



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: September 11, 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 Vendor Advisory Committee meeting on **Thursday, September 11, 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. Thank you!

Attachments

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

Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting 9.11.25

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VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 11, 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 August 14, 2025, Meeting (*1 min.*)
 - B. Approval of the Agenda (*1 min.*)
- VI. **Action Items**
- VII. **Committee Business**
 - A. Update on Vendor Mentorship Program – Paul Borda (*3 min.*)
 - B. 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 (*10 min.*)
- IX. **Open Topics for Discussion** – Alex Kopilevich (*10 min.*)
 - A. Discuss Vendor Survey Results
 - B. System/Industry Issues
 - i. Requirements for SDP vs. Traditional Model
 - C. NLACRC Empower Expo 2025

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: September 9, 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. Community Relations Committee (Sharon Weinberg – VAC Rep.) *(1 min.)*
- B. Nominating Committee (Alex Kopilevich -VAC Rep.) *(1 min.)*
- C. 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, November 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Hybrid – In-person location Antelope 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 – SANTA CLARITA VALLEY OFFICE / TELECONFERENCE
AUGUST 14, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS:

Alex Kopilevich, Jaklen Keshishyan, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Octavia Watkins, Masood Babaeian, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Ute Escorcía, Vahe Mkrtchian, Jen Pippard, Sharon Weinberg, Cal Enriquez, Jason Gillis, Tal Segalovich, David Ebrami, Ricki Macken-Chilvers

STAFF:

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

GUESTS:

Jessica Kyles

ABSENT:

Desiree Misrachi

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 9:32 a.m. Alex Kopilevich presided as Chair.

2. COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Members were asked to identify themselves when speaking or making a motion. Committee members introduced themselves since this was the first meeting of the year.

3. SHARE IMPACT STORY FROM INDIVIDUAL SERVED

Angela Pao-Johnson shared an impact story from Steve Casselman.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Ute Escorcía asked about the current status of the vendor portal and whether vendors without access would be able to regain it.

Angela Pao-Johnson explained that the current vendor portal has not functioned as intended and no further resources will be dedicated to fixing it. Instead, the organization is exploring a new platform, with a demo scheduled for the 26th. The new system is expected to perform more reliably.

Angela noted that while some vendors still have portal access, there are delays in authorizations appearing online. Vendors are advised to rely primarily on mailed authorizations, which typically arrive sooner than portal updates. The duplicative process of

portal and mail was acknowledged as burdensome, reinforcing the decision to transition to a new solution.

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 June 12, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.

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

6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.1 Orientation

- **Bylaws**
- **Committee Roster**
- **Committee Meeting Schedule**
- **Priority Issues/Goals**

Angela Pao-Johnson reported that the bylaws have been updated. A key change is that the committee will no longer forward applicants to the Nominating Committee; instead, the Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) will select a panel of three to four members to interview applicants and submit recommendations directly to the Board of Trustees for approval. This aligns with practices at other regional centers.

Angela Pao-Johnson reminded members to submit renewal requests. After the first year (trial year), members must confirm if they wish to continue. At the three-year mark, members must submit a renewal form, available through Board Support. Sharon Weinberg confirmed her intent to renew, and staff will provide the form.

Attendance requirements were reviewed: three consecutive absences or five absences within a fiscal year result in vacating a seat. Attendance counts equally whether in person or via Zoom.

The meeting schedule was clarified: the committee is dark in July and October, but not in June, ensuring compliance with the bylaw requirement of nine meetings per year. Members were reminded to notify staff if unable to attend.

Priority issues and goals were reviewed, organized into three subcommittees. Jody Agnew-Navarro leads Early Start, Cal Enriquez and Paul Borda lead School Age, and Octavia Watkins leads Adult. Members were encouraged to participate in subcommittees, which typically meet monthly.

6.2 Update on Vendor Mentorship Program

Alex Kopilevich provided a brief update on the Vendor Mentorship Program. A small planning group has been meeting, including Alex Kopilevich, Ricky Macken-Chilvers, Andrea Devers, and Paul Borda. Paul Borda has volunteered to lead the program, as there is currently no designated leader. Alex Kopilevich will be reaching out to relevant points of contact to streamline communications and address vendor questions more efficiently. Proposed initiatives include creating a dedicated email for vendors to ask questions, connect with other

vendors providing similar services and receive information about VAC participation. The program aims to better inform and support vendors while reducing workload for regional center staff, including service coordinators and community services. Paul Borda confirmed he will coordinate directly with Alex Kopilevich and Arshalous Garlanian for next steps.

6.3 Self-Determination Update

As of August 1, the Self-Determination Program has 593 participants, with 13 transitions this month, totaling 118 since January. A local volunteer meeting is scheduled for August 21, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, and information is available on the regional center website. DDS is seeking community input on upcoming changes to individual budgets aimed at making the program sustainable, with a meeting scheduled tomorrow from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. Feedback from regional centers, vendors, families, and consumers will inform the rollout of changes, anticipated by August 2026.

Participants discussed concerns regarding adherence to spending plans, particularly when parents deviate from the approved budget, affecting vendor payments. Sylvia confirmed that spending plans should be followed, and discrepancies can be addressed with the FMS agency. Questions were raised about which consumers benefit most from the program, with Sylvia noting it varies case by case, often when traditional service models do not meet individual needs.

Additional discussion addressed rate adjustments for services transitioning into self-determination, with benchmark rates applied when vendors are included in the spending plan. Participants also noted challenges with inconsistencies among FMS agencies. Sylvia shared that DDS is working to standardize processes across FMSs through a workgroup seeking feedback and alignment.

7. REPORT OUTS

7.1 Deputy Director Officer's Report

This report will be deferred until the next VAC meeting.

7.2 Chief Financial Officer's Report

This report will be deferred until the next VAC meeting.

7.3 Community Services Director's Report

Two North LA artists were selected for a paid internship with the Autism Service Branch, and their artwork will be used in disaster preparedness materials.

Jessica Kyles from Allswell presented on the DSP Internship Program. This program is a paid, three-month internship allowing entry-level candidates to work up to 30 hours per week. The interns do not have special needs. Their duties include basic personal care, activities of daily living, documentation, and socialization, but they are not permitted to manage medications, provide medical care, transport clients, or work overnight shifts. The program aims to promote DSP roles, increase hiring and retention, and streamline the process of sourcing and vetting candidates. Interns are primarily placed in day programs, community integration, and vocational services, which have shown the most success, but SLS, ILS, and residential settings are also supported.

The hiring process begins with a phone screen, followed by a video interview, provider review, and onboarding, which takes approximately two to six weeks, concluding with paid virtual training. Providers are expected to mentor interns, respond to communications within 48 hours, and provide feedback throughout the internship. The program is fully funded by the state, and providers may receive retention stipends of \$500 at six and twelve months if interns are hired permanently. The current conversion rate to permanent employment is approximately 35 percent, with non-conversions split between interns and providers. Interns may transition to other program types if their initial placement is not a good fit. Recruitment focuses on underserved and ethnic communities through job fairs, boards, and online postings. Interns are not eligible for health insurance during the internship, and SSI is not affected since the interns are individuals without special needs.

The DSP Collaborative Webinar will be held on September 23 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. This platform allows providers to post DSP job openings and candidates to post resumes. Marketing efforts will cover all seven LA County regional centers.

The DSP University survey is available for providers to give feedback on DSP content and training. The survey takes approximately 25 minutes, and a discussion session will be held on August 18 at 10 a.m.

NLACRC will be hosting two Family Expos. The team confirmed details for the upcoming events and noted that registration flyers with QR codes will be posted soon. The Antelope Valley Expo will be held on September 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Palmdale Embassy Suites, and the San Fernando Valley Expo will take place at CSUN on October 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Senator Menjivar is scheduled to attend the CSUN event and participate in a breakout session. Providers interested in exhibiting can register, though space is limited to ensure a variety of services for attendees.

Both events will also include a dance for adults served, scheduled from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Flyers for dance registration will be distributed soon. The event is open to adults 18 and older, and providers were encouraged to promote participation among the individuals they support. Micro-enterprises will also have an opportunity to participate with a dedicated section at the expos, with sign-up information forthcoming.

An update was provided on Gallagher Verify, which is assisting with tracking provider insurance certificates. Some deficiencies being flagged are due to administrative issues, such as missing vendor numbers or incorrect addresses. Providers should respond directly to Gallagher emails, as they function as tickets for resolution. Auto-generated duplicate deficiency emails have been corrected, but providers should continue reporting persistent issues. A Q&A resource is being developed to address common concerns.

The discussion then turned to rate reform. The service acknowledgment deadline was May 31, and North LA has begun transitioning service codes to subcodes. Internal teams meet weekly to coordinate implementation, with some changes completed automatically and others requiring IPP planning. About nine service codes have transitioned so far. Retroactive billing adjustments are being processed, with some payments arriving in subsequent billing cycles depending on service type. Providers were reminded that daily, weekly, and monthly units must transition to hourly units by December 31, 2025, though final guidance from DDS is pending.

North LA is also working on unique cases, exemptions, and coordination with other regional centers for out-of-area vendors. Internal reference tools and live SharePoint resources have been created to support staff and service coordinators during this transition. Providers were asked for patience as this large systemic change is implemented.

7.4 **Legislative Report**

Belinda Abatesi reported that the governor's budget remains largely unchanged since June. The Direct Support Professional Workforce Training Program funding was restored, the Porterville Development Center budget was reduced by \$25 million, and Medi-Cal premiums for adults with unsatisfactory immigration status were set at \$30 instead of \$100. Asset limits for aged and disabled adults increased to \$130,000 plus \$65,000 per additional household member. Proposed cuts to In-Home Supportive Services were rejected.

Belinda Abatesi confirmed that Medi-Cal asset limits increased but Social Security asset limits remain at \$2,000. CalABLE accounts remain excluded. The State Council on Developmental Disabilities is hosting monthly Medi-Cal meetings for further updates.

At the federal level, Belinda Abatesi highlighted the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, signed on July 4th, which will cut \$1 trillion from Medicaid and CHIP, \$490 billion from Medicare, and \$186–\$300 billion from SNAP. Medicaid work requirements of 80 hours per month begin in December 2026, with audits in 2027. A new Home and Community-Based Services waiver will provide very limited coverage, expected to assist only about 27 people per state. Other changes include shorter coverage windows, provider tax limits, and \$35 service copays.

Cal Enriquez raised concerns about impacts on regional centers and vendors. Belinda Abatesi stated that Regional Centers are still enrolling in the Medicaid Waiver Program, with the only confirmed update being the \$35 copay. Ute Escorcia requested clarification on waiver impacts, and Belinda Abatesi confirmed details remain pending.

Belinda Abatesi shared resources for communities impacted by immigration raids and introduced the Association of Regional Center Agencies' Voter Voice tool for advocacy. Belinda Abatesi also promoted the LA Metro Neurodiversity in Transit Project survey and noted collaboration with Lindsay Granger to share it with the community.

Upcoming Department of Developmental Services meetings include the Quality Incentive Program Meeting on September 15, the Rate-Setting, Cost, and Payment Methodology Workgroup on October 28, and the Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting on August 27th.

Community events include Assemblymember Nick Schultz's community coffee on August 16, Assemblymember Pilar Shiavo's Youth and Family Festival on August 16, Assemblymember Jackie Iron's sidewalk session on August 17, the Valley Industry and Commerce Association luncheon and Santa Clarita Division anniversary on August 28, and the Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce State of the Valley event on September 6.

Belinda Abatesi concluded by encouraging members to review the legislative bills listed in the meeting packet, share advocacy resources, and stay engaged with community events.

7.5 **Executive Director's Report**

Angela Pao-Johnson provided key updates on North Los Angeles County Regional Center activities. She reported on the legislative breakfast at New Horizons, noting strong community interest and panel discussions on transportation, Medicaid, early intervention, and housing. The Regional Center podcast was highlighted, and community engagement was encouraged. Updates on the Self-Determination Program (SDP) included planned improvements by August 2026 and current cost comparisons to traditional programs.

Updates on the Self-Determination Program (SDP) included upcoming DDS engagement and planned updates by August 2026 on budgets, employee IDs for minors, and rate adjustments. SDP currently averages \$81–\$83,000 per consumer, compared to \$37,000 for traditional programs.

Caseload ratios have improved significantly since the special contract in July. Medicaid Waiver improved from 1:113 to 1:83, ages 0–5 from 1:78 to 1:61, and all others from 1:104 to 1:81. The special contract now focuses on caseload ratios, IPP satisfaction surveys, quarterly DDS meetings, and whistleblower reporting.

Recruitment efforts added 156 staff with reduced turnover, and new lead trainers, SDP coordinators, and Associate Service Coordinators were hired. The resource fair and the one-click satisfaction survey, as well as social recreation reimbursement updates to streamline processing were reported. It was noted that MIJI FMS referral processing takes about 4 weeks and open office hours help manage high-volume social recreation requests. Angela Pao-Johnson concluded by sharing upcoming events and encouraging participation.

8. OPEN DISCUSSION TOPICS

A comprehensive vendor survey is currently being finalized and will incorporate feedback from the vendor forum along with questions on self-determination and legislative updates. It was decided that one survey will be distributed to all vendors rather than separate versions for VAC members and the broader community. Surveys are scheduled to go out in August. Members were reminded to submit open discussion items early so agendas can be posted seven days in advance, and that agendas and packets are now posted on the website only, not emailed. Concerns were raised about inconsistent service termination practices, as allowing services to “run out” may hold funds, complicate audits, and delay new authorizations. The process will be reviewed and clarified. Additional concerns were noted regarding inconsistent in-person quarterly visits for individuals living outside the family home and documentation not always reflecting actual contact. Clarification was provided that only one in-person visit per year is required, with remote options still available, and that meeting formats should be decided collaboratively based on individual needs. Some agencies are also encouraging self-advocacy by supporting individuals to schedule their own meetings.

9. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP INFORMATION

9.1 Early Start Services

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that the Early Start Services Committee work group met in last month and discussed subcodes and the recent changes. The next meeting will be on September 18th.

9.2 School Age Services

Cal Enriquez reported that his group recently reconvened after a pause in July. The discussion covered topics including the portal, Medicaid waiver process, and self-determination. The group aims to ensure a smooth process for both families and vendors and plans to continue participating in support groups, particularly related to self-determination. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, typically aligning with the VAC schedule, and Cal Enriquez shared information for others to join the group.

9.3 Adult Services

Octavia Watkins reported that the group met on July 21st. A collaboration with the Valley Industry Association for the “Connecting to Success Conference” on July 30th featured activities on money management and budgeting. The Work Incentives Planning Assistance Program, which includes benefit counseling and connecting participants with employment resources, was noted. Belinda Abatesi provided an overview of California's Master Plan for Developmental Services, highlighting six key areas: equity, self-determination, service accessibility, accountability, workforce participation, and aging and dementia. The next meeting will feature Maria Sandoval, Outreach Specialist from CalABLE, as a guest speaker.

10. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Nominating Committee

The committee discussed board composition and open positions on the Board of Trustees. They decided to move the November meeting to September to address critical calendar concerns and plan for interviewing new applicants. Board applications are in a rolling acceptance period, and no deadline has been set for new applicants. The next meeting is scheduled for September 17 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

10.2 Executive Finance Committee

The VAC representative did not attend the meeting, as they are not the designated representative. Attendance is allowed without voting rights. The meeting was a special session called to conduct business, including approval of conflict-of-interest disclosures for several board members and the board budget. It was discussed that Jacqueline Kashishian will continue attending as a non-voting member of the committee.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT

During the meeting, the committee discussed two main topics: Allswell, a resource for hiring interns, and the California Disability Services Association (CDSA), including its legislative advocacy efforts and annual Legislative Day. Public input included questions about joining committees and VAC membership. The application process involves submitting an interest form, review by VAC members, and an in-person interview. The deadline for applications is December 15. Committee members were encouraged to join subcommittees to become more involved. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11 at 9:30 a.m., as a hybrid session at the Chatsworth office. Attendance requirements and sign-in procedures were also reviewed.

12. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting is September 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Chatsworth office.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:57 a.m.

Vendor Advisory Committee: September 11, 2025

Community Services Department: Director's Report

General Updates:

- ❖ **NLACRC Family Expo**
 - Saturday, September 27; 11-4PM
 - Sunday, October 12; 11-5PM
- ❖ **DSP Collaborative**
 - Save the Date: September 23, 2025
- ❖ **DSP University Survey & Collaborative**
 - Thank you to providers that provided valuable feedback and participated.
- ❖ **Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Update:**
 - <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/quality-incentive-program/>
- ❖ ****DDS QIP Workgroup Meeting 9/15 2 pm Zoom****
 - <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/quality-incentive-program/>
- ❖ **Service Provider Directory one-time lump sum (subcode PD1)**
 - Wave 1: providers that completed step 1 (data collection) by 10/4/24 and step 2 (validation) by 11/30/24
 - DDS approved 198 NLACRC vendors, authorization in October 2024 service month is available for billing as of 8/15/2025
 - Wave 2: providers that completed step 1 (data collection) by 10/4/24 and step 2 (validation) by 5/30/25
 - DDS approval TBD (not received as of 9/02/25)
 - Questions: ProviderDirectory@nlacrc.org
- ❖ **Employment Access / Employment Capacity (available through 6/30/2025)**
 - Employment Capacity FY 24/25 Q2: In-progress. DDS 90-day.
 - Due Date 10/21/25
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **NLACRC Vendor Portal:** As of 7/31/2025, NLACRC will no longer onboard new service providers or offer technical assistance. NLACRC is exploring alternative solutions to support communication, access between service providers, and our organization while maintaining security and compliance standards.
- ❖ **DSP Internship Program (presentation during August VAC meeting from All's WELL)**
 - **Highlights:** paid three-month training and internship program provides standardized, new direct care workforce entry-level training and practical work experience for those interested in entering the workforce
 - Contact NLACRC at DSPInternship@nlacrc.org to notify us of your interest and we'll connect you with DDS / All's WELL Healthcare
 - <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/workforce-initiatives/>

- <https://dspinternship.allswell.com/>

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 monitoring with Gallagher Verify:**
 - Please respond to Gallagher Verify emails via reply in the same thread to GV
 - Additional contact: ProviderInsurance@nlacrc.org – auto-forwards to Gallagher inbox. Gallagher Verify (833) 862-8432
- ❖ Reminder that Community Services sends out *many* types of compliance correspondence. **Thank you for your patience, response, and partnership in maintaining your vendorization ensuring regulatory compliance and availability to continue providing services.**
If relevant to your vendorization, you may receive email notifications about:
 - All RCs have a regulatory responsibility to confirm interest as a current RC vendor if there is no service delivery within the last 24 months. Community Services contacts service providers that have not provided services (billed), aka “2-year non-use”.
 - Annual program evaluations:
 - In-home respite agencies (service code 862):
 - due each March 30th for preceding calendar year (01/01/24 – 12/31/24)
 - Community-based day programs (service codes 805, 505, 510, 515, 525, 530, 531, 532)
 - due each September 30th for preceding fiscal year (07/01/24 – 6/30/25)
 - Providers that receive payment in excess of \$500,000 from all RCs are required to submit an independent review/audit. Our Accounting team contacts providers based on

DDS guidance. Failure to provide the required documentation based on regulatory timelines will result in compliance actions.

❖ **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>
 - NLACRC is contacting providers who are out of compliance

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:

- ❖ NLACRC will begin instituting a Letter of Interest (LOI) Vendor Application process. This is to coincide with the initiatives from DDS to Standardize Vendorization. This will roll out the week of September 15, 2025. For more information please visit [How to Become a Service Provider -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:

- ❖ **Emergency Preparedness Training** by Emergency Management Specialist, Roy Ortega, and NLACRC Community Services Specialist, Ari Stark.

- September 22, 2025, 10:00am – 12:00pm, **Location:** NLACRC Chatsworth Office
 - September 24, 2025, 10:00am – 12:00pm, **Location:** NLACRC Lancaster Office
 - [Registration Link](#)
 - 2 CEUs available
- ❖ **P&I Management & Recordkeeping** by NLACRC Community Services Specialist, Rachel Cooper.
- October 27, 2025, 10:00am – 12:00pm
 - [Link Forthcoming](#)
 - 2 CEUs available
- ❖ **Summer Safety - Emergency Preparedness Bulletin**
- [Summer Season - Emergency Preparedness Bulletin](#)

NLACRC Legislative Report

September 2025





Federal Policy Updates

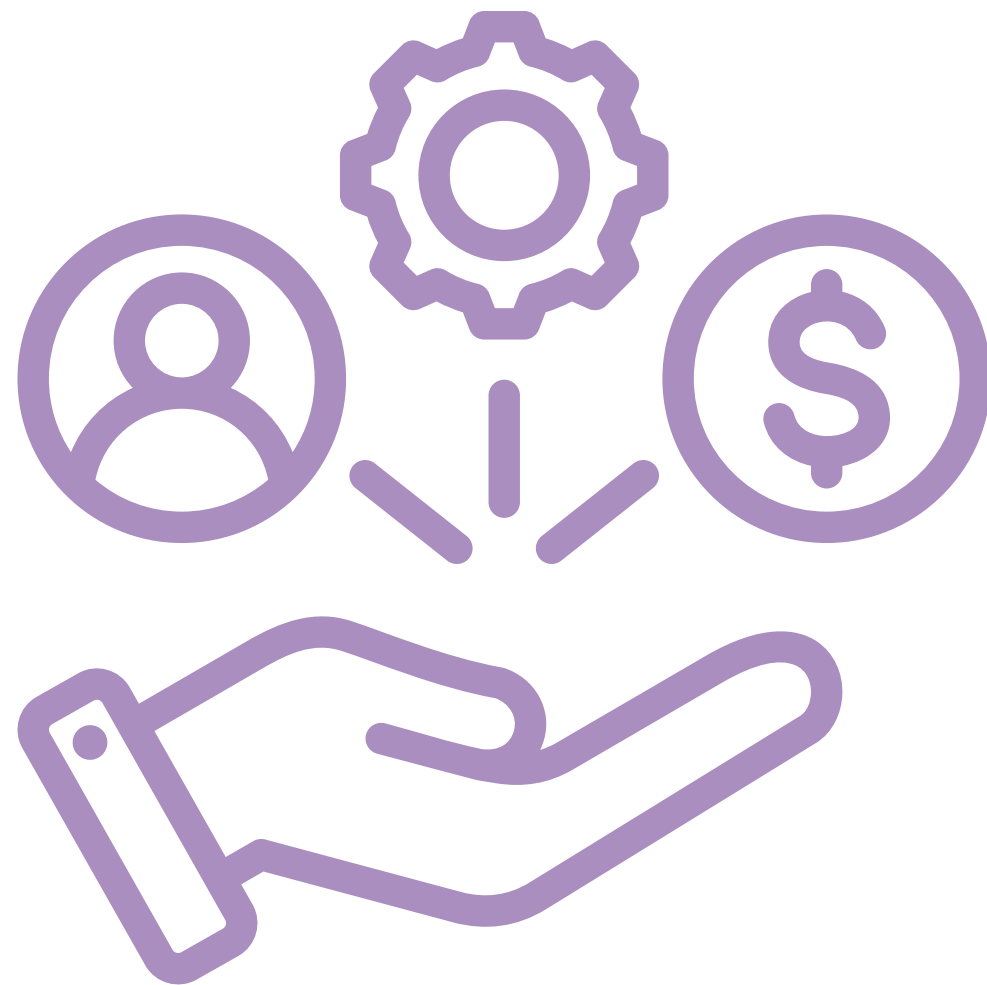
Consideration of a Second Party-Line Reconciliation Bill

- House Republicans exploring another reconciliation bill after the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.
- Senate Finance Chair Mike Crapo may revisit 200 tax proposals.
- ⚠ Risk: Possible cuts to Medicaid & HCBS → critical for developmental disability services.





Community Resources



The Future is Now – Caring Futures

- Free 6-week online course on future planning for adults with developmental disabilities.
- Focus on supported decision-making & family empowerment.
- When: Sept. 17, 9:00–10:30 AM

[Registration](#)



DDS Programs & Initiatives

In-Person LOIS Listening Sessions

- Limited to 50 participants each.
- Fresno: Sept 11, 10–12 PM
- Pomona: Sept 16, 10–12 PM
- San Diego: Sept 23, 10–12 PM

[Registration](#)

Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Workgroup Meeting

Sept. 15, 2:00-3:30 PM
Location: Zoom

[Registration](#)

Early Start ICC Upcoming Meeting

October 16 and 17, 2025
Location: Alta California
Regional Center or via
Zoom

[Registration](#)

Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Workgroup Meeting

Dec. 15, 2:00-3:00 pm
Location: Zoom

**No registration link
at this time**



State Calendar



Last day for each house to pass bills



Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature



Events

Advocacy & Policy

Disability Rights California

Events

Habitability and the Right to Safe Living Conditions

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 1:00 PM

ASSEMBLY MEMBER
Nick Schultz
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 44

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025
5:30 PM TO 6:30 PM

ZOOM LINK PROVIDED UPON RSVP

Community Engagement

JACQUI IRWIN
Assemblymember, District 42

Saturday, September 27
9 a.m. - Noon

ABOUT DISTRICT RESOURCES

PaliBu Day of Service

Pepperdine University
24255 Pacific Coast Hwy
Malibu, CA 90263

PALIBU

DAY OF SERVICE

PILAR SCHIAVO
Assemblywoman, District 40

Events

Senior Resource Fair

Thursday, October 9, 2025, 9am - 1pm
SANTA CLARITA SENIOR CENTER
27180 Golden Valley Rd
Santa Clarita, CA 91351

October 9 | 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.



VENDORS IN ACTION!

ARCA’S Voter Voice Campaign



Enter Your Info

Your Information

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

☐ Yes, sign me up to receive text alerts

By providing your mobile number, you agree to receive periodic call to action text messages from Association of Regional Center Agencies. Message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Reply STOP to unsubscribe. Message frequency varies. [Privacy Policy](#).

Mobile Number

Pick all that apply. I am *

If you selected other above, please specify.

Other

Home Information

Street Address *

ZIP Code *

Enter Zip for **City** and **State**

Business Information

Your Title

Company

Street Address

ZIP Code

Enter Zip for **City** and **State**

☒ Yes, sign me up to receive email updates and action alerts from Association of Regional Center Agencies

☒ Remember me

Save

The Arc of California – Advocacy & Action: State Legislative Training Series

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- ☒ Session 1 – September 5: Celebrating the Power of Community
- ☒ Session 2 – September 12: Legislative Process and Budget Advocacy
- ☒ Session 3 – September 19: How to Organize and Mobilize Your Community to Achieve Change at the State Level
- ☒ Session 4 – September 26: How to Tell Your Story to Impact Lawmakers and Achieve Change



Tell Congress to Protect Disability Services & Fund Our Future!

Send an email to your officials with one click!

Title *

Full Name *

Address *

Zip *

city and state not required

Phone *

Email *

Send Email →

☒ YES! Keep me updated on how to take advocacy action with The Arc and/or affiliated chapters.

☒ YES! I agree to receive calls or text messages to this number from The Arc and/or our affiliated

Everyday Advocacy Actions

- Send letters or emails (Find your representative).
- Invite legislators to programs
- Attend town halls and community events
- Encourage families to share their stories
- Partner with vendors or organizations for collective impact
- Stay updated on legislative alerts

Note: Click the headings for additional information.

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Legislative Bills



Held in Committee

- [AB 346](#) (Nguyen): In-Home Supportive Services: licensed health care professional certification
- [AB 1208](#) (Addis): CA Developmental Disability Service Quality, Performance, and Outcomes Act of 2025
- [AB 1220](#) (Arambula): Developmental services: denials of services and notices of actions
- [SB 422](#) (Grayson): Public Post Secondary education: disabled student services: assessments

Passed

- [AB 341](#) (Arambula): Oral Health for with Disabilities Technical Assistance Center program
- [AB 563](#) (Jackson): Childcare: Early Childhood Policy Council
- [AB 1076](#) (Addis): Qualified ABLE Program: CalABLE accounts: funding
- [AB 1099](#) (Bryan): Developmental services: initial intake (**two-year bill**)
- [AB 1172](#) (Nguyen): Adult day programs: administration of inhalable emergency antiseizure medications.

Held in committee bill → The bill got “stuck” in committee and isn’t moving forward.

Passed bill → The bill made it through a vote (in committee or on the floor).

 [View full information for all bills](#)



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

1. NLACRC Spotlight:

A. Antelope Valley Staffing Update

- i. In August 2024, Antelope Valley had 68.84% of its positions filled (with approximately 31% open and under recruitment).
- ii. As of July 31, 2025, Antelope Valley has the highest fill rate of the three offices, with 88.48% of positions filled.
- iii. This reflects a 19.64% increase in filled positions over the past year.

B. RC On Wheels

- i. The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Team launched another round of *RC On Wheels*, our mobile outreach initiative that brings regional center resources directly into the community, with the Summer Series kickoff on August 27, 2025, in the San Fernando Valley.
 - 1. *RC On Wheels* will visit four sites through October 8th, strengthening community connections and ensuring families have easier access to information and support.

2. Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Updates:

A. Assembly Bill 2423 – Provider Rates

- i. Requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to review and update rate models for developmental disability services beginning July 1, 2025, and every two years thereafter.
- ii. The bill does not stipulate a funding requirement for these updates.

B. Assembly Bill 1147 – Grievance Procedure

- i. Requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to revise how consumer grievances and complaints are addressed.
- ii. Proposes consolidating current processes, with the potential elimination of WIC 4731 complaints and Citizen's complaints.
- iii. DDS has acknowledged that these existing procedures rarely resolve individual situations, except from requiring staff training when rights violations occur.
- iv. DDS has already hosted a webinar to gather community feedback on the proposed changes.

C. Individual Program Plan (IPP) Surveys

- i. DDS is reminding families of the importance of completing IPP surveys.
- ii. Statewide goal: 15% return rate with at least 85% satisfaction.

- iii. NLACRC received 49 responses from January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025, reflecting only a 1.68% return rate.
- iv. A QR code to access the survey is provided at the end of each IPP.

D. A Bilingual Stipend and Direct Support Professional University Update

- i. Both the stipend program and the training university rely on the new learning system being developed by Sacramento State, which is expected to launch by December 2025.
- ii. The state is meeting with providers to review current trainings and preferred formats to avoid rebuilding materials from scratch.

E. Quality Incentive Program—Provider Requirements

- i. Beginning in FY 2026-27, providers must meet new requirements to qualify for incentive funding, including compliance with service standards, electronic visit verification, and financial audits.
 - 1. Providers must meet these requirements by February 2026.
- ii. Only the most recent audit is required, based on the provider's tax ID. Requirements are tied to funding levels, which are not expected to change.
 - 1. More providers will be required to complete audits as payments increase under rate reform. The state is considering adding system prompts to notify providers when they cross the threshold.

F. Rate Model Implementation

- i. *Transportation for Non-Ambulatory Riders*
 - 1. Providers are concerned the new non-ambulatory rate is only 11 cents higher per mile than the ambulatory rate, despite the additional time required to secure wheelchairs.
 - 2. The state confirmed the new rates are final for now but may be revisited if supporting data is provided.
 - 3. The non-ambulatory rate now applies to all passengers, not just wheelchair users.

3. Regional Center News:

A. Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule Animated Series

- i. Developed in partnership with Tri-Counties Regional Center and Public Pixels Media.
- ii. Features characters Lorenzo, Maya, Dexter, Steve, and superhero Lanterman, who share stories explaining the 10 federal requirements of HCBS Final Rule.
- iii. Designed to help regional centers, service providers, and the community better understand and implement HCBS rights.
- iv. Episodes are available in 20 languages, including ASL.
- v. All voice actors are individuals with developmental disabilities, who transitioned from paid internships to full employment.

- vi. With LACC grant funding, adult coloring books (English and Spanish) highlighting HCBS rights are available free of charge.

4. Center Updates

A. Recruitment:

- i. Total # of positions filled: 901
 - 1. Total # of authorized positions: 1028
- ii. August New Hires
 - 1. 1st Cycle (8/11/2025): 8 confirmed
 - 2. 2nd Cycle (8/25/2025): 9 confirmed

B. Consumer Statistics:

- i. Total served: 40,372
 - 1. Early Start: 5,149
 - 2. Lanterman: 32,519
- ii. Breakdown of all three valleys:
 - 1. AV (Early Start & Lanterman): 23,805
 - 2. SCV (Early Start & Lanterman): 4,415
 - 3. SFV (Early Start & Lanterman): 9,448
- iii. Intake all three valleys: 1,153 & Early Start Intake: 279
- iv. All other categories not captured in Early Start, Lanterman, and Intake, such as Provisional, Enhanced, Specialized, and other which total: 1,272

C. Community Services QA Report:

- i. The Quality Assurance Team conducted 86 residential visits.
 - 1. 28 Unannounced In-Person Visits
- ii. 3 Corrective Action Plans developed with residential providers
- iii. 0 Plan of Improvement with a non-residential provider

D. Social Recreation Referrals & Authorizations Update:

- i. Miji processed 454 total referrals, with 315 resulting in new referrals.
 - 1. By comparison, July 2025 – the busiest month—had 745 For comparison, July 2025 was the busiest month with 745 total authorizations, of which 508 were new.
- ii. Miji's payment processing timeline remains at four weeks. Efforts are underway to implement a new, more user-friendly payment system that will not disrupt current payments for onboarded businesses.
- iii. Miji encourages businesses and families to use ACH (direct deposit) for a faster, more secure process.
- iv. NLACRC will conduct the following Social Recreation Training for the public:
 - 1. 09/27 – Antelope Valley Family Expo at 11:30 a.m.
 - 2. 10/07 – Inclusion In Action Panelist

3. 10/12 – San Fernando Valley Family Expo (time TBD)

E. Outreach:

- i. Youth & Family Festival – August 16, 2025 – Canyon Country Community Center
 1. NLACRC tabled at the family festival hosted by Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo, alongside community partners including StrengthUnited, DPSS, Child & Family Center, and CHP.
 2. The DEIB team shared resources with Santa Clarita Valley families to help them connect with NLACRC.
 3. The outdoor event featured family activities, a petting zoo, and car seat safety inspections.
- ii. San Fernando Community Health Center (SFCHC) Presentation – August 13, 2025 – San Fernando Valley
 1. NLACRC's DEIB team facilitated a presentation on Regional Center's services and eligibility to families and professionals.
 2. This presentation is part of an ongoing partnership with local health providers to increase awareness of Regional Center services.
 3. The effort supports medical providers and social workers in better understanding referrals and eligibility.
- iii. Free Baby Expo & Resource Fair – August 7, 2025 – Yaroslavsky Family Support Center, Van Nuys
 1. NLACRC participated in the Baby Expo hosted by the LA County Department of Public Health.
 2. The DEIB team provided Early Start resources, guided families through the intake process, and spoke with new mothers about eligibility.
 3. Families received baby clothes, diapers, and school supplies, and participated in family activities.

5. 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 – September 18, 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		P											0
Jaklen Keshishyan, Alt. Chair		P											0
Jodie Agnew Navarro		P											0
Masood Babaeian		P											0
Paul Borda		P											0
Andrea Devers		P											0
David Ebrami		P											0
Cal Enriquez		P											0
Ute Escorcia		P											0
Jason Gillis		P											0
Ricki Macken Chivers		P											0
Vahe Mkrtchian		P											0
Desiree Misrachi		Ab											1
Daniel Ortiz		P											0
Jen Pippard		P											0
Tal Segalovich		P											0
Octavia Watkins		P											0
Sharon Weinberg		P											0

Meeting Time 2.50

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)