



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 14, 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, Jason Gillis, David Ebrami, Desiree Misrachi, Tal Segalovich

From: Lindsay Granger
Executive Administrative Assistant

Re: Information and materials for the next Nominating Committee meeting on **Thursday, August 14, 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 Antelope Valley Office: 43850 10 Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534.

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

Attachments

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

Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting 8.14.25

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VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 14, 2025

9:30 am (*Hybrid*)

Zoom/NLARC Santa Clarita Valley Office

~AGENDA~

- I. **Call to Order & Introductions** - Alex Kopilevich, Chair (*1 min.*)
- II. **Committee Member Attendance/Quorum** (*1 min.*)
- III. **Share Impact Story From Individual Served** (*5 min.*)
- IV. **Public Input** - Agenda Items only (*3 min. per person, 3-person limit*)
- V. **Consent Items**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the June 12, 2025, Meeting (*1 min.*)
 - B. Approval of the Agenda (*1 min.*)
- VI. **Action Items**
- VII. **Committee Business**
 - A. Orientation – Alex Kopilevich (*5 min.*)
 - 1. Bylaws
 - 2. Committee Roster
 - 3. Committee Meeting Schedule
 - 4. Priority Issues/Goals
 - B. Update on Vendor Mentorship Program – 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.*)
 - i. DSP Internship Program
 - D. **Legislative Report** – Belinda Abatesi (*5 min.*)
 - E. **Executive Director's Report** – Angela Pao-Johnson (*10 min.*)

IX. Open Topics for Discussion – Alex Kopilevich (10 min.)

- A. Vendor Surveys
- B. System/Industry Issues

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: September 18, 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: August 12, 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: September 17, 2025 @ 11:00am (via Zoom).

- i. Adult Services

XI. Board Committee Reports

- A. Nominating Committee (Alex Kopilevich -VAC Rep.) (1 min.)
- B. Executive Finance Committee (Jaklen Keshishyan – VAC Rep.) (1 min.)

XII. Board Meeting Agenda Items

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

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Hybrid – In-person location Chatsworth 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
JUNE 12, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

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

GUESTS:

Mark Wolfe – DDS Tech Advisor, Sasha Chernik- Minute Solutions

ABSENT:

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 9:47 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

Evelyn McOmie, Deputy Director, shared a story about an NLACRC consumer.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Ricki Macken-Chilvers shared about a program called connecting to success for all, an employment preparation program that talks about expectations, interview skills, and money management. An event will be hosted on July 30th in Pleasant Valley for any interested in attending.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Jaklen Keshishyan, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on May 8, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg and seconded by Octavia Watkins, it was resolved to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Approval of Committee Goals for Next Fiscal Year

Paul Borda and Cal Enriquez presented the committee goals for the School Age Services Workgroup that was provided in the meeting packet. The goals were similar to those presented last year.

Octavia Watkins presented the Committee Workgroup Goals for Adult Services. The previously established workgroup priorities would continue to be used.

Jodie Agnew-Navarro shared the goals for Early Start Services. Updates were made to the broaden the goals and make them all encompassing. These updated goals were included in the meeting packet.

On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Jaklen Keshishyan, it was resolved to approve the committee workgroup goals as presented. Motion carried.

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

7.1 Update on Service Provider Vendor Training/Mentorship Program Updates

Alex Kopilevich presented the update on service provider vendor training/mentorship program. The next meeting will be on June 17th to finalize some items for the mentorship and vendor programs. There will be another update at the August VAC meeting.

ACTION – Board Support will send out an email to Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Paul Borda, Cal Enriquez, and Octavia Watkins to follow up on the request for the committee goals for next fiscal year.

7.2 Self-Determination Update

Silvia Renteria-Haro presented the update on Self-Determination. As of June 1st, there are 569 participants in the program with 17 transitions this month. As of this year, there have been 92 transitions.

7.3 Update on new VAC Members

Alex Kopilevich presented the update on the new VAC Members at the Board of Trustees Meeting on June 11, 2025. Four new VAC members were elected to serve on the committee. Those members will be notified with a letter and will be joining the committee at the August 2025 meeting. Also, there will be an update regarding COI forms for the VAC members in July.

Octavia Watkins

Asked if this will be coming from Lindsay Granger

Evelyn McOmie

Evelyn McOmie clarified that this email will come from Board Support.

ACTION: Once an update has been received, Board Support will send out an email to the VAC members about COIs for next fiscal year.

7.4 Discuss Committee Goals for Next Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Alex Kopilevich presented an update on service provider vendor training and mentorship programs. The group has met and discussed the various topics and will be meeting with community services to finalize everything to move forward in the next fiscal year.

7.5 Self-Determination Update

Silvia Renteria-Haro presented the self-determination update. It was noted that DDS published a new guidance for FMS Agencies effective April 22 with new requirements for those who want to be vendored.

7.6 Update on VAC Open Positions

Alex Kopilevich presented an update on the open Vendor Advisory Committee positions. Four applicants were selected to go before the Board of Trustees for a vote at the June meeting.

8. REPORT OUTS

8.1 Deputy Director Officer's Report

Evelyn McOmie presented the Deputy Director Officer's report.

An update was presented on SANDIS, announcing that it is now streamlined for all 21 regional centers. The addendums are now on SANDIS and have been deployed. The SANDIS IPP and signature form will now be circulated.

Challenges uploading authorizations to the vendor portal were addressed, and it was requested that if any vendors have had issues with authorizations to please email NLACRC.

8.2 Chief Financial Officer's Report

This report will be deferred until the next VAC meeting.

8.3 Community Services Director's Report

Stephanie Margaret presented on behalf of Arshalous Garlanian the Community Services Department report. It was noted that the May 30th deadline did pass regarding rate reform. The number is now down to 55 0 service acknowledgment forms that have not been signed. Some of these are due to issues with the lack of available service codes or sub codes, or ratios that were previously allowed that are no longer going to be supported. DDS did provide an update to regional centers on the impact of not participating in the Service Provider Director

and not signing the acknowledgement form. If any vendors are impacted, the Community Services department will be arranging meetings in the next few weeks.

For the Service Provider Directory, NLACRC is at 100% participation. This means there has been billing since July 2024. Everyone in North LA should be receiving 100%.

NLACRC is partnering with the Family Resource Center to have a family resource expo on October 12th and in Antelope Valley on September 27th.

Any questions related to rate reform should be sent to questions@nlacrc.org.

NLACRC received notification of approval for various incentive programs.

Sharon Weinberg:

Asked how the prevention wellness incentive was determined.

Stephanie Margaret:

For specific incentives, each of the exams is a \$200 incentive, which should align with the reporting form that was submitted to DDS. The quality incentive payments will continue to be updated in July for those who did not receive payment.

There is no action needed for new providers that have not been billed and are not in the DDS portal.

8.4 Legislative Report

Belinda Abatesi presented the Legislative Report, highlighting important pieces of legislation and important points to be noted.

Cal Enriquez:

Asked what would happen for regional center consumers if they lose their Medicaid Waiver Federal funds.

Belinda Abatesi informed that there currently is a bill, but it has not gone to a vote yet.

Angela Pao-Johnson noted the Medicaid rally that was previously attended by staff, vendors, individuals served, members of the community, and more in Bakersfield on April 24th. Also, NLACRC's podcast series is named Voices in Action has launched with episodes with Assemblyman Lackey and Assemblywoman Schiavo on NLACRC's website.

8.5 Executive Director's Report

Evelyn McOmie presented the Executive Director's report on behalf of Angela Pao-Johnson. The legislative update for SB101 was released on June 9th. There is a current total of 867 positions filled and 1,026 total number of positions authorized. There is a current total of 39,491 individuals served, a total of 5,258 for Early Start, and a total of 31,720 for Lanterman. Tremendous progress has been made in the reduction of vacant caseloads for NLACRC. NLACRC encourages vendors to provide feedback. NLACRC has actively been hiring lead positions and SDP specialists. The SDP Specialists and Team are currently a pilot model.

9. OPEN DISCUSSION TOPICS

Surveys will be going out to the Vendors in August to receive feedback and answer specific questions. NLACRC is looking for questions, topics on aspects, and areas for improvement.

10. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP INFORMATION

10.1 Early Start Services

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that the Early Start Services Committee work group met in May and discussed rate reform issues and understanding sub codes. Also, issues regarding accessing portals and authorizations numbers were discussed. The next meeting will be on July 17th.

10.2 School Age Services

Cal Enriquez reported on the School Age Services Committee work group. The Medicaid waiver and the potential impact was discussed at the meeting. Also, the workgroup discussed their goals. The next School Age Services Committee meeting will be on May 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

10.3 Adult Services

Octavia Watkins reported that the Adult Service Committee work group. There was a presentation on resources for the adult community. The next meeting will be on July 21st.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Administrative Affairs

Jaklen Keshishyan reported that the Administrative Affairs Committee meeting on May 29th. There was a report on the current credit line and cashflow, service payments, reports, and audit reports from DDS and CalPers.

11.2 Consumer Services

Sharon Weinberg reported that the Consumer Services Committee primary discussion was on financial output for residential services and that the disparity data was presented in many different ways.

11.3 Government and Community Relations

Jodie Agnew-Navarro was unable to attend the last meeting. There was discussion on the Legislative Breakfast planning and the legislative podcast.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT

Evelyn McOmie did note that additional information would be provided regarding the vendor surveys at the next meeting.

Lety Garcia announced that currently NLACRC is looking for board members, specifically Hispanic/Latino members to meet Lanterman requirements.

Alex Kopilevich announced that the new Bylaws were updated at the last board meeting, and the VAC will have more flexibility selecting members. It will still need to be approved by the Board of Trustees, but it will not need to go the Nominating Committee. The Jynny Retzinger award will be announced at the Legislative breakfast.

13. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting is August 14, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Chatsworth office.

14. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:24 a.m.

compliant Trustee must be given notice of each absence from a Board meeting and/or committee meeting. If the Trustee reaches the absence thresholds set forth above despite being sent notices of the absences, the Trustee must be sent a Final Notice of Attendance Violation from the Board Secretary, and if there are any further absences without good cause as determined by a majority vote of the Board, then the Trustee will be considered resigned effective immediately unless a majority of the Board (non-inclusive of the subject Trustee) votes for a different resolution. If a Trustee is serving on more than one committee at any time, his or her attendance at meetings of each committee shall be considered separately in determining the Trustee's absences for purposes of this Subsection (h). The Secretary of the Board shall mail notice of each Trustee's absences to each Trustee with the following month's board meeting packet.

Section 9. Vacancies. A vacancy or vacancies on the Board (as opposed to a vacancy in the position of an Officer of the Board detailed in Article V, Section 4) shall be deemed to exist (1) in the case of the death, resignation, or removal of any Trustee, (2) if the authorized number of Trustees is increased, (3) if the Trustees fail at any meeting of the Board at which any Trustees are elected, to elect the full authorized number of Trustees, or (4) upon the declaration by resolution of the Board of a vacancy due to a Trustee being declared of unsound mind by a final order of any court, convicted of a felony, or found by final order of any court to have breached a duty under Article 3, Chapter 7, Part 2 of Division 2 of the California Corporations Code (Sections 5230 through 5239). Except for a vacancy caused by the death, resignation, or removal of the Vendor Trustee, or court order causing the exclusion of the Vendor Trustee, vacancies on the Board may be filled by a majority of the remaining Trustees at a meeting. Each Trustee elected to fill a vacancy, shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which elected and until a successor has been elected and qualified, unless the Trustee has been removed from office.

Section 10. Meetings.

(a) The Board shall hold nine (9) regular meetings during the fiscal year, rotating meetings among each regional center office location as follows: four (4) at the San Fernando Valley office, two (2) at the Santa Clarita office, and three (3) at the Antelope Valley office. One meeting may serve as a Board training. The Board shall schedule its regular meetings on the second Wednesday of the month, if not a legal holiday, or if a legal holiday, then on the next succeeding Wednesday that is a business day, unless otherwise scheduled by a majority vote of the Board by the members. The Secretary of the Board and/or Secretary's Designee shall notify each Trustee of the date of, time and place of, and provide a specific agenda and board packet for, each regular meeting, by either first-class mail, postmarked at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the scheduled meeting, or by email or facsimile at least (7) days prior to the date of

Section 7. Vendor Advisory Committee.

(a) Composition. The membership of the Vendor Advisory Committee shall consist of not more than eighteen (18) members who are either current vendors in good standing of the Corporation or are employed by vendors in good standing of the Corporation.

(b) It shall be composed of persons representing a wide variety of the various categories of providers from which the Regional Center purchases consumer services. The Vendor Advisory Committee shall designate one (1) of its members to serve as a member of the Board (i.e., the Vendor Trustee). The Vendor Trustee shall serve as chairperson. The Vendor Trustee's term shall be one (1) year. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Vendor Advisory Committee.

(c) Appointment and Term of Members. The members of the Vendor Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Board from a slate of candidates provided by Vendor Advisory Committee, and shall each serve a term of three (3) years unless an earlier vacancy occurs as provided in the Bylaws. Each member of the Vendor Advisory Committee shall each serve a term of three (3) years unless the member is elected to fill a vacancy in which case the "replacement" member serves the remainder of the term of the member vacating their seat. Such term shall commence on July 1 of the year in which a member is elected unless the member has been elected to fill a vacancy as provided for herein. In the event a member has been elected to fill such vacancy, the term shall commence upon election and shall continue for the balance of the regular term subject to such vacancy. No member shall serve on the Vendor Advisory Committee for more than six (6) consecutive years. An individual who has served six (6) consecutive years shall not be eligible to again serve as a member of the Vendor Advisory Committee for a period of twelve (12) months. If an individual who resigns from the Vendor Advisory Committee prior to the expiration of his or her term is re-appointed to the Vendor Advisory Committee in less than twelve (12) months, his or her prior months/years served on the Vendor Advisory Committee shall be considered part of the person's term.

(d) Duties. The duties of the Vendor Advisory Committee shall be to provide advice, guidance, recommendations, and technical assistance to the Board to assist the Board in carrying out its mandated duties.

Section 8. Consumer Advisory Committee.

(a) Composition. The Consumer Advisory Committee shall be composed of adult consumers who reside in the regional center's catchment area and participate in five Consumer Advisory Committee meetings during any 12-month period. Members of the Consumer Advisory Committee, once qualified by attendance

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE LIST

FY 2025-2026

Vendor Advisory

Angela Pao-Johnson, Staff
Lindsay Granger, Admin
Alex Kopilevich, Chair
Jaklen Keshishyan, Alt. Chair
Jodie Agnew-Navarro
Octavia Watkins
Masood Babaeian
Paul Borda
Andrea Devers
David Ebrami
Cal Enriquez
Ute Escorcio
Jason Gillis
Ricki Macken Chilvers
Desiree Misrachi
Vahe Mkrtchian
Daniel Ortiz
Jen Pippard
Tal Segalovitch
Sharon Weinberg

Consumer Advisory

Santos Rodriguez
Lindsay Granger, Admin.
Juan Hernandez, Chair
Bill Abramson
Pam Aiona
George Alvarado
Jennifer Koster
Elena Tiffany
Destry Walker

Self Determination

Silvia Renteria-Haro, Staff
Robin Monroe, Staff
Lori Walker, Chair
Juan Hernandez – Board Liaison
Miriam Erberich, Co-Chair
Victoria Berrey
Michael Carey
Socorro Curameng
Richard Dier
Jordan Feinstock
Jon Francis
Ricardo Martinez
Erica Rodriguez



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Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

FY 2025-26

~ No meeting in July 2025 ~

Thursday, August 14, 2025

Hybrid – Santa Clarita NLACRC

9:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 11, 2025

Hybrid – Chatsworth NLACRC

9:30 a.m.

~ No meeting in October 2025 ~

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Hybrid – Antelope Valley NLACRC

9:30 a.m.

~ No meeting in December 2025 ~

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Hybrid – Chatsworth NLACRC

9:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Hybrid – Santa Clarita NLACRC

9:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Hybrid – Antelope Valley NLACRC

9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Hybrid – Chatsworth NLACRC

9:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Hybrid – Santa Clarita NLACRC

9:30 a.m.

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Hybrid – Antelope Valley NLACRC

9:30 a.m.

North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Vendor Advisory Committee **FY 2025-2026 Committee** **Goals**

I. Early Start Services

- Continue ongoing collaboration and open communication amongst vendors and with NLACRC staff towards our shared goal of ensuring high quality services and supports for Early Start consumers and their families.
- Stay abreast of legislation and policy to advocate for issues that affect services and supports for the Early Start community.

II. School Age Services

- Identify strategies and formulate solutions to simplify access to services to work in collaboration with NLARC and public resources such as individual providers and agencies.
 - a. What can providers do to facilitate funding (i.e. gap or longer) when wait lists are excessive? [i.e. ABA is often 9 months plus wait lists, military family coverage (TriCare / Echo)]
- Identify strategies and share ideas with NLACRC and vendored service providers to develop NLACRC's portal for authorization of services.
 - a. Collect topics for Vendor Support Forum (continuous)
 - i. Transparency on Authorization Status.
 - ii. Defined feedback and engagement loop with the NLA team on issues and suggestions.
- Support and assist regional center consumers and families, and vendor service providers to successfully and seamlessly serve school-age consumers enrolled in NLACRC's Self-Determination program.
 - a. Make it easier for consumers and families to become SDP participants.
 - b. Clarify the vendor rate setting for SDP.
- Discuss, review, and advocate for (DDS) legislative ideas that benefit school-age regional center consumers, their families, and the support system to which they are entitled.
- Recruit more providers to serve on the School-Aged Subcommittee.

III. Adult Services

- Encourage, promote, and engage in activities to increase competitive, integrated, customized employment opportunities with I/DD.
- Continue to seek and share innovative housing solutions that expand choice and affordability for persons with I/DD.
- Discuss, review, posit, and advocate for legislative ideas that benefit adults with I/DD and the support system in which they are entitled.
- Share ideas and formulate new solutions working in collaboration with public resources and NLACRC to advance person centered support for aging adults with I/DD.

Vendor Advisory Committee: July 14, 2025

Community Services Department: Director's Report

General Updates:

- ❖ **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. **RCs have 90 days from receipt to process. Service Provider Directory one-time lump sum: Per DDS, as a reminder, only one incentive payment of \$8,000 is awarded per vendor organization, not per vendor ID.**
 - 4/17 Wave 1 Directive (D-2025-QIP-006) Payment within 90 days. Eligible vendors received email with billing instructions week of 6/2
 - [D-2025-Quality Incentive Program-006 Quality Incentive Program – Provider Directory Lump Sum Incentive Payments \(Wave 1\)](#)
 - https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/D-2024-QIP-003_Quality_Incentive_Program_Provider_Directory.pdf
 - **Prevention and Wellness FY2023-24 for ARFPSHN, EBSH, FHA, RCFE:**
NOTE: RC approval from DDS for requests submitted to DDS (available through 7/15/2025)
 - RC received an approved list from DDS 4/21/2025. Providers will receive an email notification with billing instructions of when to bill.
 - https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/D-2025-QualityIncentiveProgram-007_QIP-Prevention_and_WellnessIncentives.pdf
 - Completed. Letter submitted to qualifying providers 5/29/25.
 - **Employment Access / Employment Capacity (available through 6/30/2025)**
NOTE: RC approval from DDS for requests submitted to DDS between January – March 2024.
 - Employment Access Q3 NLACRC received an approved list from DDS 4/17/2025. Providers will receive a billing email notification.
 - Employment Access Q4 NLACRC received an approved list from DDS 4/18/2025. Providers will receive a billing email notification.
 - Employment Capacity Q3 NLACRC received an approved list from DDS 3/10/2025. Providers will receive a billing email notification.
 - Employment Access FY23/24 Q3: Completed. Letter sent to qualifying providers 5/29/25
 - Employment Access FY 23/24 Q4: Completed. Letter sent to qualifying providers 5/29/25
 - Employment Access FY 24/25 Q1: Completed. Letter sent to qualifying providers 7/23/25
 - Employment Access FY 24/25 Q2: In-progress. DDS 90 day Due Date 10/21/25
 - Employment Capacity FY 23/24 Q4: Completed. Letter sent to qualifying providers 7/23/25
 - Employment Capacity FY 23/24 Q3: Completed. Letter sent to qualifying providers 5/29/25

- Employment Capacity FY 24/25 Q1: Completed. Letter sent to qualifying providers 7/1/25
- Employment Capacity FY 24/25 Q2: In-progress. DDS 90 day Due Date 10/21/25
- **Early Intervention Service Delivery for CY2024:**
 - Quarter 1 January – March 2024 All invoices available for billing since 1/31/2025. Completed
 - Quarter 2 April – June 2024 received March 14, 2025; providers will receive an email notification with billing instruction end of April. Letter sent to approved vendors
 - Wave 2 : Completed. Letter sent to qualifying providers 4/29/25
 - QIP Q3 & Q4: No DDS Guidance yet.
- **2023 DSP Workforce Data Collection Survey (submitted June 2024):** RCs have received the approved list from DDS. Completed. Letter submitted to qualifying providers 5/29/25.
- ❖ **CFS Coordinated Family Support Pilot** Implementation incentive payment; RC received monthly report for approval of submitted surveys.
 - NLACRC received vendor list on 7/16/2025. Processing incentive payments.
- ❖ **Vendor Portal:** NLACRC's vendor portal launched on 9/23/2024
 - Email invitations with registration form were sent to all NLACRC providers from vendorportal@nlacrc.org email
 - Action needed:
 - Step 1 – registration
 - Step 2 – accept invitation
 - Step 3 – log-in through authentication process
 - Community Services is contacting providers who are on Step 2 (pending acceptance of invitation) but have not yet clicked on the email which is from invites@microsoft.com
 - Questions: vendorportal@nlacrc.org

HCBS:

- ❖ *NLACRC is reviewing Request for Proposal (RFP) Fiscal Year 24-25 submissions for funding to **Support Compliance with Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule.***
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **FREE Training: Dementia Immersion Experience for Vendors**
 October 2 (9am or 1pm) and October 3 (9am or 1pm) @ NLACRC Chatsworth Office.
 3 Continuous Education Hours (CEU's) Approved for ARF and RCFE Administrators
 Registration Open Now. Limited Space
[Dementia Immersion Experience Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dementia-immersion-experience-tickets-1415352931719?aff=oddtcreator)
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dementia-immersion-experience-tickets-1415352931719?aff=oddtcreator>

DHH:

- ❖ **ASL Classes: Self-Paced Classes Coming Soon** – for participants, families and vendors. For more information contact Ted Horton-Billard, Deaf Services Specialist – thortonbillard@nlacrc.org.
- ❖ Register for Self-Paced classes: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1357090426999?aff=oddtcreator>

Compliance Corner:

- ❖ Rate Reform / Provider Directory follow-up:
 - RatesQuestions@nlacrc.org or ProviderDirectory@nlacrc.org
- ❖ **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 approximately last week of April 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
 - Submit notice of changes (address, entity, name, tax ID) to ResourceDevelopment@nlacrc.org
 - DS 1891 updates should be submitted through the OIG Compliance Now website: <https://sanctionscreeningnow.com/OIGComplianceVendor/Customer.aspx/Login>

Employment Services:

- ❖ Support NLACRC reach their **DDS CIE Incentives**. Please submit your incentive requests to CIE&PIP@nlacrc.org FY 25. Your Employment Specialist will be reaching out to schedule some time to review your PIP reimbursements and incentives for both PIP and CIE. Please don't leave any money on the table!
- ❖ **NLACRC Employment Initiative Office Hours**
 - 2nd Wednesday of the month, 11 am via Zoom
 - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82517702766?pwd=1tyUrdPePi7JnhGDFUUXcPm4JAPXPb.1>
 - Meeting ID: 825 1770 2766 Passcode: 857310
 - +14086380968,,82517702766#,,,857310# US (San Jose)
 - +16694449171,,82517702766#,,,857310# US

Resource Development:

- Residential Service Orientation (RSO) registration is now available on the NLACRC website. For more information please visit [Residential Services Orientation \(RSO\) -North Los Angeles County](#)
- **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](#):**

- American Sign Language Training and Support Services, Service Code 644
- 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 25-08-ASC](#) – Provider Informational Call: Best Practices for Intakes, Appraisals, and Reappraisals in Adult and Senior Care Programs. Webinar date: August 20, 2025, from 10am-11:30am. [Registration Link](#)
 - [PIN 25-07-ASC](#) – Authority Of Conservators And Agents Under Powers Of Attorney Related To Clients’ Rights
 - [PIN 25-06-ASC](#) - Calling 9-1-1 In Residential Care Facilities For The Elderly (RCFE)
 - [PIN 25-10-CCLD](#) – (Supersedes PIN 23-13-CCLD) Preparation For Extreme Heat, Wildfires, Public Safety Power Shutoffs, And West Nile Virus
 - [PIN 25-06-CCLD](#) - Extreme Heat Prevention
- ❖ **Client’s Rights Training** by Clients’ Rights Advocate, Erica Rodriguez, and NLACRC Community Services Specialist, Andrea Messina.
 - September 5, 2025, 10:00am – 12:00pm
 - [Registration Link](#)
 - 2 CEUs available
- ❖ **Restricted Health Care Conditions, Medication Administration, & Standard/ Universal Precautions Training** by NLACRC Nurse Consultant, Genevieve Olivas, and NLACRC Community Services Specialist, Lisseth Carrillo.
 - September 9, 2025, 10:00am – 12:00pm
 - [Registration Link](#)
 - 2 CEUs available
- **Spring Safety - Emergency Preparedness Bulletin**
 - [Emergency Preparedness Bulletin - Summer Safety 2025 Edition](#)

Community and Legislative Educator Report August 2025

Governor Newsom's CA Enacted Budget 2025-26

The **2025-26** budget allocates **\$296.1 billion total** (including \$188.1 billion for Medi-Cal and \$62.1 billion for disability and social services).

Department of Development Services (DDS):

Total Funding:

- **\$19B total funding** in 2025–26, reflecting ongoing caseload growth, increased service demand, and full implementation of rate reform.

Reductions:

- **\$75M reduction in 2025–26** by ending the “hold harmless” provision for provider rate reform **four months early (February 2026)**
- Reduced eligibility for providers to receive the Quality Incentive Program (QIP)
- **Self-Determination Program reductions:** \$22.5M in 2025-26 and \$45.5M ongoing
- ~~Eliminates DSP Workforce Training Program: \$36.8M ongoing~~
 - This cut was rejected by the Legislature and funding was restored
- **Reductions to targeted supports:**
 - **\$5.6M** for implicit bias training
 - **\$3M** for health & safety waiver assistance
- **Porterville Developmental Center: \$25M (originally \$10M)** ongoing reduction starting 2026-27 based on historical savings
- **Cost Recovery and Reimbursement Initiative:** DDS will pursue increased reimbursements and service cost recovery (savings TBD)

Investments:

- **\$13.3M** for development of the **Life Outcomes Improvement System (LOIS)**
 - A platform for managing case and financial information, including access to regional center services, communication tools, schedules, and provider payments
- **\$1.9M** to support **Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Access Rule compliance**
- **\$1.4M–\$2M** to expand **due process and fair hearing support**
- **\$680K** for **clinical monitoring**
- **\$1.3M** to support **cost recovery and reimbursement implementation**

Department of Health Care Services (Medi-Cal):

Proposed and Enacted Changes:

- **Enrollment freeze** for adults (19+) with **unsatisfactory immigration status (UIS)**, effective **no sooner than January 1, 2026**
- **Elimination of long-term care and dental benefits** for UIS adults
- ~~\$100 monthly Medi-Cal premiums (starting 2027)~~
 - Rejected and instead, a **\$30/month** premium for adults **19–59 with unsatisfactory immigration status (UIS)** was approved, effective July 1, 2027
- **Asset limit reinstatement:**
 - Reinstates prior Medi-Cal asset test of **\$2,000 (individual) / \$3,000 (couple)**
 - **For aged and disabled individuals: new limit of \$130,000 per individual + \$65,000 per additional household member**, effective no sooner than January 1, 2026
- Prescription cost controls and cuts to **FQHCs/Prop 56**
- Eliminates the **Skilled Nursing Facility Workforce** and **Quality Incentive Program**
- Suspends the **96-hour backup power** requirement for certain healthcare facilities, including some long-term care settings

In-Home Supportive Services:

- ~~Caps overtime/travel to 50 hours/week~~
 - Rejected by maintaining flexibility for caregivers and protecting service continuity for individuals needing **more than 50 hours of care**
- ~~Eliminates IHSS for UIS adults~~
 - Rejected and upheld IHSS eligibility for this population
- Shifts reassessment penalties to counties
- Aligns IHSS eligibility with Medi-Cal asset test

Housing and Disability Advocacy Program

- **\$44.6 million** one-time General Fund increase to assist disabled individuals experiencing homelessness

Read more: [2025-26 HHS Budget Summary](#)

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)

Signed into law on July 4, 2025, the OBBBA introduces major federal policy shifts, especially in **healthcare, safety net programs, and immigration**, with far-reaching implications for individuals with disabilities, low-income families, and state-administered programs like regional centers and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS).

Major Cuts to Safety Net Programs

- **Medicaid & CHIP:** Over **\$1 trillion in cuts** over the next 10 years

- **Medicare:** Estimated **\$490 billion in cuts** (*Note: the administration disputes this, claiming there are no cuts. However, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) affirms these are real reductions due to structural funding changes.*)
- **SNAP (Food Stamps):** Estimated cuts range from **\$186 to \$300 billion** depending on state participation and administrative burden

Medicaid Work Requirements

- **Effective Date:** States must implement by **December 31, 2026**
- **Who's Affected:** Adults ages **19–64** must complete **80 hours/month** of work, education, or community service
- **Exemptions:**
 - Medically frail individuals
 - Pregnant persons
 - Parents of young children (under 13 or 14, depending on rulemaking)
 - Caregivers of people with disabilities
 - Tribal members and hardship cases
- **Verification & Audits (2027–2029):**
 - SSA Death Master File audits
 - Frequent address updates
 - Prevention of duplicate enrollment across states

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)

- **Change:** Introduces a new **1915(c) waiver** that allows coverage for people who don't meet institutional-level care criteria
- **Impact:** Estimated to help **only 27 individuals per state**, given tight restrictions and funding limitations
- **Most states are expected to reduce HCBS investment overall**, despite the new flexibility, due to overarching Medicaid funding cuts

Other Key Medicaid Reforms

- **Retroactive Coverage Limits:**
 - Starting **January 1, 2027**, retroactive Medicaid benefits are capped at **1 month** for expansion adults and **2 months** for traditional enrollees/CHIP
- **State Provider Tax Restrictions:**
 - No new provider taxes after **October 2026**
 - Existing ones begin phasing out from **2028–2034**
- **Premiums & Fees:**
 - **Optional \$35 service co-pay** for expansion enrollees earning over 100% FPL

- **No explicit premium mandates confirmed for general Medicaid**—although cost-sharing, administrative barriers, and eligibility tightening are expected to increase out-of-pocket burdens

Projected Coverage Losses (CBO Estimate)

- **Medicaid-Related Losses:** Up to **7.8–11.8 million** people may lose coverage due to the new eligibility restrictions and work requirements by 2034
- **Total Health Coverage Losses:** Combined with ACA subsidy rolls and tax credit expirations, total projected loss could reach **16.9 million**

For more information:

- [ARCA's Highlights](#) – Summary and analysis tailored to the developmental disabilities system
- [Navigating Federal Cuts to HHS](#) – Secretary Kim Johnson’s Presentation with CalHHS
- [Official Info](#) – Full legislative text and federal resources

Support for Communities Impacted by Federal Immigration Raids

On **July 23, 2025**, the **California Department of Social Services (CDSS)** released a **special announcement** with resources for communities affected by federal immigration raids.

Key Highlights:

- **“Know Your Rights” Fact Sheets** from the Governor’s Office include:
 - What to do if you witness an immigration arrest
 - How to identify federal immigration agents
 - FAQs on legal rights and protections
- **Free Legal Services** funded by CDSS cover:
 - DACA, naturalization, removal defense, and youth support
 - Help for detainees, refugees, and Special Immigrant Visa holders
- **Additional Resources** available on [CA.gov](#) include:
 - Mental health support
 - Access to public education
 - Reporting discrimination and hate crimes

Explore resources and fact sheets:

- [CDSS Immigration Services](#)
- [Governor’s Know Your Rights Materials](#) - English
- [Governor’s Know Your Rights Materials](#) - Spanish

TAKE ACTION: Protect Disability Services & Strengthen Our System

Now is the time to speak up and take action. There are **two** important ways to engage:

State & Local Advocacy: Join ARCA’s Voter Voice Platform

ARCA has launched **Voter Voice**, a new tool to help our community act on state and federal issues affecting California’s developmental services system.

Through Voter Voice, you can:

- Write letters to legislators
- Participate in phone banking and rallies
- Meet with elected officials
- Stay informed on policy updates

[Sign up today](#) to amplify your voice and help shape a more inclusive future for our community.

Federal Advocacy: Tell Congress to Fund Our Future

Congress is reviewing the President's budget proposal, which includes:

- Deep cuts to **disability programs**, including potential elimination of funding under the **Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act)**
- Proposals to **weaken IDEA** by merging its funding streams into a block grant—reducing accountability and support for inclusive education

[Tell Congress](#) to protect funding for the DD Act and IDEA, and oppose harmful block grant proposals.

Opportunity: Serve on the City of LA Commission on Disability

The **City of Los Angeles** is currently accepting applications for a vacant seat on the **Commission on Disability**, which advises City leaders on policies and services that impact people with disabilities.

This is a meaningful opportunity for community members—including service providers, advocates, and VAC partners—who are passionate about equity, accessibility, and inclusion.

Key Details:

- Must be a **resident and registered voter** in the City of Los Angeles
- This is an **unpaid, volunteer position**
- Applications accepted **on a rolling basis**—no deadline
- Apply through the Mayor's [Boards & Commissions Portal](#)
- After applying, email DOD.Contact@lacity.org to confirm submission

Help elevate community voices—encourage qualified individuals to apply and contribute to the future of disability advocacy and policy in Los Angeles.

DDS Programs & Initiatives

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: September 15, 2025 - 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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:

- October 28, 2025 – 1:00-3:00 pm - **No registration link at this time**

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.**

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: [Rate Reform Directives and Updates : CA Department of Developmental Services](#)

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:

- August 27, 2025 from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM - [Registration](#)
- October 16 and 17, 2025 - **No registration link at this time**

California State Legislative Calendar

- August 18th, 2025 - Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess.
- August 29th, 2025 - Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report bills to the floor.
- September 5th, 2025 - Last day to amend on the floor.
- September 12th, 2025 - Last day for each house to pass bills.
- October 12th, 2025 - Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature.




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

Community Events

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.



Assemblymember Nick Schultz - Community Coffee at The Back Door Bakery & Cafe

Join Assemblymember Schultz for a great opportunity to discuss state legislation and share input on community priorities.

-  **Date:** Sat, August 16, 2025
-  **Time:** 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
-  **Location:** 8349 Foothill Blvd, Sunland, CA 91040 - [Registration](#)



Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo - Youth & Family Festival

A free, family-friendly event with a petting zoo, arts & crafts, family yoga, and resource tables on affordability, public safety, youth programs, and more.

- **Date:** Sat, August 16, 2025
-  **Time:** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
-  **Location:** Canyon Country Community Center - 18410 Sierra Highway, Santa Clarita, CA 91351 - [Registration](#)




Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin - Sidewalk Session in Brentwood

Join for a Sidewalk Session in Brentwood, ask questions and discuss local issues in a relaxed, informal setting.




- **Date:** Sun, August 17, 2025
-  **Time:** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
-  **Location:** 741 S Gretna Green Way, Los Angeles, CA 90049 - [Registration](#)

Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) - Local Officeholders Luncheon

Connect with local leaders who shape your community! VICA's Local Officeholders Luncheon offers a unique opportunity to engage directly with city officials, ask questions, and gain insight into the decisions impacting the San Fernando Valley.




-  **Date:** Thurs, August 28, 2025
-  **Time:** 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM
-  **Location:** Skirball cultural center - 2701 N Sepulveda Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90049 - [Registration](#)

Valley Industry Association (VIA) - Santa Clarita Concessions 70th Anniversary!

-  **Date:** Thurs, August 28, 2025
-  **Time:** 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
-  **Location:** 21554 Golden Triangle Rd - [Registration](#)

Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce - State of the Valley

Join the Chamber & elected officials for an informative discussion about the current state of the San Fernando Valley.

-  **Date:** Sat, September 6, 2025
-  **Time:** 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM
-  **Location:** Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City, 555 Universal Hollywood Drive, Universal City - [Registration](#)

Legislative Bills

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** | In committee: Held under submission on **May 23, 2025**.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB276

AB 277 (Alanis) Behavioral Health Centers, Facilities, and Programs: Background Checks - Under existing law, businesses that serve minors must provide written notice to parents or guardians about their employee background check policies. The Department of Justice (DOJ) is authorized to maintain and disclose state summary criminal history information to specified entities, such as employers or human resource agencies. Unauthorized disclosure is considered a crime. This bill would expand these protections by requiring that any individual who provides behavioral health treatment at a behavioral health center, facility, or program must undergo a criminal background check.

Status: Introduced on **January 21, 2025** | In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of the author on **May 1, 2025**.

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

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** | Referred to Committee on Human Services on **May 21, 2025**.

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** | In committee: Held under submission on **May 23, 2025**.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB315

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**; In committee: Referred to Appropriations suspense file on **July 14, 2025**.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB346

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** | In committee: Held under submission on **May 23, 2025**.

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** | In committee: Held under submission on **May 23, 2025**.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB804

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** | Enrolled and presented to the Governor at 11:30 a.m. on **July 18, 2025**.

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. CalABLE provides tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities without affecting their eligibility for public benefits—this bill would strengthen the program’s ability to expand outreach, increase participation, and secure diverse funding to support long-term financial stability for our population.

Status: Introduced on **February 20, 2025** | From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Appropriations Committee with recommendation on **July 9, 2025**.

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** | In committee: Referred to Appropriations suspense file on **July 14, 2025**.

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** | Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Appropriations Committee on **July 17, 2025**.

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

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** | From committee: Without further action pursuant to Joint Rule 62(a) on **May 1, 2025**.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1335

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** | Held in committee and under submission on **May 23, 2025**.

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



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

1. NLACRC Spotlight:

A. 2026 Legislative Breakfast

- i. On June 27, 2026, NLACRC hosted its Legislative Breakfast at New Horizons, welcoming over 150 guests for a catered breakfast.
- ii. Panelists discussed key issues including:
 1. Transportation access
 2. Medicaid and Social Security barriers
 3. Workforce development
 4. Early intervention
 5. Housing supports
- iii. Marty Omoto, respected disability rights advocate, served as MC.
- iv. Suad Bisogno, CEO of Integrated Resources Institute, received the Jynny Retzinger Award in recognition of her leadership in the developmental disabilities community.

B. Support Positions Hired & Additional Training Rolled Out

- i. All lead trainer positions are now filled (15 out of 15), demonstrating continued momentum in staff development and leadership capacity.
- ii. 2 additional Self-Determination Program Consumer Services Coordinator Lead Trainers (SDP CSC Lead Trainers) have been hired for a total of 7.
- iii. In-Person Self-Determination Program Training has been rolled out to our Case Management Staff.

C. 2026 Generic Resource Fair

- i. NLACRC hosted two Generic Resource Fairs in 2026—one in Antelope Valley and one in San Fernando Valley—to strengthen partnerships with community-based organizations.
 1. More than 60 organizations participated, increasing staff awareness of local resources and improving referral pathways.
 2. Approximately 400 NLACRC staff attended across both locations.
 3. These events supported stronger cross-sector collaboration to better serve individuals and families
 4. Post-Event surveys showed 97% of staff found their fair “very helpful” and 94% rated it as “excellent”.

D. Psychological Testing Appointment Growth

- i. From January 1 to August 1, 2025, NLACRC offered 1,098 psychological testing appointment slots, compared to 863 during the same period in 2024.
 1. This reflects an increase of 235 slots.
 2. This represents a 27.2% year-over-year increase in appointment availability.

- ii. Expanded capacity enables more timely assessments and service access for individuals and families.

E. Caseloads Continue to Decrease

- i. Medicaid Waiver: 1 in 83 Individuals Served to Service Coordinator
 - a. Statute: 1:62
 - b. In March of 2024: 1:113
- ii. Age 0 to 5: 1 in 61 Individuals Served to Service Coordinator
 - a. Statute: 1:40
 - b. In March of 2024: 1:78
- iii. All Others: 1: 81 Individuals Served to Service Coordinator
 - a. Statute: 1:66
 - b. In March of 2024: 1:104
- iv. Vacant Caseloads are Down to 19 Caseloads (approximately 1100 Individuals Served)
 - a. In October of 2024: 35 vacant caseloads, 2031 individuals served.

2. Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Updates:

A. Self-Determination Program- What's Ahead:

- i. The Department of Developmental Services will begin community engagement in mid-August on topics including individual budgets, financial management services, spending plans, and transition supports.
- ii. Regional centers will be consulted first.
 - a. The effort is framed as an investment in improving the program.
 - b. Planned updates include:
 - 1. Guidance on building individual budgets
 - 2. Adjustments tied to rate reform
 - 3. Employer identification numbers for minors
 - 4. Review of large budget increases
- iii. Agreements between participants and providers, similar to In-Home Supportive Services
 - a. The department will work with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to improve the orientation process.
 - b. Cost-effectiveness definitions for both traditional and self-determination programs are due by August 2026, with hopes to finish early.

3. Center Updates:

i. Recruitment:

- i. Total # of positions filled: 898
 - 1. Total # of authorized positions: 1029
- ii. Augst New Hires
 - 1. 1st Cycle (8/11/2025): 8 confirmed
 - 2. 2nd Cycle (8/25/2025): 7 unconfirmed

- iii. Net new hires for FY24/25 was 156, which is a 84% increase from the net new hires from FY23/24.

- 1. Our Year-Over-Year turnover fell from 17.82% to 10.8%.

- ii. **Outreach:**

- i. **Filipino Support Group Annual Picnic – July 26, 2025 – 70+ Attendees**

- 1. NLACRC participated in the Filipino Support Group’s Annual Picnic, which was attended by over 70 Filipino families.
 - 2. Families connected with new and existing members, enjoyed mini games, and received NLACRC and FFRC resources.
 - 3. This event reflects NLACRC’s long-standing engagement with the Filipino community through the many years the support group has been active.

- ii. **Black Student Family Reunion and Backpack Giveaway – August 2025 – 163 Community Members Engaged**

- 1. In partnership with the California Association of African American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA) and LAUSD’s Black Student Achievement Plan, NLACRC participated in a back-to-school fair for families in Region North.
 - 2. The event offered free health services, including sports physicals, dental and vision care, immunizations, school supplies, and essential goods.
 - 3. The DEIB team engaged with 163 community members unfamiliar with the Regional Center system, distributing 49 brochures and service descriptions.
 - 4. The fair promoted student wellness, academic readiness, and equitable access to resources.

- iii. **Antelope Valley Community Baby Shower – August 2025 – 60 Attendees**

- 1. NLACRC participated in Project Joy’s Community Baby Shower, attended by 60 expecting mothers and mothers of infants under 3 months.
 - 2. DEIB staff shared eligibility criteria for the Early Start program, emphasized the benefits of early intervention, and reviewed Lanterman Act eligibility and available supports.

- iii. **Consumer Statistics:**

- i. Total served: 39,642
 - 1. Early Start: 5,248
 - 2. Lanterman: 31,945
 - ii. Breakdown of all three valleys:
 - 1. AV (Early Start & Lanterman): 9,358

- 2. SCV (Early Start & Lanterman): 4,359
 - 3. SFV (Early Start & Lanterman): 23,476
- iii. Intake all three valleys: 949 & Early Start Intake: 308
- iv. All other categories not captured in Early Start, Lanterman, and Intake, such as Provisional, Enhanced, Specialized, and other which total: 1,192
- iv. **2026 Social Recreation Reimbursement & Support Update**
 - i. Social recreation reimbursements through MIJI take approximately 4 weeks with complete referrals—2 weeks for intake review and 2 weeks for onboarding and payment.
 - ii. Delays occur due to incomplete referrals, vague authorizations, missing notes, and business onboarding or invoicing issues.
 - iii. MIJI has 20 staff and is hiring 10 more to meet demand.
 - iv. NLACRC launched Social Recreation Open Office Hours to support service coordinators, particularly in the School Age unit, which has the highest volume of requests.
 - 1. 34% of school-aged service coordinators attended in the San Fernando Valley Office.
 - 2. Open Office Hours will soon occur in other office hours too.
 - v. Some coordinators receive up to 23 social recreation requests per month.
- v. **1-Click Survey Implementation**
 - i. NLACRC added 1-Click Surveys to all staff email signatures for external recipients.
 - 1. Feedback includes quick ratings and optional comments, with responses provided within 72 business hours.
 - 2. Results are reviewed to identify trends, recognize high performers, and address areas needing coaching.
 - 3. This initiative launched two weeks ago to strengthen service quality and responsiveness.
- vi. **Quality Assurance (Community Services Department)**
 - i. QA staff conducted 100 residential visits.
 - 1. 43 were unannounced in-person visits.
 - 2. 7 Corrective Action Plans were developed with residential providers.
 - 3. 0 Plans of Improvement were issued for non-residential providers.
- 4. **Upcoming Disability Organization Events/Activities:**
 - A. State Council on Developmental Disabilities next council meeting—September 30, 2025
 - B. Disability Rights California's next board meeting—September 20, 2025
 - C. Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting—August 21, 2025

FY 2024-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Total
Vendor Advisory Committee	Dark			Dark		Dark						Dark	Absences
Alex Kopilevich, Chair													0
Jaklen Keshishyan, Alt. Chair													0
Jodie Agnew Navarro													0
Masood Babaeian													0
Paul Borda													0
Andrea Devers													0
David Ebrami													
Cal Enriquez													0
Ute Escorcia													0
Jason Gillis													
Ricki Macken Chivers													0
Vahe Mkrtchian													0
Desiree Misrachi													
Daniel Ortiz													0
Jen Pippard													0
Tal Segalovich													
Octavia Watkins													0
Sharon Weinberg													0

Meeting Time

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)