



North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Director's Report
February 2026

1. NLACRC Spotlight:

A. Organizational Insights Forums – All Staff Meeting Feedback

- i. During the first quarter, NLACRC's Executive Leadership Team conducted Organizational Insights Forums across all three office locations to provide updates and engage directly with staff.
 1. Staff continue to rate these forums highly—averaging 4 out of 5 on a Likert scale—reflecting appreciation for leadership's transparency and open communication.
 2. Leadership shared progress on decreasing service coordinator caseload ratios and acknowledged that, while improvements are underway, the pace is not yet met staff expectations—particularly given increasing compliance requirements.
 3. The forums provided an opportunity for candid dialogue, reinforcing NLACRC's commitment to continuous improvement, staff support, and organizational accountability.

2. Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Updates:

A. Planning for Implementation of Grievance Procedure

- i. Statewide Grievance Data System
 1. DDS is developing a centralized data system to improve the tracking of complaints, grievances, appeals, and whistleblower reports across the statewide system.
 2. Internal testing is currently underway, with full operational readiness anticipated in March–April 2026.
 3. Regional centers will receive training in May, with statewide implementation planned for July 1, 2026. DDS will provide ongoing support during rollout.
 4. The goal of the new system is to strengthen transparency, consistency, and accountability in how concerns are addressed statewide.

B. HIPAA Proposed Changes

- i. Federal HIPAA Compliance Updates
 1. Proposed federal updates to HIPAA would introduce stricter privacy and security requirements beginning May 2026.
 2. DDS is reviewing the proposed changes and assessing potential impacts on regional centers and service providers.
 3. Additional guidance will be shared as more information becomes available.

C. Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Deadlines and Processes

- i. Eligibility and Compliance Requirements
 1. QIP eligibility continues to require independent audits, Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) registration, and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) compliance.
 2. DDS is preparing simplified guidance materials to clearly outline timelines, expectations, and related rate information.
- ii. Provider Outreach and Support
 1. DDS will provide regional centers with information regarding providers that have not yet completed required surveys.
 2. Targeted outreach will occur to support providers in meeting eligibility requirements and maintaining access to incentive funding.

D. Self-Determination Program (SDP) Updates

- i. Orientation and Community Engagement
 1. DDS has updated SDP orientation and community presentation materials to reflect recent changes.
 2. Statutorily required 45-day public comment periods will be provided for proposed updates.
- ii. Financial Management Services (FMS) Updates
 1. FMS standards and procedures are under review, with a statutory deadline of March 2027.
 2. DDS has indicated its intent to improve statewide consistency and quality oversight, with additional details to be shared as planning progresses.

3. ARCA Updates:

A. ARCA Grass Roots – State Capitol Advocacy (March 3, 2026)

- i. On March 3, 2026, the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), regional center representatives, self-advocates, families, and providers will meet with state legislators at the Capitol to advocate for policies that strengthen California's developmental services system.
 1. Workforce Development – AB 2324 (Jeff Gonzalez)
 - AB 2324 would establish a Youth Caregivers Career Pathway for students in grades 9-12, recognizing youth family caregivers and creating an early pipeline into the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce.
 - The proposal calls for development of the pathway by July 1, 2026, helping address long-term workforce shortages and promoting career opportunities in the developmental services field.
 2. Medi-Cal Dental Billing Fix – AB (Arambula, TBD)

- This proposal would correct Medi-Cal Dental billing rules to allow Behavioral Management (D9920) to be billed as a standalone service up to three times per year.
 - After three visits, the code would need to be paired with a procedure.
 - The change aims to prevent providers from going unpaid and ensure continued access to dental care for individuals who require behavioral supports during treatment.
3. 60th Anniversary of Regional Centers – Concurrent Resolution (Author TBD)
 - A concurrent resolution will recognize 2026 as the 60th anniversary of California’s first two pilot regional centers, Golden Gate Regional Center (GCRC) and Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center (FDLRC), established by AB 691 in 1966.
 - ii. Stabilizing Regional Center Funding
 1. Advocacy efforts will focus on modernizing the regional center funding formula to better reflect actual staffing and operational costs.
 2. Stakeholders will seek to protect prior rate investments and update rates impacted by cost increases associated with AB 2423.
 3. These efforts are supported by ARCA in partnership with the Lanterman Coalition and CalTASH to ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the developmental services system.

4. Center Updates:

A. Recruitment

- i. Total # of positions filled: 947
- ii. February 2026 New Hires
 1. 1st Cycle (2/9/2026): 9 confirmed
 2. 2nd Cycle (2/23/2026): 8 confirmed
- iii. March 2026 New Hires
 1. 1st Cycle (3/9/2026): 16 unconfirmed
 2. 2nd Cycle (3/23/2026): 1 unconfirmed

B. Consumer Statistics:

- i. Total Served: 41,398
 1. Early Start: 4,926
 2. Lanterman: 33,862
- ii. Breakdown of all three valleys:
 1. AV (Early Start & Lanterman): 9,910
 2. SCV (Early Start & Lanterman): 4,563
 3. SFV (Early Start & Lanterman): 24,315
- iii. Intake all three valleys: 701 & Early Start Intake: 478

- iv. All other categories not captured in Early Start, Lanterman, and Intake, such as Provisional, Enhanced, Specialized, and other which would total: 1,431

5. Outreach:

A. Native Wellness Education Event

- i. On January 31, 2026, NLACRC outreach staff participated in the Native Wellness Education Event in Palmdale, where staff presented and shared information about Regional Center services and resources.
- ii. The event, hosted by United American Indian Involvement (UAI) in partnership with the Department of Mental Health (DMH), featured cultural learning activities and community resource sharing.
- iii. Approximately 120 individuals and families attended, reflecting NLACRC's ongoing collaboration with UAI to strengthen engagement with tribal communities.

B. LAUSD Collaboration Day – Miller CTC

- i. On January 30, 2026, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) staff participated in LAUSD's first "Collaboration Day" of the year at Miller Career and Transition Center (CTC) in the San Fernando Valley
- ii. In partnership with the Transition Age Unit, staff presented on Regional Center eligibility and services, including employment supports highlighted by NLACRC's Employment Specialist.
- iii. The event provided an opportunity for LAUSD teachers and professionals, including DOTS and CTC staff, to connect with NLACRC outreach and Transition Age teams, strengthening resource-sharing efforts and creating additional opportunities for future presentations at local high schools.

6. Upcoming Disability Organization Events/Activities

- A.** State Council on Developmental Disabilities: Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)—February 17, 2026
- B.** Disability Rights California's next board meeting—March 19, 2026
- C.** Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee meeting—March 19, 2026