



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 10, 2026

To: Tal Segalovitch, Chair, Jaklen Keshishyan, Alt. Chair, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Octavia Watkins, Masood Babaeian, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Ricki Macken-Chilvers, Vahe Mkrtchian, Jen Pippard, Sharon Weinberg, Jason Gillis, Desiree Misrachi, Alona Yorkshire, Lea Munoz

From: Lindsay Granger
Executive Administrative Assistant

Re: Information and materials for the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting on **Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.**

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

The meeting is a Hybrid Meeting and will be remotely accessible by Zoom. We will send you the Zoom access information via email. The in-person meeting location will be at the NLACRC Santa Clarita Valley Office 25360 Magic Mountain Pkwy Santa Clarita, CA 91355.

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

Attachments

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

Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting

September 10, 2026

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VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 10, 2026

9:30 am *(Hybrid)*

Zoom/NLARC Santa Clarita Valley Office

~AGENDA~

- I. **Call to Order & Welcome** – Tal Segalovitch, Chair *(5 min.)*
- II. **Committee Member Attendance/Quorum** *(1 min.)*
- III. **Recognition and Remembrance of Shelly Briggs** *(5 min.)*
- IV. **Public Input** - Agenda Items only *(3 min. per person, 3-person limit)*
- V. **Consent Items**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from August 12, 2026, Special Meeting *(1 min.)*
 - B. Approval of Minutes from the August 13, 2026, Meeting *(1 min.)*
 - C. Approval of the Agenda *(1 min.)*
- VI. **Action Items**
- VII. **Committee Business**
 - A. Self-Determination Update – Silvia Renteria-Haro *(2 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 *(15 min.)*
 - D. **Legislative Report** – Belinda Abatesi *(5 min.)*
 - 1. 2026 Legislative Town Hall
 - E. **Executive Director's Report** – Angela Pao-Johnson *(10 min.)*
- IX. **Open Topics for Discussion** – Tal Segalovitch *(5 min.)*
 - A. Challenges Obtaining Annual Physical Documentation from Medi-Cal Providers
- X. **Committee Work Group Information/Committee Work Group Final Reports:**
 - A. **Early Start Services** (Jodie Agnew-Navarro) *(3 min.)*

Supporting people with developmental disabilities in the San Fernando, Santa Clarita, and Antelope Valleys since 1974.

For meeting schedule and information

Contact: Jodie Agnew-Navarro - jodie.agnew-navarro@chimeinstitute.net

Next workgroup meeting: Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 9:00am (via Zoom).

- i. Early Start Services

B. School Age Services (Jaklen Kehishyan) *(3 min.)*

For meeting schedule and information

Contact:

Next workgroup meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 10:00am (via Zoom).

- i. School Age Services

C. Adult Services (Octavia Watkins and Jen Pippard) *(3 min.)*

For meeting schedule and information

Contact: Octavia Watkins - excellencecrp@gmail.com

Next workgroup meeting: Monday, September 21, 2026, at 11:00am (via Zoom).

- i. Adult Services

XI. Board Committee Reports

- A. Community Relations Committee – Sharon Weinberg *(1 min.)*
- B. Executive Finance Committee – Tal Segalovitch *(1 min.)*
- C. Nominating Committee – Jaklen Keshishyan *(1 min.)*

XII. Board Meeting Agenda Items

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

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. Hybrid – In-person location Antelope Valley Office
- B. Committee Attendance

XIV. Adjournment

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

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

**MINUTES OF THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
HYBRID – CHATSWORTH OFFICE / ZOOM
August 13, 2026, 9:00 A.M.**

MEMBERS:

Tal Segalovitch, Jaklen Keshishyan, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Andrea Devers, Sharon Weinberg, Jason Gillis, David Ebrami, Ricki Macken-Chilvers, Jen Pippard, Lea Munoz, Alona Yorkshire, Vahe Mkrtchian,

STAFF:

Angela Pao-Johnson, Evelyn McOmie, Lindsay Granger

GUESTS: Cal Enriquez

ABSENT:, Paul Borda, Desiree Misrachi, Masood Babaeian

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, VAC Chair Tal Segalovich called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. read the NLACRC Civility Code.

2. COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE

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

3. CORPORATE AFFAIRS – WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT

The agenda originally identified the matter under Closed Session – Corporate Affairs. Chair Tal Segalovitch stated that, based on guidance received from legal counsel, the matter could not be discussed in closed session and would instead be addressed in open session.

Tal Segalovitch reviewed a provision of the Board of Trustees' Code of Conduct regarding respectful communication, including avoiding offensive or malicious language, refraining from disparaging remarks related to protected characteristics, and making good-faith efforts toward cultural sensitivity.

Tal Segalovitch then invited Evelyn McOmie to address the matter.

Deputy Director Evelyn McOmie reported on a whistleblower complaint received by NLACRC on May 5, 2026, through a survey following the Spring Fair held for staff and vendors. The reported incidents occurred at the Antelope Valley event and involved David Ebrami of Air Connections.

Evelyn McOmie summarized the investigation, which included interviews with two individuals. The first incident involved repeated inappropriate and stereotypical comments by David Ebrami regarding Latina women and pregnancy. The investigation determined that the complaint was substantiated.

Evelyn McOmie also reported a second incident from the same event involving inappropriate and unprofessional language used by David Ebrami in an interaction with NLACRC staff. This incident was also substantiated.

Evelyn McOmie explained that the matter is being handled as a whistleblower complaint and is included in NLACRC's whistleblower reporting to the Department. Evelyn McOmie stated that, prior to participating in future NLACRC events, David Ebrami would be recommended to complete professional conduct, harassment prevention, and cultural sensitivity training. Any further conduct determined to be discriminatory, harassing, or inconsistent with NLACRC's Code of Conduct could result in additional action, including removal from participation in NLACRC-sponsored events or meetings.

Evelyn McOmie then turned the matter over to Chair Tal Segalovitch and the Vendor Advisory Committee to determine appropriate next steps regarding David Ebrami's participation and involvement with the Committee.

Chair Tal Segalovitch advised the Vendor Advisory Committee that members would vote on David Ebrami's continued membership on the Committee and that voting would be conducted anonymously.

Sharon Weinberg asked whether Committee members could ask questions before voting and whether David Ebrami had been provided an opportunity to respond to the allegations. Evelyn McOmie explained that questions could be asked but that some information could not be disclosed due to whistleblower confidentiality. Sharon Weinberg requested that David Ebrami be provided an opportunity to address the Committee.

David Ebrami expressed apologies regarding the reported incidents and acknowledged that the interactions had made individuals uncomfortable. David Ebrami stated that the events differed somewhat from David Ebrami's recollection but emphasized a desire to improve and expressed apologies to the individuals affected. David Ebrami also acknowledged making the previously reported comment regarding the coffee and stated that the comment was inappropriate.

Following the discussion, Committee members proceeded with an anonymous vote regarding David Ebrami's continued membership.

Action: By anonymous vote, the Vendor Advisory Committee voted by majority to remove David Ebrami from the Committee.

Evelyn McOmie stated that the report submitted to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) would reflect the Vendor Advisory Committee's action to remove David Ebrami.

4. ADJOURNMENT

With no further matters to discuss, Chair Tal Segalovitch adjourned the special meeting at 9:19 a.m.

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

**MINUTES OF THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HYBRID –CHATSWORTH OFFICE / ZOOM
August 13, 2026, 9:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS:

Tal Segalovitch, Jaklen Keshishyan, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Sharon Weinberg, Jason Gillis, Tal Segalovitch, Ricki Macken-Chilvers, Vahe Mkrtchian, Desiree Misrachi, Lea Munoz, Jen Pippard

STAFF:

Angela Pao-Johnson, Evelyn McOmie, Vini Montague, Arshalous Garlanian, Silvia Renteria-Haro, John Van De Riet, Lindsay Granger

GUESTS: Sera Chloe – All's Well

ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, VAC Chair Tal Segalovitch called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. read the NLACRC Civility Code.

2. COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE

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

3. SHARE IMPACT STORY FROM INDIVIDUAL SERVED

Executive Director Angela Pao-Johnson shared an impact story from one of individuals served, Ardeshir Farman.

Alona Yorkshire shared background on *A Bumblebee Can Fly, and So Can I*, explaining that the book's affirmations were developed collaboratively with participation from individuals served. Alona Yorkshire noted that the accompanying video was created by a content creation team led by individuals served. The book has been available on Amazon for several months, received a bestseller badge, and has received positive feedback from parents and teachers in other states.

Alona Yorkshire also shared that Alona Yorkshire's daughter, an NLACRC individual served, participated as one of the readers featured in the video. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that the video has been shared with other committees, the Board, and during all-staff meetings and emphasized the impact of hearing the book read by individuals served.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Tal Segalovitch opened public input for agenda items.

Alex Kopilevich raised concerns regarding delays in initiating services due to service agreement requirements, including challenges obtaining required signatures from families and coordinating with service coordinators. Alex Kopilevich shared that these delays have impacted vendors despite continued referrals and have contributed to a decline in services and staffing. Alex Kopilevich requested consideration of potential solutions to address these delays.

Ricki Macken-Chilvers asked how frequently the staff contact list is updated, noting recent staffing changes and that the last list received was in May. Evelyn McOmie stated that the contact list is updated every 60 days, posted to the vendor portal, and distributed to vendors.

No additional public input was provided.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Jaklen Keshishyan, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on June 11, 2026, as presented. Motion carried.

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

6. ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

7.1 Orientation

- A. Bylaws**
- B. Guidelines & Procedures**
- C. Committee Roster**
- D. Committee Meeting Schedule**
- E. Priority Issues/Goals**

Tal Segalovitch provided a brief Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) orientation and reviewed the VAC bylaws, guidelines, and procedures. Tal Segalovitch explained that the VAC may consist of up to 18 members who are current vendors in good standing or employees of vendors in good standing. Membership is intended to represent a broad range of provider categories from which NLACRC purchases services.

Tal Segalovitch reviewed the role of the Vendor Trustee, who is designated by the VAC to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees and serves as Chair of the VAC. The Vendor Trustee serves a one-year term. Tal Segalovitch also noted that a quorum consists of a majority of VAC members.

Tal Segalovitch reviewed the appointment and terms of VAC members. VAC members are appointed by the Board from a slate of candidates provided by the VAC and generally serve three-year terms beginning July 1. When a member is appointed to fill a vacancy, the term begins upon appointment and continues for the remainder of the vacant term. VAC members

may serve no more than six consecutive years and, after reaching the six-year limit, must wait at least 12 months before becoming eligible to serve again. If a member resigns before the end of a term and is reappointed within 12 months, the prior time served is counted toward the six-year limit.

Tal Segalovitch also reviewed the VAC's responsibilities, which include providing advice, guidance, recommendations, and technical assistance to the Board in carrying out its mandated duties. As part of the orientation, Tal Segalovitch reviewed the current VAC committee roster, meeting schedule, and the priority issues and goals of the VAC subcommittees.

7.2 Self-Determination Update

Silvia Renteria-Haro provided an update on the Self-Determination Program (SDP). As of August 1, 2026, NLACRC had 866 participants enrolled in the program. Silvia Renteria-Haro reported that 196 individuals had transitioned into SDP during the year, nearly reaching the prior year's total of 197 transitions.

Silvia Renteria-Haro noted that participation and transitions into SDP continue to grow. No additional program updates were available at this time, and DDS is currently working on additional guidelines for the program.

No questions were raised by the committee.

8. REPORT OUTS

8.1 Deputy Director Officer's Report

Evelyn McOmie provided the Deputy Director's Report and encouraged vendors to continue promoting the DDS SIPP Survey when attending meetings with individuals served and families. Evelyn McOmie reported that NLACRC has exceeded the statewide average for two consecutive months and continues to trend upward. Evelyn McOmie explained that survey participation provides regional centers and DDS with information regarding individuals' and families' experiences with services and thanked vendors for their continued assistance in promoting the survey.

Evelyn McOmie provided a Purchase of Service (POS) update and noted that NLACRC's recent average has been approximately 6,000 POS approvals per month. For July, service coordinators approved 7,698 POS authorizations, representing an increase of more than 1,000 approvals from the recent monthly average. Evelyn McOmie noted that the increase reflects continued approval and provision of services for individuals served.

Evelyn McOmie provided a staffing and caseload update, reporting that all Client Services Coordinator (CSC) supervisor positions are filled except for one, for which NLACRC is actively recruiting. NLACRC also continues to recruit service coordinators and is looking to expand several units. Evelyn McOmie announced that Valeria Soto, formerly the Aging Specialist, was promoted to Supervisor. As a result, the Aging Specialist position is currently vacant, and NLACRC is actively recruiting and interviewing candidates to fill the position.

Evelyn McOmie also announced the development of a Vendor Language-Based Directory that will be available on the NLACRC website and serve as an informational resource for service coordinators. The centralized directory will identify vendors that provide services in languages other than English and will capture language capabilities across different service codes. Community Services and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Department are collaborating on the project.

Evelyn McOmie explained that the directory is intended to support case management and outreach, improve accessibility, and help connect individuals served and families with linguistically appropriate services more efficiently. Vendors will receive a form by email requesting information regarding the languages currently supported by active staff and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). Vendors that provide services in more than one language were encouraged to identify those languages when completing the form. Responses will be collected through September 30, 2026, and reminders will be distributed during the response period.

No questions were raised by the committee.

8.2 Chief Financial Officer's Report

Vini Montague provided the Chief Financial Officer's Report and reported that NLACRC did not need to borrow against its line of credit during June or July. NLACRC completed FY 2025-2026 without borrowing and received its DDS cash advance timely at the beginning of FY 2026-2027, eliminating the need to access the line of credit.

Vini Montague provided an update on Accounting Department efforts to improve customer service and support for service providers. Vini Montague shared that NLACRC has established an internal customer service team to assist with escalated issues and is working to expand the team. Vini Montague also introduced Justice Agonoy, Controller, and Robert Gann, Accounts Payable Supervisor, to provide an update on the implementation of a new help ticketing system.

Justice Agonoy explained that the help ticketing system is intended to improve responsiveness and provide greater visibility and tracking of vendor inquiries. The system is currently being tested for Purchase of Service (POS) inquiries and admission agreements and has been implemented with approximately half of the vendors assigned to Accounting Specialist staff. Full implementation is anticipated by October 1, 2026.

Justice Agonoy also announced that a vendor hotline for POS inquiries is planned to launch by October 1, 2026. Calls to the hotline will be routed to Accounting Specialists to improve accessibility and responsiveness. Justice Agonoy explained that staff are being trained and provided with the necessary system access in preparation for the full launch.

Justice Agonoy stated that inquiries will be categorized based on the nature and urgency of the request and routed to the appropriate staff member. Categories will include areas such as e-billing and Personal and Incidental (P&I) inquiries. The system will allow vendors to submit inquiries through a centralized process while Accounting staff internally route each request to the appropriate person. The system will also provide reporting and visibility into inquiries and their resolution.

Tal Segalovitch asked how vendors should provide feedback during the testing period. Justice Agonoy stated that feedback may currently be emailed directly to Justice Agonoy and Robert Gann. A dedicated feedback email address is expected to be available with the full launch on October 1, 2026. Justice Agonoy encouraged vendors to provide feedback to support continued improvement of the system.

Sharon Weinberg thanked the Accounting Department and noted improvements in responsiveness and follow-up. Sharon Weinberg raised a concern regarding the handling of P&I inquiries and uncertainty regarding the appropriate department or staff contact. Justice Agonoy confirmed that P&I inquiries fall within Accounting and explained that the new system will include a dedicated P&I category to ensure inquiries are routed appropriately.

Ricki Macken-Chilvers also acknowledged improvements in Accounting's responsiveness and follow-through and expressed appreciation for NLACRC's efforts to address vendor concerns. In response to a question from Ricki Macken-Chilvers, Justice Agonoy confirmed that the help ticketing platform being implemented is Freshservice.

Vini Montague thanked the committee for the positive feedback and acknowledged that improving vendor support is an ongoing process.

No further questions were raised.

8.3 Community Services Director's Report

Evelyn McOmie provided the Community Services Director's Report on behalf of Arshalous Garlanian, Community Services Director. Evelyn McOmie highlighted changes to Direct Support Professional (DSP) record access that became effective August 1, 2026. Under the updated DDS privacy requirements, only individual DSPs may directly access their records through DDS. DSPs may choose to share their training records with an employer or third party as needed; however, employers must obtain those records directly from their staff, as DDS will no longer release DSP records directly to employers.

Evelyn McOmie announced that NLACRC received DDS funding to hold Family Expos again this year and encouraged vendors to participate by hosting informational tables and helping promote the events to individuals served and families. The San Fernando/Santa Clarita Valley Family Expo is scheduled for September 12, 2026, in Santa Clarita, and the Antelope Valley Family Expo is scheduled for October 24, 2026, at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. Flyers are available for both events, and vendors were encouraged to assist with outreach and participation.

Evelyn McOmie also announced that a disco-themed dance for individuals served will be held from 1:00–4:00 p.m. and encouraged Supported Living Services (SLS) and residential service providers to support interested individuals in attending. Evelyn McOmie noted that similar dances had historically been offered prior to the pandemic and encouraged providers to assist with transportation for individuals who would enjoy participating.

Evelyn McOmie provided information regarding the upcoming fall NLACRC Vendor Fairs, clarifying that the Vendor Fairs are separate from the Family Expos and are intended to provide information to NLACRC staff. The San Fernando Valley Vendor Fair is scheduled for October 14–15, 2026, and the Antelope Valley Vendor Fair is scheduled for November 4–5, 2026. Additional information will be distributed regarding participating programs, table registration, and event details.

A. DDS/DSP Internship Program – All's Well Healthcare

Sera Choe, Recruiter with All's Well Healthcare Staffing, provided a presentation on the Direct Support Professional (DSP) Internship Program. Sera Choe explained that All's Well has partnered with the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to provide a paid, three-month shadow training and internship program. Interns may work up to 30 hours per week and are compensated at the applicable minimum wage for the city in which the internship takes place. During the internship, participants work alongside a DSP mentor to learn the responsibilities of the DSP role and how to support individuals served. Providers may hire an intern at any point during the three-month internship, and All's Well ensures candidates meet the minimum eligibility requirements established by DDS.

Sera Choe reviewed the objectives of the DSP Internship Program, including introducing entry-level individuals to DSP careers, preparing participants for career opportunities in related

fields, increasing DSP recruitment and retention, and providing interns with skills needed to deliver quality services. The program is also intended to simplify the hiring process for providers by having All's Well manage candidate sourcing, interviewing, and screening, allowing providers to focus on training and identifying candidates for long-term employment.

Sera Choe explained that there is no cost to service providers to participate in the program. All's Well manages administrative and employment responsibilities, including weekly payroll at the applicable minimum wage, workers' compensation coverage, candidate vetting, onboarding, and clearance requirements. All's Well will also complete the LIC 503 health screening report on behalf of participating providers.

Sera Choe also reviewed retention incentives available to interns who transition into permanent employment. Eligible interns may receive a \$625 retention bonus at both the six-month and 12-month employment milestones to encourage long-term employment and continuity within provider programs.

Sera Choe explained that providers interested in participating must first complete the DDS interest form. Following confirmation from DDS, All's Well will contact the provider to schedule an orientation call and review additional program details. Sera Choe also announced that the next DSP Internship Program webinar is scheduled for September 14, 2026.

Sera Choe provided an update on DSP Internship Program activity within NLACRC's catchment area. The current identified need is 20 interns, and 20 candidates have been submitted to date. Six candidates are currently in the onboarding process, and two interns have been placed. Sera Choe also discussed the need for additional participating providers to help place candidates whose schedules and interests may require greater flexibility and encouraged providers throughout the NLACRC catchment area to consider participating.

Alona Yorkshire shared positive feedback regarding TASC's experience with the All's Well DSP Internship Program. Alona Yorkshire reported that TASC has hired approximately 20 interns and has had 30 or more interns placed through the program. Alona Yorkshire noted that several interns have become valued staff members and expressed appreciation for the customer service and assistance provided by Sera Choe and the All's Well team. Alona Yorkshire stated that the program has been an important resource in addressing staffing shortages and supporting continued services to individuals served.

Sharon Weinberg asked whether the program could provide DSP interns for programs serving individuals with higher behavioral support needs. Sera Choe explained that the internship program is designed primarily to introduce entry-level candidates without prior experience to the DSP field and generally works with programs that do not require significant behavioral support. Sera Choe stated that potential opportunities could still be explored and encouraged Sharon Weinberg to complete the DDS interest form to discuss possible placements further.

Evelyn McOmie concluded the report by highlighting additional informational materials and training opportunities available to vendors, including Deaf Plus Training 101, Family Expo information, Social Security Benefits Counseling and Training, Employment Services, and Free Acres Training. Evelyn McOmie encouraged vendors to review and take the available materials following the meeting.

No further questions were raised.

8.4 Legislative Report

John Van de Riet provided the Legislative Report on behalf of Belinda Abatesi and presented an update on the FY 2026-2027 California State Budget. John Van de Riet reported that the

final state budget totals approximately \$351.7 billion, including \$251.1 billion from the General Fund, with no significant reductions to DDS Regional Center services.

John Van de Riet reported that proposed reductions to In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) were rejected and that the backup provider system remains in place. John Van de Riet also noted that a new Medi-Cal asset limit will take effect July 1, 2027, and stated that NLACRC will continue to monitor the change due to the connection between Medi-Cal eligibility, IHSS, and other long-term supports.

John Van de Riet provided an overview of SB 163, the Developmental Services Budget Trailer Bill, which was included as part of the state budget. John Van de Riet noted that SB 163 includes policy changes related to Early Start, Regional Center governing boards, letters of intent, the grievance process, Rate Reform, and employment. Resources were provided for additional information regarding the DDS budget summary, SB 163, and the related DDS directive.

John Van de Riet provided an update on the 2026 General Election and reported that even-numbered State Senate districts are up for election, including Senate Districts 20 and 24 within NLACRC's catchment area. All State Assembly seats are also up for election, including Assembly Districts 34, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, and 46 within the NLACRC catchment area. Voting information and key election dates were provided. John Van de Riet also announced that the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA) will provide voter training during the September 3, 2026 Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting at 5:00 p.m.

John Van de Riet reviewed the 2026 Legislative Bill Tracker and noted that NLACRC continues to monitor active legislation throughout the legislative session. John Van de Riet highlighted AB 2324, the Youth Caregiver's Career Pathway Program, which has been chaptered and creates a pathway into the direct support profession. The ARCA Legislative Bill Tracker was provided as a resource for reviewing additional legislation being monitored.

John Van de Riet reviewed upcoming legislative dates and meetings, including August 21 as the last day to amend bills on the floor and October 2 as a key deadline for bills to be enacted before taking effect January 1. John Van de Riet concluded by reviewing advocacy resources available to assist individuals with staying informed and participating in legislative advocacy.

No questions were raised following the report.

8.5 Executive Director's Report

Angela Pao-Johnson provided the Executive Director's Report and began by commenting on the Freshservice ticketing system discussed during the Chief Financial Officer's Report. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that the system will allow NLACRC leadership to identify trends across vendor inquiries, determine the scope of recurring issues, and prioritize areas requiring attention.

Angela Pao-Johnson provided an update on NLACRC's July Legislative Breakfast. The event provided an opportunity for legislators, community members, vendors, and staff to discuss current issues and recognize the 60th anniversary of California's first two pilot regional centers. The program focused on the past, present, and future of the regional center system and included speakers and representatives from DDS and legislative offices.

Angela Pao-Johnson provided an update on the Executive Director Community Listening Sessions focused on historically underserved communities throughout NLACRC's catchment area. Sessions have been completed with the Armenian, Black/African American, and

Hispanic/Latino communities. Angela Pao-Johnson shared that the sessions have provided valuable opportunities to hear directly from individuals served and families about their experiences. Common themes have emerged across communities, along with differences in how communities receive information, preferred communication channels, and messaging. Filipino and Farsi-speaking community sessions remain scheduled for September and October. Following completion of the sessions, NLACRC plans to share overall themes, community input, and a plan of action moving forward.

Angela Pao-Johnson encouraged continued participation in the DDS IPP Survey and reported that NLACRC met its benchmarks for June and July. Under NLACRC's special contract language with DDS, NLACRC is required to exceed the statewide survey response rate. Angela Pao-Johnson reported that NLACRC's response rate is nearly 7% for the calendar year compared with a statewide response rate of approximately 1.8%–1.9%. DDS also seeks an aggregate satisfaction rate of 85% across the five-question survey. NLACRC has met that satisfaction benchmark each month since January except May and must meet the requirement for six consecutive months.

Angela Pao-Johnson recognized Cynthia Sanchez, Outreach Language Specialist, for being appointed Co-Chair of the Department of Mental Health's Service Area Leadership Team for Service Area 1 in the Antelope Valley. Angela Pao-Johnson noted that the appointment reflects NLACRC's continued commitment to community partnerships related to behavioral health.

Angela Pao-Johnson provided an update on NLACRC's strategic planning process and refreshed mission, vision, and values. NLACRC contracted with KH Consulting to facilitate the process, which included input from the Vendor Advisory Committee, other NLACRC committees, external partners, ARCA, DDS, staff, and the Board of Trustees. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that the updated mission, vision, and values represent a refresh of NLACRC's organizational direction based on extensive stakeholder input. The identified core values are Respect, Inclusivity, Advocacy, Empowerment, and Partnership, and the new organizational tagline is "Empowering Lives. Strengthening Communities."

Angela Pao-Johnson reviewed the four priorities identified through the strategic planning process: Consumer, Family, and Community Impact; Vendor Excellence and Service Delivery; Operational Excellence and Innovation; and Workforce and Culture. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that all four priorities are ultimately intended to strengthen NLACRC's ability to serve individuals and families. The developing strategic plan includes four priorities and 11 goals. NLACRC is currently refining the plan, determining priorities across the three-year implementation period, and developing metrics and accountability measures. The Board will review the plan and provide input prior to final revision and adoption. Public communication regarding the strategic plan is anticipated from October through December 2026, with a formal launch planned for January 2027.

Angela Pao-Johnson reported that DDS has suspended its current efforts to develop a statewide respite assessment tool while DDS further evaluates the potential scope and impact on services. Regional centers had previously provided input into the development process.

Angela Pao-Johnson also provided an update on the development of a statewide operations funding model for regional centers, which is intended to replace the existing core staffing formula originally developed in 1978. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that the existing formula has not adequately adjusted for changes in staffing costs and other operational expenses over time. The new model is intended to consider factors such as regional center size, catchment area, demographics of individuals served, regional cost differences, workload, staffing needs, and currently unfunded positions. The model will also account for operational expenses such as training, hardware, and software and is expected to be reviewed every three years.

Angela Pao-Johnson clarified that development of the new funding model does not guarantee that regional centers will immediately receive funding for all identified needs. The model is intended to provide greater transparency regarding actual operational costs and funding discrepancies. DDS is expected to release regional center-specific funding information in the fall, which NLACRC will share when available.

Angela Pao-Johnson announced that ARCA Academy is scheduled for September 25–26, 2026. The training provides regional center Board members with governance training, statewide legislative and policy updates, and information intended to strengthen knowledge of Board responsibilities.

Angela Pao-Johnson provided an NLACRC operational update, reporting 983 filled staff positions. Angela Pao-Johnson also reported continued growth in the number of individuals served, increasing from approximately 42,000 at the previous report to 43,101. Quality Assurance completed 117 residential visits, resulting in five corrective action plans and no plans of improvement for non-licensed providers. Social Recreation referrals totaled 1,250 in June and 1,257 in July.

Angela Pao-Johnson highlighted NLACRC's participation in a Juneteenth celebration hosted in Canyon Country in partnership with the NAACP. Approximately 120 community members connected with NLACRC to learn about available services, including services for the African American community and other individuals served.

Angela Pao-Johnson concluded by highlighting upcoming community and disability-related events. During discussion, Tal Segalovitch commented on the statewide operations funding model and noted that learning more about the limitations of the existing regional center funding structure reinforced the importance of collaboration between regional centers and the vendor community. Angela Pao-Johnson agreed and emphasized the importance of partnership.

9. OPEN DISCUSSION TOPICS

Tal Segalovitch opened discussion regarding concerns previously raised about delays in obtaining required signatures and the potential impact on vendors.

Sharon Weinberg shared that providers experience delays when Individual Program Plan (IPP) signature pages are incomplete, particularly when an individual is conserved and the authorized representative is not present to sign. Sharon Weinberg emphasized that providers are not authorized representatives and may only sign the IPP as participants; providers cannot provide consent on behalf of an individual for goals or services.

Justice Agonoy addressed delays involving admission agreements and advised vendors to submit admission agreement inquiries through the designated NLACRC admission agreement email. Justice Agonoy explained that the email is now connected to the new service ticketing system, allowing Accounting to track requests and coordinate with Case Management to address outstanding signatures and escalate requests when necessary.

Sharon Weinberg raised an additional concern regarding providers not consistently receiving final copies of admission agreements after all required signatures and administrative approvals have been completed. Sharon Weinberg noted that missing final copies can create challenges when documentation is needed for Quality Assurance or DDS reviews, even when providers have previously requested the completed documents.

Justice Agonoy acknowledged the concern and stated that there may be a gap in the process for returning fully executed admission agreements to providers. Justice Agonoy stated that Accounting will review the issue and advised vendors needing final signed copies to submit

their requests to the admission agreement email. Justice Agony confirmed that vendors experiencing similar issues may provide a list of outstanding agreements so that completed copies can be provided.

Tal Segalovitch noted that the original concern raised earlier in the meeting could be revisited at the end of the meeting if additional clarification or public input was provided.

10. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP INFORMATION

10.1 Early Start Services

Jodie Agnew-Navarro was unavailable to provide an Early Start Services Subcommittee update. Tal Segalovitch stated that Tal Segalovitch would follow up with Jodie Agnew-Navarro to confirm continued availability to facilitate the subcommittee. If Jodie Agnew-Navarro is unable to continue facilitating, another VAC member may be needed. Tal Segalovitch also invited interested VAC members to volunteer to support the subcommittee.

10.2 School Age Services

Tal Segalovitch reported that Cal Enriquez had completed Cal Enriquez's VAC tenure and that Paul had stepped down from facilitating the School-Age Services Subcommittee. As a result, a VAC member was needed to facilitate the subcommittee and provide report-outs during VAC meetings. Tal Segalovitch noted having regularly attended the subcommittee meetings over the past two years and shared that Jessica Ross, a School-Age Unit Supervisor in the Chatsworth office, regularly participates in the meetings.

Jaklen Keshishyan volunteered to support and facilitate the School-Age Services Subcommittee, noting that Creative Minds provides services to individuals ages six and older. Tal Segalovitch thanked Jaklen Keshishyan for volunteering.

10.3 Adult Services

Octavia Watkins reported that the Adult Services Subcommittee did not meet in July and announced that the next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Octavia Watkins requested a co-facilitator to help ensure the subcommittee can continue meeting when Octavia Watkins is unavailable.

Jen Pippard volunteered to serve as co-facilitator of the Adult Services Subcommittee. Octavia Watkins thanked Jen Pippard for volunteering, and Octavia Watkins and Jen Pippard agreed to follow up regarding the role.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Community Relations Committee

Sharon Weinberg reported that the Community Relations Committee did not meet in July due to the dark month and had no report to provide. The next Community Relations Committee meeting is scheduled for the following Wednesday.

11.2 Executive Finance Committee

Tal Segalovitch noted that the Executive Finance Committee did not meet in July due to the dark month. No report was provided.

12. BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

No items were identified to forward to the Board of Trustees.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT

Tal Segalovitch opened the final public input period and noted that comments were not required to pertain to an agenda item.

Sharon Weinberg asked for clarification regarding DDS in-person meetings identified on the meeting calendar included in the packet. Lindsay Granger explained that the calendar includes meetings for the Board and both advisory committees and clarified that the DDS in-person meeting referenced by Sharon Weinberg is for Board members only.

Sharon Weinberg requested updates regarding the new Special Incident Report (SIR) form and regional center access to information regarding generic services, specifically In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS). Evelyn McOmie reported that DDS has provided regional centers with IHSS information and that NLACRC is working to make the information accessible to service coordinators. The information will assist service coordinators when reviewing services and requests. Evelyn McOmie clarified that IHSS and other generic resources may be discussed as part of the IPP planning process when determining appropriate services. Regarding the new SIR form, Evelyn McOmie reported that implementation has experienced a setback and that additional information will be provided when available.

Alona Yorkshire shared information regarding the DDS Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Workgroup and announced that the next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2026, and is open to the public. Alona Yorkshire encouraged vendor participation and noted that approximately 30% of providers statewide did not earn 100% of their rate during the prior year.

Alona Yorkshire reported that the benchmarks for earning 100% of the rate will largely remain unchanged for the upcoming fiscal year. However, Independent Living Services (ILS) and Supported Living Services (SLS) providers will now be grouped with residential providers for a required survey expected to be distributed around October. Alona Yorkshire emphasized that completion of the survey will be important for ILS and SLS providers to meet the requirements for earning 100% of their rate. Alona Yorkshire also noted that the QIP Workgroup will begin discussing quality measures and benchmarks for FY 2027-2028 and encouraged providers to participate in the development of those measures.

Angela Pao-Johnson provided a status update on the Service Provider Portal. Angela Pao-Johnson explained that the portal is used by several other regional centers to provide vendors with access to authorizations and facilitate communication. NLACRC had not previously implemented the portal because the system did not meet NLACRC's cybersecurity requirements; however, NLACRC has since identified a configuration that addresses those concerns.

Angela Pao-Johnson reported that the Service Provider Portal has been demonstrated to internal stakeholders, who provided feedback regarding functionality and operational needs. NLACRC plans to conduct additional testing before implementation to ensure that the system aligns with NLACRC's business processes. The IT Department has identified 10 vendors to participate in testing and provide feedback as part of the proof-of-concept process. Testing is anticipated to begin in October 2026. Angela Pao-Johnson emphasized that NLACRC is approaching implementation intentionally to ensure the portal meets the needs of both NLACRC and the vendor community.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format at the Santa Clarita Valley office and via Zoom.

15. ADJOURNMENT

It was agreed that there was no further business to transact; Tal Segalovitch adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

DRAFT

Vendor Advisory Committee: September 10, 2026 Community Services Department: Director's Report

General Updates:

- ❖ **Dementia & Disabilities Escape: A glimpse into the lives of those with Developmental Disabilities.** Training Sessions will be held at the Antelope Office on:
 - 9/29, 9/30, 10/1, 10/2 (9-12pm or 1-4pm)
 - Registration Link: [Dementia Immersion Experience Tickets, Multiple dates | Eventbrite](#)
- ❖ **Mandated Reporter Training Now Available in DSPU**
<https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/workforce-initiatives-4/dsp-university/> or email cce-dds-support@csus.edu
- ❖ **DSP Internship Program:**
 - **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
 - **Submit interest directly through DDS online portal** [Qualtrics Survey | Qualtrics Experience Management](#)
 - <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/workforce-initiatives/>
 - <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/D-2025-Workforce-001.pdf>
- ❖ **DSP Training Records Access Change Effective 8/1/2026**
 - Beginning August 1, 2026, Direct Support Professional Training (DSPT) 1 & 2 training records will be accessible only to the DSP. DSPs may choose to share their training records with their employers or other third parties when needed.
 - Questions or need more information, please contact ccfdsp@dds.ca.gov.
- ❖ **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
 - FY2027 QIP list is published on the DDS website the first week of each month
 - If your rate was reduced from 100% to 95% or 90% effective July 1st, you received a notification from RatesQuestions@nlacrc.org.
- ❖ **CFS Coordinated Family Support Pilot** Incentive payments in progress.
- ❖ **Fall 2026 Family Expo**
 - SCV – September 12th
 - [NLACRC 3rd Annual Fall 2026 Family Expo - Attendee Registration](#)
 - *18+ Dance (Following the Expo)
 - *Attendee Registration closes on September 9th
 - AV – October 24th
 - [Attendee Registration for our 3rd annual NLACRC Fall 2026 Family Expo](#)
 - *18+ Dance (Following the Expo)

- *Provider Registration closes on September 17th. [Antelope Valley NLACRC Vendor/Exhibitor Registration. 2026 Fall Family Expo](#)

❖ **NLACRC Vendor Fair**

SFV October 14-15, 2026

- SFV Registration Link ALL [NLACRC 2026 Fall SFV Vendor Fair Registration.](#)
- SFV Registration Link Early Start [NLACRC 2026 Fall SFV Early Start Vendor Fair Registration.](#)

AV November 3-4, 2026

- AV Registration Link ALL [NLACRC 2026 Fall AV Vendor Fair Registration.](#)
- AV Registration Link Early Start [NLACRC 2026 Fall AV Early Start Vendor Fair Registration.](#)

HCBS:

❖ **IntellectAbility Self-paced**

- The Fatal Five & How to Manage Choking
- Email hcb compliance@nlacrc.org to Register

❖ **Beyond Compliance Workshop – HCBS + CEUs**

- **Rights & Modifications** September 24, 2026, 10 am – 1pm
- **Quality Assurance** October 22, 2026, 10 am – 1pm
- Email hcb compliance@nlacrc.org to Register



DHH:

❖ **FREE ASL Classes: Register for Remote or Self-Paced classes: [NLACRC for DeafPlus | Linktree](#)**

- For more information, contact Ted Horton-Billard, Deaf Services Specialist THortonBillard@nlacrc.org

Compliance Corner:

❖ **Rate Reform / Provider Directory follow-up:**

- RatesQuestions@nlacrc.org or 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.
- Community Services staff are contacting all vendors who have expired forms.

❖ **Vendor Update Reminders:**

- Submit insurance renewals to ProviderInsurance@nlacrc.org – auto-forwards to Gallagher inbox. Gallagher Verify (833) 862-8432
 - FAQ: <https://www.nlacrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/service-provider-insurance-requirements-faq.pdf>
- Updates submitted through the Provider Directory do not automatically update Regional Center systems:
 - Submit license renewals and organizational charts to Contract&Compliance@nlacrc.org
 - Submit notice of changes (address, entity, name, tax ID) to ResourceDevelopment@nlacrc.org

Employment Services:

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

Resource Development:

- ❖ **Fall 2026 Residential Services Orientation (RSO)** registration opens August 10, 2026 - September 13, 2026. All classes will be in-person at NLACRC September 28, 2026 - October 8, 2026, culminating with the test on October 12, 2026. For more information visit [Residential Services Orientation \(RSO\) -North Los Angeles County](#)
- ❖ **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 host office hours. For more information, please visit DDS website <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/evv/> .

Quality Assurance:

- ❖ **Support Living Services:** SLS monitoring has begun and is being scheduled 30 days in advance. A Community Services Specialist will be contacting you to schedule.
- ❖ **Community Care Licensed Sites** please ensure you are signed up to receive information regarding training and provider information notices for your licensed service. Subscribe here: [CCLD Subscriptions](#)

NLACRC

Invites You to Our
2026 FALL VENDOR FAIR

ALL SERVICES



Thursday,
October 15 2026



8:30am
-12:00pm



NLACRC- Chatsworth
9200 Oakdale Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

REGISTER NOW



NLACRC

Invites You to Our
2026 FALL VENDOR FAIR

EARLY START SERVICES



Wednesday
October 14, 2026



200pm
-400pm



NLACRC- Chatsworth
9200 Oakdale Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

REGISTER NOW



NLACRC

Invites You to Our
2026 FALL VENDOR FAIR

EARLY START SERVICES



Wednesday,
November 4, 2026



200pm
-400pm



NLACRC- AV
43850 10th St. W
Lancaster, CA 93534

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

REGISTER NOW



NLACRC

Invites You to Our
2026 FALL VENDOR FAIR

ALL SERVICES



Tuesday,
November 3, 2026



8:30am
-12:00pm



NLACRC- AV
43850 10th St. W
Lancaster, CA 93534

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

REGISTER NOW



3rd Annual



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

is proud to host our Disco Themed

Fall 2026 Family Expo



Saturday, October 24, 2026

Expo 9AM - 12PM

Dance 1PM - 4PM

AV Fair & Event Center

2551 W Avenue H, Lancaster, CA 93536

Join the Fun!

An event just for NLACRC individuals served and their families to connect with NLACRC vendors, discover resources, explore service options, and meet others in the NLACRC community.



Scan the QR Code to apply or register online
forms.office.com/r/70pgSE6cm8?origin=lpLink

For questions or additional details please
email: rortega@nlacrc.org
or call 818-778-4407



Follow us on Social Media
www.nlacrc.org/social-media

**3RD
ANNUAL**



North Los Angeles County Regional Center
is proud to host our Disco Themed
Fall 2026 Family Expo



Saturday, October 24, 2026
9AM - 12PM

AV Fair & Event Center
2551 W Avenue H, Lancaster, CA 93536



Showcase your services and connect with the individuals and families served by NLACRC.



Scan the QR Code to apply or register online
forms.cloud.microsoft/r/TKaKap6F25

Registration Open: August 17 - September 17, 2026

For questions or additional details please email
rortega@nlacrc.org or call 818-778-4407



Follow us on Social Media!
www.nlacrc.org/social-media

NLACRC & BEYOND COMPLIANCE PRESENTS

Seven Sessions on the HCBS Final Rule

For HCBS Vendors, Direct Support Professionals supporting Individuals in HCBS Services, & Services Coordinators

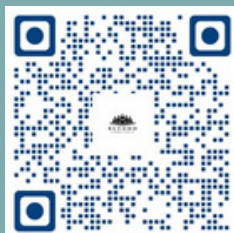
Learn About:

- What is the HCBS Final Rule?
- Assessing needs to capture the "Important to Me" of clients
- How to Focus on Person-Centered Practices
- Promoting Rights and Personal Safety
- Methods for Risk Management Quality Assurance

Sessions are virtual beginning at 10 am until 1 pm (3 hours with breaks)

For more information or to register, visit www.beyondcompliancesupports.com or scan the QR code below.

**Click RSVP for the NLACRC-sponsored sessions under "Upcoming Events."
FREE CEUs**



FEBRUARY 24 AND August 12

Intro to HCBS



This session will teach the basics of the HCBS Final Rule. Focus will be on understanding, recognizing, and ensuring compliance with all 10 requirements.

FEBRUARY 26

Assessments



Session will provide creative ways to ensure assessments capture the "Important to Me" for individuals receiving services.

MARCH 10

Meaningful Outcomes



Provides an interactive session, teaching how to explore and ensure outcomes and objectives are person-centered.

MARCH 26 and SEPTEMBER 24

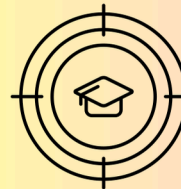
Rights & Modifications



This session reviews steps that need to be taken when considering a modification to someone's rights. The session will review the HCBS rights of clients

APRIL 7 and October 22

Quality Assurance



This session will explore internal QA tools which assist providers with methods to determine if internal goals and service delivery reaches a desired level of quality.

APRIL 21

Risk Management



Identification of risk, how to track and trend, the concept of root cause analysis and mitigating harm/risk.

MAY 5

HCBS & The DSP



Designed for DSPs, this course covers person-first language and person-centered processes. It teaches everyday strategies to promote autonomy and independence for individuals served.

DEMENTIA & DISABILITIES ESCAPE

**A GLIMPSE INTO THE LIVES OF THOSE
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

9/29, 9/30, 10/1, 10/2

An immersive, training program to better understand individuals with dementia and other disabilities. Using sensory stimulation and deprivation techniques, the course simulates the physical and emotional experiences faced by those with cognitive impairments. Participants gain insights into the anxiety, frustration, and fear associated with dementia, enhancing their empathy.

Each training is a single, 3-hour session



**1 DAY TRAINING :
9/29, 9/30, 10/01, 10/02
9AM-12PM OR 1PM-4PM**

REGISTER:
[Click here](#)



Location: 43847 10th St W, Lancaster, CA

For questions, Contact David Ramos, HCBS Specialist
Dramos@NLACRC.ORG

Made possible by DDS HCBS Funding

LEARN ASL WITH US!

For North Los Angeles Regional Center clients & providers,
our courses offer a supportive environment for all learners!

WHY LEARN ASL?

- Connect with the Deaf & DeafPlus Communities
- Boost your communication skills and inclusivity
 - Learn basic ASL vocabulary and Deaf Culture essentials
- Gain confidence for everyday interactions



WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Join our introductory Beginner Class, designed for those with little to no experience in ASL. Begin your journey into American Sign Language and learn:
- **ASL Basics** – Common signs, fingerspelling, greetings and everyday vocabulary
 - **Deaf Culture** – Understanding cultural norms, values and community perspectives
 - **Interactive Practice** – Role-play with real-life scenarios, have small group conversations and learn confidence-building tips for clear, fluid communication with the Deaf and DeafPlus communities

ZOOM CLASSES

August 31 - October 22

Deadline to Register: **Aug 1st, 2026**

Beginner 1

Mondays & Wednesdays:
6:00pm - 7:00pm PST

Beginner 1

Tuesdays & Thursdays:
2:00pm - 3:00pm PST

October 26 - December 17

Deadline to Register: **Sept 25th, 2026**

Beginner 1

Tuesdays & Thursdays:
6:00pm - 7:00pm PST

Beginner 2

Mondays & Wednesdays:
6:00pm - 7:00pm PST

Beginner 2

Tuesdays & Thursdays:
2:00pm - 3:00pm PST

January 4 - February 25

Deadline to Register: **Dec 3rd, 2026**

Beginner 1

Mondays & Wednesdays:
6:00pm - 7:00pm PST

Beginner 2

Tuesdays & Thursdays:
6:00pm - 7:00pm PST

Intermediate

Tuesdays & Thursdays:
2:00pm - 3:00pm PST

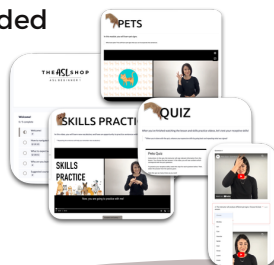
90% attendance in Zoom classes is required to earn a certificate of completion/CEUs

SELF-PACED COURSE

Learn ASL at your own speed with a flexible schedule! Get access to recorded lessons and interactive quizzes!

Scan the QR code to find more information about our Beginner Self-Paced Course!

LIMITED AVAILABILITY!



REGISTRATION

For more information,
scan the QR code or
visit the link:

<https://linktr.ee/nlacrcdeafplus>



**CEUs: Available for professionals
who complete all requirements

QUESTIONS?

Contact **Ted Horton-Billard III**,
Deaf Services Specialist at thortonbillard@nlacrc.org



September 2026



NLACRC Legislative Report





Olmstead and Community Integration



Why it matters: Olmstead protects the right of people with disabilities to live and receive services in the community—not in institutions.



What's happening: The Arc of California and disability advocates are calling on state leaders to reaffirm California's commitment to community integration.



Community impact: This issue connects directly to home and community-based services, regional center supports, housing, employment, and long-term services that help people live, work, and thrive in their communities.



Take Action: An action alert is available for anyone who would like to contact state leaders and support the right to community living.



Take Action: Defend Olmstead & Community Living



More Information



Medi-Cal: What to Watch



OCTOBER 1, 2026

Immigration Eligibility

Some individuals who are not considered “qualified” immigrants for federally funded Medi-Cal will transition from full-scope Medi-Cal to state-funded restricted-scope Medi-Cal with more limited benefits.



JANUARY 1, 2027

Retroactive Coverage

Coverage for past medical bills will be reduced from three months to:

- **1 month** for **New Adult** Group members
- **2 months** for all other Medi-Cal members



JANUARY 1, 2027

Work / Community Engagement Requirements

Adults 19–64 without a child under 13 must show 80 hours per month of work, school, or volunteering — unless exempt (disability, medically frail, caregiver, pregnancy).

About 15,500 regional center consumers are in scope, but the state plans to auto-exempt them by data match, so most won't need to act. Caregivers of a person with a disability are also exempt.



MARCH 1, 2027

Six-Month Renewals

New Adult Group members will need to renew Medi-Cal every six months instead of once a year.

Annual renewals will continue for children, pregnant people, older adults, persons with disabilities, and American Indian and Alaska Native members.



Important to Remember:

Dates reflect current federal guidance (DHCS, updated August 2026) and may shift — the January 1, 2027 work-requirement start is being challenged in court. Confirm specifics before taking action.



More Information



California 2026 General Election

GOVERNOR



Democrat – Xavier Becerra



Republican – Steve Hilton

The next governor will shape the state budget, Medi-Cal, and developmental services priorities.

OTHER STATEWIDE OFFICES ON THE BALLOT



Lieutenant Governor



Treasurer



Attorney General



Insurance Commissioner



Secretary of State



Superintendent of Public Instruction



Controller



Board of Equalization

Several of these offices influence education, health coverage, civil rights enforcement, and statewide policy implementation.

NLACRC Catchment Area

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE

**DISTRICT
20**



Dem - Caroline Menjivar (I)



Rep. - Tony Rodriguez

**DISTRICT
24**



Dem - John Erickson



Dem - Brian Goldsmith

(I) = Incumbent

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

**DISTRICT
34**



Dem - Randall Putz



Rep. - Charles Hughes

**DISTRICT
39**



Dem - Juan Carrillo (I)



Rep. - Paul Marsh

**DISTRICT
40**



Dem - Pilar Schiavo (I)



Rep. - Rickey Hayes II

**DISTRICT
42**



Dem - Deborah Klein Lopez



Rep. - Ted Nordblum

**DISTRICT
43**



Dem - Celeste Rodriguez (I)



Rep. - Ricardo Benitez

**DISTRICT
44**



Dem - Nick Schultz (I)



Rep. - Carolyn Daniels

**DISTRICT
46**



Dem - Jesse Gabriel (I)



Rep. - Tracey Shroeder

(I) = Incumbent

Important Information



Election Day: California's General Election is November 3, 2026.



Ballots: All active registered California voters will receive a ballot for the November 2026 General Election.



Secure ballot drop-off locations open on October 6, 2026.



Ballots can be dropped off at a drop-off location, county elections office, or returned by mail.



In-person early voting locations throughout California will be open on Saturday, October 31, 2026.

Voting Resources

Learn More About Voting

OCRA Voting Rights Guide



STATEWIDE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

California voters may also see statewide ballot propositions on the November ballot.

Ballot measures can affect funding, services, and other statewide policy issues.

Your ballot will also include local races. Look up your personalized sample ballot for more details.



WEEK OF ACTION

Disability Voting Rights Week

September 14–18, 2026

A national nonpartisan week of action focused on disability voting rights, voter education, registration, candidate forums, digital organizing, and civic participation.

[Join the Movement >](#)



2026 Legislative Bill Tracker

Active

AB 2161 (Bonta) – Medi-Cal Redeterminations and Work/Community Engagement

Revises state Medi-Cal redetermination rules to conform to the new federal requirement that certain Medicaid expansion adults be redetermined every 6 months instead of annually.

Status: Enrolled and presented to the Governor on September 3.

AB 2414 (Nguyen) – Developmental Services: Direct Support Professionals

Would define “direct support professionals” as paid staff providing direct support to individuals with I/DD through regional center-funded providers.

Status: Senate amendments concurred on August 31.

AB 2466 (Fong) – Strong Workforce Program: Work-Based Learning

Allows regional consortia to use Strong Workforce funds to provide direct support for paid work-based learning opportunities that increase employability and employment.

Status: Enrolled and presented to the Governor on August 27.

Held Under Submission

AB 277 (Alanis) – Behavioral Health Background Checks

Would require a person providing behavioral health treatment for a behavioral health center, facility, or program to undergo a background check.

Status: Held under submission on August 13.

AB 2201 (Boerner) – Medi-Cal Eligibility Redetermination

Would make conforming changes to state Medi-Cal eligibility review rules to reflect the new federal 6-month redetermination requirement for certain adults.

Status: Held under submission on August 13.

AB 308 (Ramos) – Developmental Services: Safety Training

Would require DDS to conduct a statewide evaluation of safety training services provided by regional centers and submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature.

Status: Held under submission on August 13.

Chaptered

AB 2324 (Jeff Gonzalez) – Youth Caregivers Career Pathway Program

Requires assessment of the challenges and needs of youth caregivers and recommend workplace learning strategies to help develop a career pathway program for the direct support profession.

Status: Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 95, Statutes of 2026, on July 16.

[Legislation | Association of Regional Center Agencies](#)

[California State Legislature—Calendar Schedule](#)



Upcoming Events & Meetings

DDS

ICC Meeting
Tuesday, September 15
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM **RSVP**

Direct Support Professional University (DPSU) / Edge Town Hall
Monday, September 21
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM **RSVP**

Nick Schultz
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 44

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026
5:30 PM TO 6:30 PM
ZOOM LINK PROVIDED UPON RSVP

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION
Join me and Attorney General Rob Bonta for an informative virtual town hall discussing end of session updates, the 2025-2026 bill package, and updates from the California Department of Justice. This is a great opportunity to join your neighbors in the 44th Assembly District as we answer your most pressing questions.
"RECORDING AVAILABLE POST EVENT ON MY WEBSITE & FACEBOOK"

EVENT INFO
Website: cd44assembly.org
Social Media: @ASSEMBLYSCHULTZ

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin

Scam Alert Seminar
Tuesday, September 22
10:00 AM

Thousand Oaks Teen Center
1375 E. Janss Rd.
Thousand Oaks, CA

Nick Schultz
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 44

Housing Forum: Rights & Resources
Saturday, Sept 26
10 – 11:30 a.m.
North Hollywood Amelia Earhart Regional Branch Library
5201 Tujunga Ave, North Hollywood

Join Assemblymember Nick Schultz and three local housing experts for an informative forum focused on the rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords. Learn about your housing rights, get your questions answered, and connect with local organizations offering housing resources and support throughout Assembly District 44.

FEATURED PANELISTS:
Faried El Galy, Chair of Housing and Services, North Hollywood Neighborhood Council
Fatimah Malik, Managing Attorney, Community Development Project, Public Counsel
Maria Ceja, Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance (TAHO) Program Manager, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)

Scan the QR code to RSVP and submit your questions.

Questions? Call the District Office at (818) 558-3043

COMMUNITY COFFEE

Friday, October 2 | 9 a.m.
Palm Dale Playhouse
38334 10th St E, Palmdale, CA 93550

Community Coffee with Assemblymember Juan Carrillo and Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber

NATIONAL DISABILITY CAREGIVERS CONFERENCE
Sharing Knowledge. Empowering Futures. Supporting Families.

DAY 1: Tuesday, October 6, 2026
DAY 2: Wednesday, October 7, 2026
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (PST)
Noon to 4:00 p.m. (EST)
FREE on Zoom

Presented by: The Arc, CARING ACROSS AMERICA

REGISTER

[CaringFutures.org](https://www.CaringFutures.org)

Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo

Senior Resource Fair
Friday, October 16
9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

PILAR SCHIAVO

SANTA CLARITA SENIOR CENTER
27400 Golden Valley Rd
Santa Clarita, CA 91351
RSVP encouraged

Juan Carrillo
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 44

1ST ANNUAL VETERANS PARADE HONORING OUR HEROES
GRAND MARSHALL: MAYRA DUARTE
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2026

PARADE LINE UP: 8 A.M.
PARADE START TIME: 10 A.M. - NOON
PARADE START ROUTE: EAST AVE & SAND HILLCREST DR. (CITY OF PALMDALE)
PARADE END ROUTE: DOMINIC MALLARD PARK
37716 55TH STREET EAST, PALMDALE, CA 93552

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
Assemblymember Juan Carrillo's District Office
1-800-264-9108 OR VISIT WWW.AVVETERANSRAMP.COM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

WWW.AVVETERANSRAMP.COM

After DARK
VICA NETWORKING MIXER

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

VICA's After Dark is an exclusive evening networking series that brings together business leaders, elected officials, and community influencers for engaging conversations on the issues shaping the San Fernando Valley and greater Los Angeles region. Each event provides attendees with the opportunity to connect, exchange ideas, and hear firsthand from influential leaders in an intimate setting.

featuring
Adrin Nazarian
Los Angeles City Councilmember

Free to VICA Members

State Calendar



Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before September 1



Bills enacted on or before this date take effect January 1, 2027



General election



Adjournment sine at midnight



Visit Legislative Deadlines Page



Advocacy Tools

ARCA'S Voter Voice Campaign



ACTION CENTER

Enter Your Info

Your Information

First Name * Last Name *

Email *

☐ Yes, sign me up to receive text alerts

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

Mobile Number

Pick all that apply.

I am *

If you selected other above, please specify.

Other

Home Information

Street Address *

ZIP Code * Enter Zip for City and State

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Your Title Company

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The ARC of California

1. Contact Your Legislator

Decisions are being made right now that will impact dental care access for minute to tell your representative why protecting our oral health matters.

SEND EMAIL >

2. Share Your Story

understand the ramifications of cutting Medi-Cal Dental. The stories we collect

SHARE YOUR STORY >

3. Printable Flyer

I print our flyer to display, so more people can join our campaign. Each flyer in directly to legislators.

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.arcanet.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.disabilityrightscalifornia.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.

North Los Angeles County Regional Center

LEGISLATIVE TOWN HALL



A Place to Live, Support to Thrive

A Community Conversation on Medi-Cal, IHSS, and Housing

Join us to talk about the services and policies that help people with developmental disabilities live and thrive in their communities.

November 17th, 2026

6:00pm - 7:30pm

Location: Virtual (via Zoom)

Register: <https://bit.ly/4qGwgZU>

Spanish interpretation will be available



BENEFITS OF ATTENDING:



Legislators

Hear directly from individuals and families.



Community Members

Share your experiences and ask questions.



Service Providers

Discuss ways to strengthen services and supports.

Questions? Contact Belinda Abatesi at babatesi@nlacrc.org



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

1. NLACRC Spotlight:

A. Cultural Engagement Recognition

- i. Javier Zepeda, NLACRC's LGBTQ+ Specialist, was invited to present at the ARCA Cultural Specialist Meeting in August.
- ii. Shared NLACRC's work and his experience engaging and supporting diverse communities with Cultural Specialists from regional centers statewide.
 - a. NLACRC received recognition for its efforts to meaningfully engage its diverse community.

B. Self-Determination Program (SDP) Manual

- i. Finalized new SDP Manual for individuals served and their families to provide clearer, more accessible guidance on the Self-Determination Program.
- ii. Spanish translation is currently underway.
- iii. The manual will be released to the community following completion of the translation process.

C. LANES Medical Information Exchange

- i. NLACRC is joining the LANES medical information exchange to improve timely access to medical records when appropriate consent has been provided by individuals served or their families.
- ii. The exchange will allow NLACRC to receive authorized medical information directly rather than waiting weeks for records from hospital medical records departments.
- iii. Faster access to medical information will support Intake and Early Start eligibility determinations, nursing level-of-care assessments, and other clinical decision-making.

D. Adult and Transition Caseloads

- i. Adult and Transition units have achieved average caseloads in the mid-60s in the Santa Clarita office, reflecting continued progress in reducing caseload ratios.
 - a. In comparison, Adult and Transition units in the Antelope and San Fernando Valley offices have caseloads in the mid-70s, with the exception of Transition caseloads in San Fernando Valley, which are in the 80s.

2. Legislative Updates:

A. Senate Bill 163

- i. Boards must establish an advisory group of individuals with lived experience with developmental disabilities. The advisory group must select two of its members and one family member/legal guardian to serve on the Board for renewable terms of up to two years.
 - a. At least one designee must serve as a voting member of the Board's recruitment/nominating committee.
 - b. ARCA leadership has raised concerns that the structure may:
 - 1. Create a separate pathway for individuals served despite the existing 25% board representation requirement.
 - 2. Give Boards undue influence over consumer representation because Boards appoint CAC members.
 - 3. Imply that individuals served require family/guardian representation, which could be viewed as paternalistic or demeaning.

3. Center Updates:

A. Recruitment

- i. Total # of positions filled: 985
 - a. Total # of positions authorized: 1070
- ii. September 2026 New Hires
 - a. 1st Cycle (9/8/2026): 8 unconfirmed
 - b. 2nd Cycle (9/21/2026): 1 unconfirmed

B. Client Served Statistics:

- i. Total served: 43,371
 - a. Early Start: 5,101
 - b. Lanterman: 35,511
- ii. Breakdown of all three valleys:
 - a. AV (Early Start & Lanterman): 10,445
 - b. SCV (Early Start & Lanterman): 4,789
 - c. SFV (Early Start & Lanterman): 25,378
- iii. Intake all three valleys: 870 & Early Start Intake: 472
- iv. All other categories not captured in Early Start, Lanterman, and Intake, such as Provisional, Enhanced, Specialized, and other which would total: 1,417

C. Compliance Activities

- i. Residential Quality Assurance Visits
 - a. QA conducted 132 residential visits during the reporting period.
 - b. Of these visits, 36 were unannounced, in-person visits.
- ii. Corrective Action Plans
 - a. 3 Corrective Action Plans were developed with residential providers, as detailed below.
- iii. Plans of Improvement
 - a. 0 Plans of Improvement were issued to non-licensed residential providers during the reporting period.

4. Outreach & Community Engagement Highlights

A. Event: Annual Filipino Support Group Picnic – Lake Balboa Park

- i. On July 25, 2026, NLACRC's Filipino Support Group, facilitated by NLACRC in partnership with the Family Focus Resource Center (FFRC), hosted its annual picnic at Lake Balboa Park.
- ii. Filipino families across NLACRC's catchment area participated in a cultural potluck while learning about NLACRC and FFRC resources and services.
- iii. The event welcomed approximately 66 attendees, providing families with an opportunity to connect, celebrate their culture, and build community.

B. Event: Palmdale Aerospace Academy Resource Fair – Palmdale

- i. On August 20, 2026, the DEIB Outreach Team hosted a resource table at the Palmdale Aerospace Academy Charter School Fall Resource Fair.
- ii. Staff shared information about NLACRC resources and services with students and families and distributed DEIB coloring books.
- iii. Approximately 67 community members visited the NLACRC resource table during the event.

C. Event: Vietnamese Lotus Village – Chatsworth

- i. On August 21, 2026, the DEIB Outreach Team hosted Vietnamese Lotus Village, a gathering designed to provide Vietnamese families supported by NLACRC with a space to connect, celebrate their culture, and learn about available supports and generic resources.
- ii. The event was developed in response to feedback from previous Vietnamese family focus groups identifying a need for more opportunities to connect with other families and build community.
- iii. A total of 12 families attended, participating in a Vietnamese potluck, connecting with other families, and learning about NLACRC resources.

5. Upcoming Disability Organization Events/Activities:

- A.** State Council on Developmental Disabilities next council meeting – September 29, 2026
- B.** Disability Rights California's next board meeting – September 19, 2026
- C.** Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee meeting – September 17, 2026

Committee Attendance

FY 2026-2027	Jul-26	Aug-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Total
Vendor Advisory Committee	Dark	Special meeting			Dark		Dark						Dark	Absences
Tal Segalovtich, Chair		P	P											0
Jaklen Keshishyan, Alt. Chair		P	P											0
Jodie Agnew Navarro		P	P											0
Masood Babaeian		Ab	P											0
Paul Borda		Ab	Ab											1
Andrea Devers		P	P											0
Jason Gillis		P	P											0
Ricki Macken Chilvers		P	P											0
Vahe Mkrtchian		P	P											0
Desiree Misrahi		P	P											0
Lea Munoz		P	P											0
Jen Pippard		P	P											0
Octavia Watkins		Ab	P											0
Sharon Weinberg		P	P											0
Alona Yorkshire		P	P											0

Meeting Time 0.25 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)