4, 2025
-  **Time:** 9:30 am
-  **Location:** Pierce College — [Registration](#)



**North Los Angeles County Regional Center**  
**Director's Report**  
April 2025

**1. NLACRC Spotlight:**

- A. Organizational Insights Forum:** Executive Leadership completed the second Organizational Insights Forum for NLACRC staff. These quarterly in-person sessions are hosted at each office and open to all staff, providing updates on employee-driven initiatives, legislative changes that may impact service delivery, and organizational news.
- I. Positive Feedback: On a Likert scale of 1 (very unsatisfactory) to 5 (very satisfactory), participants rated the forums an average of 4.29, indicating a strong appreciation for transparency and the relevance of the topics discussed.
- B. Employee Recognition Platform:** NLACRC has launched a new Employee Recognition website modeled after familiar platforms like Facebook and LinkedIn, increasing adoptability and ease of use.
- I. Meaningful Acknowledgement: Staff can recognize colleagues for exceptional work, while managers have access to dashboards highlighting recognition trends and identifying team members, who may benefit from additional support.
  - II. Incentives: Employees can redeem accumulated points for experiences such as an ice cream social or lunch with a member of Executive Leadership.
- C. Plain Language Initiative:** NLACRC has hired a Plain Language Specialist to review all external documents and ensure materials are accessible to the individuals we serve, their families, and the broader community.
- D. Legislative Engagement:** Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo and Assemblyman Tom Lackey will be visiting the NLACRC offices to meet with staff and community delegates.
- I. Advocacy in Action: Staff and community representatives will highlight key legislative bills that directly impact services and require support.
  - II. Legislative Podcast: During their visit, the Assemblymembers will also join the Executive Director in recording a legislative podcast episode to further engage the broader community in policy discussions.
- E. Record-Breaking Recruiting Month:** NLACRC welcomed 15 new hires during its second orientation this month, bringing the total to 28 new hires—our highest number of monthly new hires sourced exclusively through internal recruiting.
- I. Internal Recruitment Milestone: This marks a record-breaking achievement for our internal recruiting team, showcasing the growing effectiveness of our in-house hiring strategies.



- II. Performance Comparison: When compared to last year's six-month average, NLACRC's recruitment efforts show a 69% increase, reflecting significant progress in expanding our workforce to meet service needs.
- III. For our first orientation in April, NLACRC welcomed 14 new employees.

2. **Department Developmental Center (DDS) Updates:**

**A. Health & Safety Waivers:** DDS emphasized that health and safety waivers must be based on individual needs and should not be used as rate patches.

- I. Assembly Bill (AB) 637 remains the appropriate mechanism for rate adjustments.
- II. DDS will conduct an analysis to identify instances where health and safety waivers were used as a mechanism for rate adjustments, noting that the need for such waivers has declined with full rate model implementation.
- III. Moving forward, referrals for rate adjustments should follow the AB 637 process, and regional centers are encouraged to consult with their DDS liaisons before initiating requests.

**B. Rate Reform:** The deadline for provider agreement form submission has been extended to May 30, 2025.

**C. Lived Experience Advisory Group:** DDS is actively recruiting approximately 40 new self-advocate participants to form a new Lived Experience Advisory Group, which will replace the current Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC).

- I. DDS will notify ARCA and regional centers of any support needed during the recruitment process.

**D. Budget Outlook and Federal Updates:** Current projections and expert analysis suggest that achieving the full \$880 billion in cuts is unlikely without affecting entitlement programs such as Medicaid and Medicare.

- I. Federal Funds at Risk: If cuts are implemented, this could affect the 37% in federal funds allocated for our programs next fiscal year.

3. **Master Plan Workgroup Updates:** The final Master Plan was released on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and can be found here: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services/>

- I. Long-Term Implementation: The plan is anticipated to span a 10-year implementation timeline, reflecting the long-term systemic reforms outlined in the recommendations.
- II. Ongoing Oversight: The Master Plan Committee, originally established for one year, will extend its operations through the 10-year implementation period, meeting biannually to review progress and course-correct as needed.

- III. Legislative Reporting Requirement: A formal progress report on the Master Plan's implementation will be submitted to the State Legislature every March for the duration of the plan.

**4. Federal Update:** Dismantling of the Administration for Community Living (ACL)

- I. The Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) has announced the dissolution of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) as part of a major federal reorganization. ACL's programs—critical to individuals with developmental disabilities, including in-home supports, Medicaid access, and community living services—will be split among other agencies (Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)).
- II. Key Concerns:
  - a. Loss of a centralized voice for disability issues at the federal level.
  - b. Advocates warn this move may jeopardize the independence and well-being of millions who rely on ACL-supported programs.
- III. Call to Action:
  - a. The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) and the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) are requesting your organization's support in signing a joint letter.
  - b. The letter opposes the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' decision to dismantle the Administration for Community Living (ACL).
  - c. Members of the California Congressional Delegation have indicated they want to hear directly from advocates on this issue.
    - 1. Sign on form: <https://tinyurl.com/HHS-Sign-On-Letter>

**5. Center Updates:**

**A. Recruitment:**

- I. Total # positions filled: 841
  - a. Total # of authorized: 1008
- II. April New Hires
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> cycle (4/7/2025): 14 (confirmed total)

**B. Social Recreation Update:**

- I. Staff Update (Social Recreation Specialist): NLACRC welcomes Heartty Siguenza as the new Social Recreation Specialist! In accordance with

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) §4688.22(c)(2)(A), Heartty will serve as the primary point of contact for individuals, families, caregivers, community members, and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) regarding social recreation, camp, and non-medical therapy services.

- a. Role Overview: The Social Recreation Specialist's responsibilities include:
  - 1. Providing consultation and updates on relevant policies, procedures, and directives
  - 2. Assisting case management and the NLACRC community in identifying and addressing barriers to service access
  - 3. Facilitating communication between individuals/families and their assigned Consumer Services Coordinator (CSC)
  - 4. Conducting ongoing training for case management
  - 5. Offering resources and information to individuals and families
  - 6. Tracking data trends and identifying patterns
  - 7. Acting as liaison between NLACRC and Financial Management Services (FMS) vendor Miji
  - 8. Developing solutions to troubleshoot service barriers
- b. Contact Information: Heartty Siguenza is available for consultation and can be reached at [socialrecspecialist@nlacrc.org](mailto:socialrecspecialist@nlacrc.org) or (818) 922-7445.

- II. NLACRC and Miji Partnership Meeting: In response to feedback received from case management, NLACRC coordinated a partnership meeting with FMS vendor Miji on Friday, March 28th. The goal was to collaboratively address ongoing concerns and develop solutions.
  - a. Improved Communication & Support:
    - 1. Miji will onboard additional staff and establish a dedicated customer service team to support CSCs, families, and service providers.
    - 2. Specific customer service representatives will be assigned to each NLACRC office, with coordination led by the Social Recreation Specialist.
    - 3. A separate internal team will handle authorizations, payments, and billing to streamline processes.
  - b. Payment Delays:
    - 1. Miji will conduct a self-audit to assess the extent of current backlogs and will report their findings and proposed solutions to NLACRC.
    - 2. NLACRC recommended increased staffing to support timely payment processing.
  - c. Virtual Credit Card Issues:

1. Miji clarified that businesses are issued “virtual credit cards” preloaded with amounts aligned to service authorizations. Declines often occur when providers charge above the approved monthly limit.
  2. Miji reassured NLACRC that sufficient funds are available to cover authorized services.
- d. Ongoing Collaboration:
1. Monthly meetings between NLACRC and Miji will continue to monitor progress and address any new challenges. Our Social Recreation Specialist will represent NLACRC in these meetings.

### C. Outreach:

- I. Outreach Event: NLACRC on Wheels – Olive View UCLA Women’s & Children’s Center (San Fernando Valley) – 3/12/2025
  - a. NLACRC launched its “Regional Center on Wheels” initiative in the San Fernando Valley, bringing services directly to the community. Public Information Specialist Supervisor Maria de Jesus Rodriguez and Spanish Outreach Language Specialist Telma Diaz hosted office hours at Olive View UCLA’s Women’s & Children’s Center.
- II. Outreach Event: Nowrooz Picnic in the Park – Persian New Year Celebration (San Fernando Valley) – 3/15/2025
  - a. In celebration of the Persian New Year, NLACRC’s Farsi Support Group and Armenian Parent Circle of Support co-hosted the first cultural celebration event for Farsi-speaking families at Lake Balboa Park. Attendees participated in cultural traditions, shared traditional food, and learned about the history and customs of Nowrooz. NLACRC staff provided an orientation on regional center services and distributed information about Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) compliance.
  - b. The event was held in collaboration with Family Focus Resource Center, PARS Equality Center, and the LAUSD Refugee Educational Support Program, all of whom provided additional resources and presentations to families.
- III. Outreach Event: Spring into Action Community Resource Fair (Antelope Valley) – 3/20/2025
  - a. As part of its ongoing community engagement in the Antelope Valley, NLACRC participated in the Spring into Action Community Resource Fair. The event focused on increasing awareness of resources for children, families, and adults.

- b. NLACRC's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) team provided information on available services and networked with agencies offering prevention and support programs, including the Department of Mental Health, All for Kids, the Salvation Army, and Antelope Valley Partners for Health.
- c. The event was well attended, and NLACRC staff shared materials with community-based organizations to support continued outreach throughout the region.

**D. Consumer Statistics:**

- I. Total served: 38, 998
  - a. Early Start 5,082
  - b. Lanterman 31,333
- II. Breakdown of all three valleys:
  - a. AV 9,173 (Early Start & Lanterman)
  - b. SCV 4,285 (Early Start & Lanterman)
  - c. SFV 22,957 (Early Start & Lanterman)
- III. All other categories not captured in Early Start, Lanterman, and Intake, such as Provisional, Enhanced, Specialized, and other which total: 1,219

**DI. Compliance Activities:**

- I. Quality Assurance conducted 114 residential visits and 69 Unannounced In-Person Visits
  - a. 2 Corrective Action Plans developed with residential providers

**6. Upcoming Disability Organization Events/Activities:**

- A. State Council on Developmental Disabilities next council meeting – May 20, 2025
- B. Disability Rights California's next board meeting – June 20, 2025

# Trump Administration To Close Agency Promoting Community Living For People With IDD

by Michelle Diamant | March 31, 2025

A government agency that funds services and supports for people with disabilities living in the community will be broken up as part of a massive reorganization of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The agency's Administration for Community Living, which oversees programs helping people with disabilities access all range of services in their communities and advocates for the needs of people with disabilities, older adults, families and caregivers across the federal government, will be shuttered.

"The critical programs within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) that support older adults and people of all ages with disabilities will be split across the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)," HHS said.

The changes announced late last week are part of what federal officials described as a "dramatic restructuring" of the health agency aimed at improving efficiency. Through the effort, the department will lay off about 10,000 employees. Combined with early retirements and buyouts since the Trump administration took over, HHS said it expects to downsize its workforce from 82,000 to 62,000 full-time employees.

In addition, the current 28 HHS divisions will be consolidated down to 15 and regional offices will be trimmed from 10 to five, officials said.

"We're going to eliminate an entire alphabet soup of departments and agencies while preserving their core functions," Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said. "We're going to do more with less."

The Administration for Community Living was established in 2012 in an effort to bring together aging and disability programs across HHS in recognition of the fact that most people in these populations live in the community and want to remain there.

The agency funds and works with over 2,500 community organizations nationwide including centers for independent living, protection and advocacy systems, developmental disabilities councils and much more, according to Alison Barkoff, a professor at George Washington University who led the Administration for Community Living under the Biden administration.

People “might not have heard of the Administration for Community Living, but they’ve probably benefited from ACL’s programs,” she said, citing examples ranging from respite care services to help accessing special education or Medicaid benefits, employment assistance for transition-age youth and in-home supports and services. “I don’t see how you can have that level of cuts in staff without seeing an impact on programs and services.”

More than that, Barkoff said that the existence of the Administration for Community Living ensured that federal agencies considered the needs of people with disabilities in decision-making.

“ACL had a seat at the table with the secretary, with leaders of programs. If ACL is broken up, they will not have that seat at the table. The disability voice is being lost,” Barkoff said.

Representatives from HHS did not respond to questions about how the Administration for Community Living’s responsibilities will be divided or how many current staff will be let go.

“This consolidation allows the department to better meet the current health needs of vulnerable populations across the country. This does not impact the important work of these critical programs as it will continue elsewhere within HHS,” an HHS official told Disability Scoop.

Advocates from several disability organizations said they were shocked by the move to dismantle the Administration for Community Living, particularly given that it was established as a centralized hub in order to promote efficiency and prevent duplication.

“For over a decade, the Administration for Community Living has provided critical oversight and funding for programs that protect against abuse, promote community living and support family caregivers,” said Julie Ward, senior executive officer of public policy at The Arc of the United States. “Without a dedicated agency to champion these programs, millions risk losing the oversight, funding and technical assistance for programs they rely on to live independently. We urge the administration to halt this reorganization and engage directly with the disability community before making changes that could jeopardize their rights and well-being.”

Read more stories like this one. Sign up for Disability Scoop's free email newsletter to get the latest developmental disability news sent straight to your inbox.

© 2025 Disability Scoop, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

View this article online at <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2025/03/31/trump-administration-to-close-agency-promoting-community-living-for-people-with-idd/31384/>

×

You're reading 1 of 2 free articles this month.

Get unlimited Disability Scoop access starting at just \$5

[JOIN TODAY](#)

Already a member? [Log In](#)



(no logo or letterhead)

(Date)

To the California Congressional Delegation,

The March 27, 2025 announcement from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) represents an abrupt and poorly considered restructuring that will have far-reaching consequences for older adults and people with developmental and other disabilities. This is more than a restructure. By eliminating the Administration for Community Living (ACL), this decision dismantles a critical part of the federal infrastructure relied upon by millions of older adults and people with disabilities. The fact that this change was made without consultation with those directly affected is both troubling and ill-considered.

Together, these ACL programs are the federal assurance and reinforcement that California's aging and disability services network is streamlined to improve coordination among older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers while creating better outcomes. These agencies don't just provide meals—they deliver dignity, independence, and safety. They make federally funded services more efficient and accountable to the people they serve. They form a network that prevents institutionalization, reduces hospital readmissions, and helps individuals remain in their homes and communities—where they want to be. Undermining this infrastructure under the guise of “efficiency” is fiscally shortsighted and dangerous.

This restructuring will destabilize essential services for older adults across California, where over 60,000 meals are served every month to seniors who rely on community-based programs to stay healthy and independent. Furthermore, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will face similar challenges as this move jeopardizes critical supports provided by Developmental Disability Councils, University Centers on Developmental Disabilities, and Protection and Advocacy networks across the country.

In California, our 28 Centers for Independent Living and 33 Area Agencies on Aging are critical to supporting seniors and people with disabilities, ensuring they remain in their homes and communities rather than resorting to costly institutional care. These organizations provide everything from meal programs to respite care for family caregivers, addressing the social isolation and health-related factors

that so often threaten independence. These services are effective, efficient, and compassionate—nothing about this restructuring can be described in those terms.

This restructuring is part of a broader pattern of cuts that undermine the health and dignity of older adults and people with disabilities. As America sees adults aging into disability and people with disabilities living longer, disbanding the federal department tasked with advancing both populations' wellbeing would drop them as a priority and undo decades of progress. Nothing about your statements or actions suggest you support this outcome. This does not fit with your values. The federal government should be focused on strengthening these programs, not dismantling them.

Older adults and people with disabilities need the strong commitment of the federal government to the existing infrastructure of federally charged organizations working on their behalf. We urge you to consider HHS' restructure so that older adults and people with developmental and other disabilities continue to receive the support they need to live with dignity and independence.

Respectfully,

(Orgs in alphabetical order)

Cc: California Governor Gavin Newsom  
California Health and Human Services Secretary Kim Johnson  
California Department of Aging Director Susan DeMarois  
California Department of Rehabilitation Director Kim Rutledge  
California Assembly Budget Health Subcommittee Chair Dawn Addis  
California Assembly Budget Human Services Subcommittee  
Chair Dr. Corey Jackson  
California Assembly Aging and Long Term Care Committee  
Chair Jasmeet Kaur Baines  
California Assembly Health Committee Chair Mia Bonta  
California Assembly Human Services Committee Chair Alex Lee  
California Senate Budget Health and Human Services Subcommittee  
Chair Akilah Weber Pierson  
California Senate Health Committee Chair Caroline Menjivar  
California Senate Human Services Chair Jesse Arreguín

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	P				0
Jaklen Keshishyan, Alt. Chair		P	P	P	P		P	P	P				0
Jodie Agnew Navarro		P	P	P	P		P	P	P				0
Masood Babaeian		P	P	Ab	P		P	P	P				1
Paul Borda		P	P	P	P		P	P	P				0
Andrea Devers		P	Ab	P	P		P	P	P				1
Cal Enriquez		P	P	P	P		P	P	P				0
Ute Escorcía		P	P	P	P		P	P	P				0
Ricki Macken Chivers		P	P	P	P		P	P	Ab				1
Vahe Mkrtchian		Ab	P	Ab	P		P	P	P				2
Daniel Ortiz		Ab	P	Ab	Ab		P	P	P				3
Jen Pippard		P	P	P	P		Ab	P	P				1
Octavia Watkins		P	P	P	P		P	P	P				0
Sharon Weinberg		P	P	Ab	P		P	P	P				1
Meeting Time		2.50	1.75	1.50	1.75		1.25	2.00	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)