



# North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Main 818-778-1900 • Fax 818-756-6140 | 9200 Oakdale Avenue #100, Chatsworth, CA 91311 | [www.nlacrc.org](http://www.nlacrc.org)

## MEMORANDUM

Date: March 12, 2026

To: Alex Kopilevich, Chair, Jaklen Keshishyan, Alt. Chair, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Octavia Watkins, Masood Babaeian, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Cal Enriquez, 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, March 12, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.**

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Attached is information for the next committee meeting. Please review this information prior to the meeting.

**The meeting is a Hybrid Meeting and will be remotely accessible by Zoom. We will send you the Zoom access information via email. The in-person meeting location will be at the NLACRC Antelope Valley Office: 43850 10<sup>th</sup> Street West Lancaster, CA 93534.**

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

### Attachments

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

# Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting

March 12, 2026

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## VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 12, 2026

9:30 am (*Hybrid*)

Zoom/NLARC Antelope Valley Office

~AGENDA~

- I. **Call to Order & Introductions** - Alex Kopilevich, Chair (*1 min.*)
- II. **Committee Member Attendance/Quorum** (*1 min.*)
- III. **Share Impact Story From Individual Served** (*5 min.*)
- IV. **Public Input** - Agenda Items only (*3 min. per person, 3-person limit*)
- V. **Consent Items**
  - A. Approval of Minutes from the February 12, 2026, Meeting (*1 min.*)
  - B. Approval of the Agenda (*1 min.*)
- VI. **Action Items**
  - A. Review and Approval of Updated VAC Guidelines and Procedures – Alex Kopilevich (*5 min.*)
- VII. **Committee Business**
  - A. Introduction of Aging Specialist – Valeria Soto (*5 min.*)
  - B. Introduction of Dental Consultant – Lisa Butters-Smith, RDH (*5 min.*)
  - C. 2026 Jynny Retzinger Community Service Award Nominations – Chris Whitlock (*3 min.*)
  - D. 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 (*10 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 (*5 min.*)

A. Vendor Fair – SFV & AV

**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: Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 9:00am (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: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 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: Monday, March 16, 2026 at 11:00am (via Zoom).**

i. Adult Services

**XI. Board Committee Reports**

A. Executive Finance Committee (Jaklen Keshishyan – VAC Rep.) *(1 min.)*

B. Nominating Committee (Alex Kopilevich -VAC Rep.) *(1 min.)*

**XII. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

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

A. Next Meeting: Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. Hybrid – In-person location  
Chatsworth Office

B. Committee Attendance

**XIV. Adjournment**

**XV. Review of Meeting Action Items (Item Owner and Due Date)**

**NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER (NLACRC)  
9200 OAKDALE AVENUE, SUITE 100  
CHATSWORTH, CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES OF THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HYBRID – SANTA CLARITA VALLEY OFFICE / ZOOM  
FEBRUARY 12, 2026, 9:30 A.M.**

**MEMBERS:**

Alex Kopilevich, Jaklen Keshishyan, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Ute Escorcia, Vahe Mkrtchian, Jen Pippard, Sharon Weinberg, Cal Enriquez, Jason Gillis, Tal Segalovich, David Ebrami, Ricki Macken-Chilvers, Desiree Misrachi

**STAFF:**

Angela Pao-Johnson, Evelyn McOmie, Vini Montague, Arshalous Garlanian, Silvia Renteria-Haro, Robin Monroe, Belinda Abatesi, Lindsay Granger, Arezo Abedi

**GUESTS:**

**ABSENT:**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, VAC Chair Alex Kopilevich called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. read the NLACRC Civility Code.

**2. COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE**

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

**3. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

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

Executive Director Angela Pao-Johnson shared an impact story from Jessica Gould, owner of Jay Gould Consulting.

**5. CONSENT ITEMS**

**On a motion made by Jaklen Keshishyan, seconded by Sharon Weinberg, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on January 8, 2026, as presented. Motion carried.**

**On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Ricki Macken-Chilvers, it was resolved to approve the agenda. Motion carried.**

## **6. ACTION ITEMS**

### **6.1 Review VAC Applications and Vote on Candidate(s) to Advance to Interview (FY 2026-27)**

#### **6.1.1 Applicant 1**

The Committee moved to Agenda Item 6, Action Items, regarding the review of applicants for the Vendor Advisory Committee for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. It was noted that individual motions would be required for each applicant under consideration.

For confidentiality purposes, applicants were discussed by assigned applicant number only. Committee members were directed to reference their application packets, which included materials labeled by applicant number and a corresponding applicant list.

Applicant #1 was reviewed to determine whether the candidate would advance to the interview panel. Committee members noted the applicant's strong background, including participation in DDS workgroups, experience as a current service provider, and status as a parent of an NLACRC consumer. It was also noted that the applicant attends meetings regularly and serves all three offices within the catchment area, demonstrating familiarity with the process and broad regional involvement.

**On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Jaklen Keshishyan, it was resolved to move Applicant #1 to interview. Motion carried.**

ACTION: Applicant #1 will advance to the interview panel.

#### **6.1.2 Applicant 2**

The Committee proceeded to review Applicant #2 to determine whether the candidate would advance to the interview panel.

During discussion, members raised a question regarding whether the applicant's associated agency/vendor is currently in good standing with the Regional Center. It was suggested that future applicant tracking spreadsheets include a column verifying vendor good standing status. It was clarified that verification of vendor standing would be conducted by the Regional Center, and applicants could be moved forward conditionally pending that review.

A brief interruption occurred due to technical issues with the video feed for remote participants; however, audio remained functional, and the meeting continued.

Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded not to move Applicant #2 forward to the interview panel. Committee members noted that there were multiple applicants under consideration and that the Committee is limited to a maximum of 18 members, though there is no minimum requirement. It was also acknowledged that the applicant may reapply in the future.

**On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Ricki Macken-Chilvers, to not move forward with Applicant 2. Motion carried.**

#### **6.1.3 Applicant 3**

The Committee reviewed Applicant #3 to determine whether the candidate would advance to the interview panel. Members noted the applicant's well-rounded background, including experience related to domestic violence, trauma-informed care, and school-age support, and expressed interest in learning more about the candidate.

During discussion, it was noted that Applicant #3 and Applicant #5 are affiliated with the same agency. Committee members briefly discussed whether to advance one or both applicants for interviews. It was clarified that advancing both applicants was an option, and that the interview stage would allow the Committee to further evaluate candidates. Consideration was also given to providing opportunities for new individuals as well as applicants who have previously served.

A motion was made and seconded to move Applicant #3 forward to the interview panel. A vote was taken, with no objections or abstentions.

**On a motion made by Jaklen Keshishyan, seconded by Ricki Macken-Chilvers, to move forward with Applicant 23. Motion carried.**

#### **6.1.4 Applicant 4**

The Committee proceeded to review Applicant #4 to determine whether the candidate would advance to the interview panel. Members discussed the applicant's experience working as a Client Services Coordinator (CSC) and noted that this background could provide valuable insight and perspective to the Vendor Advisory Committee. It was also noted that the applicant's experience touches on areas where the Committee currently has limited representation.

**On a motion made by Ricki Macken-Chilvers, seconded by Vahe Mkrtchian, to move forward with Applicant 4. Motion carried.**

Abstain: Sharon Weinberg and Alex Kopilevich

#### **6.1.5 Applicant 5**

The Committee reviewed Applicant #5 to determine whether the candidate would advance to the interview panel.

**On a motion made by Jaklen Keshishyan, seconded by Ricki Macken-Chilvers, to move forward with Applicant 5. Motion carried.**

Abstain: Alex Kopilevich

#### **6.1.6 Applicant 6**

The Committee reviewed Applicant #6 to determine whether the candidate would advance to the interview panel. It was noted that the applicant previously served on the Vendor Advisory Committee and possesses strong professional experience that could benefit the Committee. However, members also discussed concerns regarding the applicant's prior attendance record, which had been inconsistent during the previous term. Members noted that, if advanced to the interview stage, the Committee could address this topic and discuss expectations for attendance.

**On a motion made by Ricki Macken-Chilvers, seconded by Sharon Weinberg, it was resolved to move forward with Applicant 6. Motion carried.**

Abstain: Alex Kopilevich and Jaklen Keshishyan

#### **6.1.7 Applicant 7**

The Committee reviewed Applicant #7 to determine whether the candidate would advance to the interview panel. Members noted that they were not familiar with the applicant and had not observed the individual participating in meetings. Based on the application materials, members also observed limited experience with the vendor community. Additionally, it was noted that the applicant serves only one catchment area that already has representation on the Committee.

**On a motion made by Ricki Macken-Chilvers, seconded by Sharon Weinberg, to not move forward with Applicant 7. Motion carried.**

#### **6.1.8 Applicant 8**

The Committee reviewed Applicant #8 to determine whether the candidate would advance to the interview panel. Members noted the applicant's extensive experience and knowledge within the field. It was also highlighted that the applicant is active in the Adult Workgroup and holds certifications as an IF trainer and ACERS-certified professional, which were viewed as valuable qualifications for the Committee.

**On a motion made by Ricki Macken-Chilvers, seconded by Octavia Watkins, to move forward with Applicant 8. Motion carried.**

#### **6.1.9 Applicant 9**

The Committee reviewed Applicant #9 to determine whether the candidate would advance to the interview panel. Members raised concerns regarding whether the applicant is currently employed by a vendor, which is a requirement for VAC membership. It was also noted that the application materials consisted only of a letter written in the third person and did not include a resume, making it difficult to verify the applicant's qualifications and eligibility.

**On a motion made by Jaklen Keshishyan, seconded by Vahe Mkrtchian, to not move forward with Applicant 9. Motion carried.**

#### **6.1.10 Applicant 10**

The Committee reviewed Applicant #10 to determine whether the candidate would advance to the interview panel. Members noted that the applicant serves only one catchment area that already has representation on the Committee. It was also observed that members were not familiar with the applicant's participation in meetings and that the application reflected limited information regarding relevant experience and skill development.

**On a motion made by Jaklen Keshishyan, seconded by David Ebrami, to move forward with Applicant 10. Motion carried.**

Opposed: Alex Kopilevich  
Abstain: Sharon Weinberg

#### **6.1.11 Applicant 11**

The Committee reviewed Applicant #11 to determine whether the candidate would advance to the interview panel. Members noted that the application materials were incomplete and did not include all required documents outlined in the application instructions.

**On a motion made by Ricki Macken-Chilvers, seconded by Vahe Mkrtchian, to not move forward with Applicant 11. Motion carried to not move forward.**

#### **6.1.12 Applicant 12**

The Committee reviewed Applicant #12 to determine whether the candidate would advance to the interview panel. Members noted that the applicant had experience in residential services, which could provide valuable perspective for the Committee.

However, members also raised concerns regarding the incomplete application, including the absence of a letter of intent, missing information in the application form, and a missing signature. Several members emphasized the importance of applying the same standards consistently to all applicants when required documentation is not submitted. It was also suggested that the Committee consider implementing a clearer screening process in the future to ensure applications are complete before being brought forward for review. The Committee agreed that this topic could be placed on a future agenda for further discussion as part of refining the application review process.

**On a motion made by Vahe Mkrtchian, seconded by Octavia Watkins, to move forward with Applicant 12. During the vote 2 members voted in favor, 6 members voted against, with no abstentions. Motion failed. Applicant 12 will not move forward to interview.**

The Committee concluded the review of applicants and summarized the results of the motions taken during the meeting.

The following applicants were approved to move forward to the interview panel: Applicants #1, #3, #4, #5, #6, #8, and #10.

The following applicants will not move forward to the interview panel: Applicant #2, #7, #9, #11, and #12.

A total of seven applicants will proceed to the interview stage.

#### **6.2 Approval of Questions for VAC Interview**

Following the review of applicants, the Committee discussed the interview process for the Vendor Advisory Committee and reviewed the proposed VAC interview questions and rating scale to be used by the interview panel. Members confirmed that the format mirrors the process used by the Board of Trustees Nominating Committee, including individual scoring by panel members followed by a discussion after each interview. The interview panel will then make recommendations to the full VAC, with final appointments subject to Board of Trustees approval.

During discussion, a suggestion was made to revise one of the questions regarding VAC meeting attendance to better assess frequency and consistency of participation, rather than whether an applicant has attended a single meeting. It was noted that the questions will serve as a guide to ensure consistent interviews while allowing for follow-up discussion during the interview process.

**On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by David Ebrami, it was resolved to approve the VAC interview questions and rating scale for use by the interview panel. Motion carried.**

### **7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

## **7.1 VAC Applicant Interview Panel**

The Committee discussed the next steps for the VAC applicant interview process. Members were reminded that the Vendor Advisory Committee may have up to 18 members, but there is no minimum requirement, meaning the Committee can continue to operate even if only a small number of applicants are recommended following interviews.

Staff will coordinate the interview process, with interviews to be conducted via Zoom to accommodate participants from different locations and to facilitate scheduling. Staff will work with the interview panel and selected applicants to arrange interview times.

## **7.2 2026 Jynny Retzinger Community Service Award Nominations**

Belinda Abatesi provided an update on the 2026 Jenny Retzinger Community Services Award nominations. The Committee was informed that nominations are currently being accepted, and members were encouraged to submit nominations using the nomination link that will be shared with the Committee.

The deadline for nominations is March 1. Additional details regarding the Legislative Breakfast, where the award will be recognized, will be shared at a later date.

## **7.3 Self-Determination Update**

Silvia Renteria-Haro provided an update on the Self-Determination Program (SDP). As of February 1, there are 707 individuals enrolled in the program, including 20 new transitions during the month of February. Participation by office includes 435 individuals in the San Fernando Valley office, 98 in the Antelope Valley office, and 174 in the Santa Clarita Valley office. Participation by age group includes 208 individuals in the school-age category, 266 in the transition-age category, and 233 adults.

Silvia Renteria-Haro noted that vendors experiencing payment-related issues may contact Silvia Renteria-Haro or Robin Monroe for assistance.

During discussion, a question was raised regarding reports that some individuals participating in SDP may be avoiding certain services, such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), due to concerns that those services are not funded through SDP. Silvia Renteria-Haro clarified that behavioral services, including ABA, may be funded through SDP; however, when generic resources such as insurance are available, those resources must be utilized prior to Regional Center funding.

It was noted that the concern had been raised by members of the vendor community. No additional questions were raised.

## **8. REPORT OUTS**

### **8.1 Legislative Report Out**

Belinda Abatesi provided a legislative and budget update. Belinda Abatesi reported that the Governor released the proposed 2026–2027 State Budget on January 9, outlining \$348.9 billion in total spending, including \$21.1 billion for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to support an estimated 527,000 individuals in the next fiscal year. Additional highlights included increased costs related to Medi-Cal, an increase in CalFresh funding, and \$33.4 billion proposed for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) to support more than 875,000

recipients statewide. The proposal also includes \$560 million redirected to affordable housing programs.

Belinda Abatesi reviewed the state budget timeline, noting that the May Revision is expected by May 14, the Legislature typically approves the budget by June 15, and the Governor signs the final budget by June 30.

Belinda Abatesi also summarized several Department of Finance trailer bill proposals, including provisions allowing certain services to be delivered remotely when appropriate and chosen by the individual or family, with vendors required to track remote service use. The proposal also includes ending courtesy vendorization by March 1, 2028, updates to the HCBS complaint and grievance process, and changes related to employment services, including updated terminology and future service standards to be developed by DDS.

Members asked questions regarding the potential impact of the proposed changes to courtesy vendorization and employment service requirements. Belinda Abatesi noted that these items remain proposals and that additional guidance from DDS is expected.

Belinda Abatesi also shared information about the Future of Medi-Cal Commission, which is developing a 10-year roadmap for Medi-Cal, with recommendations expected in 2027. Members were reminded that February 20 is the deadline for bill introductions, after which legislation will begin to be tracked with guidance from ARCA. No further questions were raised.

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

Evelyn McOmie provided several updates and announcements. Evelyn McOmie reported that the Department of Developmental Services has implemented updates to Title 17 related to Special Incident Report (SIR) reporting. The changes are intended to align reporting practices between regional centers and vendors statewide. Additional clarification from the Department is being gathered, and staff will attend an in-person training to receive further guidance. Information will be shared with vendors, and trainings for service providers are planned. Implementation of the new requirements is scheduled to begin May 1.

Evelyn McOmie also reminded providers to encourage families to complete the IPP meeting survey, noting that the survey contains approximately six questions and takes only a few minutes to complete. Providers may assist families with completing the survey if needed. An update on caseloads and staffing was also provided. The Regional Center is currently building three new case management units across the service areas. San Fernando Valley and Antelope Valley will each receive a new school-age unit, and Santa Clarita Valley will receive a hybrid transition/adult unit. This expansion will add 36 staff positions, including 33 service coordinators and 3 supervisors, which is expected to help reduce current vacant caseloads.

Evelyn McOmie also invited service providers to volunteer their program sites for staff tours, particularly in the Antelope Valley. These visits will help new service coordinators learn about the range of services available in the community. Interested providers were asked to contact Community Services Director Arshalous Garlanian to participate. No additional questions were raised.

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

This will be deferred to the next meeting.

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

Arshalous Garlanian provided several updates for service providers. Arshalous Garlanian reminded providers to complete the DDS Quality Incentive Program (QIP) survey for Fiscal Year 2026–2027, which determines eligibility for the 10% incentive. The survey deadline is February 27, and surveys are now issued by vendor number rather than parent vendorization. Approximately 189 vendor numbers associated with North Los Angeles County Regional Center had not yet completed the survey at the time of the meeting.

Arshalous Garlanian also reviewed additional QIP compliance requirements, including Electronic Visit Verification (EVV), HCBS Settings Final Rule compliance, and independent audits. Providers must be registered for EVV or have an exemption on file if applicable. DDS will host an in-person EVV training on March 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and providers were encouraged to attend if EVV applies to their services. Arshalous Garlanian reported that all North LA providers currently meet HCBS compliance requirements, and providers were reminded that independent audits must be submitted within nine months after the close of the fiscal year to maintain compliance.

Arshalous Garlanian also provided an update on the Direct Support Professional (DSP) Collaborative, a joint effort among the seven Los Angeles County regional centers to support workforce recruitment. The initiative includes a website where providers will be able to post job openings and connect with potential applicants. The website is expected to launch in Spring 2026.

As part of this initiative, a regional job fair will be held on March 5 in Pasadena, and providers interested in participating as exhibitors were asked to register by February 20. Additional regional job fairs are planned for later in the year.

Arshalous Garlanian also announced upcoming NLACRC Vendor Fairs for providers to connect with service coordinators and share information about available services. Vendor fairs will take place April 22–23 at the San Fernando Valley office and April 29–30 in the Antelope Valley. Registration information will be distributed to providers.

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

Angela Pao-Johnson provided the Executive Director's Report and shared several organizational updates. Angela Pao-Johnson reported that NLACRC has made significant progress in improving recruitment efficiency over the past year. Applicants are now contacted within approximately two business days, and the average time from application to accepted offer is about 75 days across all positions and approximately 51 days for service coordinator positions. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that this reflects meaningful progress toward industry standards.

Angela Pao-Johnson also reported that NLACRC achieved a 100% compliance rate for completing Lanterman intake timelines within 120 days during a recent reporting period in November. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that the Regional Center consistently performs in the high 90 percent range in this area, compared to a statewide average of 61.5 percent.

Additional departmental updates were provided regarding remote services, proposed trailer bill language, and the Self-Determination Program. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that remote services may continue under proposed guidelines when effective and chosen by the individual or family. Angela Pao-Johnson also shared that the Self-Determination Program waiver is expected to be extended beyond June 30, 2026, although changes are anticipated related to financial management services, budget requirements, and orientation procedures.

Angela Pao-Johnson also highlighted proposed changes to regional center board composition, including a proposed board size of 10 to 15 members, required representation

from the Consumer Advisory Committee, and additional training and professional experience requirements for board members.

Angela Pao-Johnson reported that NLACRC has filled 932 positions and is currently serving approximately 41,400 individuals. Angela Pao-Johnson also highlighted community outreach efforts, including attendance at the Armenian Parent Circle support group in January, where approximately 23 families participated and Senator Menjivar recognized the group's work.

During discussion, a question was raised regarding staff retention, particularly among service coordinators. Angela Pao-Johnson shared that the organization's average employee tenure is approximately six years and that new hires are being supported through regular check-ins to improve retention and job fit. It was also noted that recruitment efforts have become more targeted to identify candidates who are well-suited for case management roles. No further questions were raised.

## **9. OPEN DISCUSSION TOPICS**

### **9.1 LACSP – Harry Bruell and Donna Feingold**

This presentation was provided to the VAC committee earlier in the meeting before the Deputy Director's Report Out.

Donna Feingold provided a brief presentation regarding the LA Coalition of Service Providers. Donna Feingold shared that the coalition is a membership organization consisting of 15 nonprofit providers serving approximately 23,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across Los Angeles County and surrounding areas. The coalition was originally formed in response to system funding cuts and serves as a collaborative forum for providers to share information, discuss policy issues, and hear from guest speakers and system leaders.

Donna Feingold noted that the coalition recently reopened membership after several years of restructuring. Membership includes participation in monthly meetings that function as a CEO forum where providers can exchange information and discuss sector challenges. Donna Feingold also highlighted a recent legislative forum hosted by the coalition, which was attended by nearly 200 participants, including advocates and legislators.

Interested organizations must be nonprofit providers with annual budgets of \$5 million or more and serve the greater Los Angeles County area. Donna Feingold invited interested providers to submit an application and noted that prospective members will be interviewed as part of the membership process. Donna Feingold offered to provide contact information in the meeting chat for anyone interested in learning more. No additional questions were raised.

### **9.2 Clarification on SIR Guidelines**

During open discussion, a question was raised regarding clarification of Special Incident Report (SIR) guidelines related to the recent Title 17 updates. A member noted that under previous practices, providers were required to submit SIRs for incidents that occurred outside of their facilities, such as at schools or day programs. Based on the new guidance, it appears that reporting requirements may be changing in this area.

It was acknowledged that additional clarification from the Department of Developmental Services is still being gathered regarding the updated regulations. Further discussion will take place once additional guidance becomes available.

## **10. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP INFORMATION**

## 10.1 Early Start Services

Jodie Agnew-Navarro provided an update on the Early Start Services Workgroup. Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that the workgroup met in January and continues to meet every other month. Current discussions include rate reform, clarification on new service subcodes and rates, and the Quality Incentive Program (QIP) survey.

The next Early Start Services Workgroup meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

## 10.2 School Age Services

Cal Enriquez provided an update on the School-Age Services Workgroup, noting that the group met earlier in the week and meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The workgroup discussed issues related to authorizations and billing, particularly instances where authorizations are missing required details such as service frequency, which can create challenges for vendor billing and e-billing processes. Jessica Ross participated in the discussion and provided vendors with contact information for accounting and vendor liaison staff to help address these issues.

The workgroup also discussed rate reform and service codes 612, 615, and 616, as some vendors reported that other regional centers have already implemented updated authorizations for those codes. Staff confirmed that rate reform updates have been implemented, and additional clarification will be addressed offline with the workgroup members as needed.

## 10.3 Adult Services

Octavia Watkins provided an update on the Adult Services Workgroup. Octavia Watkins requested an update regarding the Systemic Aging Preparedness Pilot Proposal previously presented by Bob Ariel. It was noted that the request for Bob Ariel to present the proposal to the Board of Trustees has been forwarded to the Board President and Regional Center leadership for review, and the request is currently under consideration.

Octavia Watkins also reported that the Adult Services Workgroup held a meeting in January, although attendance was limited due to the meeting occurring on a holiday. During the meeting, a presentation was provided by Ilya, founder of Alchemy Software, who discussed digital documentation tools for service providers. The presentation highlighted the benefits of transitioning to digital documentation, including improved efficiency, regulatory compliance, audit readiness, and secure data management.

The workgroup also discussed the Quality Incentive Program (QIP) survey extension. The next Adult Services Workgroup meeting is scheduled for March 16 at 11:00 a.m., and interested participants were encouraged to contact Octavia Watkins for additional information.

## 11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 11.1 Community Relations Committee

Sharon Weinberg provided an update from the **Community Relations Committee**, which met on **January 21**. Sharon Weinberg reported that the meeting primarily included a series of presentations and report-outs, including updates on regional center social media efforts, Self-Determination Program updates, the Disparity Report, Consumer Diagnostic Report, and intake data. Sharon Weinberg noted that all reports from the meeting are available online.

## **11.2 Executive Finance Committee**

A brief recap of the Executive Finance Committee meeting was also provided. During the meeting, members reviewed contract amendments related to the Hope and Home project, discussed updates to the Board budget, and reviewed several policies that were later presented at the Board of Trustees meeting.

## **11.3 Nominating Committee**

Alex Kopilevich also reported on the Nominating Committee, noting that 12 applications were received for the Board of Trustees, and three applicants were selected to move forward to in-person interviews.

## **12. BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no board meeting agenda items.

Under Board Meeting Agenda Items, members discussed adding an item for a future meeting to review the Vendor Advisory Committee applicant process, including whether incomplete applications should be forwarded to the Committee for review. Members also agreed to verify relevant bylaw requirements related to the application review process. No additional board agenda items were proposed.

## **13. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT**

Ashley Tompkins introduced Ashley Tompkins as the System of Care Specialist for NLACRC, serving as the liaison between NLACRC and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Ashley Tompkins supports internal collaboration and assists with complex cases involving both agencies.

Victoria Berry, representing the Family Focused Resource Center (FFRC), also provided updates on family support services. Victoria Berry shared that FFRC operates offices in all three NLACRC locations and currently facilitates eight support groups for families. A new Spanish-language support group for parents, Mamas Latinas, has recently launched in Santa Clarita and has been well attended. Victoria Berry also reported that FFRC offers a variety of workshops, including IEP trainings, Medi-Cal and generic resource workshops, and tax and IHSS workshops for parent providers. Recordings of workshops are available on the organization's YouTube channel.

Victoria Berry also announced an upcoming Transition to Adulthood Resource Fair scheduled to take place in April at College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, intended to connect families with adult service providers and community resources.

During public comment, a question was raised regarding the proposed elimination of courtesy vendorization and whether the standardized vendorization process would replace it. Staff noted that clarification is still pending as the proposed trailer bill language continues to be reviewed.

Additional comments highlighted recent discussions at the LA Coalition legislative forum, including the possibility of a future DDS directive addressing daily versus hourly billing for day services. It was also noted that service providers will be meeting with California legislators on March 11 to discuss proposed trailer bill language and related policy issues. No further comments were raised.

## **14. NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting is on March 12, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Antelope Valley office.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:14 a.m.**

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North Los Angeles County Regional Center  
**Vendor Advisory Committee**  
Procedures and Guidelines

**Bylaws**

The Vendor Advisory Committee is established as a standing committee in Article VII, Section 9, of the bylaws of the Board of Trustees of the NLACRC pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 4622 and 4626. The Vendor Advisory Committee is responsible for designating a committee member.

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

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

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

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

## **Appointment of Vendor Advisory Committee**

The Vendor Advisory Committee is responsible for assuring that qualified and interested persons are nominated for membership on the committee.

## **Membership**

In order to be a Vendor Advisory Committee member in good standing, a person must be a vendor, or a board member or employee of a NLACRC vendored program. A change in board membership, employment status or vendor status may affect the person's eligibility or representation. Any such change must be reported in writing immediately to the Board of Trustees for its consideration. If a member misses three consecutive meetings, or five meetings in a one-year period, he/she shall be considered to have resigned from the Vendor Advisory Committee.

## **Meeting Frequency**

The Vendor Advisory Committee shall meet monthly, except for dark months. The meetings shall be scheduled for a full year following seating of the members each year. A copy of the scheduled meetings will be provided to the Vendor Advisory Committee and Board of Trustees. Other meetings may be scheduled and called by the chairperson of the committee.

## **Relationship to the Board of Trustees**

- Selection of chairperson/designee to the Board of Trustees:

The committee shall follow the written procedure by the committee for selection of the chairperson/designee to the Board of Trustees. The person should be a member in good standing. The committee shall determine the financial interest of each member considered for selection prior to the final selection to assure compliance with Government Code Section 87103. The financial information is to be submitted to the Board of Trustees for its review and final determination prior to the seating of the designee on the Board.

The designee shall be selected for a one-year term.

The designee shall not serve as a voting member of the Community Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees.

- Submission of Advice:

The Vendor Advisory Committee, as a standing committee of the Board of Trustees, shall submit advice through reports submitted by its chairperson/designee to the

board.

- Training:

The Vendor Advisory Committee shall schedule a background and training session for its members annually after new members are seated.

- Staff Support:

Staff support shall be provided through the Executive Director of the regional center.

### **Voting by the Designee Member**

As per Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4622 (9), the designee member of the Board of Trustees shall not do any of the following:

- Serve as an officer of the Board of Trustees.
- Vote on any fiscal matter affecting the purchase of services from any regional center provider.
- Vote on any issue other than as described in subparagraph (B), in which the member has a financial interest, as defined in Section 87103 of the Government Code, and determined by the regional center board. The member shall provide a list of his or her financial interests, as defined in Section 87103, to the regional center board.

### **Procedures for Selection of VAC Members**

The Vendor Advisory Committee is responsible for assuring that qualified and interested persons are nominated for membership. The following timetable has been developed to assure timely action by the committee and the board:

- An email is to be sent out during the annual recruitment period to all providers serving consumers in the NLACRC catchment area to solicit applications for committee membership.
- In addition, board and staff recommendations may be made for persons to serve on the committee.
- A description of the VAC and application will be sent upon request.
- The board liaison tracks and follows-up on applications sent to prospective VAC members. This includes contacting the prospective VAC member to ascertain if

assistance is needed to complete the application or if there is a desire to speak with a current VAC member. The board liaison will submit all completed applications to the committee, arrange required interviews with the committee, as well as record any action on the application the committee takes.

- All applicants seeking consideration for appointment to the Vendor Advisory Committee must submit a completed application, a current resume, and a personal letter of interest by the established deadline. Only applicants who have submitted all required materials by the deadline will be eligible for review and consideration by the Committee at its scheduled meeting.
- In November of each year, an application to Serve an Additional Term on the VAC is sent with a cover letter by the secretary to each member of the VAC whose term of office expires in June of the next year and who is eligible to serve another term. The application should be signed and returned to the Vendor Advisory Committee by December 15th.

Persons serving on the committee serve as individuals and not as representatives of their agencies. They are selected for their own expertise based upon their individual credentials. Members of the committee may be individual providers or employees of provider agencies serving NLACRC consumers. In order to provide wide representation on the VAC, attempts should be made to avoid more than one member from an agency; in no instance may there be more than two members elected from one agency.

The Vendor Advisory Committee and Board of Trustees should assure a wide range of representation on the VAC.

Examples of categories to be represented:

- Living Arrangements - Large and small (agency and individual) providers of various community living (residential) services, including: community care licensed residences (owner operated and staff operated); health licensed facilities (ICF/DD-H, ICF/DD-N); and alternative living services (such as supported living services, adult family home agencies, foster home agencies for children, etc.).
- Skill Development - Infant and early intervention programs, adult day training programs, independent living programs, etc.
- Support Services - Respite and home health agencies, behavior consultation, day care and after school programs, Saturday programs, transportation, mobility training, supported employment, etc.



Approved on:

DRAFT

## Vendor Advisory Committee: March 12, 2026 Community Services Department: Director's Report

### General Updates:

#### ❖ **Spring Vendor Fair**

- SFV: April 22<sup>nd</sup> & April 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
  - [NLACRC 2026 Spring SFV Vendor Fair Registration.](#)
- AV: April 29<sup>th</sup> & April 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
  - [NLACRC 2026 Spring AV Vendor Fair Registration.](#)

#### ❖ **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
- **Effective October 1<sup>st</sup> interested vendors should submit their interest directly through DDS online portal [Qualtrics Survey | Qualtrics Experience Management](#)**
- <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/workforce-initiatives/>
- Previous instruction was to contact NLACRC at [DSPInternship@nlacrc.org](mailto:DSPInternship@nlacrc.org) to notify us of your interest
- <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/D-2025-Workforce-001.pdf>

#### ❖ **Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Update:**

- <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/quality-incentive-program/>

#### ❖ **Recent Directives:**

- [D-2026-Quality Incentive Program-003](#) – Eligibility Requirement update
- [D-2026- Quality Incentive Program-001](#) – New Service Providers update

#### ❖ **Service Provider Directory one-time lump sum (subcode PD1)**

- DDS approval for final wave received 2/13. However, NLACRC is reviewing inconsistency with DDS as of 2/24 prior to proceeding with payment.
- Any vendor with an adjusted incentive amount will receive notification letter via email from [ProviderDirectory@nlacrc.org](mailto:ProviderDirectory@nlacrc.org)

#### ❖ **CFS Coordinated Family Support Pilot Incentive payments in progress.**

#### ❖ **Employment Access / Employment Capacity (available through 6/30/2025)**

- Employment Capacity FY 24/25 Q3: In-progress.

### HCBS:

- **Intellectability Self-paced**  
The Fatal Five & How to Manage Choking  
Email [hcbcompliance@nlacrc.org](mailto:hcbcompliance@nlacrc.org) to Register
- **MAINS'L Person Centered Planning: NLACRC Chatsworth Office**  
March 18<sup>th</sup> and March 19<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 3 pm  
Email [hcbcompliance@nlacrc.org](mailto:hcbcompliance@nlacrc.org) to Register

### DHH:

- ❖ FREE ASL Classes: Register for Self-Paced classes: [Registration Link](#)

- For more information, contact Ted Horton-Billard, Deaf Services Specialist  
[THortonBillard@nlacrc.org](mailto:THortonBillard@nlacrc.org)

### **Compliance Corner:**

- ❖ Rate Reform / Provider Directory follow-up:
  - [RatesQuestions@nlacrc.org](mailto:RatesQuestions@nlacrc.org) or [ProviderDirectory@nlacrc.org](mailto:ProviderDirectory@nlacrc.org)
- ❖ Bi-annual DS 1891 forms due now. NLACRC DS 1891 forms submitted prior to 1/1/2026 are expired. All service providers should visit the OIG Compliance Now website to submit an update <https://sanctionscreeningnow.com/OIGComplianceVendor/Customer.aspx/Login>
  - If there is no change in data, reviewing the form (per vendor number) and clicking “Save Changes” will generate a new submission for 2026 to confirm compliance.
- ❖ **Vendor Update Reminders:**
  - Submit insurance renewals to [ProviderInsurance@nlacrc.org](mailto:ProviderInsurance@nlacrc.org) – auto-forwards to Gallagher inbox. Gallagher Verify (833) 862-8432
  - Updates submitted through the Provider Directory do not automatically update Regional Center systems:
    - Submit license renewals and organizational charts to [Contract&Compliance@nlacrc.org](mailto:Contract&Compliance@nlacrc.org)
    - Submit notice of changes (address, entity, name, tax ID) to [ResourceDevelopment@nlacrc.org](mailto:ResourceDevelopment@nlacrc.org)

### **Employment Services:**

- ❖ Please submit your CIE incentive requests to [CIE&PIP@nlacrc.org](mailto:CIE&PIP@nlacrc.org) FY 25.
- ❖ **FREE ACRE Training Self- Paced – Space is limited** [Registration Link](#)
  - For more information [ACRE@irioc.org](mailto:ACRE@irioc.org)

### **Resource Development:**

- ❖ Effective **March 1, 2026**, NLACRC will begin using the Provider Directory for **all** new vendorizations. For more information visit <https://www.nlacrc.org/service-providers/how-to-become-a-service-provider/>
- ❖ **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/> .
  - NLACRC Hosting March 25, 2026, 9am – 3pm  
Register [2025-2026 CalEVV Training Road Show](#) (Flyer)

### **Quality Assurance:**

- ❖ **Support Living Services:** SLS monitoring and technical assistance will begin next year. A Community Services Specialist will be contacting you to schedule.
- ❖ **Community Care Licensed Sites** please ensure you are signed up to receive information regarding trainings and provider information notices for your licensed service. Subscribe here: [CCLD Subscriptions](#)
- ❖ **Training Save the Dates: Registration Links Forthcoming**

- **Client’s Rights Training by Clients’ Rights Advocate, Erika Rodriguez, and Community Services Specialist – QA, Andrea Messina:**
  - March 9, 2026, 10:00 am – 12:00pm
  
- **Oral Health for Residents & Care Staff Training by NLACRC Dental Consultant, Lisa Butters-Smith, and Community Services Specialist – QA, Lisseth Carrillo:**
  - March 24, 2026, 9:30 – 11:30am
  
- ❖ **Winter Safety - Emergency Preparedness Bulletin**
  - [Winter Season - Emergency Preparedness Bulletin](#)

# NLACRC

# Legislative Report

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March 2026





# ARCA GRASSROOTS DAY



NLACRC DELEGATION TEAM 2026





# Grassroots Priorities

**AB 2334 (Gonzalez)**

Vocational education:  
Youth Caregivers Career  
Pathway

**AB 1670 (Arambula)**

Oral Health Services:  
Behavior Management

**Stabilizing Regional  
Center Funding**

Updating the outdated  
funding formula

**Concurrent  
Resolution**

60th Anniversary of  
the Two Pilot Regional  
Centers (GGRC and  
FDLRC)



# Additional Bills Impacting Our Community

## **SB 1052 (Gonzalez) – Stronger Support for Future Planning:**

Allows SCDD to designate backup authorized representatives so individuals with IDD keep uninterrupted services if a primary caregiver is detained or deported.

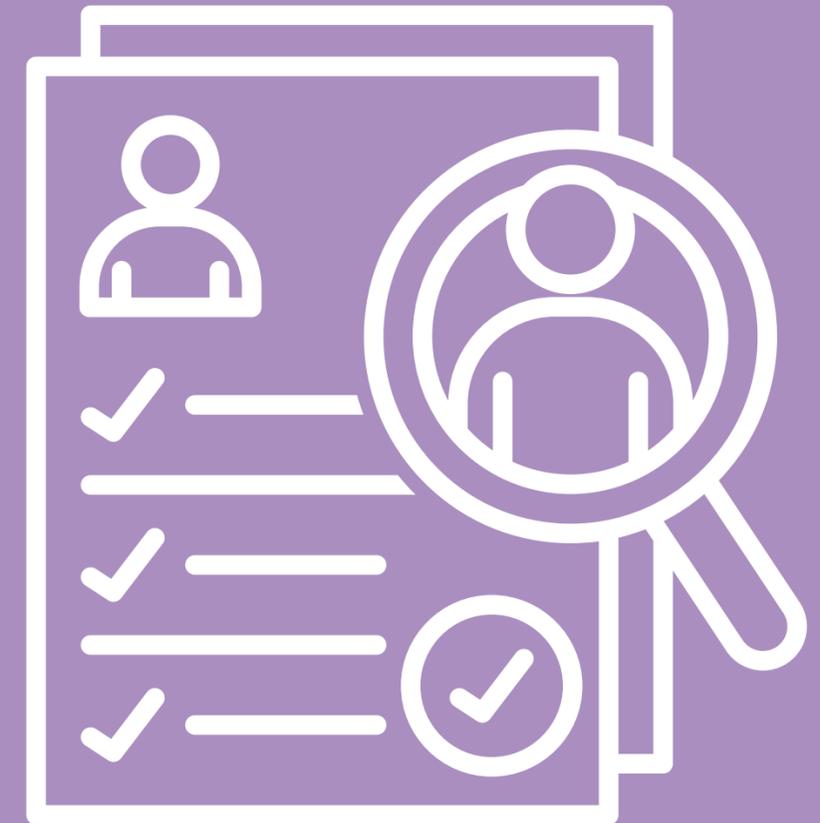
## **AB 1900 (Kalra) – CalCare:**

Creates a single-payer universal health care system covering medical, dental, vision, prescriptions, and long-term supports for all Californians regardless of status, while eliminating premiums, deductibles, and co-pays.



# H.R. 1: CalFresh Eligibility (Effective April 1, 2026)

- H.R. 1 (signed July 4, 2025) changes SNAP/CalFresh, including new non-citizen eligibility rules effective April 1, 2026.
- Many non-citizen categories (e.g., asylees, refugees, parolees, trafficking victims, and others) may lose CalFresh eligibility.
- Current benefits continue until renewal if otherwise eligible; at renewal, individuals should report any status change (e.g., to LPR) and provide verification.



[Changes to Non-Citizen Policy Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[State Utility Assistance Subsidy \(SUAS\) Frequently Asked Questions](#)



# Keeping California's Promise

Join The Lanterman Coalition for "**Keeping California's Promise,**" a nonpartisan candidate interview series focused on disability rights, the **Lanterman Act**, and California's long-term commitment to the disability community. Each candidate is asked the same questions on how they will protect and strengthen the Lanterman promise for Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The next scheduled interview will be on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 11:30 am. [Register here](#) to join the conversation with candidate Tom Steyer.





# Upcoming Events & Meetings

# State Calendar

**DDS**

MAR 16  
Mar 16, 2026, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
[Quality Incentives Program \(QIP\) Workgroup Meeting](#)

APR 1  
Apr 1, 2026, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  
[ICC Communications and Outreach Committee Meeting](#)

VICA VALLEY INDUSTRY & COMMERCE ASSOCIATION

**State Officeholders Dinner**

Q&A FORMAT

This event provides a rare opportunity for Valley business leaders to connect with state lawmakers and participate in an informal event, allowing for fun, candid, and interactive conversation.

PRESENTED BY

ASSEMBLY MEMBER **Jacqui Irwin** ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 42

**CONEJO VALLEY DISABILITIES FAIR**

MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

THE OAKS MALL  
350 W. Hillcrest Dr.  
Thousand Oaks

- FREE FOOD!
- VENDORS
- MUSIC
- INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES
- FREE ENTRY FOR ALL AGES!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH The Oaks CRPD



Last day for bills to be introduced



Last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committees fiscal bills introduced in their house



Last day for policy committees to hear and report to the Floor nonfiscal bills introduced in their house



Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house



**Tacos & TAXES**

Never file taxes on an empty stomach. ¡Primero, tacos!

PILAR SCHIAVO  
Assemblywoman, District 40

Date: March 28, 2026  
Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. |

ASSEMBLY MEMBER **Juan Carrillo** ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 39

**Free Senior Scam Stopper Seminar**

Date: April 18  
Time: 10 – 11 a.m.  
Location: Legacy Commons  
930 East Ave Q-9  
Palmdale, CA 93550

RSVP

ASSEMBLY MEMBER **Jesse Gabriel** DISTRICT 46

**DAY OF SERVICE 2026**

Sunday, April 19

HOPE THE MISSION Vcc LA FAMILY HOUSING

Register at [www.bit.ly/VDS2026](http://www.bit.ly/VDS2026)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**DisCo** AT THE CAPITOL

**2026 California Disability Community Advocacy Conference**  
May 18 -19, 2026



# 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

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**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**

## Lanternman Coalition

**Become a disability rights advocate!**

**Stay informed and involved—sign up for action alerts and updates from The Lanternman Coalition!**

First name

Last name

\* Email

By submitting this form, you are consenting to receive marketing emails from The Arc of California. You can revoke your consent to receive emails at any time by using the Safe Unsubscribe® link, found at the bottom of every email.

**Sign Up**

- ## 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

- ## Resources to Stay Informed
- California Department of Developmental Services**  
<https://www.dds.ca.gov>  
 State policies, DDS directives, budget updates, and program guidance.
  - Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)**  
<https://www.arcnet.org>  
 Statewide advocacy priorities, budget analysis, and regional center system updates.
  - The Arc of California**  
<https://thearcca.org>  
 California-specific advocacy, budget updates, and community education.
  - Disability Rights California**  
<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org>  
 Rights-based information, investigations, publications, and self-advocacy resources.
  - Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)**  
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep>  
 Federal employment initiatives, best practices, and disability workforce policy.

Note: Click the headings for additional information.



**North Los Angeles County Regional Center**  
**Director's Report**  
March 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 has 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 - Delayed**

- i. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that enforcement of grievance procedure requirements under the Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services Final Rule (Access Rule) will be delayed until December 31, 2027. These requirements were originally scheduled to take effect on July 9, 2026, and apply to Fee-for-Service (FFS) grievance system requirements under the Code of Federal Regulations
  - 1. In response, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is considering moving California's implementation date to November 1, 2026 to allow additional time for staff training, program adjustments, and operational readiness.

**B. HIPAA Proposed Changes**

- i. Federal HIPAA Compliance Updates
  - 1. Proposed federal updates to HIPAA would introduce stricter privacy and security requirements beginning in 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. The FY 2026-2027 compliance deadline was February 27, 2026.
  1. About 75% of required surveys were completed statewide.
  2. Providers, who sought technical support, will not be considered out of compliance.
  3. DDS is exploring improvements to the survey process. Final QIP rate are expected in April.
- ii. Prior Incentive Lists: DDS clarified that prior compliance lists are point-in-time snapshots, and some discrepancies may reflect authorization or vendor number changes due to rate reform. Additional guidance is forthcoming.

### **D. Rate Reform**

- i. The “hold harmless” period ended February 28, and standardized rate billing began March 1.
- ii. DDS recently identified errors in Level 7 rate calculations, which will result in higher provider rates and may require contract updates and retroactive payments.

### **E. 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.
  3. To hear more about the SDP directive, please attend DDS’ scheduled webinar on March 18, 2026, from 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- 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 Grassroots – 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 met with state legislators at the State 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. 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Regional Centers – Concurrent Resolution (Author TBD)
    - A concurrent resolution will recognize 2026 as the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of California’s first two pilot regional centers, Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC) 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: 956
  1. Total # of positions authorized: 1066
- ii. March 2026 New Hires
  1. 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle (3/9/2026): 16 unconfirmed
  2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle (3/23/2026): 5 unconfirmed

**B. Consumer Statistics:**

- i. Total Served: 41,629
  1. Early Start: 4,993
  2. Lanterman: 39,142
- ii. Breakdown of all three valleys:
  1. AV (Early Start & Lanterman): 9,963

- 2. SCV (Early Start & Lanterman):4,612
- 3. SFV (Early Start & Lanterman): 24,567
- iii. Intake all three valleys: 684 & Early Start Intake: 401
- iv. All other categories not captured in Early Start, Lanterman, and Intake, such as Provisional, Enhanced, Specialized, and other which would total: 1,402

**C. Social Recreation Reimbursement**

- i. Consumer and family reimbursements continue to increase. Since program inception, approximately 4,595 consumers have been served, with 8,715 active authorizations.
- ii. Intake averages 4.6 days, with payment processing typically completed within 5–7 days, depending on communication with the payee and payment method (credit card, electronic funds transfer, or check).
- iii. A survey of families utilizing social recreation services found high participation, with only a small percentage reporting they are not using the service.
- iv. The Social Recreation Specialist (SRS) continues outreach through support groups, including presentations to the Farsi Parent Support Group on February 6 (five parents in attendance), with upcoming sessions for the Black & African Support Group (April 8) and the Filipino Support Group (May 18).
- v. The SRS also provides office hours and training for Consumer Service Coordinators (CSCs), including guidance on social recreation funding, Notice of Action (NOA) processes, complex cases, and available resources.
- vi. Social Recreation Parent University videos are currently in development and are expected to launch later this year.

**D. Compliance Activities**

- i. QA conducted 133 residential visits
  - 1. 58 Unannounced In-Person Visits
  - 2. 4 Corrective Action Plans developed with residential providers (detailed below)
  - 3. 0 Plan of Improvement with a non-licensed residential provider (detailed below)

**5. Outreach:**

**A. Regional Center on Wheels – Kaiser Permanente Panorama City**

- i. On February 4, 2026, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) outreach staff hosted a Regional Center on Wheels event at Kaiser Permanente Panorama City in the San Fernando Valley.
- ii. Staff tabled onsite, providing information on Regional Center eligibility, Early Start services, Parent University, social recreation opportunities, and guidance on completing applications.

- iii. The event also provided an opportunity to connect with Kaiser staff to increase awareness of the referral process and strengthen collaboration to better support families.

**B. Project Joy – Opening Doors Parenting Classes**

- i. On February 4, 2026, Antelope Valley outreach staff presented on Regional Center services at Project Joy’s Opening Doors Parenting Classes.
- ii. Staff shared information on eligibility, Early Start services, and common supports for children ages 0–5 and provided guidance on the application process.
- iii. The event supported families participating in Project Joy’s 10-week parenting and advocacy program and reflects NLACRC’s continued partnership with Antelope Valley organizations serving underserved communities.

**C. BD6 Family Day – Discovery Cube Science Center**

- i. On February 21, 2026, DEIB staff participated in Family Day at the Discovery Cube Science Center in Sylmar, hosted by LAUSD Board Member Kelly Gonez for families in Board District 6.
- ii. NLACRC hosted an outreach table alongside community organizations and shared information on services for school-age and transition-age youth, support groups, and Parent University resources.
- iii. The event provided an opportunity to connect with families and strengthen NLACRC’s ongoing collaboration with LAUSD and community partners.

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

- A.** Disability Rights California’s next board meeting—March 19, 2026
- B.** Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee meeting—March 19, 2026

Committee Attendance

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
Vendor Advisory Committee	Dark			Dark		Dark						Dark	Absences
Alex Kopilevich, Chair		P	P		P		P	P					0
Jaklen Keshishyan, Alt. Chair		P	P		P		P	P					0
Jodie Agnew Navarro		P	P		P		P	P					0
Masood Babacian		P	P		P		Ab	P					1
Paul Borda		P	P		Ab		P	P					1
Andrea Devers		P	P		P		P	P					0
David Ebrami		P	P		P		P	P					0
Cal Enriquez		P	P		P		P	P					0
Jason Gillis		P	P		P		P	P					0
Ricki Macken Chivers		P	P		P		P	P					0
Vahe Mkrtchian		P	P		P		P	P					0
Desiree Misrachi		Ab	P		P		P	P					1
Daniel Ortiz		P	P		P		P	P					0
Jen Pippard		P	P		P		P	P					0
Tal Segalovich		P	P		P		P	Ab					1
Octavia Watkins		P	P		P		Ab	P					1
Sharon Weinberg		P	P		P		P	P					0

Meeting Time                      2.50      2.00                                      2.00                                      1.50      1.75

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)