



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: August 15, 2024

To: **Government Community Relations Committee**
Cathy Blin, Curtis Wang, Jennifer Koster, Juan Hernandez, George Alvarado,
Kelley Coleman, Laura Monge

From: Kimberly Visokey, Executive Administrative Assistant

Re: Information and Materials for the next Government Community Relations
Committee meeting on **Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 6:00p.m.**

Enclosed is information for the next Government Community Relations Committee meeting. Please review this information so you will be prepared for the discussion.

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 6:00p.m.

Please **click the link** below to join the Zoom meeting automatically.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86379550153?pwd=oJrkJqVdxfl5oapb9qmpNogm5arReC.1>

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

Meeting ID: 863 7955 0153

Passcode: 130507

Dial by your location

669 900 6833

408 638 0968

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

Thank you!

Enclosures

c: Cristina Preuss, Evelyn McOmie, Vini Montague, Chris Whitlock, Jodie Agnew-Navarro
– Vendor Advisory Committee Representative



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GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 – *Via Zoom*

6:00 p.m.

~ AGENDA ~

- I. **Call to Order & Introductions** – *Chris Whitlock*
- II. **Agenda Overview** (*Page 2*)
- III. **Public Input** – Agenda Items
- IV. **Consent Items**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the May 15, 2024, Meeting (*Page 4*)
- V. **Committee Business**
 - A. Selection of Committee Chair and Co-Chair – *Chris Whitlock*
 - B. Annual Committee Orientation – *Cristina Preuss*
 1. Committee Policies & Procedures and Bylaws (*Page 8*)
 2. Legislative Platform Guiding Principles (*Page 12*)
 3. Board Recognition Policy & application (*Page 13*)
 4. Board Audit Section (*Page 17*)
 5. Review Committee Critical Calendar (*Page 18*)
 6. FY 2024-25 Meeting Schedule (*Page 21*)
 - C. Disability Community Organization, Service Provider, and Elected Representative Visit Policy – *Cristina Preuss* (*Page 22*)
 - D. Service Provider and Elected Representative Visit policy – *Cristina Preuss* (*Page 23*)
 - E. NLACRC Board of Trustees Legislative Priorities and Platform – *Cristina Preuss* (*Page 24*)
 - F. Candidates Forum – *Chris Whitlock*
 - G. Legislative Activities – *Chris Whitlock* (*Page 25*)
- VI. **Report Outs / Discussions**
 - A. Social Media – *Chris Whitlock*
 1. Social Media Analytics Report – May, June & July 2024 (*Page 26*)
 - B. Legislative Update – *Chris Whitlock* (*Page 27*)

VII. Audit Question

Does the center have a training and information plan that meets the requirements of statute, contracts, and board policy?

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

A. Committee Actions

IX. Board Meeting Agenda Items

A. Minutes from the May 15, 2024, Meeting

B. Minutes from the August 21, 2024, Meeting (**Deferred pending Committee approval**)

X. Announcements / Information / Public Input

A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

B. Committee Attendance(*Page 34*)

XI. Adjournment



North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2024

Present: Anna Hurst, Cathy Blin, Curtis Wang, Michael Costa, Nicholas Abrahms, Sharmila Brunjes, Vivian Seda, Jennifer Koster, Juan Hernandez – Committee Members

Kimberly Visokey, Chris Whitlock, Cristina Preuss, Evelyn McOmie, Gabriela Eshrati – Staff Members

Michelle Heid- Legucator, Andrew McElhinney, Leticia Garcia – Board Member, Lori Walker- SDLAC - Guests

Absent: James Henry, Kelsi Levingston

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Curtis Wang called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

II. Public Input

No public input

III. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (C. Blin/V. Seda) To approve the agenda as presented

B. Approval of Minutes from the March 20, 2024 Meeting

M/S/C (J. Hernandez/V. Seda) To approve the Minutes as presented.

IV. Committee Business

A. Selection of Committee Chair and Co-Chair

Evelyn McOmie announced that Curtis Wang has volunteered to Chair the Committee Meeting for the evening, which requires a vote from the Committee. There were no additional volunteers.

M/S/C (J. Koster/V. Seda) To approve Curtis Wang to Chair the Committee meeting as presented.

B. Committee Vision for New FY

Evelyn shared that this discussion would be for current Members to consider and make recommendations for the vision for the Committee for the next FY. Michelle Heid noted that there are plans for Community Training, possibly in August, and a Candidate Forum in October. Michelle pointed out that the Candidate Forum will highlight 2 candidates running in a particular district in a non-biased manner rather than advocate for a specific candidate.

Cristina Preuss shared a booklet created by Michelle Heid that contains specific information about current legislators and candidates, their contact information, and the areas in which they serve/running to serve. Cristina will condense the booklet to the information pertinent to NLA and then will distribute it to Board Members.

Anna Hurst proposed that each Committee member join a regional team and attend 2 legislative events, introduce themselves and be participating members of the event. The discussion will continue and be finalized by the incoming Committee Members in the new FY.

C. Legislative Visits

This item was addressed in the previous section.

V. Report Outs/Discussions

A. Social Media Analytics Report: March and April 2024 – Chris Whitlock

Chris reviewed the information as presented in the packet for March and April Highlights include:

March (Instagram)

Total Followers: 1,120
Public Comments Received: 5
New Followers: 32
Posts: 151
Total Engagements: 1,048

April (Instagram)

Total Followers: 1,175
Public Comments Received: 8
New Followers: 58
Posts: 168
Total Engagements: 964

March (Facebook)

Total Followers: 6,968
Public Comments Received: 26
New Followers: 32
Posts: 151
Total Engagements: 1,048

April (Facebook)

Total Followers: 6,984
Public Comments Received: 17
New Followers: 16
Posts: 370
Total Engagements: 1,382

March (X, formerly Twitter)
Total Followers: 513
Impressions: 3,774

April (X, formerly Twitter)
Total Followers:513
Impressions:3,767

It was noted that the categories for the tables were missing from the report; Chris will ensure that they are included in the next report.

B. Legucator Report- Michelle Heid

Michelle reviewed the information as presented in the packet for the April Report Highlights include:

Legislative Update

The Spring Recess has come and gone, with legislators spending the last week of March in their districts and resuming the session on April 1st. This is a busy time in the legislature as bills are heard and budget negotiations are in full swing. Members of the legislature are grappling with a state budget deficit which is estimated to be from \$38-73 billion. Solutions discussed include proposed cuts such as delaying the final phase of the provider rate increase and using \$12.2 billion of the state’s “rainy day fund.” There have been some positives for our community, including the Chair of Senate Budget Subcommittee #5 (Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor and Transportation), Senator Aisha Wahab agreeing to all the cuts proposed in Budget Sub #5 to save the rate reform delay proposed in Budget Sub #3. Additionally, Assemblywoman Stephanie Nguyen (D10) sent a Budget Request Letter to the Chairs of the Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees requesting that the service provider rates not be delayed. The letter is being circulated in the Legislature, and more signatures are being added every week.

Legislature Budget Committee Hearings

The Assembly and State Senate budget subcommittees have been hard at work discussing the Governor’s January Budget and addressing the large state budget deficit.

Legislative Calendar

March 21st, 2024 – Spring Recess begins upon adjournment
April 1st, 2024 – Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess
May 15th, 2024 – Governor’s “May Revise” Budget deadline
June 15, 2024 – Deadline for Legislature to pass a budget bill

2024 GENERAL ELECTION AND CANDIDATES

Included in the report is a list of candidates running for Federal and State offices in the NLACRC catchment area in the November 5th, 2024 General Election. All seats in the House of Representatives, odd-numbered California Senate districts, and all Assembly districts are up for election. With redistricting and term limits, NLACRC will

have at least 3 new legislators at the state level. The top two vote-getters, regardless of political party, will be on the November ballot for seats in the U.S. House Congressional races and the State Senate and Assembly. Local municipalities and county races (such as LA County Supervisors) may be decided by a simple 50% + 1 vote. Primary Election Results in the packet are as of March 26th, 2024. The Secretary of State will certify election results on April 12th, 2024.

Michelle recommended that the Committee consider highlighting Districts 43 and 44, or other close races, new legislators and what part of the catchment area is being covered.

VI. Review of Meeting Action Items

- A. Send the Legislator booklet to Board Support for distribution to the Board (Cristina Preuss)
- B. Revise the Social Media Report to ensure that table categories are visible. (Chris Whitlock)

VI. Board Meeting Agenda Items

- A. Minutes from the May 15, 2024 Meeting

IX. Announcements / Information / Public Input

- A. Next Meeting: TBD
- B. Committee Attendance

X. Adjournment

Curtis Wang adjourned the meeting at 6:44 pm.

Submitted by:

Kimberly Visokey

Executive Administrative Assistant

(The majority of these minutes are taken from the Minutes Service submission and reviewed/edited as presented herein by NLACRC staff.*



North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government and Community Relations Committee

Policies & Procedures

Bylaws

The Government and Community Relations Committee (GCRC) is a standing committee of the Board of Trustees (Board) of North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC), established in Article VII, Section 7, of the Bylaws.

The chairperson is selected by the members of the GCRC. A quorum consists of 50% of the committee. The term for members of the GCRC is one (1) year.

Process

The GCRC meets on the dates and times identified in the approved board calendar or may meet more often if needed. An agenda is prepared in accordance with the committee's approved critical calendar. Also present at the committee meetings are the executive director and staff of NLACRC that may be requested to participate by the executive director. Committee members must visit at least one disability community organization, service provider program, or elected representative. Typical disability community organizations include Office of Clients Rights Advocacy, Disability Rights California and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Elected representatives include federal, state, county and local officials. Any board members or interested persons are invited to participate in committee meetings any time. The committee may also invite the participation of consumers or representatives of other agencies as appropriate.

Content

The GCRC may address issues assigned to it by the Board or brought to its attention by the committee members/guests and/or the executive director. The scope of these issues should demonstrate a significant impact on consumers, families, and/or the provider community. Thereafter, the committee will determine if any action is needed and, if so, will recommend the action to the Board.

The GCRC is responsible for reviewing public awareness related materials, such as videotapes/Digital Versatile Discs (DVDs), brochures, speaking engagements, outreach for board members reflective of community demographics of culture and ethnic origin, and media.

The GCRC shall inform and educate the diversified communities served by NLACRC as to the purposes, policies and operational procedures of the organization. The GCRC will also serve as a clearing house for all public awareness forums and materials developed by NLACRC's Board for distribution to the community.

The GCRC is responsible for the review of all legislation affecting NLACRC's business, including consumer services and/or individuals with developmental disabilities in general and, in some instances, develops a position paper for the Board's approval and action. Further activities of the GCRC may include, recommending an action to the Board that is consistent with their position, such as:

- Establishing contacts with vendors, services groups, chambers of commerce, parent groups, advocacy groups, and elected officials.
- Communicating legislative positions adopted by the Board and analyzing various legislative materials solicited from other agencies to properly inform the Board.
- Advocating with elected officials and other advocacy groups.
- Implementing and maintaining legislative actions for the Board to follow pertaining to legislative bills which may need further action.

Definitions / NLACRC's Legislative Actions

Support: NLACRC agrees with the proposed legislation in part or in total and will advocate for its passage which may include amendments.

Oppose: NLACRC does not agree with the proposed legislation in part or in total and will advocate against its passage unless it is amended.

Watch: NLACRC has not taken a position at this time, but will track the bill because of its potential significance to regional centers.

Actions: Dependent upon NLACRC's position, any or all of the following actions would be taken, including, but not limited to:

- Mailing/e-mailing information to families and consumers of NLACRC.
- Writing letters to our elected officials as determined by the Board.
- Informing the Board and any applicable committees.
- Contacting the media.
- Contacting service organizations.
- Contacting families or community leaders who could exert influence with elected officials.
- Contacting other advocacy groups.
- Making personal, phone, e-mail, or fax contact with elected officials.
- Collaborating with other groups within the developmental disabilities

arena to convey concerns and/or influence their position regarding a specific legislative bill.

[polpro.gcr] Approved April 10, 2013 Revised: April 13, 2023

Section 7. Government and Community Relations Committee.

- (a) Composition. The Government and Community Relations Committee shall select its chairperson. A quorum shall consist of 50% of the members of the Government and Community Relations Committee.
- (b) Term of Members. The term of members shall be set at one (1) year.
- (c) Duties. The duties of the Government and Community Relations Committee shall be to:
 - (1) Review any pending legislation pertinent to people with developmental disabilities and to coordinate contacts with legislators representing the catchment area or responsible for introducing, reviewing or acting upon legislation affecting the segment of the population served by this Regional Center; and
 - (2) To inform and educate the diversified communities served by the Regional Center as to the purposes, policies and operational procedures of the organization; and to serve as a clearing-house for all public awareness forums.

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee

Legislative Platform Guiding Principles

“Persons with developmental disabilities have the same legal rights and responsibilities guaranteed all other individuals by the United States Constitution and laws and the Constitution and laws of the State of California” (Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, Section 4502).

The North Los Angeles County Regional Center is committed to supporting legislation that promotes and protects the spirit and intent of the Lanterman Act. As such, the center’s Government & Community Relations Committee will apply the following guiding principles to decide its position on new legislation.

Legislation must:

- Ensure equal protection, preserve service entitlement and promote access to service systems with appropriate and sufficient resources.
- Ensure inclusion into the community, including access to housing, education, employment, transportation and all public services.
- Promote a system in which family supports are individualized, family focused, family driven and in which families’ decision making for their children is respected and fostered.
- Promote locally determined, orderly development of needed supports and services that reflects an equitable distribution of resources among services and supports for persons with developmental disabilities.
- Promote quality community-based services and supports for persons with developmental disabilities and their family members.
- Promote and enable persons with developmental disabilities and their families to exercise self-determination, empowerment and choices.
- Promote and protect the rights of persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee

Board Recognition

Policy

The purpose of this policy is to guide the board in its efforts to recognize individuals who have made a distinguishable contribution in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. The board should consider, but is not limited to, the factors listed below in determining whom to recognize. The individual's contribution should be over a sustained period of time, made within the center's catchment area, and have positively impacted the lives of many consumers. In addition, the individual must be held in high esteem by his/her peers. The board may choose to recognize individuals as follows:

- Award a plaque
- Pass a resolution
- Send a letter

The highest award is a plaque, followed by a resolution, then a letter.

Procedure

The Government & Community Relations Committee will determine those individuals that the board may consider to recognize. Board Recognition Applications will be accepted from the beginning of the board year through March 1st, and will be reviewed by the Government & Community Relations Committee at the March meeting. Applications are available on the Center's website and may be submitted electronically to Board Support at boardsupport@nlacrc.org or submitted by mail to the Center's main office and to the attention of the Executive Administrative Assistant – Board.

The committee may consider an individual's application for recognition that is submitted by a person knowledgeable about the individual's contributions. The application must be complete and be accompanied by a letter(s) of recommendation.

The committee, at its discretion, may vote to recommend to the full board that the individual be recognized for his/her contributions. The committee's recommendation will include the type of recognition as mentioned above.

Recommendations for board recognition will be provided to the board at the May meeting.

The board, by a majority vote of members present at a regularly scheduled meeting, may pass a motion for the center to recognize the individual for his/her contributions.

Individuals selected by the board will be recognized at the board's annual dinner in June.

[policy.gcr.recog] Approved October 11, 2005 Revised: June 14, 2023

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Government & Community Relations Committee

Application for Board Recognition

This application is to be completed by the individual nominating the person to be recognized by the Board of Trustees.

Part I

The information in this part pertains to the person nominated to be recognized.

Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____
E-mail Address: _____

Current Employer: _____
Number of years employed: _____
Capacity: Employee ___ or Volunteer ___
Job duties: _____

Past Employer: _____
Number of years employed: _____
Capacity: Employee ___ or Volunteer ___
Job duties: _____

Number of years working or volunteering in the service of people with developmental disabilities: _____

Part II

The information in this part must detail the accomplishments or contributions made by the person to be recognized. This information should be completed by the individual making the nomination. Two additional letters of recommendation must accompany the application and support the accomplishments/contributions made by the person to be recognized: (Attach additional comments if needed.)

Part III

This section pertains to the person making the nomination:

Name: _____
Title: _____
Agency: _____
Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____
E-mail Address: _____

Please describe your relationship to the person you are nominating. Include how many years you have known the person:

Please submit this completed application along with the letters of recommendation to:
Executive Assistant, North L.A. County Regional Center,
9200 Oakdale Avenue, Suite 100, Chatsworth, CA 91311

(This section is to be completed by the regional center.)

Part IV

Date completed application received: _____

Date completed application reviewed by the
Government & Community Relations Committee: _____

Action taken by the Government & Community Relations Committee:

- Recommend to the Board of Trustees to present the following award (select one):
Plaque ____ Resolution ____ Letter ____
- No recommendation will be forwarded to the Board: ____

Government & Community Relations Committee

I. Knowledge

- A. Lanterman Act.
- B. Applicable performance contract provisions.
- C. Development of informational programs and materials.
- D. Understand the legislative process and how bills are passed.

II. Skills

- A. Conducting productive meetings.
- B. Background or strong interest in training, writing, editing.

III. Dangers

- A. Providing information to consumers which is relevant but not in an understandable form.
- B. Creating new informational materials instead of using suitable existing documents.
- C. Spending too much money for “slick” informational pieces when less costly publications would be sufficient and allow more frequent dissemination of information.
- D. Not considering staff time and resources in information dissemination plans.

IV. Government & Community Relations Committee Questions

- A. Does the center have a training and information plan that meets the requirements of statute, contracts, and Board policy?
- B. Are sufficient financial and human resources available to carry out the training and information plan?
- C. Does the training and information plan include a sufficient variety of training and communication methods to reach all of our constituents?
- D. Are the methods identified in the center’s training and information plan in line with the center’s mission, vision, and values statement?
- E. Is there a plan to familiarize local legislators with the regional center system and to maintain contact with these legislators?

NLACRC
Government & Community Relations Committee
CRITICAL CALENDAR
FY 2024-25

<i>Month</i>	<i>Activity</i>
July	<i>(The committee does not meet in July)</i>
August	<p>Committee elects a committee chair for the fiscal year.</p> <p>The annual orientation is held for the committee. Committee reviews their policies and procedures, Legislative Platform Guiding Principles, Board Recognition Policy & application, Consultant Contracts, Action Log for previous year, and Board Audit section. Committee revises the documents, if needed.</p> <p><u>The committee reviews the board’s Disability Community Organization, Service Provider, and Elected Representative Visit Policy and related Framework for Strategy Implementation and begin discussing what the board’s legislative priorities should be for the fiscal year.</u></p> <p>Committee is provided with copies of their approved critical calendar for the new fiscal year.</p> <p>Committee begins discussion about what the Board’s legislative priorities and platform should be for the new fiscal year and presents them to the Board for their review and input.</p> <p>Committee begins developing a strategy that encompasses the purpose and intent of the board’s Service Provider and Elected Representative Visit policy for implementation during fiscal year.</p> <p>Committee finalizes its proposed legislative priorities and platform for the board and presents them to the Board of Trustees for approval.</p> <p>Committee begins planning for a candidates’ forum to be held in the fall.</p> <p>Board Audit: Does the center have a training and information plan that meets the requirements of statute, contracts, and board policy?</p>
September	<i>(The committee does not meet in September)</i>

Approved 6/12/2024

NLACRC
Government & Community Relations Committee
CRITICAL CALENDAR
FY 2024-25

<i>Month</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<i>October</i>	<p>Committee discusses how to keep legislators informed about pending issues.</p> <p>Committee begins considering the ideas for a legislative event to be held in the spring.</p> <p>Staff begins assembling the legislative event planning team.</p> <p>Board Recognition – Send out Nomination forms</p> <p>Board Audit: Does the center’s training and information plan include a sufficient variety of training and communication methods to reach all of the center’s constituents?</p> <p>Board Audit: Are there sufficient financial and human resources available to carry out the center’s training and information plan?</p>
<i>November</i>	<i>(The committee does not meet in November)</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>(The committee is dark in December)</i>
<i>January</i>	<p>Committee begins planning for ARCA’s Grass Roots Day and NLACRC’s Grass Roots Week.</p> <p>Determine Board Recognition Recipients</p> <p>Board Audit: Are the methods identified in the center’s training and information plan in line with the center’s mission, vision, and values statement?</p>
<i>February</i>	<i>(The committee does not meet in February)</i>
<i>March</i>	Review of Legislative Bills
<i>April</i>	<i>(The committee does not meet in April)</i>

<i>May</i>	Committee reviews and approves the draft critical calendar for next fiscal year. The Center's ARCA's Grass Roots Day team visits with legislators at the State Capitol (tentative).
<i>June</i>	<i>(The committee does not meet in June)</i>



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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Government & Community Relations Meetings Schedule

FY 2024-25

Wednesday, August 21, 2024
6:00 p.m.

No meeting in September 2024

Wednesday, October 16, 2024
6:00 p.m.

No meeting in November & December 2024

Wednesday, January 15, 2025
6:00 p.m.

No meeting in February 2025

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
6:00 p.m.

No meeting in April 2025

Wednesday, May 21, 2025
6:00 p.m.

No Meeting in June & July 2025

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Board of Trustees

**Disability Community Organization,
Service Provider, and Elected Representative Visit Policy**

Purpose

To build and promote greater knowledge, better understanding, and community partnerships between and among the center's Board of Trustees, disability community organization, service providers, and elected representatives within the center's service area.

Intent

During a trustee's term on the board, the trustee should become knowledgeable and familiar with the center's service provider community plus develop relationships with disability community organizations, elected representatives whose districts include the center. Typical disability community organizations include the Office of Clients Rights Advocacy, Disability Rights California, and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Elected representatives include federal, state, county, and local officials. To support the development and/or building of relationships with our stakeholders, each trustee is encouraged to visit disability community organizations, service providers, and/or elected representatives during the course of each fiscal year. Ideally, trustees should become knowledgeable and build relationships with service providers and elected representatives in the valley in which the trustee lives, given that a trustee's place of residence is one criterion for board membership. Visits also afford trustees the opportunity to share with disability community organizations, service providers, and elected representatives the activities and concerns of the board as they relate to the oversight of the regional center and the regional center system as a whole. Finally, as trustees conduct visits and report back to the board, the collective knowledge of the board will increase and solidify a stronger foundation for decision making.

In situations where the board wishes additional or more specific information on a disability community organization, service provider, or types of service, the agency or service provider will be invited to make a presentation at a meeting of the Board of Trustees. The center's executive director will arrange the presentation. After such presentation, the board may choose to send a delegation to conduct a visit.

Implementation

The Government & Community Relations Committee will develop a strategy that encompasses the purpose and intent of this policy, using their Framework for Strategy Implementation. Development of the strategy will take place in the current fiscal year for implementation in the upcoming fiscal year. Examples of types of events that will encompass this strategy are visits to service providers/elected representatives, participation in grass roots visits, attending a related non-profit agency's, organization's, or service provider's board meeting, etc.

[policy.bd.dcosperv] Approved: 09/09/21

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Board of Trustees

**Disability Community Organization,
Service Provider, and Elected Representative Visit Policy
Framework for Strategy Implementation**

NLACRC board members must maintain an active role in building and sustaining relationships within our disability community organizations, elected representative, and service provider communities. As such, all board members should participate in a minimum of at least one disability community organization, legislative, and service provider event, although participation in more than one visit/event is highly encouraged.

The purpose of attending these types of events is typically to convey a message, deliver a regional center information package, discuss the center's position on an issue, show support, share information, education, and/or discuss legislative issues as they pertain to the regional center system. Upon completion of any visit, a board member should provide feedback on what happened during their visit at the next board meeting following the visit.

1. Visits to disability community organizations, service providers, and/or elected representatives:
 - Visits to disability community organizations and service providers are typically scheduled through the Board Support Executive Administrative Assistant.
 - Visits to elected representatives (outside of Grass Roots activities) are typically scheduled by the board members. Prior to any visit, board members can contact the Board Support Executive Administrative Assistant for a formal NLACRC information packet.

2. Participation in disability community organization, service provider, and elected representative events (examples):
 - Non-profit service provider or disability community organizations board meetings.
 - Service provider events (annual dinners, celebrations, etc.)
 - Elected representative events (outreach events, candidate forums, etc.)
 - Grass Roots elected representative visits.
 - Any other type of visit/event that encompasses the purpose and intent of the board's Disability Community Organization, Service Provider, and Elected Representative Visits Policy.

Many events can be found on the NLACRC website calendar of events or you can contact the Board Support Executive Administrative Assistant at boardsupport@nlacrc.org for more information.

North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Board of Trustees

Legislative Priorities for F.Y. 2023-24

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

The North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Legislative Event Summary

Legislative Town Hall (February) - is an important community event designed to foster dialogue between local legislators and the communities they serve. The Legislative Town Hall provides a platform for a discussion, where individuals can voice their concerns, ask questions, and gain insights into the legislative process. The town hall will be an opportunity to engage with elected officials, understand the impact of current and proposed legislation, and express their views on issues that impact our Regional Center System.

Legislative Breakfast (April)- The North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC) organizes a Legislative Breakfast where we invite legislators representing our catchment area to learn about important issues that impact consumers, family members, service providers, and the Regional Center System. The **Jynny Retzinger, Community Services Award** is presented to an individual to recognize a consumer, parent, or community member representing the NLACRC catchment area (**San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, and Antelope Valley**) who has performed exceptional service for people with developmental disabilities.

Voting Rights (September)- A training presented by the Office Of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA). OCRA provides free legal information, advice, and representation to regional center clients. OCRA serves clients of all 21 regional centers throughout California and has been serving them since 1999.

Candidates Forum (October)- Each candidate will have the opportunity to share their views on key issues and explain how they plan to address the challenges facing our community. The Candidates forum encourages active participation, allowing you to voice your concerns and priorities and ensuring that candidates are aware of the issues that matter most to our Regional Center System.

The North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Social Media Analytics Report

Facebook

	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024
Total Followers	6,998	7,007	7,016
Public Comments	11	4	22
New Followers	20	11	9
Posts	283	169	130
Total Engagements	1,286	1,040	860
Page Reach	20,059	14,655	14,774

Instagram

	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024
Total Followers	1,209	1,232	1,254
Public Comments	3	5	2
New Followers	34	23	22
Posts	158	150	129
Total Engagements	591	418	283

X/Twitter

	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024
Total Followers	520	533	582
Impressions	2,895	No Longer Reported	No Longer Reported

Notable:

Assemblymember Tom Lackey posted about our visit on social media in June

Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo posted about our visit on social media in July

LEGISLATIVE BILLS

As budget discussions and negotiations have taken up much of the legislature's space, bills are also moving through the process. Each house had a May 24th deadline to pass bills. Any bill not moved to the second house by May 24th will not continue through the process this year.

SB 1281 (Menjivar) Advancing Equity and Access in the Self-Determination

Program This bill would require DDS to establish statewide standardized processes and procedures for the Self-Determination Program, by January 1st, 2026, and to ensure they are applied consistently by regional centers, and that regional centers make measurable improvements towards achieving equitable enrollment in the SDP by race, ethnicity, and regional center.

Status: This bill was amended in the Senate Appropriations Committee to remove language related to “employer burden” costs (such as unemployment taxes per employee and Medicare contributions) for Financial Management Services. **On June 11, 2024 the bill has advanced to the Assembly.**

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB1281

AB 1147 (Addis) Disability Equity and Accountability Act of 2023

Would enact the Disability Equity and Accountability Act of 2023, which would make various changes to the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act for purposes including providing increased oversight of regional center operations and performance. The bill was significantly amended on 9/1/2023 limiting the scope of the legislation, however, it maintained some aspects supported by the community.

Status: Introduced in 2023 and progressed to the Senate. The current priority for Assembly member Addis had been on bills with deadlines to get passed out of the Assembly and to the other house. **On July 3, 2024 the bill was ordered to a *second reading. *Second Reading** - each bill introduced must be read three times before final passage. The second Reading occurs after a bill has been reported or amended by the committee.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1147

AB 1876 (Jackson) Developmental services: IPPs and IFSPs: remote meetings This bill, beginning January 1, 2025, would indefinitely extend the requirements that, if requested, IPP and IFSP meetings be held by remote electronic communications.

Status: **On July 2, 2024** bill passed to the Senate and has been assigned to the Human Services Committee and Judiciary Committee for review.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1876

AB 1906 (Gipson) Persons with disabilities: terminology

This bill has been amended from a simple update to more respectful terminology to requiring California Law Revision Commission, with input from stakeholders, to complete and submit to the Legislature a study with recommendations on how to

replace the terms “dependent adult” and “dependent person” with new terminology that would respectfully describe those persons and would preserve the legal rights and protections of those and other persons, as specified.

Status: **On June 11, 2024** the bill has advanced to the Senate and is awaiting committee assignment.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1906

AB 2002 (Sanchez) Vehicles: public safety: Blue Envelope Program

This bill would require the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to develop a Blue Envelope Program intended to increase safety for individuals with disabilities during interactions with law enforcement.

Status: **On March 19, 2024** the bill was approved to advance.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB2002

AB 2423 (Mathis) Developmental Services: rates

This bill would require DDS to update provider rate models every other year, starting on July 1st, 2025. Rates will be subject to appropriation and the approval of federal funds, to review and update the rate models, as defined, per the cost inputs available at the time of the review.

The bill would also require the department to post the updated rate models to its internet website no later than January 1st of the following year. This bill is sponsored by the California Disability Services Association.

Status: **On July 1, 2024** the bill has advanced to the Senate and is awaiting committee assignment.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB2423

Other Legislation

AB 1914 (Grayson) - Would establish a community college curriculum and certification program for providers of care for individuals with developmental disabilities. **On March 12, 2024** the bill passed and is to be re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

AB 2360 (Rendon) - Would require DDS to establish a pilot program where regional centers would provide counseling and peer support group services to families and individuals served. **On July 1, 2024** the bill progressed to the Senate and is awaiting committee assignment.

AB 3063 (McKinnor) - Would clarify that adding flavoring to a medication does not constitute “compounding” which is a special license pharmacists need to mix and customize medications for individuals. **On June 10, 2024** the bill progressed to the Senate and will be heard in the Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee.

SB 1463 (Niello) - Would require the Governor to appoint to DDS a Deputy Director of Self-Determination, responsible for overseeing the successful implementation and operation of the program. **On June 11, 2024** the bill progressed to the Assembly and is awaiting committee assignment.

Key Legislators in the NLACRC Catchment Area

Senator Caroline Menjivar (D) - District 20 - Chair of Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services. This committee hears budget-related items from across many health and social service-related programs, from public health, CoveredCA, and Medi-Cal to behavioral health, the Master Plan for Aging, and DDS.

Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel (D) - District 46 - Chair of the full Assembly Budget Committee. The Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee works closely with legislative leadership and the Governor to craft the state budget, advance key policy priorities, and oversee hundreds of billions of dollars in state spending.

NLACRC Legislator List:

Senators: 5

- District 20 – **Senator Caroline Menjivar** (D)
 - Term Limit 2036
 - Reseda, San Fernando, Sunland
 - <https://sd20.senate.ca.gov/>
- District 21 – **Senator Scott Wilk** (R)
 - **Term Limit 2024**
 - Lancaster, Palmdale, Santa Clarita
 - <https://sr21.senate.ca.gov/>
- District 24 – **Senator Benjamin Allen** (D)
 - Term Limit 2026
 - Beverly Hills, Malibu, Santa Monica
 - <https://sr24.senate.ca.gov/>
- District 25 – **Senator Anthony Portantino** (D)
 - **Term Limit 2024**
 - Burbank, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge
 - <https://sd25.senate.ca.gov/>
- District 27 – **Senator Henry Stern** (D)
 - Term Limit 2028
 - Encino, Valencia, Westlake Village
 - <https://sd27.senate.ca.gov/>

Assembly Members: 9

- District 34 – **AM Tom Lackey** (R)
 - Term Limit 2026
 - Lancaster, Palmdale
 - <https://ad34.asmdc.org/>
- District 39 – **AM Juan Carrillo** (D)
 - Term Limit 2034
 - Hesperia, Lancaster, Palmdale
 - <https://a39.asmdc.org/>
- District 40 – **AM Pilar Schiavo** (D)
 - Term Limit 2034
 - Chatsworth, San Fernando, Santa Clarita
 - <https://a40.asmdc.org/>
- District 41 – **AM Chris Holden** (D)
 - **Term Limit 2024**
 - Claremont, La Cañada, Monrovia
 - <https://a41.asmdc.org/>
- District 42 – **AM Jacqui Irwin** (D)
 - Term Limit 2026
 - Calabasas, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks
 - <https://a42.asmdc.org/>
- District 43 – **AM Luz Rivas** (D)
 - Term Limit 2030
 - San Fernando, Sylmar, Panorama City
 - <https://a43.asmdc.org/>
- District 44 – **AM Laura Friedman** (D)
 - Term Limit 2028
 - Burbank, Glendale, North Hollywood
 - <https://a44.asmdc.org/>
- District 46 – **AM Jesse Gabriel** (D)
 - Term Limit 2030
 - Reseda, Van Nuys, Woodland Hills
 - <https://a46.asmdc.org/>
- District 51 – **AM Rick Chavez Zbur** (D)
 - Term Limit 2034
 - Santa Monica, Hollywood, Universal City
 - <https://a51.asmdc.org/>

California State Legislative Calendar - <https://www.assembly.ca.gov/schedules-publications/legislative-deadlines#month7>

- August 5th, 2024 – Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess
- August 16th, 2024 – Last day for fiscal committees to report bills
- August 31st, 2024 – Last day for each house to pass bills
- August 31st, 2024 – Final Recess begins upon adjournment
- September 30th, 2024 – Last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills
- October 2nd, 2024 – Bills enacted on or before this date take effect on January 1, 2025
- November 5th, 2024 – General Election

Local Legislative Events

Community events are open to all community members and are not hosted by NLACRC. Please check the links for further information and RSVP if you plan to attend.

Assembly Member Pilar Schiavo

- Back to School Resource
 - Sun, Aug 4, 2024, 11am – 2pm
 - Child Care Resource Center in Chatsworth, CA
 - <https://a40.asmdc.org/event/20240804-back-school-backpack-giveaway>

Assembly Member Chris Holden

- 25th Annual Community Resource Fair and Block Party
 - Sat, Aug 3, 2024, 11am – 3pm
 - 500 Block of East Jackson St. Pasadena
 - <https://a41.asmdc.org/events/20240803-25th-annual-community-resource-fair-and-block-party>

Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin

- Women’s Health Fair
 - Sat, Aug 10, 2024 10am – 1pm
 - Flory Academy of Science and Technology School Moorpark, CA 93021
 - <https://a42.asmdc.org/event/20240810-womens-health-fair>

Assembly Member Caroline Menjivar

- Back to School Fairs & Backpack Giveaways!
 - Sat, Aug 10, 2024 10am – 1pm
 - Parks Chapel AME 1102 Fourth Street, San Fernando

DDS Stakeholder Events

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/stakeholder-events/>

Regional Center Performance Measures Workgroup Meeting

The workgroup met on May 7th, 2024. DDS shared information and feedback received during the Individual Program Plan (IPP) Template Introduction webinar that was held on April 25th, 2024. Feedback and suggestions for changes included further efforts in using plain language, being more consistent with person-centered language, more sample scenarios for the

templates, providing an option for the forms to be filled out in either first-person or third-person format, and questions/comments related to the upcoming supplemental guides that will be issued for service coordinators and for individuals/families to prepare, conduct, and participate in the IPP meeting. DDS continues to make edits to the templates informed by the feedback they have been receiving, with a finalized version to be released in June 2024. As training on the new intake and IPP procedures begins, a few service coordinators will pilot the process before it is fully implemented in January 2025. DDS also reported on some of the upcoming Regional Center Performance Measures milestones. There is a dedicated webpage on the DDS website for regional center performance measures, including a table with 2022-23 data outlining each regional center's participation and performance on measures that were evaluated during that period. <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/regional-center-performance-measures/> Discussion then centered around performance measures and milestones for the Self-Determination Program. Baseline data collection based on soon-to-be available information in SANDIS were suggested, such as the number of days between SDP orientation and SDP start date, and number of days from budget certification to start date.

Upcoming RCPM Workgroup Meetings:

- July 30th, 2024, 1:00 - 3:00 pm (Tentative)
- September 24th, 2024, 1:00 - 3:00 pm (Tentative)

The Arc “Pledge to Vote”

<https://action.thearc.org/GCk8o5n?p2asource=email-2024-0502>

The Arc of the United States has kicked off a “Pledge to Vote” campaign to encourage the IDD community to exercise their right to vote and the importance of taking part in the election process. “When we vote, we choose the people who we want to represent us in the government. Elected officials decide how important programs work. This includes programs like Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income, which can make a big difference in the lives of people with disabilities and their families.”

Make a pledge today to:

- Register to vote <https://www.lavote.gov/home/voting-elections>
- Educate yourself about the candidates
- Pick people who you think will make good changes for your community, state, and country
- Encourage your friends and family to vote.
- Vote in the 2024 Election on Tuesday, November 5

Rate Reform: Rate Model Implementation

DDS FAQ Page - <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/rate-study-implementation/rate-model-implementation-frequently-asked-questions/>

In the coming weeks, the Department will be issuing a series of directives to provide detailed information about the updated service descriptions, requirements, and timelines for any transitions for each service category. The Rate Models were constructed in consideration of costs providers faced in delivering a particular service consistent with the state's requirements. This allows providers to receive the same rate for the same service in the same area consistently across the Regional Centers. Service providers with rates above the Rate Model base rate will be held harmless (no change to rate) until June 30, 2026, after which time the

provider's rates will be adjusted to the Rate Model base rate. The rates and rate models to be effective January 1, 2025 below include updated cost components as of January 2024. Updated cost components as of February 2022 were used to calculate the rate adjustment effective April 1, 2022 and January 1, 2023.

NLACRC Complete Rate Model - https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/North-Los-Angeles-Regional-Center_Accessible-January-2024.pdf

Master Plan for Developmental Services

Over the last few years, in partnership with the Legislature, the Newsom Administration has made historic investments to increase rates within the developmental services system. The Master Plan will leverage these investments to strengthen accessibility, quality, and equity for all consumers.

In recognition that California's developmental disabilities system is deeply connected to other health and social systems, the Master Plan will seek to create and strengthen bridges that connect the developmental services system to other critical systems across CalHHS, and other systems and services including education, housing, employment, transportation, and safety. Individuals who receive services today are more diverse and live longer. They face affordable housing shortages, lower rates of employment, and the challenges of accessing services from other systems and sectors to address their physical, social, and behavioral health needs.

A 21st century developmental services system must increase its ability to provide culturally responsive services and to strengthen the accountability and standardization of the system so that it is easier for individuals and their families to navigate no matter where they live in California. For more information: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services/>

Legislative Update

With the May Revision released the real negotiations on spending priorities has begun including budget hearings in the Senate and Assembly. The state constitution requires the main budget bill to be approved by the Legislature by June 15th or members of the legislature will not get paid. Then lawmakers and Newsom have until July 1st to agree on a final 2024-25 spending plan. Budget negotiations however, can last all the way through September with trailer bills. Budget trailer bills, which contain implementing and policy language related to the appropriations in the main budget bill, can be approved at any time. The fiscal bill policy committee deadline was April 26th. All bills with a cost to the state must have been approved by the relevant policy committee in order to advance this year.

What Is The May Revision?

The May Revision (released on or before May 14) updates the governor's economic and revenue outlook; adjusts the governor's proposed expenditures to reflect revised estimates and assumptions; revises, supplements, or withdraws policy initiatives that were included in the governor's proposed budget in January; and outlines adjustments to the minimum funding guarantee for K-14 education required by Proposition 98 (1988).

A memo from the Department of Finance outlines adjustments included in the May Revision as they relate to the Department of Developmental Services stating “due to lower revenue projections and a resulting increase in the budget problem, the May Revision proposes adjustments to prior investments to assist in closing the projected shortfall.”

<https://www.nlacrc.org/home/showdocument?id=17001&t=638574349546356200>

Adjustments include:

- Health and Safety Waiver Assistance - decreased by \$3 million, and reimbursements be decreased by \$1,412,000 ongoing for resources related to providing consumers and families assistance in applying for health and safety waivers.
- Emergency Preparedness Resources - decreased by \$1,050,000 ongoing for resources related to procuring emergency preparedness supplies and informational materials.
- Direct Service Professional Internship Program - It is requested that Item 4300-495 be added to revert \$20 million one-time from Item 4300-101-0001, Budget Act of 2022, for the direct service professional internship program.
- Tribal Engagement for Early Start Services - decreased by \$750,000 ongoing to align funding for this outreach initiative with current fiscal year 2023-24 levels.
- Coordinated Family Support Services - decreased by \$6.6 million and reimbursements be decreased by \$4.4 million one-time as a workload adjustment in the DDS estimate in 2023-24 to reflect revised service cost assumptions.
- Caseload and Utilization May Revision - increased by \$41,210,000 and reimbursements be increased by \$32,371,000 ongoing. These adjustments reflect updated expenditure estimates in operations and purchase of services driven by caseload and utilization. In addition to adjustments based on caseload and utilization, 2023-24 expenditure estimates also align with proposed changes in the federal Home and Community- Based Services Spending Plan.

Governor’s Address on May Revise: <https://www.youtube.com/live/V1IHB4c6Bgo?si=m4-MBb05biVKaGEu>

Summary of May Revise: <https://ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2024-25MR/#/BudgetSummary>

Details of May Revise: <https://ebudget.ca.gov/budget/2024-25MR/#/BudgetDetail>

Early Start Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/early-start/state-icc-on-early-intervention-overview/>

The Early Start Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) is a Governor-appointed advisory committee of advocates and state departments who provide advice and assistance to DDS on California’s early intervention program. The council meets quarterly, most recently on April 18th and 19th, 2024. More information and minutes from past meetings and workgroups can be found at the link above. Upcoming

Meetings:

- August 1st and 2nd, 2024
- October 17th and 18th, 2024
- January 16th and 17th, 2025

FY 2024-25	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Total
Government & Community Relations Committee	Dark		Dark			Dark		Dark	Dark	Dark		Dark	Absences
Meeting Length													
George Alvarado													0
Cathy Blin													0
Kelley Coleman													0
Juan Hernandez													0
Jennifer Koster													0
Laura Monge													0
Curtis Wang													0
Jodie Agnew-Navarro, VAC Rep													0
													0

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)