North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Main 818-778-1900 • Fax 818-756-6140 | 9200 Oakdale Avenue #100, Chatsworth, CA 91311 | www.nlacrc.org

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 18, 2026

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

From: Lindsay Granger
Executive Administrative Assistant

Re: Information and materials for Consumer Services Committee meeting on **Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (via Zoom)**

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

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

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

To join the Zoom Meeting:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86261818892

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

Webinar ID: 862 6181 8892

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- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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

Thank you!

Enclosures

c: Angela Pao-Johnson, Evelyn McOmie, Donna Rentsch, Silvia Renteria-Haro, Dana Lawrence, Dr. Carlo DeAntonio, Sarah Yap, Chris Whitlock, John Van de Riet, Belinda Abatesi – Staff

Community Relations Committee

November 18, 2026

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

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
5:00 pm
~AGENDA ~

I. Call to Order and Introductions *(1 min)*

II. Committee Member Attendance/Quorum *(1 min)*

III. Agenda *(1 min)*
A. Approval of Agenda

IV. Public Input – Agenda Items *(3 min per person / 3 attendees max)*

V. Consent Items *(2 min)*
All Consent Items are to be approved in one motion unless a Committee Member or a member of the public requests separate action or discussion on a specific item.

A. Approval of the Minutes from the Community Relations August 19, 2026, Committee Meeting

VI. Action Items

VII. Committee Business
A. 2027 Jynny Retzinger Community Service Award – Chris Whitlock *(3 min)*
B. Discuss Spring Legislative Events – Belinda Abatesi *(3 min)*
C. Discuss Legislative Outreach – Jeremy Sunderland *(5 min)*

VIII. Report Outs –
A. Legislative Update – Belinda Abatesi *(2 min)*
B. Social Media Update – John Van De Riet *(2 min)*
C. 1st Quarter Disparity Committee Report Out (July 2026-Sept 2026) – Sarah Yap *(2 min)*
D. Semi-annual Consumer Diagnostic Report (Jan. 2026-June 2026) – Evelyn McOmie *(2 min)*
E. 1st Quarter Intake Data by Location Report (July 2026-Sept 2026) – Evelyn McOmie *(2 min)*
F. Deputy Director Report Out – Evelyn McOmie *(10 min)*

IX. Board Meeting Agenda items *(1 min)*

X. Announcements / Public Input *(3 min per person)* **/Information Items**
A. Next meeting: January 20, 2027
B. Committee Attendance *(1 min)*

XI. Review of Committee Action Items *(2 min)*

XII. Adjournment

Please refer to NLACRC's website for the Calendar of Events, which includes a link for the Family Focus Resource Center, for information regarding more support groups, training opportunities, dates, times, and links – www.nlacrc.org



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2026

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

Executive Director Angela Pao-Johnson, Deputy Director Evelyn McOmie, Executive Administrative Assistant Lindsay Granger, Silvia Renteria-Haro, Chris Whitlock, Belinda Abatesi, Sarah Yap, Dana Lawrence – Staff Members

Guests: Puja Trivedi – Board Member, Maria Gonzalez

Absent: Jason Taketa, Lety Garcia

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Community Relations Committee Chair Jeremy Sunderland called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m., welcomed attendees, and read NLACRC's Mission and Vision Statements. Attendance and quorum were confirmed.

2. COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE

3. AGENDA

Absent objection the agenda for the August 19, 2026 Community Relations Committee was approved as presented. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC INPUT – AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public input regarding the agenda.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approval of Minutes of the May 20, 2026, Community Relations Committee Meeting

Absent objection the minutes of the May 20, 2026, Community Relations Committee were approved as presented. Motion carried.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Elect Committee Chair for FY 2026-27

Jeremy Sunderland opened the election for Committee Chair for FY 2026–2027 and invited members interested in serving as Chair to express their interest. Jeremy Sunderland indicated a willingness to continue serving and encouraged other members to consider the position. No additional nominations or expressions of interest were received. Jeremy Sunderland also advised that members could privately

communicate their interest to Board Support if preferred. Lindsay Granger confirmed that ballots had been distributed in advance and explained that a motion, second, and vote would be sufficient to re-elect the current Chair if there were no other candidates. Jennifer Koster made a motion to re-elect Jeremy Sunderland as Committee Chair, seconded by Sharon Weinberg. No further discussion or objections were raised, and the motion passed without opposition. Jeremy Sunderland was re-elected Committee Chair for FY 2026–2027.

M/S/C (Jennifer Koster/Sharon Weinberg) On a motion made by Jennifer Koster, seconded by Sharon Weinberg, it was resolved to re-elect Jeremy Sunderland as Committee Chair for FY 2026-2027. Motion carried.

6.2 Discuss Committee Name (AB 1575) for Board Recommendation

Evelyn McOmie provided an update on AB 1575 in response to the Committee's previous discussion regarding its name and the terminology used to identify individuals receiving regional center services. Evelyn McOmie explained that the proposed legislation, which was in its third reading, would replace the term "consumer" with "person eligible for regional center services" throughout the Lanterman Act and remove gender-specific language. Evelyn McOmie clarified that the proposed terminology would apply to the law and that regional centers would likely retain flexibility in the terminology used in Individual Program Plans (IPPs), reports, and other documentation. Evelyn McOmie also acknowledged that the proposed six-word designation would be lengthy if incorporated into the Committee's name.

Jeremy Sunderland opened the discussion regarding whether the term "consumer" should remain in use and whether individuals served considered it offensive. Sharon Weinberg questioned how the proposed legislative terminology would affect regional center documentation and expressed concern about its length. Sharon Weinberg suggested that "individual served" was a respectful alternative but emphasized the importance of hearing directly from individuals receiving services. Juan Hernandez explained that while the term "consumer" was not personally offensive, some individuals might view it negatively because it suggests that their role is limited to consuming services. Juan Hernandez acknowledged that the term was commonly used within the regional center system but recognized that others might find it derogatory. Jeremy Sunderland agreed that the Committee should be mindful of potentially offensive terminology while questioning whether there was sufficient concern among individuals served to warrant changing the term. Cathy Blin expressed similar concerns and suggested alternatives such as "member" or "participant," noting that other organizations use these terms to identify individuals receiving services.

Juan Hernandez questioned whether the proposed legislative change resulted from complaints about the term "consumer" or reflected a broader effort to update terminology. Evelyn McOmie explained that concerns raised about the term may have contributed to the proposed legislative change. Evelyn McOmie further clarified that the Committee's current name, Community Relations Committee, resulted from the merger of the former Consumer Services and Government and Community Relations committees. During the merger, the term "consumer" was not included in the new name, prompting subsequent discussion about whether the Committee's title should more clearly identify the individuals it represents.

Jeremy Sunderland proposed renaming the Committee the Community and Government Relations Committee, explaining that "community" was broad enough to encompass individuals served, families, and other stakeholders without requiring a specific designation for individuals receiving services. Adding "government" would also more accurately reflect the Committee's government relations responsibilities. Evelyn McOmie confirmed that the proposed name would distinguish the Committee from its current title while recognizing both areas of responsibility. Sharon Weinberg supported the proposal, noting that "community" appropriately represented individuals served while "government" identified the Committee's additional focus. Cathy Blin and Laura Monge also expressed support, agreeing that the proposed name was clear, inclusive, and representative of the Committee's responsibilities.

Following the discussion, the Committee agreed to forward the proposed name change to the Board of Trustees for consideration and approval.

DRAFT

M/S/C (Cathy Blin/Jennifer Koster) On a motion made by Cathy Blin, seconded by Jennifer Koster, it was resolved to recommend that the Board of Trustees approve renaming the Community Relations Committee to the Community and Government Relations Committee. Motion carried.

ACTION: This item will be added to the September Board of Trustees meeting agenda.

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

7.1 Orientation

A. Bylaws
B. Committee Priorities
C. Meeting Schedule

Evelyn McOmie conducted the annual Community Relations Committee orientation, reviewing the Committee's composition, responsibilities, priorities, and meeting schedule for FY 2026–2027. Evelyn McOmie explained that the orientation is conducted at the first meeting of each fiscal year to familiarize new and returning members with the Committee's responsibilities and governing bylaws. The orientation materials were included in the meeting packet for members to reference.

Evelyn McOmie reviewed the Committee's composition requirements, including the annual election of a Committee Chair, one-year membership terms, and the requirement to maintain a quorum to conduct business. Evelyn McOmie explained that the Board's ARCA Delegate, currently Jeremy Sunderland, is expected to attend each Committee meeting but is not required to be a Committee member. Evelyn McOmie also acknowledged that the Committee had completed its annual Chair election earlier in the meeting.

Evelyn McOmie outlined the Committee's responsibilities, including reviewing pending legislation affecting individuals with developmental disabilities and coordinating communication with legislative representatives within NLACRC's catchment area. Additional responsibilities include informing and educating the diverse communities served by NLACRC about the organization's purpose, policies, and operational procedures; coordinating public forums; and reviewing and recommending standards and policies that address the needs of individuals served. These responsibilities encompass individual rights, case management, intake, assessment, community development, and services provided by outside agencies. Evelyn McOmie emphasized that discussions involving specific individuals served, individual vendors, special incident investigations involving vendors, or other confidential regional center matters fall outside the Committee's responsibilities and should not be discussed during Committee meetings. Evelyn McOmie invited questions regarding the bylaws; no questions were raised.

Evelyn McOmie then presented the Committee's FY 2025–2026 priorities and asked members to review whether the existing priorities should be retained, revised, reprioritized, or expanded for FY 2026–2027. Members were given an opportunity to review the priorities and request additional time or clarification. Jeremy Sunderland expressed support for retaining the existing priorities, explaining that they had been developed by the Committee during the previous fiscal year and remained relevant to its responsibilities. Jeremy Sunderland asked whether members were satisfied with the priorities or needed additional time to review them. Curtis Wang indicated support for the existing priorities. Cathy Blin agreed that the priorities remained active and recommended retaining them without changes. Nicholas Abrahms and Laura Monge also expressed agreement. No revisions or additional priorities were proposed. Evelyn McOmie clarified that the Committee would need to vote to formally retain the priorities for the new fiscal year. Jeremy Sunderland called for a voice vote, and the Committee approved carrying forward the FY 2025–2026 priorities into FY 2026–2027 without changes. No opposition or abstentions were recorded.

Evelyn McOmie concluded the orientation by presenting the proposed FY 2026–2027 Committee meeting schedule and planned activities. Members were given an opportunity to review the schedule before voting on its approval. Jeremy Sunderland asked whether the proposed dates had been reviewed for potential

holiday conflicts. No specific conflicts or requested changes were identified during the discussion. Jeremy Sunderland then called for a voice vote, and the Committee approved the FY 2026–2027 meeting schedule as presented. No opposition or abstentions were recorded.

Committee Decisions:

- **FY 2026-2027 Committee Priorities:** The Committee approved retaining the FY 2025–2026 priorities for FY 2026–2027 without changes.
- **FY 2026-2027 Meeting Schedule:** The Committee approved the proposed meeting schedule and planned activities as presented.

Both decisions were approved by voice vote without formal motions or seconds.

7.2 Update on Legislative Town Hall

Chris Whitlock provided an update on NLACRC's upcoming Legislative Town Hall, scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The virtual event will focus on Medi-Cal, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), and housing. Registration will open September 1, with information distributed to the community through email and social media. The registration form will include an opportunity for participants to submit questions in advance for legislators and other panelists to address during the event.

Laura Monge asked which Assemblymembers or legislative representatives would be participating in the Town Hall. Chris Whitlock explained that invitations had been distributed and Belinda was coordinating participation. Once the participating legislators are confirmed, their names will be included in the event information shared with the public. Jeremy Sunderland also noted that the Town Hall is scheduled for the day before the Committee's next meeting.

8. REPORT OUTS

8.1 Semi-annual 4731 Report

Dana Lawrence presented a summary of the Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4731 complaint reports submitted to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for the previous six-month reporting period. A total of 299 allegations were investigated, resulting in 68 substantiated violations of individual rights. Of those, 22 violations were identified during investigations but had not been included in the original complaints.

Dana Lawrence reviewed the most frequently identified violations, including 18 related to service coordination, 17 involving failure to issue timely Notices of Action, and 10 vendor-related violations, which represented an increase from the previous reporting period. Additional findings included seven violations involving Individual Program Plans (IPPs) not being developed within statutory timelines, five involving IPP meetings not being held within required timeframes, and four involving failure to provide IPP agreement signature pages at the conclusion of meetings. Other less frequent violations involved notification of changes in Consumer Services Coordinators (CSCs), the right to dignity, failure to reconvene IPP meetings, failure to honor communication preferences, delays in providing records, transfer issues, and failure to meet the statutory deadline for responding to a Section 4731 complaint.

Laura Monge asked whether the reported violations were categorized by NLACRC office or represented all three offices collectively. Dana Lawrence clarified that the reports included data from all three offices and that DDS does not currently require reporting by individual office. Laura Monge then asked whether office-specific tracking could be implemented. Dana Lawrence explained that NLACRC is working to expand its data collection capabilities but that system development is still underway. Dana Lawrence also advised that significant changes to the Section 4731 complaint process are expected to begin in February,

which may affect the data collected by NLACRC and DDS. Additional information regarding future reporting capabilities will be provided as the new process is implemented.

Jeremy Sunderland thanked Dana Lawrence for the report and requested that any significant or unusual trends be brought to the Committee's attention. No additional questions were raised.

8.2 Legislative Update

Belinda Abatesi provided legislative and budget updates, reporting that California's final state budget totaled $351.7 billion, with no significant reductions to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) or regional center services. Proposed reductions to In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) were also rejected. Belinda Abatesi noted that a new Medi-Cal asset limit is scheduled to take effect July 1, 2027, and will continue to be monitored. The budget also included SB 163, the Developmental Services Budget Trailer Bill, which contains policy changes affecting Early Start, regional center governing boards, letters of intent, grievance procedures, rate reform, and employment. Additional information and legislative resources were provided in the presentation materials.

Belinda Abatesi reviewed the upcoming November 3, 2026, California General Election, highlighting Senate Districts 20 and 24 and Assembly Districts 34, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, and 46 within NLACRC's catchment area. Members were encouraged to familiarize themselves with the candidates and review the voting dates and resources provided. Belinda Abatesi also announced a partnership with OCRA to provide voter training on September 3 at 5:00 p.m. during the CAC meeting. The training will be promoted to the community, and registration information will be shared with interested participants.

Belinda Abatesi provided an update on the legislative bill tracker, noting that several bills remained active during the legislative session. AB 2324, the Youth Caregivers Career Pathway Program, was highlighted as having been chaptered into law. The legislation supports the development of career pathways into the direct support profession. Members were directed to the ARCA Legislative Bill Tracker for additional information on pending legislation.

Belinda Abatesi also reviewed upcoming legislative events, meetings, and key dates on the state legislative calendar. Members were encouraged to participate in opportunities to engage with elected representatives and to contact Belinda Abatesi or Lindsay Granger for assistance with attending events. Additional advocacy tools and resources were provided to help members stay informed about state and federal legislative developments and participate in advocacy efforts.

Jeremy Sunderland invited questions from the Committee. No questions were raised, and Jeremy Sunderland thanked Belinda Abatesi for the report and continued work.

8.3 Social Media Update

John Van De Riet presented NLACRC's social media performance report for May through July 2026, highlighting growth in followers, engagement, and views across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Facebook followers increased from 8,361 in May to 8,424 in July, while monthly views rose from 9,314 to 13,828. Facebook activity included 20 posts and 380 interactions in May, 36 posts and 523 interactions in June, and 30 posts and 457 interactions in July.

Instagram also experienced growth, with followers increasing from 2,244 in May to 2,360 in July. Monthly views increased from 10,097 in May to 11,158 in June and 19,404 in July. Instagram interactions totaled 312 in May, 226 in June, and 520 in July. Jeremy Sunderland asked what contributed to the significant increase in July engagement. John Van De Riet explained that a video featuring Executive Director Angela Pao-Johnson and NLACRC staff recognizing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) received more than 8,000 views on Instagram and approximately 2,000 views on Facebook, making it NLACRC's highest-performing Instagram video to date. John Van De Riet indicated that the team is developing additional engaging video content to build on this success. Cathy Blin acknowledged the improvement

and referenced the Committee's previous discussion about increasing engagement through video content.

Jeremy Sunderland asked whether the historical video Working for Justice, featured on the Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center website, could also be posted on NLACRC's website. Jeremy Sunderland suggested that making the video available would help educate visitors about the history of regional centers while encouraging additional website traffic. John Van De Riet confirmed that the video is currently featured on NLACRC's YouTube channel but stated that ownership and permissions would need to be verified before adding it to the website. John Van De Riet agreed to research the video's ownership and availability of its original materials.

Sharon Weinberg asked whether the success stories presented during Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) meetings were also being used in NLACRC's social media outreach. John Van De Riet confirmed that additional success story videos were in development, including recent filming with TASK and Creative Minds. Jeremy Sunderland added that success stories are also presented at the beginning of Board meetings. Members discussed a recent success story involving a book that had been presented at both VAC and Board meetings and expressed support for continuing to share these stories.

Juan Hernandez asked whether consideration had been given to updating the Working for Justice video to better reflect current regional center services. Jeremy Sunderland acknowledged that the video was outdated but emphasized its historical significance in documenting the origins of the regional center system and the individuals who helped establish it. Jeremy Sunderland suggested that rather than altering the original video, it might be beneficial to provide updated context or introductory information explaining how regional center services have evolved. Jeremy Sunderland also noted that ownership rights and access to the original footage would need to be considered. John Van De Riet agreed to investigate the ownership and available source materials to determine what options might be possible.

Laura Monge asked about the frequency of Spanish-language posts, noting that the separate Spanish Instagram page appeared to have no recent updates. John Van De Riet explained that NLACRC had begun phasing out separate Spanish-language social media accounts in favor of maintaining centralized Facebook and Instagram pages featuring bilingual content. Posts now include English and Spanish flyers when available, with captions provided in both languages. Juan Hernandez asked whether the community had been notified of the change. John Van De Riet confirmed that notifications had been distributed through email and social media.

John Van De Riet also reported continued growth on LinkedIn and YouTube. LinkedIn gained approximately 71 followers between May and July, while YouTube subscribers increased from 249 to 262, representing 13 new subscribers during the reporting period.

Laura Monge asked whether NLACRC was using Instagram Reels in addition to traditional posts, noting that Reels may generate greater engagement. John Van De Riet confirmed that the team is increasing its use of Reels and Stories, including the successful ADA video and shorter clips from NLACRC podcasts. John Van De Riet agreed that short-form video content offers opportunities to increase audience engagement and reach.

Jeremy Sunderland thanked John Van De Riet for the report and acknowledged the positive growth in NLACRC's social media presence.

8.4 4th Quarter Disparity Committee Report Out

August 13. During the reporting period, the Committee welcomed several new community-based organizations, including Disability Voices United, Integrated Resources Institute, and the Korean American Special Education Center, which recently received Service Access and Equity grants from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Sarah Yap reported that 10 grant-funded organizations

will be working with NLACRC and will provide presentations at future Disparity Committee meetings to share information about their projects and efforts to improve service access within NLACRC's community. Sarah Yap also highlighted presentations from Santa Clarita Valley Mental Health Hookup regarding available mental health supports in the Santa Clarita Valley and Friends of the Children Los Angeles regarding its youth mentorship program, which serves children involved in the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) system and is expanding into the Antelope Valley.

Sarah Yap announced that the Disparity Committee voted to change its meeting frequency from monthly to every other month, with meetings beginning at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Jennifer Koster asked for confirmation of the next meeting date and whether a calendar invitation would be provided. Sarah Yap confirmed the October 8 meeting and agreed to coordinate with administrative staff to ensure Jennifer Koster receives the recurring meeting invitation. Lindsay Granger offered to provide Jennifer Koster's contact information to facilitate the request.

No additional questions were asked. Jeremy Sunderland thanked Sarah Yap for the report.

8.5 Semi-annual Expenditure Data Report (Jan. 2026-June2026)

Evelyn McOmie presented NLACRC's Semiannual Purchase of Services (POS) Expenditure Data Report, comparing fiscal years 2024–2025 and 2025–2026. The report examined expenditures and per capita spending by residential setting, ethnicity, diagnosis, and service category. Overall, expenditures increased in FY 2025–2026 across most categories, including individuals living at home, in community care facilities, independently, in intermediate care facilities, and in medical settings. Per capita expenditures also increased across residential settings. Similar increases were observed across the major ethnic groups and diagnostic categories, including autism, intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, and epilepsy. The report also included individuals receiving Early Start, intake, or provisional eligibility services who had not yet been determined eligible for Lanterman services.

Evelyn McOmie reviewed NLACRC's five highest POS expenditure categories: personal assistance, in-home respite, adult residential facilities, supported living, and community integration. Expenditures increased in all five categories except community integration, which experienced a slight decrease. Community integration spending also declined by approximately $2,000 per capita. For individuals living at home with family members, notable expenditure increases were reported in personal assistance, in-home respite, and infant development services, while adaptive skills training remained relatively stable and community integration showed a slight decrease.

Evelyn McOmie further reviewed expenditures by ethnicity for infant development, adaptive skills training, and other major service categories. Infant development expenditures generally increased across ethnic groups, with per capita spending increasing in all groups. Adaptive skills training expenditures showed smaller variations, including increases among Hispanic individuals and slight decreases in some other groups. Per capita adaptive skills training expenditures increased for most groups, with slight decreases among African American individuals and those categorized as Other. Personal assistance, in-home respite, and residential facility expenditures generally increased across ethnic groups. Community integration expenditures decreased slightly for most groups, while the Asian category showed a slight increase. Supported living expenditures also increased across most groups, with a modest decrease in the Other category. Evelyn McOmie explained that changes in supported living expenditures may reflect the needs of a small number of individuals receiving services in their own homes.

During the presentation, Jeremy Sunderland announced that he needed to leave the meeting to attend an ARCA meeting and requested that Cathy Blin continue facilitating the meeting. Jeremy Sunderland thanked the Committee members for their participation before departing.

Jennifer Koster asked whether individuals residing in medical settings are considered for placement in less restrictive community residential settings. Evelyn McOmie explained that placement decisions depend on each individual's medical needs and that individuals are transitioned into community settings when their health conditions permit. Jennifer Koster also asked about family involvement and the types of medical facilities included in the report. Evelyn McOmie confirmed that families are involved and kept informed to the extent of their participation and that medical settings include higher-level care facilities, including specialized facilities serving children with significant medical needs. Evelyn McOmie noted that approximately two such facilities are located in the San Fernando Valley. Although NLACRC does not fund the medical facilities themselves, staff continue to monitor and visit individuals residing there and coordinate additional supports as needed.

Jacquie Colton asked about the difference between Independent Living Services (ILS) and Supported Living Services (SLS). Evelyn McOmie explained that a key distinction is that SLS can provide transportation, while ILS does not. The appropriate service is determined based on an individual's support needs, mobility, and ability to use transportation independently. SLS generally supports individuals living independently in their own homes or apartments, including those living with roommates.

Jacquie Colton also requested clarification regarding the Other category in the expenditure data. Evelyn McOmie explained that the category generally includes individuals undergoing intake, receiving Early Start services, or participating under provisional eligibility who have not yet been determined eligible for Lanterman services.

Cathy Blin thanked the members for their questions and proceeded to the next agenda item.

8.6 Semi-annual Consumer Competitive Employment Report (Jan. 2026-June2026)

Evelyn McOmie presented the Semiannual Competitive Employment Report, comparing employment data for individuals served from January through June 2026. The report included changes in the number of employed individuals by residential setting, along with percentage changes for each category. The number of employed individuals living in a family or parent home decreased slightly from 1,830 to 1,828.

Additional decreases were reported among individuals residing in intermediate care facilities (ICFs), from 20 to 19; hospitals, rehabilitation centers, or treatment facilities, from two to one; and those identified as transient or homeless, from six to four. Increases were reported among individuals receiving independent or supported living services, with 11 additional employed individuals, and among those residing in out-of-home residential facilities and those categorized as Other, with increases of two individuals each.

Evelyn McOmie also reviewed data on working-age individuals who were not employed, reporting an overall increase of 376 individuals between January and June 2026. Evelyn McOmie explained that the increase could reflect several factors, including individuals leaving employment, returning to school, choosing not to continue working, or moving into NLACRC's catchment area without employment. The report showed decreases in the number of unemployed individuals residing in ICFs, those identified as transient, and those living out of state, while increases were observed in the remaining residential categories.

Evelyn McOmie further reviewed employment data by age group and ethnicity, identifying individuals ages 26 to 45 as the largest group of employed individuals served. The report also included breakdowns of individuals without employment by age group, ethnicity, and residential setting, including family homes, foster homes, independent or supported living arrangements, out-of-home residential facilities, intermediate care facilities (ICFs), hospitals, treatment centers, and correctional institutions.

No questions were raised regarding the Competitive Employment Report.

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8.7 Semi-annual Social Recreation, Camp & Non-Medical Therapies Services Report (Jan. 2026-June 2026)

Evelyn McOmie then presented the Semiannual Social Recreation, Camp, and Non-Medical Therapy Services Report for January through June 2026, reviewing monthly expenditures across fiscal years 2023–2024, 2024–2025, and 2025–2026. Evelyn McOmie explained that the report includes three consecutive fiscal years because service providers may submit claims for services rendered up to three years earlier. Presenting multiple fiscal years allows the Committee to track expenditures more accurately as additional claims are processed.

Evelyn McOmie highlighted the continued utilization of social recreation services, reporting approximately $3.17 million in expenditures for FY 2023–2024 and $10.51 million for FY 2025–2026, with a substantial increase also reported for FY 2024–2025. Evelyn McOmie explained that the report tracks monthly expenditures and payments, reflecting actual dollars paid rather than approved Purchase of Services (POS) authorizations. The expenditure trends demonstrated that social recreation services continue to be widely utilized and in demand throughout NLACRC's community.

Cathy Blin asked whether the reports had been included in the meeting materials. Lindsay Granger confirmed that the reports had been added as attachments to the calendar invitation and offered to distribute them by email or through the meeting chat. At Cathy Blin's request, Lindsay Granger agreed to share the reports in the chat. Cathy Blin acknowledged the high utilization of social recreation services. No additional questions were raised.

8.8 Semi-annual Consumer Diagnostic Report (Jan. 2026-Jne 2026)

Evelyn McOmie advised that the Semiannual Diagnostic Report would be deferred due to discrepancies identified in the reported figures. The report will be reviewed and presented at the November Committee meeting once the data has been corrected and verified.

8.9 4th Quarter Intake Data by Location Report (April 2026-June 2026)

Evelyn McOmie then presented the Intake Data by Location Report for April through June 2026, which tracked the number of intakes and the time required to complete the intake process. The report monitored cases exceeding the 120-day processing timeframe, with data presented separately for the combined San Fernando Valley and Santa Clarita Valley offices and the Antelope Valley office. Evelyn McOmie reported that no intakes exceeded the 120-day timeframe during the reporting period.

Cathy Blin acknowledged the positive results and timely processing of intakes. No questions were raised, and the Committee concluded its scheduled reports.

9. BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEMS/ACTION ITEMS

Cathy Blin asked whether there were any items requiring referral to the next Board of Trustees meeting. Lindsay Granger reported that there were no items requiring Board action and noted that pending matters discussed during the meeting would instead be brought back to the Community Relations Committee at its August meeting.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS / PUBLIC INPUT / INFORMATION ITEMS

Laura Monge and Cathy Blin commended Evelyn McOmie on the organization, color coding, and readability of the reports, noting that the visual presentation made the data easier to understand.

Following the reports, Cathy Blin asked whether any items needed to be brought forward to the next Board meeting. Lindsay Granger confirmed that the Committee's recommendation to change its name would be the only item requiring Board consideration. Cathy Blin then proceeded to announcements and additional public input.

DRAFT

Evelyn McOmie announced NLACRC's upcoming 2026 Family Expos, which will feature a disco theme, "Let's Boogie," and are supported by state funding through Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Awareness. The San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valley Family Expo will take place on Saturday, September 12, 2026, with a resource fair from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and a dance for individuals served from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The resource fair will feature vendors and informational tables highlighting regional center services and community resources. Evelyn McOmie also announced the Antelope Valley Family Expo, scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2026, at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, with a resource fair from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and a dance that afternoon.

Jacquie Colton shared positive feedback from attending the previous year's Family Expo, commending the organization and activities and encouraging others to attend. Cathy Blin also praised the events. Evelyn McOmie acknowledged the contributions of NLACRC's management team, explaining that staff volunteer their time to organize and support the events. Evelyn McOmie encouraged Committee members to share the event information with their families and communities.

There were no additional announcements or public input.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Relations Committee will be on November 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Submitted by:
Lindsay Granger
Executive Administrative Assistant – Board Relations Liaison

DRAFT

November 2026

NLACRC Legislative Report

Public Charge: What Families Should Know

Federal rule effective September 18, 2026

What is it?

An immigration assessment used in some green card and visa decisions.

What changed?

Immigration officials may consider more types of means-tested public benefits, including health, food, and housing assistance.

Who may be affected?

Certain immigration applicants. U.S. citizens and many humanitarian immigration categories are exempt.

Community impact

May raise concerns for individuals using Medi-Cal-funded supports and mixed-status families. Public charge does not determine eligibility for Medi-Cal or regional center services.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Before changing or stopping benefits, seek advice from a qualified immigration legal services provider.

RESOURCES:

- CHHS: Public Charge Information
- CDSS Public Charge Contact List

Section 504 Regulations

Recent federal court agreement

What happened?

A recent federal court agreement removed community integration language from HHS's 2024 Section 504 regulations.

Why is this concerning?

Disability advocates are concerned because this language helped reinforce access to services in community-based settings.

What does this not do?

The agreement does not overturn Olmstead, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or Section 504.

What remains in place?

Existing protections against unnecessary institutionalization and the right to receive services in the most integrated setting remain in place.

LEARN MORE

Section 504 Court Agreement — What Advocates Need to Know >

Medi-Cal Policy Updates

Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service (FFS) Transition

Begins January 1, 2027

Who is affected?	Some Medi-Cal members, including certain undocumented members (e.g., children, U.S. green card holders under 5 years, and some other immigrant members).
What is changing?	Members will transition to Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service (FFS) for certain services.
What stays the same?	You are **not losing Medi-Cal**, and you **will not have to pay** for the transition.
Services that will continue.	Medi-Cal, mental health, vision, pharmacy, CBAS, and dental coverage (through June 30, 2027).
Services that will no longer be available through FFS.	Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports.

Learn More: DHCS: Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service Transition Webinar (Sept. 30, 2026) >

Medi-Cal Work Requirements: Federal Court Update

October 29, 2026 – *Massachusetts v. Oz*

A federal court removed an additional barrier for people seeking a "medically frail" exemption from Medi-Cal work requirements.

- Individuals with a qualifying disability or health condition no longer need to separately show that their condition prevents them from meeting work requirements.
- Many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are already not subject to Medi-Cal work requirements, including those who qualify for Medi-Cal based on a disability (e.g., SSI recipients).
- Work requirements still apply to people who are subject to them and do not qualify for an exemption.
- The ruling could still be appealed, and implementation rules are not yet fully settled.

Learn More: DHCS: Medical Frailty Court Decision Statement (Nov. 2, 2026) >

2026 California General Election Results

NLACRC Catchment Area

GOVERNOR

D	Xavier Becerra	Governor of California

CALIFORNIA U.S. HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES

CA-23	vs. R Jay Obernolte / D Tessa Hodge		Not Called
CA-26	D	Jacqui Irwin	Newly Elected
CA-27	D	George Whitesides	Re-elected
CA-29	D	Luz Rivas	Re-elected
CA-30	D	Laura Friedman	Re-elected
CA-32	D	Brad Sherman	Re-elected

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE

SD 20	D	Caroline Menjivar	Re-elected
SD 24	D	Brian Goldsmith	Newly Elected

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY

AD 34	vs. R Charles Hughes / D Randall Putz		Not Called
AD 39	D	Juan Carrillo	Re-elected
AD 40	D	Pilar Schiavo	Re-elected
AD 42	vs. D Deborah Klein Lopez / R Ted Nordblum		Not Called
AD 43	D	Celeste Rodriguez	Re-elected
AD 44	D	Nick Schultz	Re-elected
AD 46	D	Jesse Gabriel	Re-elected

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Mayor	Nithya Raman	Newly Elected
LA City Council, District 3	Timothy Gaspar vs. Barri Worth Girvan	Not Called

CITY OF SANTA CLARITA

District 2	Brett Haddoak vs. Denise Lite	Not Called
District 4	Laurene Weste	Re-elected
District 5	Kelvin Driscoll	Newly Elected

CITY OF PALMDALE

District 3	Laura Bettencourt	Re-elected
District 4	Eric Ohlsen	Re-elected
District 5	Cynthia Garcia vs. V. Jesse Smith	Not Called

2026 Chaptered Legislation

AB 375
(Nguyen)

Qualified Autism Service Paraprofessionals

Expands the definition of health care providers under the Medical Practice Act to include qualified autism service paraprofessionals.

Chaptered September 27, 2026
(Chapter 501)

AB 1575
(Arambula)

Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act

Updates terminology throughout the Lanterman Act, replacing "consumer" with "person eligible for regional center services" and removing gender-specific language.

Chaptered September 27, 2026
(Chapter 525)

AB 2161
(Bonta)

Medi-Cal Work and Community Engagement Requirements

Updates eligibility and verification procedures for Medi-Cal work requirements, including safeguards related to notices, conflicting information, and continued coverage during verification.

Chaptered September 14, 2026
(Chapter 209)

AB 2233
(Ta)

Behavioral Health Treatment Plans

Prohibits health plans and insurers from restricting when authorized behavioral treatment hours may be used within a six-month treatment authorization period, subject to treatment-plan requirements.

Chaptered September 27, 2026
(Chapter 591)

AB 2324
(Gonzalez)

Vocational Education: Youth Caregivers

Requires consideration of youth caregiving in career technical education standards and provides guidance on caregiving skills and work-experience credit opportunities.

Chaptered July 16, 2026
(Chapter 95)

AB 2414
(Nguyen)

Direct Support Professionals

Replaces the term "direct service professionals" with "direct support professionals" and establishes a definition for workers providing direct support through regional center-funded providers.

Chaptered September 27, 2026
(Chapter 603)

SB 163
(Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee)

Developmental Services

Makes changes to Early Start, regional center board governance, LOIS, person-centered grievances, rate reform, and employment access.

Chaptered July 13, 2026
(Chapter 80)

[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**



Pilar Schiavo

Holiday Party & Legislative Update

Thursday, December 3, 2026
5:00 PM

North Valley Family YMCA
11336 Corbin Avenue
Porter Ranch, CA 91326





Note: Click the images for additional information.

State Calendar

November 2026

NOVEMBER 03 — General election

NOVEMBER 30 — Adjournment sine at midnight

JANUARY 01 — Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

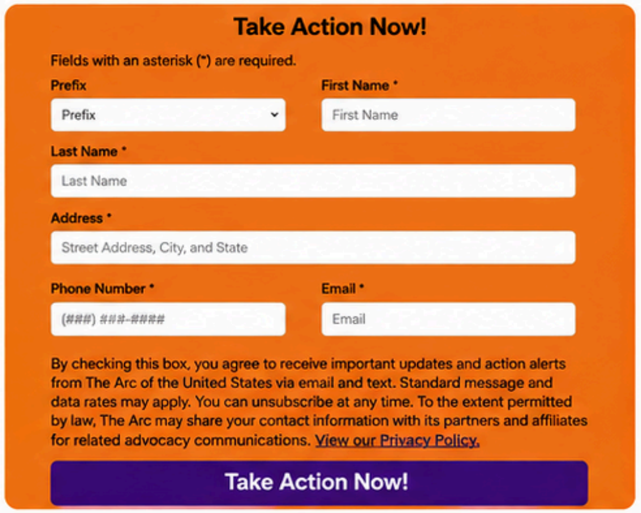
JANUARY 10 — Jan 10, 2027 – Governor must submit the budget (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).

Visit Legislative Deadlines Page

Advocacy Tools

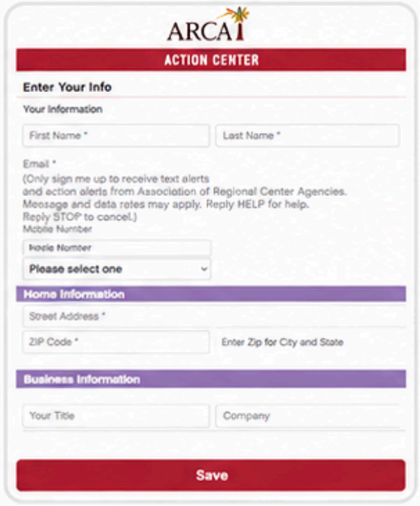
1 The Arc of the United States

Tell Congress: No One Should Go Hungry!



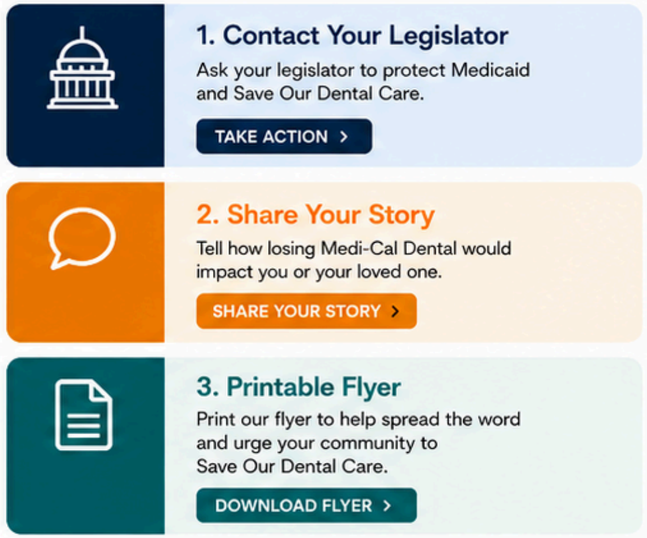
2 ARCA's Voter Voice Campaign

ARCA's Action Center



3 The ARC of California

Save Our Dental Care.



4 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

5 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.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.

SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYSIS REPORT

Period: August 2026 - October 2026

Facebook

August 2026

8,449	14	381	12,340
Total Followers	Posts (Times we've posted)	Total Interactions (likes, shares, comments)	Views (how many people saw at least one post)

September 2026

8,504	14	747	22,455
Total Followers	Posts (Times we've posted)	Total Interactions (likes, shares, comments)	Views (how many people saw at least one post)

October 2026

8,529	19	509	16,307
Total Followers	Posts (Times we've posted)	Total Interactions (likes, shares, comments)	Views (how many people saw at least one post)

SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYSIS REPORT

Period: August 2026 - October 2026

Instagram

August 2026

2,424	21	241	11,908
Total Followers	Posts (Times we've posted)	Total Interactions (likes, shares, comments)	Views (how many people saw at least one post)

September 2026

2,514	21	389	18,111
Total Followers	Posts (Times we've posted)	Total Interactions (likes, shares, comments)	Views (how many people saw at least one post)

October 2026

2,578	28	402	16,095
Total Followers	Posts (Times we've posted)	Total Interactions (likes, shares, comments)	Views (how many people saw at least one post)

SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYSIS REPORT

Period: August 2026 - October 2026

LinkedIn

August 2026	September 2026	October 2026
4,593 Total Followers	**4,667** Total Followers	**4,730** Total Followers

YouTube

August 2026	September 2026	October 2026
273 Total Followers	**280** Total Followers	**293** Total Followers

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

Name: Santos Rodriguez
Meeting: Disparity Committee
Quarter: 1st (July/August/September) 2026

1.	**Public Input:**	The first Disparity Committee meeting of the new fiscal year focused on housing support services and upcoming initiatives. Jamie from New Sunrise presented on housing navigation services available through Medi-Cal's CalAIM program, explaining eligibility criteria, referral processes, and assistance with permanent housing placement for individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability. The committee discussed plans for a learning symposium to support community-based organizations (CBOs) in understanding regional center services and addressing service access disparities in underserved communities. Several Service Access and Equity (SAE) grant recipients shared updates on their current projects, including training series on disability and LGBTQ+ identity intersectionality, Deaf Plus Connection Equity Project, and housing and participant-directed transportation education. The meeting also covered upcoming events including family expos in September and October, vendor training sessions, and the Regional Center on Wheels program.
3.	**Points of Discussion:**	The committee had a recap of the areas focused on during FY 25-26: The committee also discussed ideas around identifying a mission statement for the Disparity Committee and establishing metrics to measure progress. Members agreed at prior meetings to develop a learning symposium for community organizations. SAE Grantees attending were also encouraged to introduce themselves and share highlights about their projects. NLACRC also shared an updated flyer for the Committee to encourage more CBO participation.
4.	**Reported out to Committee/Meeting:**	NLACRC reported out dates to the upcoming Family Expos in the SFV & AV, as well as registration for NLACRC's Emergency Preparedness Trainings. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2026.

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Intake Data by Location Report 2026

4th Quarter (April -June)

Month	Intake cases (total)	Over 120 days	over 120 days	Over 142 days	over 142 days
April	**771**	**0**	**0.00%**	**0**	**0.00%**
May	**865**	**0**	**0.00%**	**0**	**0.00%**
June	**930**	**0**	**0.00%**	**0**	**0.00%**

By Office Summary										
Month	**SFV/SCV total**	**Over 120**	**% Over**	**Over 142**	**% Over**	**AV total**	**Over 120**	**% Over**	**Over 142**	**% Over**
April	527	0	0.24%	0	0.00%	224	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
May	616	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	249	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
June	629	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	301	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

NLACRC has been able to increase psychological assessment scheduling to meet the record demand. In Q3, NLA scheduled an average of 503 assessments/month. NLA has also been able to increase the number of psychologist performing assessments, with approximately 36 assessment/ psychologists as of January 2026. NLACRC

Community Relations Committee Attendance Fiscal Year 2026-2027

FY 2026-2027	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	4/1/127	5/1/127	Jun-27	Total	Total
Community Relations Committee	**Dark**		**Dark**	**Dark**		**Dark**		**Dark**		**Dark**		**Dark**	**Absences**	**Hours**
Nicholas Abrahms		P											**0**	1.50
George Alvarado		Ab											**0**	1.50
Cathy Blin		P											**0**	1.50
Sharmila Brunjes													**0**	
Jacquie Colton		P											**0**	1.50
Lety Garcia		Ab											**1**	0.00
Juan Hernandez		P											**0**	1.50
Jennifer Koster		P											**0**	1.50
Laura Monge		P											**0**	1.50
Jeremy Sunderland		P											**0**	1.50
Jason Taketa		Ab											**1**	0.00
Curtis Wang		P											**0**	1.50
Sharon Weinberg (VAC Rep)		P											**0**	1.50
Meeting Time		1.50												1.5

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)