



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: November 19, 2025

To: **Community Relations Committee**
Cathy Blin, Nicholas Abrahms, Jennifer Koster, George Alvarado, Blanca Chavez, Jacquie Colton, Lety Garcia, Juan Hernandez, Laura Monge, Jeremy Sunderland, Jason Taketa, Curtis Wang, Sharon Weinberg, Jodie Agenew-Navarro

From: Lindsay Granger
Executive Administrative Assistant

Re: Information and materials for Consumer Services Committee meeting on **Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. (via Zoom)**

Enclosed is the packet for the next Community Relations Committee meeting. Please review this information in preparation for the meeting.

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Please **click the link** below to join the Zoom webinar as an attendee.

To join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84443908937?pwd=mu8IDYb16XR7uYaoBueyavdOWx13F0.1>

The information below is only needed if you are joining the meeting by phone or if you are using phone audio.

Meeting ID: 844 4390 8937

Passcode: 315113

Dial by your location

- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

If you have any questions, please email boardsupport@nlacrc.org

Thank you!

Enclosures

c: Angela Pao-Johnson, Evelyn McOmie, Vini Montague, Betsy Monahan, Donna Rentsch, Silvia Renteria-Haro, Dana Lawrence, Dr. Carlo DeAntonio – Staff

Community Relations Committee 11.19.25

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North Los Angeles County Regional Center COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – *Via Zoom*

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

5:00 p.m.

~ AGENDA ~

- I. **Call to Order** (1 min.)
- II. **Committee Member Attendance/Quorum** (1 min)
- III. **Agenda** (1 min)
 - A. Approval of Agenda
- IV. **Public Input - Agenda Items:** (3 minutes per person, limit 3 comments)
- V. **Consent Items** (1 min.)
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the Community Relations August 20, 2025 Meeting
- VI. **Committee Business**
 - A. Discuss Ideas for Legislative Events in Spring 2026 – Cathy Blin and Chris Whitlock (5 min.)
 - B. Discuss Ideas of Community Outreach – Cathy Blin and Evelyn McOmie (10 min.)
 - C. Discuss Nominations for the Jynny Retzinger Community Service Award 2026 – Chris Whitlock (3 min.)
- VII. **Action Items**
 - A. Review and Approve New Committee Priorities – Cathy Blin and Evelyn McOmie (10 min.)
 - B. Review and Approve New Format of Proposed Purchase of Service Expenditure Data Report – Evelyn McOmie (5 min.)
- VIII. **Report Outs –**
 - A. Legislative Update – Belinda Abatesi (2 min.)
 - B. Social Media Update – (John Van De Riet) (2 min.)
 - C. Self-Determination Program Report – (Silvia) (2 min.)
 - D. SDLVAC Board Liaison Report Out – (Juan Hernandez) (2 min.)
 - E. 1st Quarter Disparity Committee Report Out (July-September) – (Sarah) (2 min.)
 - F. 1st Quarter Intake Data by Location Report (July-September) – (Evelyn) (2 min.)
- IX. **Board Meeting Agenda Items** (1 min.)
- X. **Announcements / Public Input** (3 minutes per person) / **Information Items**
 - A. Next Meeting: January 21, 2026
 - B. Committee Attendance (1 min.)
- XI. **Review of Committee Action Log Items** (3 min.)
 - A. Consumer Services Committee Action Log 2024-25
 - B. Community Relations Committee Action Log 2025-26
- XII. **Adjournment**

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2025

Present: Cathy Blin, Nicholas Abrahms, Jennifer Koster, Laura Monge, Lety Garcia, Jennifer Koster, Jacquie Colton, Jeremy Sunderland, Jason Taketa, George Alvarado, Curtis Wang, Sharon Weinberg, Juan Hernandez– **Committee Members**

Evelyn McOmie, Silvia Renteria-Haro, Angela Pao-Johnson, Lindsay Granger, – **Staff Members**

Absent:

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Cathy Blin called the meeting to order at 5:21 p.m.

II. Agenda – Review and Approval

M/S/C (Curtis Wang/Lety Garcia) To approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

III. Public Input

There was no public input.

IV. Consent Items

- A. Approval of Minutes from the Consumer Services Committee May 21, 2025 Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes from the Government & Community Relations Committee May 21, 2025 Meeting

M/S/C (Curtis Wang/Lety Garcia) To approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

V. Committee Business - Evelyn McOmie

A. Orientation

- a. Bylaws Adopted on June 11, 2025
- b. Discuss Committee Priorities

Evelyn McOmie presented the committee bylaws. The Community Relations Committee (CRC) now serves as the merged body. The committee has 13 members, with a quorum of seven. Members serve one-year terms. The duties of the CRC include reviewing pending legislation affecting individuals with developmental disabilities, coordinating contact with legislators representing the service area, and informing and engaging the community about the purpose, policies, and operations of the Regional Center. The committee also reviews and recommends standards and policies related to consumer rights, case management, intake and assessment, and community development. The CRC does not discuss individual consumers, vendors, or confidential matters such as special incident investigations. Evelyn McOmie presented this overview.

Evelyn McOmie reviewed the prior-year priorities, which included five Consumer Services

priorities and eight Legislative priorities. Topics included increasing access to services, addressing purchase of service (POS) disparities, reducing caseload ratios, monitoring self-determination implementation, advocacy training, legislative events, community engagement, and developing relationships with elected officials.

Cathy Blin noted that the Consumer Services priorities appeared clear and distinct, while the legislative list was lengthy and contained potential overlap. Jeremy Sunderland suggested combining Legislative Priority #3, which called for holding an annual legislative event, with #5, which focused on developing relationships with elected officials and candidates, as these efforts are closely connected.

Sharmila Brunjes recommended using outcome-based language to avoid managerial direction and to align with the Special Contract goals, such as measurable community engagement targets. Lety Garcia emphasized that developing strategies is part of the board's collaborative role with staff and that strategy creation falls within the scope of board responsibilities. Sharon Weinberg proposed making priorities measurable to help assess progress and clarified her understanding that the committee develops recommendations for the full Board of Trustees.

Blanca Chavez recommended adding a mechanism to incorporate consumer, family, and community feedback into committee priorities. Evelyn McOmie noted that NLACRC already collects family input through an online survey and additional National Core Indicator (NCI) and IFSP/IPP surveys. Sharon Weinberg suggested ensuring that the surveys also reflect input from individuals in residential settings. Evelyn McOmie confirmed that additional survey efforts were in progress, including on-site data collection at community events such as the Empower Expo. Lety Garcia requested that data from these surveys be shared with the committee to better inform decision-making.

Sharmila Brunjes referenced the board's Special Contract goals and suggested that the CRC could help monitor measurable outcomes such as a 15% response rate for the IPP/PCP survey. Cathy Blin and other members agreed this could align well with the committee's focus on community engagement.

Juan Hernandez inquired about existing satisfaction surveys conducted by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Evelyn McOmie confirmed that NLACRC participates in the National Core Indicator survey each year and that results are reported publicly once available.

Evelyn McOmie and Lindsay Granger will consolidate Legislative Priorities #3 and #5 and return with a revised list of seven legislative priorities. The Consumer Services priorities will be updated to include "create outcomes-based strategies" in place of "propose or develop strategies." The committee also requested inclusion of language that explicitly seeks and incorporates feedback from consumers, families, and community members when addressing disparities and access to services.

ACTION: Board Support will share relevant portions of the Special Contract Language (SCL) related to community relationships and measurable goals at the next meeting to assist the committee in aligning its work. Evelyn McOmie will also propose language to include a formal community feedback mechanism and explore options for regular reporting of survey data to the committee.

ACTION: Evelyn McOmie and Lindsay Granger will prepare **Draft 1** of the merged Community Relations Committee priorities, reflecting the discussed revisions and additions, and present it at the next meeting for review and refinement before submission to the Board of Trustees.

B. Discuss Legislative Townhall in Fall

Chris Whitlock provided an update on upcoming legislative and community engagement activities. He shared that the Public Information Team is planning another virtual town hall for the fall, tentatively in October or November, following the success of the February event. Belinda Abatesi, the legislative specialist, has been coordinating with legislative offices to secure a date that allows for greater participation from legislators.

The goal of the town hall will be to continue dialogue with legislators and address issues relevant to the Community Relations Committee. Chris Whitlock also noted that ARCA delegation activities and the legislative podcast series have been progressing well, with ongoing efforts to maintain open communication and advocacy.

C. Discuss Roles and Responsibilities of Committee Chair

Cathy Blin reviewed the responsibilities of the committee chair, which include leading meetings, ensuring discussions run smoothly and clearly, and collaborating with the Executive Committee and staff to prepare agendas. Cathy Blin noted that the Community Relations Committee offers broad exposure across legislative, community outreach, and client services areas. Meetings are held every other month, typically from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Lindsay Granger and staff will provide logistical and administrative support to the committee leadership.

George Alvarado and Jeremy Sunderland expressed interest in serving as Committee Chair. Cathy Blin volunteered to serve as Co-Chair. Sharmila Brunjes clarified that, according to the bylaws, a board member may only chair one committee. Based on that clarification, Curtis Wang withdrew his name since he currently serves as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

The committee agreed to conduct a private ballot vote administered by Lindsay Granger through an online poll. It was clarified that if both the Chair and Co-Chair are unavailable for a meeting, the committee members present may designate another member to preside for that session.

Jeremy Sunderland was elected as Chair of the Community Relations Committee by majority vote. Cathy Blin was elected as Co-Chair by majority vote.

ACTION: Lindsay Granger will update the committee roster and public listings to reflect the new Chair and Co-Chair. Jeremy Sunderland, Cathy Blin, and Lindsay Granger will coordinate on upcoming agendas and transition planning. Lindsay Granger will confirm the next meeting date and time, scheduled every other month from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

D. Discuss Draft Critical Calendar for FY 2025-2026

Jeremy Sunderland, newly elected Committee Chair, led the review of the annual Committee

Calendar, previously referred to as the “Critical Calendar,” which will now be titled “Committee Deadlines.” Jeremy Sunderland outlined the committee’s schedule of reports, reviews, and key activities for the year.

Jeremy Sunderland noted that the committee did not meet in July and confirmed that orientation for committee members had been completed. He reviewed the recurring semiannual and quarterly reports the committee will review, including the Consumer Competitive Employment Report, Consumer Diagnostic Report, Notices of Action (NOAs) by Ethnicity, Location, Services, and Age Range, 4731 Report, Social Recreation, Camp, and Non-Medical Therapy Services Report, Intake Data by Location, Disparity Committee Report, and the Purchase of Service Expenditure Data Report.

Jeremy Sunderland also reviewed upcoming committee activities and events, including planning a Candidates Forum to be held in the fall, supporting the Annual Board and Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) Legislative Training in October (noting that October is a dark month for the committee), sending out Jenny Ratzinger Award nomination forms in November and selecting the recipient in March, creating a workgroup for the Legislative Breakfast in January, beginning preparations for ARCA Grassroots Day and North LA Grassroots Week, and hosting the Legislative Breakfast in June followed by a dark month in July.

M/S/C (Cathy Blin/Sharon Weinberg) to approve the draft Committee Deadlines formerly the critical calendar for fiscal year 2025-26 as presented. Motion carried.

VII. Action Items

A. Presentation and Approval of New Proposed Disparity Report

Jeremy Sunderland introduced the next agenda item regarding the presentation and proposed approval of a new format for the Disparity Report. Evelyn McOmie presented the redesigned report, explaining that the updated format replaces lengthy numerical tables with a more user-friendly layout featuring visual graphs for easier analysis. The new format compares data from Fiscal Years 2023–2024 and 2024–2025, displaying total and per capita expenditures by ethnicity, residential type, and diagnosis.

Evelyn McOmie explained that the new report will be presented biannually and includes comparisons by residential type (home, Community Care Facilities, Independent Living, Intermediate Care Facilities, and medical settings such as psychiatric hospitals and skilled nursing facilities). The report also includes expenditures by diagnosis and identifies the top five expenditure categories—personal assistance, in-home respite, community integration, residential facilities, and supportive living—both in total and per capita amounts.

Committee members, including Sharon Weinberg and Lety Garcia, expressed appreciation for the clearer, visual presentation. Sharon Weinberg asked about the absence of data for FFAs and FHAs, and Evelyn McOmie explained that those categories represent a smaller portion of expenditures. Lety Garcia requested that future reports include additional ethnicity breakdowns under residence type and the top five expenditure categories. Sharmila Brunjes asked for clarification about how that data would be represented and suggested the possible use of pie charts for visual clarity.

Evelyn McOmie agreed to incorporate these suggestions and will explore formatting options to

include ethnicity data without adding unnecessary slides. The committee supported the conceptual changes and requested that an updated version be presented at the next meeting for review.

No vote was taken on this item.

ACTION: Evelyn McOmie will present the updated disparity report format at the next meeting after revisions are made to include ethnicity data by residential type and top five expenditure categories.

VIII. Committee Report Updates

A. Legislative Update

Belinda Abatesi presented state and federal updates. At the state level, the July budget allocates approximately \$19 billion to the Department of Developmental Services. Legislators rejected proposals to reduce caregiver training and limit IHSS. New investments include the Life Outcomes Improvement System (LOIS) to streamline how individuals and families access regional center services. At the federal level, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act proposes significant cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and food assistance, adds strict work requirements, limits retroactive Medicaid coverage, and restricts provider taxes used to fund disability services. The Act also creates a new home- and community-based services waiver with minimal impact (about 27 individuals per state). Belinda Abatesi highlighted California Department of Social Services resources for communities impacted by federal immigration raids, including Know Your Rights materials, free legal services, mental health supports, and education resources.

Belinda Abatesi noted that ARCA's standardized respite tool was open for public feedback until August 28. Belinda Abatesi described the new Authorized Representative Program providing free advocacy while preserving individual decision-making. Belinda Abatesi encouraged interest in the City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability. Belinda Abatesi reviewed legislative calendar dates, including August 29 as the last day for fiscal committees to report bills to the floor, and shared community events (e.g., VICA events on August 28, SCDD training on September 4, Advocacy in Action training series in Spanish with English interpretation, and the San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce State of the Valley on September 6).

Lety Garcia asked whether unused tickets from organizational memberships (e.g., VICA, SCDD, Chamber) could be offered to board members. Evelyn McOmie agreed to check and follow up. Jeremy Sunderland supported involving board members to attend and report back to the committee. Sharon Weinberg asked how proposed Medicaid work requirements for adults might affect individuals served; Belinda Abatesi stated implementation details are pending and committed to provide updates as guidance is released.

Members were encouraged to share CDSS immigration-raid resources with families and community partners.

ACTION: Evelyn McOmie will confirm whether extra tickets are available for upcoming partner events and coordinate communication to board members.

ACTION: Belinda Abatesi will monitor federal work-requirement guidance and return with updates.

B. Social Media Update

John Van De Riet reported growth across all channels. A Meta technical issue caused an apparent spike from April to May on Facebook; the July follower count of 7,871 is accurate. Instagram increased by approximately 150 followers, and Twitter/X gained 11 followers. John Van De Riet also provided a podcast update: five episodes are posted, with the Senator Menjivar episode leading at 134 views. Upcoming, in-progress episodes include an emergency preparedness feature with the internal team, conversations with additional assembly members, and a tentative interview with the State Council's Executive Director.

C. Semi-annual Purchase of Service (POS) Expenditure Data Report

Evelyn McOmie noted that the Semiannual Purchase of Service Expenditure Report was listed for presentation and approval in error. The item will be deferred to a future meeting for proper review and discussion.

D. Self-Determination Program Report and

E. SDLVAC Board Liaison Report – Silvia Renteria-Haro

Evelyn McOmie presented the Self-Determination Program report on behalf of Sylvia Rinter-Yaharu. As of August 1, 2025, there were 673 certified budgets (an increase of 14 from July) and 593 approved spending plans (an increase of 57). A total of 577 person-centered plans were completed (up by 15). Three participants discontinued after receiving budgets, and 13 participants opted out of the program (an increase of one). Seven participants transferred to other regional centers due to changes in catchment areas.

Evelyn McOmie reported that 593 individuals are currently active in the program, an increase of 13, noting that North Los Angeles County Regional Center ranks among the top four regional centers statewide, despite not having participated in the pilot program.

The report also included an overview of participants by FMS model: 138 sole employers, 55 fiscal agents, and 400 co-employers. Upcoming events include a virtual SDP orientation on September 8 at 9:00 a.m. and the Self-Determination Support Group meeting on September 3.

There was no LVAC report for this meeting. Juan Hernandez will attend the LVAC meeting at the end of the month and provide an update at the next committee meeting.

F. Disparity Committee Report Out

Sarah Yap, Consumer Services Director overseeing the School Age Enhanced Service Coordination and DEIB departments, provided the Disparity Committee report on behalf of Santos Rodriguez. Sarah Yap shared that the meeting packet included reports for the second, third, and fourth quarters through June 2025 and highlighted key activities from the fourth quarter. The Disparity Committee hosted presentations from organizations including Strength United, CHIRLA (Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights), the Braille Institute, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Health Promoters, and Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles.

At the committee's recommendation, Executive Director Angela Pao-Johnson attended multiple cultural support groups—including AV Spanish, Armenian, Filipino, Farsi, and Black/African American—to engage directly with families and gather feedback. The committee continues to

focus on increasing awareness about developmental disabilities and advocating for underserved communities. Meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. via Zoom, with the next scheduled for September 11.

Blanca Chavez, new to the committee, asked about the purpose of the Disparity Committee. Sarah Yap explained that the committee collaborates with the DEIB unit and community-based organizations to strengthen outreach and partnerships that serve diverse communities across NLACRC's catchment areas. Each fiscal year, the committee identifies specific focus topics and establishes subcommittees to address them.

Evelyn McOmie added that the Disparity Committee was established following recommendations from this committee about two years ago. Each year, members vote on focus areas; last year's priorities were mental health, employment, and emergency preparedness. Evelyn McOmie noted that the committee has partnered with more than a dozen community organizations and facilitated 264 outreach events across all three office regions during the year.

Lety Garcia asked how the committee measures success and whether outreach efforts have translated into progress in reducing disparities. Evelyn McOmie responded that while specific quantitative benchmarks have not yet been set, the data shows upward trends in Purchase of Service (POS) expenditures and participation among communities of color. Lety Garcia emphasized the importance of aligning committee goals and metrics to assess progress in closing service gaps. Jeremy Sunderland agreed, reiterating the importance of continually examining the committee's purpose and goals in addressing disparities.

G. Semi-annual Consumer Competitive Employment Report (Jan. 2025-Jun. 2025)

Evelyn McOmie presented the June 2025 Semiannual Consumer Competitive Employment Report on behalf of staff. The report covered data from January through June 2025, showing the total number of individuals competitively employed, organized by residential type—including family home, independent living, out-of-home, and intermediate care facilities (ICF).

Evelyn McOmie noted that the data reflected both monthly (May–June) and six-month comparisons, illustrating slight but nominal fluctuations in employment figures. The changes may be attributed to various factors, but overall trends remained stable.

Lety Garcia asked whether North LA continues to rank highly statewide for competitive employment funding, referencing a previous report that highlighted over \$1 million in related grants. Evelyn McOmie clarified that updated statewide rankings will be available after the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) releases new data following NLACRC's October report submission. Evelyn McOmie noted that Lety Garcia's reference pertained to the Paid Internship Program (PIP) and Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) report, which tracks paid internship and competitive employment outcomes at six- and twelve-month intervals.

H. Semi-annual Consumer Diagnostic Report

Evelyn McOmie presented the Semiannual Consumer Diagnostic Report for the first half of the fiscal year. As of June 30, 2025, the North Los Angeles County Regional Center served a total of 39,642 individuals under all six diagnostic categories (Status 1 and Status 2 Lanterman Act-eligible consumers). The report excludes intake cases and Early Start (0–3) participants.

Evelyn McOmie noted continued growth across all three service areas—San Fernando Valley, Antelope Valley, and Santa Clarita Valley. The report also included 44 individuals categorized as “Other,” representing those in transition between regional center catchment areas. These cases remain temporarily counted in NLACRC’s total until officially transferred.

I. Semi-annual NOAs by Ethnicity/Location/Services & Age Range Report (Jan. 2025-Jun. 2025)

Evelyn McOmie presented the Semiannual NOA by Ethnicity and Location Report for the first half of the fiscal year. The report documented a total of 2,147 Notices of Action (NOAs) issued and provided data by ethnicity, location, and age. Evelyn McOmie noted that the report currently spans two pages with overlapping information and suggested condensing it into one streamlined version for clarity and efficiency. Jeremy Sunderland and committee members supported simplifying the format to improve readability.

Evelyn McOmie explained that an NOA (Notice of Action) is issued when a service request is denied or when a determination of ineligibility is made. She emphasized that NOAs are not inherently negative; they represent due process, ensuring that families are informed of their right to appeal and seek reconsideration. Many NOAs are later resolved collaboratively between families and the regional center.

Lety Garcia requested clarification on the term “ethnicity code” listed in the report. Evelyn McOmie confirmed that it appeared to be a data anomaly and would follow up to determine its meaning, noting that it might reflect cases where ethnicity was not identified. Cathy Blin agreed with Evelyn McOmie’s recommendation to consolidate the report into a single page to eliminate redundancy.

ACTION: Staff will revise the report format to present the data on a single page and follow up on the unidentified “ethnicity code” entry.

J. Semi-annual 4731 Report

Dana Lawrence, Fair Hearing and Administrative Procedures Manager, presented the Semiannual 4731 Report covering the period January through June 2025. During this time, 33 complaints were filed, containing a total of 68 allegations. Following investigation, 12 rights violations were substantiated from the filed complaints, and an additional 7 violations were identified independently by staff, resulting in a total of 19 confirmed violations.

The most common violations included failure to provide a Notice of Action (NOA) or failure to issue it in a timely manner; failure to conduct Individual Program Plan (IPP) meetings on time—either within the required annual or triennial schedule, or within 30 days of a consumer’s request; and service coordination issues, including one instance where a consumer’s request for reassignment of a service coordinator was not fulfilled.

K. Semi-annual Social Recreation, Camp & Non-Medical Therapies Services Report (Jan. 2025-Jun. 2025)

Evelyn McOmie presented the Social Recreation, Camp, and Non-Medical Therapy Services Report, which included data for multiple fiscal years due to deferred reporting from the prior quarter. The report covered fiscal years 2022–2023, 2023–2024, and 2024–2025 to reflect ongoing billing activity, as service providers are permitted to bill retroactively.

For FY 2023–2024, total social recreation expenditures reached \$2,416,627. For FY 2024–2025, expenditures increased to \$3,196,371 as of July 21, 2025, based on June state claims. Preliminary data for the first quarter of FY 2025–2026 indicated payments of \$4,540 to date. Evelyn McOmie noted that the consistent increase demonstrates that social recreation services are being actively utilized and reimbursed across the region.

Lety Garcia inquired about the percentage of authorizations that remain unpaid. Evelyn McOmie reported that the Community Services Department processed approximately 1,200 requests between July and June, successfully eliminating the backlog and maintaining current processing. Outstanding items are generally due to pending documentation from families or service coordinators.

Evelyn McOmie also noted improvements with FMS provider Miji, which expanded staffing from 4 to 20 employees to address delays. She explained that social recreation funding naturally fluctuates with camp seasons (summer, spring, and winter) but that both NLACRC and its vendors have implemented systems to manage seasonal surges more efficiently.

It was noted that while some complaints persist, they represent a small fraction compared to the total number of families receiving services or reimbursements. The majority of issues arise from mutual misunderstandings or incomplete submissions rather than denials. Evelyn McOmie emphasized that the regional center has made significant progress in funding, processing, and outreach related to social recreation services, supported by the efforts of the School Age Enhanced Service Coordination unit led by Sarah Yap.

L. 4th Quarter Intake Data by Location Report

Evelyn McOmie presented the third and fourth quarter intake data, noting that overall numbers remain strong and reflect the continued growth of the regional center. Between January and June 2025, there was only a minor decrease of just over 100 cases compared to the prior period, which Evelyn McOmie described as a healthy and stable trend for a growing regional center.

The report also highlighted timeliness in intake processing. For April, 0.51% of cases exceeded the 120-day processing period, while for June, that rate was 0.84%. There were no cases exceeding 142 days in June, reflecting improved efficiency and timely eligibility determinations.

Evelyn McOmie explained that intake data includes breakdowns for the San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, and Antelope Valley, noting that intakes for Santa Clarita are processed through the San Fernando office. She further reported that North LA employs approximately 35 psychologists as of July 2025, an increase that supports the center's growing assessment and intake needs.

M. 1st Quarter NOAs/Appeals Report (July-Sept. 2024)

Evelyn McOmie presented the first quarter Appeals Report for fiscal year 2024–2025, noting it is a continuation of the Notice of Action (NOA) report. The report summarized the number of appeals filed by individuals and families following service denials or eligibility determinations.

During the fourth quarter of FY 2023–2024, there were 47 total appeals, consisting of 27 related to services and 20 related to eligibility. For the first quarter of FY 2024–2025, there were 59

additional appeals, bringing the cumulative total to 106 appeals to date. The report also included a breakdown of appeal data by ethnicity for committee review.

N. 2nd Quarter NOAs/Appeals Report (Oct.-Dec. 2024)

Evelyn McOmie presented the second quarter Appeals Report for fiscal year 2024–2025. The report included combined data from both the first and second quarters, showing a total of 117 appeals filed to date. These appeals include both service-related and eligibility-related cases. The data was also broken down by ethnicity for review and analysis.

O. 3rd Quarter NOAs/Appeals Report (Jan.-March 2025); and

P. 4th Quarter NOAs/Appeals Report (April-June 2025)

Evelyn McOmie presented the remaining Appeals Reports for fiscal year 2024–2025, including third and fourth quarter data. She explained that all quarterly reports were presented together due to prior data system issues that delayed their release. These reports included cumulative appeal totals and breakdowns by ethnicity for committee review.

During discussion, Blanca Chavez asked whether intake data includes individuals who are made eligible based on external medical diagnoses without undergoing regional center assessments. Evelyn McOmie clarified that those individuals are captured in the semiannual diagnostic report as part of the total number of eligible consumers, which currently stands at 39,642 individuals. The intake report, by contrast, tracks those still awaiting assessment or eligibility determinations.

Sharon Weinberg asked whether the appeals report reflects how many appeals are granted. Evelyn McOmie clarified that the report reflects only the number of appeals filed, not those resolved or overturned through the appeal process.

VIII. Meeting Action Item Review

- Lindsay Granger noted that the committee list, which had been deferred at the last board meeting, has been updated to reflect Jeremy Sunderland and Cathy Blin as co-chairs. The updated list will be submitted for board approval at the next Board of Trustees meeting.
- Lety Garcia inquired whether the committee needs to report additional action items to the board. Jeremy Sunderland, Sharon Weinberg, and Evelyn McOmie confirmed that no new action items were finalized, as the committee's priority list remains in draft form and has not yet reached consensus.

IX. Announcements / Information Items / Public Input

A. Committee Attendance

B. Next Meeting: November 19, 2025 at

Lety Garcia informed the committee that hotel accommodations for the upcoming ARCA Academy in Sacramento were filling quickly and encouraged board members to confirm attendance promptly. Lindsay Granger confirmed that an email had already been sent during the meeting to gather confirmations and secure hotel reservations. The ARCA Academy will take place on November 15–16, 2025.

Lindsay Granger also noted that the committee action log was not included in the current meeting packet but will be added for review at the next meeting.

X. Adjournment

Jeremy Sunderland adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lindsay Granger
Executive Administrative Assistant

DRAFT

**Community Relations priorities
F/Y 25/26
draft**

legislative priority # 1, 3 & 5 combined

- Develop and maintain relationships with elected representatives and candidates for legislative office based on relevance, opportunity, and committee priorities.

Consumer services priority # 1, 4 & 5 combined

- Monitor service delivery including the Self-Determination Program, the Waiver Programs, statutory, and regulatory requirements; and to ensure alignment with community needs and meet compliance.

Consumer services priority #2

- Engage families of color to identify barriers and develop strategies to address service disparities and increase Purchase of Service (POS) expenditures.

legislative priority #2, 6, 7, partial 8, and consumer services #3

- Take an active role advocating with government entities and other community partners that have the power to influence the state on the regional center service systems, for important legislative priorities such as the reduction of caseload ratios and promoting increased funding to strengthen and improve the regional center service delivery system.

North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Consumer Services Committee

Priorities for FY 2024-25

1. Propose strategies for increasing access to services in the Center's communities, including participation in alternative nonresidential services delivery.
2. Address disparities by developing strategies to increase POS expenditures within families of color.
3. Propose and advocate for reduced caseload ratios that will result in effective service coordination for unique populations such as self-determination and consumers/families who are not accessing the services authorized in their Individual Program Plans (IPPs).
4. Monitor progress in the implementation of the center's self-determination program.
5. Monitor service delivery for compliance with Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver, statutory and regulatory requirements



[priorities.2425] Approved:

North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Board of Trustees

Legislative Priorities for F.Y. 2024-25

1. Increase our community engagement and increase participation in legislative advocacy directed toward oversight, accountability, and transparency, and increase funding for the regional center system, and increasing service access and equity.
2. Conduct legislative advocacy trainings, which inform our community and encourage stakeholders to participate in advocacy activities.
3. Hold at least one annual legislative event at the Government & Community Relations Committee's discretion.
4. Engage the community to support legislation for mental health and competitive integrated employment.
5. Develop and maintain relationships with elected representatives and candidates for legislative office through virtual and live meetings, candidates' forums, and events, as appropriate as determined by the Government & Community Relations Committee.
6. Work with and engage new community partners to engage disability community organizations, service providers and other entities to provide advocacy to support and further the mission of NLACRC.
7. Continue to advocate for funding through appropriate methods (include but not limited to email, social media, and the agency's website) and to government entities that have the power to influence the state of the regional center service system (such as the Health and Human Services Department Secretary, Department of Finance, and the Legislative Analysts' Office).
8. Identify and act on specific bills, initiatives, and budget items that align with the priorities. For example, taking positions, drafting letters, and sharing information with the community. (Items already on this list are: Assembly Bill 1147, and the modernization of core staffing formula)

NLACRC

Legislative Report

November 2025



CalFresh (SNAP) Updates

Check Your SNAP Cards: Cash Restored to EBT Accounts



- Californians are now seeing full CalFresh (SNAP) benefits **restored** after a federal court ordered the release of funds paused during the shutdown.
- **Check your EBT card balance** — restored benefits began loading last week.
- For additional food support:
 - [CA Food Banks - Find a Food Bank](#)
 - [Feeding America – Local Food Banks](#)
 - [FoodFinder Map](#)

Full Announcement on SNAP Benefit Restoration

Funding & State Impact

- **Federal cuts will reduce CalFresh funding**, possibly lowering food benefits for some recipients.
- California will be required to **cover more program costs** beginning in future budget years.

Work Requirements

- California's **ABAWD waiver** remains active through **Jan 31, 2026**.
- Expanded federal work/time-limit rules will **expand**, but **implementation dates vary** and depend on federal and state guidance.

Immigrant Eligibility

- Starting **Jan 1, 2026**, certain lawfully present immigrants (e.g., refugees, asylees, parolees) will **lose eligibility**.
- **CDSS will delay implementation** until federal instructions are finalized.

Utility Cost Changes (Effective Nov 1, 2025)

- Only households with a **senior or person with a disability** will continue receiving the **\$20.01 State Utility Assistance Subsidy (SUAS)** to qualify for the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA).
- Other households may qualify for a **Limited (LUA) or Telephone (TUA) Utility Allowance**, resulting in lower benefits.



Covered California - Enhanced APTCs

Before (Permanent Law)	Now (through 2025)
Only up to 400% FPL eligible	Above 400% FPL now qualify
Pay up to 9.5% of income	Capped at 8.5% of income
Some faced “ subsidy cliff ”	Subsidy cliff removed temporarily

FPL = Federal Poverty Level

- Enhanced Premium Tax Credits help lower monthly health insurance costs for people enrolled through **Covered California**.
- They provide **extra financial help compared to regular Premium Tax Credits**, allowing more people to qualify and pay less each month.
- Federal subsidies that help lower monthly premiums through Covered California are set to **expire after 2025** unless extended by Congress.
- Without renewal, many individuals and families could see **higher premiums beginning in 2026**.
- Covered California will provide updates and notify enrollees of any changes.

For more information, see Premium Tax Credits and Subsequent Changes



BOARD MEMBERS IN ACTION!

ARCA'S Voter Voice Campaign



Enter Your Info

Your Information

☐ 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](#).

Pick all that apply. I am *

If you selected other above, please specify.

Home Information

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

Business Information

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

Metro Neurodiversity Project

DO YOU RIDE LA METRO?
ARE YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE NEURODIVERSE?
WE WANT TO TALK TO YOU!



Metro

The Arc - Tell Congress: 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



Connect with Your Representatives (find your rep.)



Champion NLACRC's Advocacy Efforts



Be Present in the Community



Elevate Family Voices



Foster Collaborative Relationships



Stay Informed

Note: Click the headings for additional information.

Legislative Bills Enacted by Governor Newsom in 2025

November 2025



- [AB 91 \(Harabedian\) State and Local Agencies: Demographic Data](#)
- [AB 251 \(Kalra\) Elders and Dependent Adults: Abuse or Neglect](#)
- [AB 341 \(Arambula\) Oral Health for People with Disabilities Technical Assistance Center Program](#)
- [AB 815 \(Ortega\) Vehicle insurance: Vehicle Classification](#)
- [AB 951 \(Ta\) Health Care Coverage: Behavioral Diagnoses](#)
- [AB 992 \(Irwin\) Peace Officers](#)
- [AB 1076 \(Addis\) Qualified ABLE Program: CalABLE Accounts: Funding](#)
- [AB 1172 \(Nguyen\) Adult Day Programs: Administration of Intranasal Emergency Antiseizure Medications](#)
- [AB 1318 \(Bonta\) Public Social Services: Tax-Exempt Nonprofit Organizations](#)
- [AB 1412 \(J. Gonzalez\) Special Education: Pupil Transfers: Residency Requirements: Records](#)
- [SB 258 \(Wahab\) Crimes: Rape](#)
- [SB 470 \(Laird\) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing](#)
- [SB 471 \(Menjivar\) Office of the Developmental Services Ombudsperson](#)

View full information for all bills

DDS CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
1215 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.dds.ca.gov

PETE CERONKA
DIRECTOR

GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

October XX, 2025 D-2025-Legislation-003

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
REGIONAL CENTER BOARD PRESIDENTS

SUBJECT: 2025 LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

This directive provides a summary of the legislation signed into law by Governor Newsom in 2025 that may affect regional centers, services, and/or the Department of Developmental Services. Unless otherwise specified, the changes will take effect on January 1, 2026.

- [AB 91 \(Harabedian\) State and Local Agencies: Demographic Data](#)
- [AB 251 \(Kalra\) Elders and Dependent Adults: Abuse or Neglect](#)
- [AB 341 \(Arambula\) Oral Health for People with Disabilities Technical Assistance Center Program](#)
- [AB 815 \(Ortega\) Vehicle insurance: Vehicle Classification](#)
- [AB 951 \(Ta\) Health Care Coverage: Behavioral Diagnoses](#)
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- [SB 258 \(Wahab\) Crimes: Rape](#)
- [SB 470 \(Laird\) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing](#)
- [SB 471 \(Menjivar\) Office of the Developmental Services Ombudsperson](#)

AB 91 (Harabedian)
AB 91, starting January 1, 2026, would require state and local agencies that collect demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of Californians to use separate collection categories and tabulations for major Middle Eastern or North African groups. This bill also requires those agencies to disclose the aggregate data they collect, and prevents those agencies from disclosing personal identifying information about individuals whose demographic information is collected.
Status: Chapter 397, Statutes of 2025. Effective January 1, 2026.

These bills affect regional centers, services, and/or the Department of Developmental Services.

Unless otherwise specified, the changes will take effect on January 1, 2026.



Upcoming Events



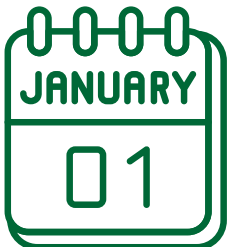
State Calendar



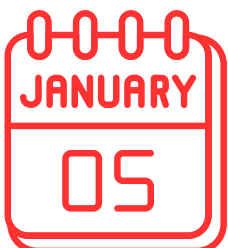
Adjournment sine die at midnight



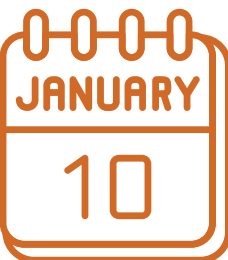
2027-28 Regular Session convenes for Organizational Session at 12 noon



Statutes take effect



Legislature reconvenes



Budget must be submitted by Governor



Facebook	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025
Total Followers	7,871	7,883	7,981	8,015
Posts (Times we've posted)	50	47	56	81
Total Interactions (likes, shares, comments)	645	782	2,846	1,257
Page Reach (how many users saw at least one post)	15,776	12,582	62,663	41,482

Instagram	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025
Total Followers	1,693	1,757	1,828	1,906
Total Engagements (likes, shares, comments)	376	449	741	598

X	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025
Total Followers	549	550	552	555



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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

www.nlacrc.org

Self Determination Program Report - Implementation Updates

November 1, 2025

North Los Angeles County Regional Center Statistics

Participants have completed Orientation from 2019-Present: **1,325** (increased by 20)

Total number of budgets that are certified: **732** (increased by 20)

Total number of spending plans that are approved: **646**

Total number of spending plans in progress: **70**

Total number of PCP's completed: **624** (increased by 12)

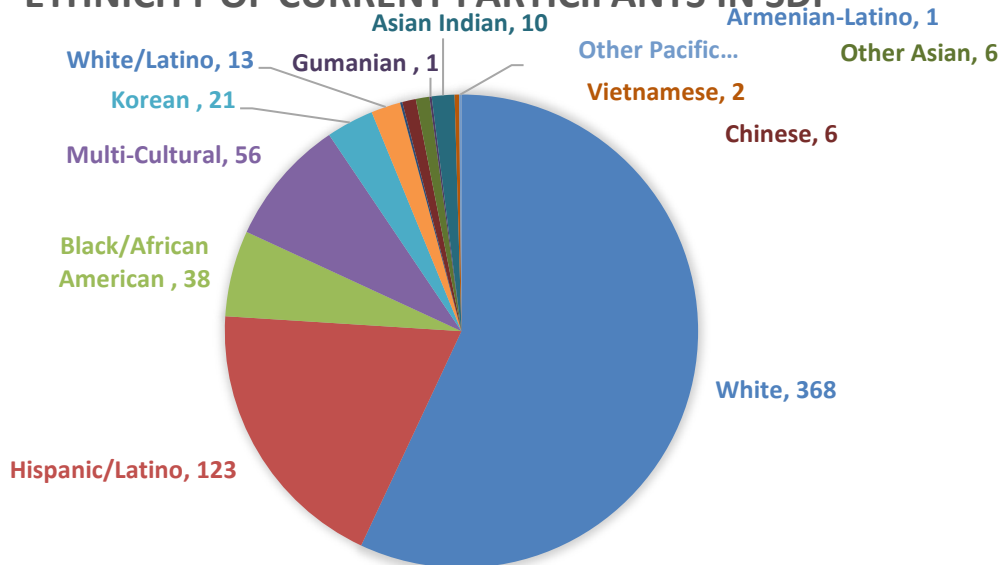
Total number of participants that did not continue after receiving budget: **3**

Total number of participants that have opted out of SDP: **13**

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

Participants that have fully transitioned into SDP with approved spending plans and active SDP IPPs: **646** (22 transitions)

ETHNICITY OF CURRENT PARTICIPANTS IN SDP



Transitions based on ethnicity:

White: 15

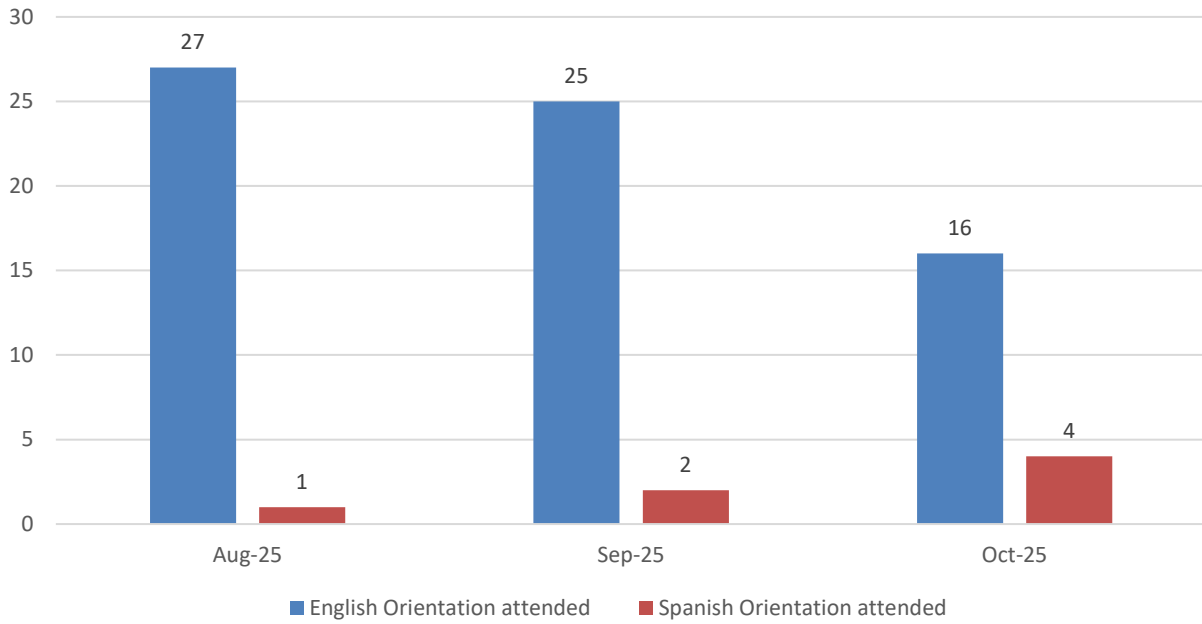
Latino/Hispanic: 3

Asian-American: 2

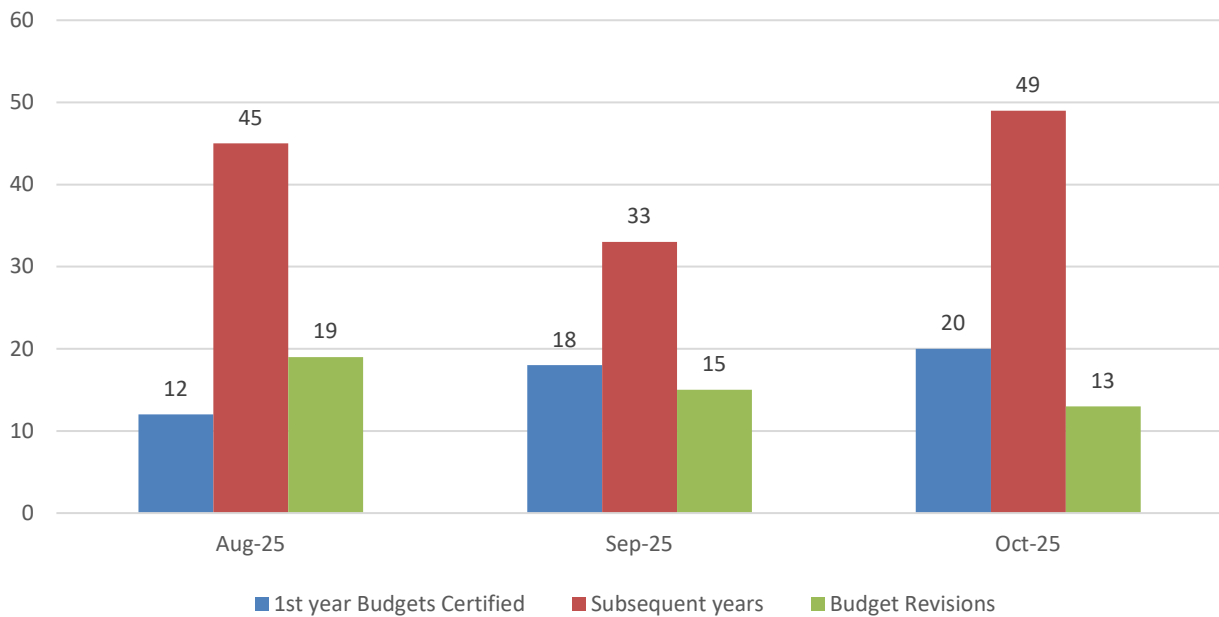
Asian Indian: 1

Multicultural: 1

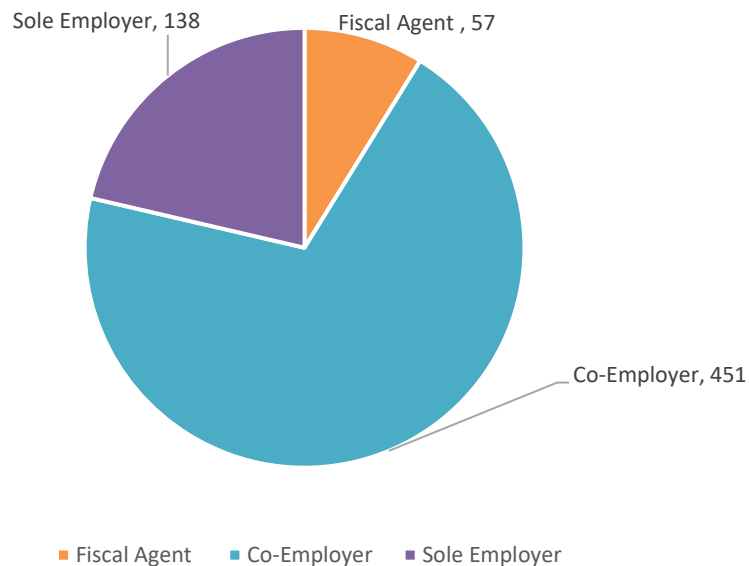
Monthly Participants Attending SDP Orientation



Monthly Budgets Certified



SDP Participants By FMS Model



Transitions this month:

Bill Payer: 0

Co-Employer: 22

Sole Employer: 0

Transitions 2025



Total transitions this year: 171

NLACRC Implementation Updates/ information:

- SDP Orientation is available:
 - Through State Council <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
 - Virtual through NLACRC on the 1st Monday of the month in English and 3rd Monday of the month in Spanish (unless there is a holiday, day may change).
RSVP: selfdetermination@nlacrc.org

- Next Virtual Orientation meetings:
 - Monday November 3, 2025 (English) from 9AM-12:00PM
 - Monday November 17, 2025 (Spanish) from 9AM-12:00PM
- Self Determination Support Group – December 3, 2025 at 4:30pm via Zoom. [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
- SDP Local Volunteer Advisory Committee- Thursday, November 20th from 6:30PM-8:30PM
 - The meeting will be held virtually. The Zoom link can be found on NLACRC's calendar [Self Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting | Calendar of Events | NLACRC](#)
 Everyone is welcomed to attend meetings!
- Support for participants and families: NLACRC has coaches available to support with SDP transition process or if you are in the program and need assistance. Ask your CSC for a referral.
 - AACcolades
 - Claudia Cares Consulting
 - HelpGrow Freedom
 - Integrated Community Collaborative (ICC)
- NLACRC & SDP Local Volunteer Advisory Committee Best Practices Subcommittee
 - The Best Practices Subcommittee is reviewing workflows and processes related to NLACRC's implementation of Self Determination. The committee meets monthly.

Resources:

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

FMS Agencies	Model	Language Spoken:	Accepting participants?	Employee Burden Cost	Budget Limits	Contact Info
Accura	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English	Yes	19.90% Co-employer 15.68% Sole Employer	\$125,000	Subash Rajavel subash@accurafms.com 408-768-2334
Ace	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English & Farsi	Yes, Free consultation available to prospective clients.	24.86% Co-employer 15.68% Sole Employer	Max budget: \$120,000	Phone: 833-4-ACE FMS (833-422-3367), Option 1 Info@acefms.com Web: Http://AceFMS.com
Action	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English & Spanish	Yes, new clients call and leave message or fill out a <u>contact us</u> request on the website.	25%-Co-employer 17% Sole Employer	No budget limits	Main office: (310) 867-8882 Website: actionfms.com Email: contact@actionfms.com

Acumen	Bill Payer, Sole Employer	English & Spanish But have translators for other languages.	Yes. Consult required and it may take up to 2 months to transition.	21.25%	\$200,000	Yvette Torres (424) 210-8810 yvettet@acumen2.net
Arch	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English		Co-Employer is 19.86% Sole Employer 14.27%	\$150,000 Possible exceptions	Contact Phone Number 619-330-7097 Email Contact support@archfms.com www.archfms.com
Aveanna	Bill Payer and Co-Employer (with nursing through home health agency only)	English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin and Trieu Chau	Consult required. Date to be given my FMS agency.	17.37%	Anything above \$150,000 requires additional review. They have a "hard limit" of \$200,000.000 annually.	(866) 979-1182 fmsinfo@aveanna.com

Balance	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer		Consultation and intake form	19.55% Co-employer 13.65% Sole Employer	\$120,000	Main Line: (888) 368-3710 Teri Ercoli Phone: (424)228-9854 E-mail: info@balancefms.com
Cambrian	Bill Payer, Co-Employer	English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Farsi	Yes	22.20%	Budgets over \$120,000 require review.	David Ellis (562) 498-1800 Ext. 2231 davide@cfms1.com
Casa Fiscal/Essential Pay	Bill Payer, Co-employer	English, Spanish, Mandarin	No	19.15%	None	(510) 336-2900 (833) 268-8530 contact@essentialpay.com
Dromen	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English, Spanish				Contact Phone Number John Feringa: (909) 821-7598
FACT	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English	Waiting list	20%	Unknown	(310) 475-9629 FMS@factfamily.org
FMS Pay LLC	Bill Payer	English Spanish Translation available for other languages	Yes	N/A	No budget limit	Phone: (858) 281-5910 Website: www.myfmspay.com connect@fmspay.com

GT Independence	Bill Payer, Sole Employer, Co-Employer	All Languages are supported to assist Individuals in the language of their choice	Require a certified budget & spending plan draft to start onboarding process.	Co-employer 24% Sole Employer- 18% All FMS models- Non-payroll burden 1%	None	Elva Chavez (877) 659-4500 tjones@gtindependence.com
Mains'l	Bill Payer, Sole Employer, and Co- employer	English & Spanish	Require certified budget & spending plan draft to start onboarding process.	17.23% for Sole Employer 17.13% for Co- employer	None	Jason Bergquist (866) 767-4296 jmbergquist@mainsl.com
Public Partnerships LLC (PPL)	Sole Employer-		Yes	18.47% for Sole Employer		Customer Service Hours: 8 am – 5 pm PST 844-902-6665 Email: pplcalifornia@pplfirst.com Web: CA SDP PPL First
Ritz	Bill Payer,	English, Spanish &	New clients-	18.90%	\$120,000	Website: Ritzfms.com



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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	Co-Employer	Mandarín	visit website to fill out an inquiry form. Waitlist-June 2024			Kitleng Pui kpui@ritzvocational.com (626)-600-4703
Sentinel Four	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer		Consultation	18.07% Co-employer 13.37% Sole Employer-	None	https://sentinelfour.com/contact-us/
SequoiaSD, Inc.	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English, Spanish, Translation available for other languages	Yes, but have certified budget.	20.64%	\$250,000	Info@sequoiasd.com Website: sequoiasd.com sequoiaenrollment@sequoiasd.com 949-301-9950
Sisk	Bill Payer, Co-Employer, Sole Employer	English, Spanish				Contact Phone Number Apriely L. Sisk (209) 910-9100 Email Contact SISKFSI@gmail.com https://siskfinancial.com/

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER
Board Member Reporting Out Form

Name: Juan Hernandez/Silvia Haro

Meeting: SDLVAC

Date of Meeting: October 16, 2025

1.	Number of Attendees	33
2.	Public Input:	• Lori shared: NLA SDP Email: selfdetermination@nlacrc.org NLACRC website: www.nlacrc.org NLACRC SDLAC Email: nlacrcsdac@gmail.com SDP DVU Connect Self-Determination Disability Voices United NLACRC Support Group- 1st Wednesday of the month. IF Round Table- 2nd Thurs of the month. • Kristianna announced upcoming free monthly meetings at the Self-Determination Institute, covering various aspects of the SDP process. • Victoria Berry provided updates on potential CalFresh benefit disruptions and upcoming workshops at Family Focus Resource Center.
3.	Points of Discussion:	• Miriam and Kristiana introduced a new plain-language progress report template designed to simplify the process for clients who require progress reports in SDP. • The committee would like NLACRC to create a checklist for consumers/families to prepare them for the IPP meeting. • Cost effectiveness in spending plans: As of today, there are no guidelines on cost effectiveness in spending plans as the participant has control over their services and rates.
4.	Reported out to Committee/Meeting:	• Reviewed survey outcome. The committee is working on diversity issues and ethnic representation in the SDP. Michael will be working on a second survey. • NLACRC is going to be hosting Vendor Forums for NLACRC vendors that have questions about SDP.
5.	Area of Concerns:	• The committee noted that DDS may have a misconception regarding budget sizes. While some budgets appear to have increased significantly, this may be due to individuals who were previously underserved under the traditional model. The committee emphasized the importance of considering the broader context and overall goals when reviewing budget size. • Timely Payments to FMS: The committee emphasized the importance of NLACRC making timely payments to Financial Management Services (FMS) agencies to avoid creating financial or operational burdens for those agencies.
6.	Action Items:	• NLACRC to complete the RFP contracts by December. • Michael will send the survey to NLACRC, and it will go out to all NLACRC consumers. • The committee to work with State Council to fill the vacant position.

7.	Questions for the Board:	• No particular question but the committee continues to want to collaborate more with the Board.
8.	Miscellaneous	

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER
(Committee) Report
~~~~~

**Name: Santos Rodriguez**

**Meeting: Disparity Committee**

**Quarter: 1st (July/August/September) 2025**

|           |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Public Input:</b>         | <p>The Disparity Committee held its first meeting of the new fiscal year in August, welcoming new members and discussing their focus on addressing disparities in their respective communities, while also connecting with community resources.</p> <p>New members were welcomed to the committee including Jazmin Mendoza from Department of Rehabilitation, Darlene Ayala from the United American Indian Involvement, Tony Pennay of New Horizons, Lori Walker, Michael Carey, and Socorro Curameng from the SDP Local Advisory Committee, and Lisa Butters-Smith, Dental Consultant for NLACRC.</p> <p>Members of the SDP Local Advisory Committee requested support from the Disparity Committee to increase awareness of the SDP program among non-English speaking communities. A discussion was held about ways Disparity Committee members could support.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Points of Discussion:</b> | <p>The committee had a recap of the areas focused on during FY 24-25: Healthcare Access, Emergency Preparedness, and Employment Supports.</p> <p>The committee had an open discussion about focus areas for FY 25-26, areas proposed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Healthcare Access, with a focus on oral health awareness, with the support of NLACRC's new Dental Consultant.</li><li>• Continuing the efforts around generating awareness on Employment Supports for our adult individuals, including collaborating with committee members who are a part of DOR and CIT programs.</li><li>• Finding ways to increase awareness around the SDP program for non-English speaking families, including communities of color. Members from the SDP Local Advisory Committee will share data on findings.</li><li>• Continuing increasing awareness for families on the Social Recreational Services by ensuring information on this process is accessible and clear to families. Theresa from FFRC expressed families who continue to struggle in accessing this support.</li></ul> <p>The committee also engaged in a thorough discussion of ongoing challenges and barriers faced by families amid the current immigration policies. The committee agreed to continue maintaining</p> |

|    |                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |                                           | <p>this topic at the forefront and to use space to share resources.</p> <p>The committee also discussed ideas around identifying a mission statement for the Disparity Committee and establishing metrics to measure progress.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 4. | <b>Reported out to Committee/Meeting:</b> | <p>NLACRC reported out new policy and process for Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to host events at North LA's three locations, including San Fernando, AV, and Santa Clarita.</p> <p>NLACRC reported out and shared promotional resources for upcoming Empowerment Expos in the AV and SFV for September and October. Committee members were encouraged to disseminate information to their respective communities, as well as sharing insight into social mixers and opportunities for micro-enterprises at the Expos.</p> |

| North Los Angeles County Regional Center<br>2025 |                      |          |            |          |            |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|
| Month                                            | Intake cases (total) | Over 120 | % over 120 | Over 142 | % over 142 |
| January                                          | 1023                 | 37       | 3.62%      | 8        | 0.78%      |
| February                                         | 1057                 | 39       | 3.69%      | 11       | 1.04%      |
| March                                            | 986                  | 14       | 1.42%      | 3        | 0.30%      |
| April                                            | 986                  | 5        | 0.51%      | 3        | 0.30%      |
| May                                              | 985                  | 15       | 1.52%      | 6        | 0.61%      |
| June                                             | 948                  | 8        | 0.84%      | 0        | 0.00%      |
| July                                             | 1151                 | 6        | 0.52%      | 1        | 0.09%      |
| August                                           | 1151                 | 10       | 0.87%      | 0        | 0.00%      |
| September                                        | 1058                 | 3        | 0.28%      | 0        | 0.00%      |

| By Office Summary |               |          |            |          |            |          |          |        |                 |
|-------------------|---------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| Month             | SFV/SCV total | Over 120 | % Over 120 | Over 142 | % Over 142 | AV total | Over 120 | % Over | Over 142 % Over |
| January           | 567           | 8        | 1.41%      | 1        | 0.18%      | 456      | 29       | 6.36%  | 7 1.54%         |
| February          | 608           | 18       | 2.96%      | 8        | 1.32%      | 449      | 21       | 4.68%  | 3 0.67%         |
| March             | 550           | 6        | 1.09%      | 0        | 0.00%      | 436      | 8        | 1.83%  | 3 0.69%         |
| April             | 567           | 1        | 0.18%      | 1        | 0.18%      | 419      | 4        | 0.95%  | 3 0.72%         |
| May               | 541           | 2        | 0.37%      | 0        | 0.00%      | 444      | 13       | 2.93%  | 6 1.35%         |
| June              | 535           | 1        | 0.19%      | 0        | 0.00%      | 413      | 7        | 1.69%  | 0 0.00%         |
| July              | 747           | 0        | 0.00%      | 0        | 0.00%      | 404      | 6        | 1.49%  | 1 0.25%         |
| August            | 748           | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0          | 403      | 10       | 2.48%  | 0 0             |
| September         | 695           | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0          | 363      | 3        | 0.83%  | 0 0             |

| FY 2025-26                    | 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 Absences | Total Hours |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|-------------|
| Community Relations Committee | Dark   |        | Dark   | Dark   |        | Dark   |        | Dark   |        | Dark   |        | Dark   |                |             |
| Nicholas Abrahms              |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |
| George Alvarado               |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |
| Cathy Blin                    |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |
| Blanca Chavez                 |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |
| Jacquie Colton                |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |
| Lety Garcia                   |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |
| Juan Hernandez                |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |
| Jennifer Koster               |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |
| Laura Monge                   |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |
| Jeremy Sunderland             |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |
| Jason Taketa                  |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |
| Curtis Wang                   |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |
| Jodie Agnew-Navarro (VAC Rep) |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |
| Sharon Weinberg (VAC Rep)     |        | P      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0              | 2.00        |

Meeting Time

2.00

2

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)