



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: February 12, 2025

To: Alex Kopilevich, Chair, Jaklen Keshishyan, Alt. Chair, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Octavia Watkins, Masood Babaeian, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Cal Enriquez, Ute Escorcia, Ricki Macken Chivers, Vahe Mkrtchian, Daniel Ortiz, Jen Pippard, Sharon Weinberg

From: Lindsay Granger
Executive Administrative Assistant

Re: Information and materials for the next Nominating Committee meeting on **Thursday, February 12, at 9:30 a.m.**

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

The meeting is a Hybrid Meeting and will be remotely accessible via Zoom. We will send you the Zoom access information via email.

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

Attachments

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



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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

VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 13, 2025

9:30 am (*Hybrid*)

Zoom/NLARC Santa Clarita Valley Office

~AGENDA~

- I. **Call to Order & Introductions** - Alex Kopilevich, Chair (*1 min*)
- II. **Committee Member Attendance/Quorum** (*1 min*)
- III. **Public Input** - Agenda Items only (*3 min per person, 3 person limit*)
- IV. **Consent Items**
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the January 9, 2025, Meeting (*1 min*) (*page 4*)
 - B. Approval of the Agenda (*1 min*) (*page 2*)
- V. **Action Items** –
 - A. Discussion and Vote on (4) VAC Member Applications to Forward to Nominating Committee (4 open positions) — Alex Kopilevich (*25 min*)
 - i. Applicant 1
 - ii. Applicant 2
 - iii. Applicant 3
 - iv. Applicant 4
- VI. **Committee Business**
 - A. Solicit nominations for the Annual Jynny Retzinger Community Service Award — Chris Whitlock (*5 min*)
 - B. Update on local Grass Roots Visits — Chris Whitlock (*5 min*)
 - C. Update on Service Provider Vendor Training/Mentorship Program Updates — Alex Kopilevich (*1 min*)
 - D. Self-Determination Update — Silvia Renteria-Haro (*1 min*)
 - E. Discussion of the VAC Members’ Terms — Alex Kopilevich (*5 min*) (*page 13*)
- VII. **Report Outs** –
 - A. **Deputy Director Officer’s Report** — Evelyn McOmie (*5 min*)
 - B. **Chief Financial Officer’s Report** — Vini Montague (*5 min*)
 - C. **Community Services Director’s Report** – Arshalous Garlanian (*5 min*) (*page 14*)

- D. **Legislative Report** – Belinda Abatesi (5 min) (page 18)
- E. **Executive Director’s Report** – Angela Pao-Johnson (5 min) (page 24)

VIII. Open Topics for Discussion - Alex Kopilevich

- A. Admission Agreements (5 min)

IX. Committee Work Group Information:

- A. **Early Start Services** (Jodie Agnew-Navarro)
For meeting schedule and information
Contact: Jodie Agnew-Navarro - jodie.agnew-navarro@chimeinstitute.net
Next workgroup meeting: March 20, 2025 @ 9:00am (via Zoom).

- B. **School Age Services** (Paul Borda & Cal Enriquez)
For meeting schedule and information
Contact: Paul Borda - paul@abatherapypartners.com
Next workgroup meeting: March 11, 2025 @ 10:00am (via Zoom).

- C. **Adult Services** (Octavia Watkins)
For meeting schedule and information
Contact: Octavia Watkins - excellencecrp@gmail.com
Next workgroup meeting: March 10, 2025 @ 11:00am (via Zoom).

X. Committee Work Group Final Reports

- A. Early Start Services (Jodie Agnew-Navarro) (3 min)
- B. School Age Services (Paul Borda & Cal Enriquez) (3 min)
- C. Adult Services (Octavia Watkins) (3 min)

XI. Board Committee Reports

- A. Administrative Affairs (Jaklen Keshishyan -VAC Rep.) (1 min)
- B. Consumer Services (Sharon Weinberg -VAC Rep.) (3 min)
- C. Government & Community Relations (Jodie Agnew-Navarro -VAC Rep.) (3 min)
- D. Nominating (Alex Kopilevich - Committee Member) (1 min)
- E. Strategic Planning (Octavia Watkins - Committee Member) (3 min)

XII. Board Meeting Agenda Items

XIII. Announcements/Public Input/Information Items

- A. Next Meeting: Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Hybrid – In-person location
Antelope Valley Office
- B. Committee Attendance (page 29)

XIV. Adjournment

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

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

**MINUTES OF THE VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
JANUARY 9, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS:

Alex Kopilevich	Chair
Jaklen Keshishyan	
Jodie Agnew-Navarro	
Octavia Watkins	
Masood Babaeian	
Paul Borda	
Andrea Devers	
Cal Enriquez	
Ute Escorcia	
Ricki Macken Chivers	
Vahe Mkrtchian	
Daniel Ortiz	
Sharon Weinberg	

STAFF:

Angela Pao-Johnson	Executive Director
Arshalous Garlanian	Director of Community Services
Silvia Renteria-Haro	Consumer Services Director
Evelyn McOmie	Deputy Director Officer
Vini Montague	Chief Financial Officer
Belinda Abatesi	Public Information Legislative Specialist
Arezo Abedi	Executive Administrative Assistant
Lindsay Granger	Executive Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Sasha Chernik	Recording Secretary, Minutes Solutions Inc
---------------	--

ABSENT:

Jen Pippard
Lisa Williamsen

Other than panelists, there were ? other attendees.

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, the meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. Alex Kopilevich presided as Chair.

2. COMMITTEE MEMBER ATTENDANCE

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

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

4. **CONSENT ITEMS**

On a motion made by Masood Babaeian, seconded by Daniel Ortiz, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on November 7, 2024, as presented. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Jodie Agnew-Navarro, seconded by Masood Babaeian, it was resolved to approve the agenda of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on January 9, 2025, as presented. Motion carried.

5. **ACTION ITEMS**

There were no action items.

6. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

6.1 **System and Industry Issues**

Many service providers are affected by the rate reforms and confusion about service codes.

6.2 **Service Provider Vendor Training and Mentorship Program Updates**

Alex Kopilevich invited all service providers to join the service provider vendor training and membership program meeting on January 24, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. At the previous meeting, there were only three service providers present. Feedback from newer vendors is especially valuable. The next steps are to create a proposed plan for vendor training and mentorship support, then meet with the regional center and discuss how it could be implemented.

6.3 **Self-Determination Update**

Silvia Renteria-Haro presented an update on the Self-Determination program. As of January 1, 2025, there were 495 participants in the program. Any service providers who are interested in becoming more involved or learning more about the program are advised to attend the local Advisory Committee meetings, which are on the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be on January 16, 2025.

6.4 **VAC Member Applications**

ACTION – Lindsay Granger will share the SharePoint folder with applicant information with the Vendor Advisory Committee members via email.

ACTION – Angela Pao-Johnson will investigate whether it is possible to have a private meeting with the Vendor Advisory Committee members only to discuss the Committee applicants.

Generally, the Nominating Committee selects who chooses the Vendor Advisory Committee. It would be beneficial for the Vendor Advisory Committee to provide input towards the decision. The Committee agreed to defer the discussion of applicants to the next Committee meeting, after all members review the applicant information.

Sharon Weinstein noted that it might be difficult to discuss applicants publicly, because they might be present at the Committee meetings. However, the Committee cannot make decisions without a public discussion.

7. REPORT OUTS

7.1 Deputy Director Officer's Report

Evelyn McOmie presented the Deputy Directory Officer's Report.

NLACRC has been monitoring the Hurst fire. Staff are in contact with facilities in the area and are keeping aware of what is open and closed.

SLS (Supportive Living Services) and ILS (Independent Living Services) providers should be hyper vigilant of people who receive intermittent service, as they are most vulnerable because they live independently and often on their own. Providers should call NLACRC if they have trouble reaching a client.

DDS has implemented a standardized IPP (Individual Program Plan) across 21 regional centers. It was expected to be effective as of January 1, 2025, however it is currently still being refined. It is now expected to be available on January 20, 2025.

The vendor portal has 427 vendors which are operational, and 238 in the queue where the vendor has approved Phase 1.

There are vendor focus groups running every other month. The next vendor support group will be in-person on February 20, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. Individuals who signed up will be receiving the information via email.

7.2 Chief Financial Officer's Report

ACTION – Vini Montague will investigate and provide information to Sharon Weinberg regarding the rate increase pertaining to the FHA.

Vini Montague presented the Chief Financial Officer's Report.

The 2025 vendor payment schedules are posted on the NLACRC website under the service provider section.

Risalina Andrada has been hired as a new revenue supervisor. She oversees the team that handles the consumer trust accounts and is the contact for questions regarding topics such as shared costs for residential facilities.

The rate implementation for vendor rate increases that were effective on July 1, 2024, is currently in Phase 2B. A significant portion of the increases were implemented prior to January of 2025, and the remainder is expected to be implemented by January 31, 2025, including retroactive increase payments. Once all the rates from Phase 2B are implemented, the rates effective January 1, 2025, will be addressed, working in collaboration with Community Services. NLACRC has started to receive the rate spreadsheets from DDS on January 6, 2025, and staff are working at a rapid rate to get them updated in the system. The turnaround invoices will be delayed to January 31, 2025, in order to implement as many rates as possible.

Social Security implemented a cost of living increase for SSI (Supplemental Security Income) recipients. The accounting department is working to update the cost of funds change in the system.

7.3 Community Services Director's Report

ACTION – Arshalous Garlanian will investigate an email sent by Ricki Macken Chivers and ensure a response is sent.

Arshalous Garlanian reviewed the Community Services Director's Report, highlighting certain items.

NLACRC staff are diligently working through the Phase 3 rate increases of the rate reform. A few workbooks have been received. Community Services is reviewing and validating the workbooks and then preparing the rate letter agreements. There are no exact dates for when providers can expect the rate reform information, as it depends on when the workbooks are received. Community Services is reviewing various directives which have been published and meeting with providers who are impacted. There are office hours specifically for questions on the various directives and what vendors can expect from their vendorization with NLACRC.

The Community Services department is working through the DDS state-wide service provider directory. Vendors should check the directory published on the DDS website to ensure they are on one of the provider lists and email DDS for guidance if not.

Geraldine Orelano is a new staff member. She is an employment specialist who will be focusing on all initiatives related to employment.

7.4 Legislative Report

Belinda Abatesi presented the Legislative Report. There were no legislative bill developments to report, because it is the beginning of the legislative year. The department is closely monitoring new legislative bills and will update service providers as needed.

There were concerns at the previous meeting about how Bill AB1147 would affect providers. Upon review, it was determined that the current design of the bill does not affect providers. NLACRC will continue to monitor the bill's implementation.

7.5 Executive Director's Report

ACTION – Belinda Abatesi and Angela Pao-Johnson will investigate and provide information directly to Sharon Weinstein regarding the implementation of Bill AB3291 on funding for housing for at-risk homeless individuals.

Angela Pao-Johnson presented the Executive Director's Report.

There was a correction in the Case Management section; the vacant cases reduction statistic was over the past year rather than the past 10 months.

There was an addition to the Recruitment section; there are nine new hires scheduled to be onboarded on January 13, 2025.

Alex Kopilevich:

Noted that there were over 60 service coordinators hired and inquired if there are populations where caseloads are being reduced.

Angela Pao-Johnson:

Responded that there are some caseload reductions being observed, however newer coordinators are learning, so it will take time to see the results.

Octavia Watkins:

Inquired when the next Life After Highschool transition-age event will be.

Arshalous Garlanian:

Responded that the Life After Highschool fairs are generally in the spring.

7.5.1 Supporting Consumer Micro Businesses

ACTION – Board Support will send out information about a consumer business forum on the NLACRC website.

Angela Pao-Johnson presented the idea to add a section to the NLACRC website and with links to consumer business websites, highlighting them for gifts and occasions. This would help drive traffic to those businesses. The idea was well received by the community.

8. OPEN TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 November 13, 2024, New DDS Directives

ACTION – Staff will email an updated NLACRC staff directory to vendors by January 10, 2025.

The office hours for questions about the new directives will be on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Committee member:

Inquired where to direct questions about service codes.

Arshalous Garlanian:

Responded that providers should contact the RatesQuestions@nlacrc.org email.

Ricki Macken Chivers:

Inquired what processes are in place to ensure early start and school-age clients are being prepared for their adult futures and employment, with Employment First being such a large initiative.

Evelyn McOpie:

Noted that a main point of the Employment First discussion was to work with families to ensure their impacted children have hopes and dreams. The IEP process in school districts should address the idea of future career building. There needs to be a state-wide effort to change the current mindset. New service coordinators will receive training on how to work with families and parents of impacted children to prepare them for adulthood.

Sharon Weinstein:

Noted that it is difficult to find staff contact information on the new NLACRC website.

Arshalous Garlanian:

Explained that an all-staff directory is emailed to providers quarterly, while the vendor portal is still being streamlined.

8.2 Review Vendor Advisory Committee Applicants

Discussion of the Vendor Advisory Committee applicants has been deferred to the next meeting. There are currently five applicants for the three open positions.

9. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP INFORMATION

9.1 Early Start Services

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that the Early Start Service Committee Work Group did not meet in December of 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. via teleconference.

9.2 School Age Services

Paul Borda and Cal Enriques reported that the School Age Service Committee Work Group did not meet in December of 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

9.3 Adult Services

Octavia Watkins reported that the Adult Services Committee Work Group met in November of 2024, and the next meeting is January 13, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. Belinda Abatesi was invited to join the next meeting to discuss engagement with local policy makers.

10. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP FINAL REPORTS

10.1 Early Start Services

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that some of the main discussion topics for the Early Start Services Committee Work Group have been rate reform, qualification guidelines, absences and six-month assessment funding.

There are guidelines about the qualifications an Early Intervention and Child Specialist must have, which might be a challenge for some providers due to the higher cost of higher qualified workers.

An absence is when the family is missing for a scheduled in-home or classroom service. The provider still needs to pay the therapist; however, they do not receive funding for the visit.

There is no funding for time consuming progress reports which therapists and Early Intervention and Child Care Specialists must submit every six months. The Early Start Services Committee Work Group is investigating if it is possible to acquire funding for the six-month assessments.

10.2 School Age Services

Paul Borda reported that some of the topics for the School Age Services Committee Work Group have been about what is working and not working for vendors with the NLACRC. Consistent topics with questions that have to be deferred are rate reform and the DDS and NLACRC portals. One of the goals the work group focused on was increasing participation and engagement within the vendor community. The efforts were successful, and more vendors have joined the work group. The new goal is keeping them attending and engaged.

Cal Enriques reported that one of the goals the work group has struggled with is making seeking and finding resources for mental health services and support seamless. Accessing those services for clients is difficult, and many struggle to get access to those services due to shortages of specialists and other issues. The work group is also working hard to increase the enrolment in the Self-Determination Program, because there should be a higher participation rate with families.

10.3 Adult Services

Octavia Watkins reported that the Adult Services Committee Work Group discussed local partnership agreements, identified new information and resources to be shared within groups, issues with the Self-Determination Program, increasing access and awareness to the Self-Determination Program, engagement with local policy makers and aging specialists and training needs for adult service providers.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Administrative Affairs

Jaklen Keshishyan reported that the Administrative Affairs Committee met on November 21, 2024. Some of the discussion items were the status of the lease, purchase of services, new vendors, financial reports, retention and onboarding of new staff. She noted that instructions to report outstanding authorizations are on the NLACRC website and provided the link in the meeting chat. The next Administrative Affairs Committee meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2025.

11.2 Consumer Services

Sharon Weinstein reported that the Consumer Services Committee met on November 20, 2024. The discussion was focused on the Self-Determination Program. Angela Pao-Johnson and Lori Walker met after this meeting and are in discussion about how the Consumer Services Committee can help with the Self-Determination Program.

11.3 Government and Community Relations

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that the last meeting of the Government and Community Relations Committee was in October of 2024, and the next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2025.

11.4 Nominating

Alex Kopilevich reported that the Nominating Committee met on January 2, 2025. The main priority was discussing the applications for the open Board positions. That Nominating Committee will be meeting every month instead of every second month until the positions are filled. The next meeting will be held on February 5, 2025.

11.5 Strategic Planning

Octavia Watkins reported that the Strategic Planning Committee did not meet in December of 2024. The next Strategic Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for February 30, 2025.

12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

There were no agenda items for the next Board meeting.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT

13.1 Next Meeting Location

On a motion made by Sharon Weinberg, seconded by Jodie Agnew-Navarro, it was resolved to change the location of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting scheduled

for February 13, 2025, from the Santa Clarita Valley office to the Chatsworth office. Motion carried.

ACTION – Board Support will change the location of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for February 13, 2025, to the Chatsworth office.

The meeting held on January 9, 2025, was supposed to be held in the Chatsworth office but was moved to teleconference only.

13.2 Training Series

Suad Bisogno announced that the Integrated Resources Institute has a few training series that are being developed in partnership with NLACRC, including a website portfolio training and a training focused on employment.

13.3 Absentee Member

ACTION – Board Support will notify Lisa Williamson that she has resigned from her position via lack of meeting attendance.

There is a Board member who has automatically resigned due to four Board meeting absences. The number of vacant Board positions has therefore increased to four.

14. REVIEW OF MEETING ACTION ITEMS

The following action items were noted during the meeting:

ACTION – Lindsay Granger will share the SharePoint folder with applicant information with the Vendor Advisory Committee members via email.

ACTION – Angela Pao-Johnson will investigate whether it is possible to have a private meeting with the Vendor Advisory Committee members only to discuss the Committee applicants.

ACTION – Vini Montague will investigate and provide information to Sharon Weinberg regarding the rate increase pertaining to the FHA.

ACTION – Arshalous Garlanian will investigate an email sent by Ricki Macken Chivers and ensure a response is sent.

ACTION – Belinda Abatesi and Angela Pao-Johnson will investigate and provide information directly to Sharon Weinstein regarding the implementation of Bill AB3291 on funding for housing for at-risk homeless individuals.

ACTION – Board Support will send out information about a consumer business forum on the NLACRC website.

ACTION – Staff will email an updated NLACRC staff directory to vendors by January 10, 2025.

ACTION – Board Support will change the location of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for February 13, 2025, to the Chatsworth office.

ACTION – Board Support will notify Lisa Williamson that she has resigned from her position via lack of meeting attendance.

15. **NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Vendor Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on February 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the NLACRC Chatsworth office.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:12 a.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above document 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.

Director

Director

Date

Date

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Vendor Advisory Committee

Members & Terms

FY 2024-25

	VAC Member	Date Elected	Term Expires	Date Re-Elected	Term Expires	Date Re-Elected	Term Expires	Date Re-Elected	End of 6 years
1.	Jodie Agnew-Navarro	6-21	6-23	7-23	6-25				6-2027
2.	Andrea Devers	7-22	6-25						6-2028
3.	Paul Borda	6-24							
4.	Ute Escorcia	6-24							
5.	Ricki Macken Chivers	6-24							
6.	Jen Pippard	6-24							
7.	Cal Enriquez	6-20	6-23	7-23	6-25				6-2026
8.	Vahe Mkrtchian	7-23	6-25						6-2029
9.	Alex Kopilevich	6-20	6-23	7-23	6-25				6-2026
10.	Sharon Weinberg	7-23	6-25						6-2029
11.	Daniel Ortiz	6-20	6-23	7-23	6-25				6-2026
12.	Masood Babaeian	7-23	6-25						6-2029
13.	Jaklen Keshishyan	7-23	6-25						6-2029
14.	Octavia Askew*	7-23	6-25						6-2029
	~ 4 open positions ~								

[NC.113.VAC.FY2023-24]

Vendor Advisory Committee: February 13, 2025

Community Services Department: Director's Report

General Updates:

❖ Rate Reform

- Directives: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/rate-reform/directives-updates/>
- Trainings: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/rate-reform/meetings/>
- Office Hours 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 3 pm
 - Zoom:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85054576563?pwd=FLmxmJd5oP2ryUfbAASMtwE0XbsMzX.1>
Meeting ID: 850 5457 6563
Passcode: 595837
- Contact RatesQuestions@nlacrc.org

❖ Service Provider Directory: [Per DDS directive D-2024-QIP-003 from 9/23/2024](#)

- Step 1: Data Collection (7/15/24 - 10/4/24)
- Step 2: Validation (approx. 10/29/24 - 11/29/24)
- Status:
 - Group 1: Completed – both steps (No action needed)
 - Group 2: Missing Data – Completed Step 1, and received invitation for Step 2
 - DDS is reaching out to providers for follow-up
 - Group 3: Not in Directory – Completed Step 1, and DDS is sending invitation with a new deadline to submit registration and validation
 - DDS is reaching out to providers for follow-up
 - Group 4: Did not complete Step 1 or 2 – Not eligible for the one-time lump sum incentive or the QIP percentage.
 - DDS is reaching out to providers for follow-up
 - Group 5: New vendor numbers created after September 2024: No action needed, DDS will contact when data is available to register/validate
- Reference: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/provider-directory/>
 - The lists of vendors per each of the above categories is updated each Thursday.
 - Groups 1, 2, 3 and 5 will received 100% rate effective 1/1/2025
- Questions:
 - ProviderDirectory@dds.ca.gov
 - ProviderDirectory@nlacrc.org

❖ Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Update: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/quality-incentive-program/>

NOTE: For the below incentive payments, NLACRC will issue payment after DDS approval.

- **Service Provider Directory one-time lump sum:**
 - Not yet received from DDS.
 - https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/D-2024-QIP-003_Quality_Incentive_Program_Provider_Directory.pdf
- **Prevention and Wellness:**
 - ARFPSHN, EBSH, FHA, RCFE- pending from DDS

- **Employment Access / Employment Capacity (available through 6/30/2025)**
NOTE: RC approval from DDS for requests submitted to DDS between July – December 2023 only
 - Access: no DDS approvals received yet
 - Capacity: Approvals received by NLACRC were paid Dec 24 / Jan 25
 - **Early Intervention Service Delivery for CY2024:**
 - Quarter 1 January – March 2024 will be available for billing on 1/31/25
 - **DSP Training Stipend** – ended 8/31/2024 (\$775 incentive)
 - Questions about payment: VendorIncentiveProgram@nlacrc.org
 - **2023 DSP Workforce Data Collection Survey (submitted June 2024):** RCs have not yet received the approved list from DDS.
- ❖ **Vendor Portal:** NLACRC’s vendor portal launched on 9/23/2024
 - Email invitations with registration form were sent to all NLACRC providers from vendorportal@nlacrc.org email
 - Action needed:
 - Step 1 – registration
 - Step 2 – accept invitation
 - Step 3 – log-in through authentication process
 - Community Services is contacting providers who are on Step 2 (pending acceptance of invitation) but have not yet clicked on the email which is from invites@microsoft.com
 - Questions: vendorportal@nlacrc.org
 - ❖ **Vendor Support Forum: Thursday, February 20th, 10:30 am**
 - In Person; NLACRC Chatsworth Office
 - Address: 9200 Oakdale Ave., Chatsworth, CA 91311
 - Submit questions for agenda by Friday, February 14th CRomero@nlacrc.org

HCBS:

- ❖ **Open Futures Learning for Services Providers - Resource**
<https://www.openfuturelearning.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Login.EnterCode&AccountCode=OFL%2DNLACRC> For more information, please contact David Ramos, HCBS Specialist, dramos@nlacrc.org.
- ❖ Through HCBS Funding NLACRC is offering FREE ASL workshops through the ASL Shop. CLOSED. New Classes will begin during the summer. ASL Shop is updating their Self-paced platform to include Spanish Classes. Both English and Spanish will be offered in May. For more information contact Ted Horton-Billard – thortonbillard@nlacrc.org.

Compliance Corner:

- ❖ **Vendorization maintenance:**
 - General reminder to submit your insurance and organizational charts, or any questions related to compliance activities (DS 1891, annual program evaluations), rate adjustments to Contract&Compliance@nlacrc.org.
 - Provide notice of changes (address, entity, name) to ResourceDevelopment@nlacrc.org
 - Provide updated DS 1891 at <https://sanctionscreeningnow.com/OIGComplianceVendor/Customer.aspx/Login>

Employment Services:

- ❖ New Addition to the Employment Team – Geraldine Orellana, Workforce Employment Specialist (gorellana@nlacrc.org). Counterpart to Employment Specialist, Kai Brennan, (kbrennan@nlacrc.org) and both are available to support your employment needs.
- ❖ General reminder to submit PIP workbook claims and CIE/PIP Incentives request CIE&PIP@nlacrc.org
- ❖ NLACRC Partners with IRI to provide FREE **ACRE training** (Self-paced, In- Person, Virtually) for NLACRC Regional Center Vendors- <https://www.irioc.org/register>
***Change: Customized Employment 1 day training on 1/27/2025 will now be **virtual** instead of in person. [ACRE Training — IRI® | Integrated Resources Institute](http://www.irioc.org/acre#ut)
www.irioc.org/acre#ut
- ❖ Free, 3 - hour training workshop designed for Service Providers and families on how to support individuals seeking employment. Instructor will be Author, Certified Human Potential Coach, and Toastmasters International Speaker, Thomas Iland, [Sharpening Your Saw! Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sharpening-your-saw-tickets-1038208518627?aff=oddtcreator) www.eventbrite.com/e/sharpening-your-saw-tickets-1038208518627?aff=oddtcreator
- ❖ **Quality Incentive Program:**
 - **Employment Access & Equity Incentive Payments:** To request incentive payments available through the QIP Employment Access measure, every service provider must submit a certification form to DDS at QIPEmpAccess@dds.ca.gov.
 - **Employment Capacity Incentive Payments:** To request incentive payments available through the QIP Employment Capacity measure, service providers must submit a certification form to DDS at QIPEmpCapacity@dds.ca.gov.
 - For additional info, including FAQ and Certification and Payment forms, visit the “Employment” tab here <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/quality-incentive-program/>
- ❖ **NLACRC Employment Initiative Office Hours**
 - 2nd Wednesday of the month, 11 am via Zoom
 - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82517702766?pwd=1tyUrdPePi7JnhGDFUUXcPm4JAPXPb.1>
 - Meeting ID: 825 1770 2766 Passcode: 857310
 - +14086380968,,82517702766#,,,,*857310# US (San Jose)
 - +16694449171,,82517702766#,,,,*857310# US

Resource Development:

- ❖ **Residential Services Orientation (RSO)** Registration will be open for Spring 2025 RSO starting **Monday, January 13, 2025**, until February 23, 2025. The course will span 5 weeks from March 10, 2025, through April 7, 2025. For more information and registration details please visit [Residential Services Orientation \(RSO\) | NLACRC](#)
- ❖ North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC) published Request for Proposals (RFP) for the following applicable projects awarded by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) as part of the **Community Placement Plan/Community Resource Development Plan (CPP/CRDP)** for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The complete

list of approved projects are listed on our website. For more information please visit [CPP/CRDP -North Los Angeles County](#):

- Project #: NLACRC-2425-6 - Housing Development Organization (HDO) Acquisition and Rehabilitation of a Single-Family Home (4-bed) to be Developed as a Specialized Residential Facility with Delayed Egress for Adults with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Needs. Acquisition Funds: \$300,000 Renovation Funds: \$350,000- **Closing February 2nd**.
- Project #: NLACRC-2425-9 - Development of an EBSH/CCH Training Program for Service Providers. Start-up Funds: \$50,000- **Closing February 2nd**.

❖ **For more information on the various non CPP/CRDP Request for Vendorizations (RFV) posted to our website please see the list below or contact resourcedevelopment@nlacrc.org with questions our visit [RFPs & RFVs -North Los Angeles County](#):**

- Coordinated Career Pathways (CCP) Service Code 956
- Coordinated Family Supports (CFS), Service Code 076
- Soc Rec RFV, Various Service Codes
- Transportation services, Service Code 875
- Money Management services, Service Code 034
- Self-Directed Support Services for the Self Determination Program (Service Code 099)

❖ **Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) - DDS hosted office hours are on-going. For more information, please visit DDS website <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/evv/>.**

Quality Assurance:

- ❖ **Community Care Licensing Updates: New PINs**
 - [PIN 24-04-ASC](#) - (**Supersedes PIN 24-01-ASC**) Updated Guidance On Respiratory Viruses Including COVID-19, Influenza, And Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).
 - [PIN 24-09-ASC](#) - Updated Dementia Care and Miscellaneous Regulations For Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly
 - [PIN 25-01-CCLD](#) - Winter Storm Preparedness
- ❖ **Special Incident Reporting and Risk Management Training by NLACRC Risk Assessment Supervisor, Shelly Briggs, and NLACRC Community Services Specialist, Rachel Cooper.**
 - February 24, 2025, 10am – 12pm, via Zoom
 - [Registration Link](#)
 - 2 CEUs available
- ❖ **Client’s Rights Training by Clients’ Rights Advocate, Erica Rodriguez, and NLACRC Community Services Specialist, Bill Wood.**
 - March 27, 2025, 10am – 12pm, via Zoom
 - [Registration Link Forthcoming](#)
 - 2 CEUs available
- ❖ **Winter Weather Safety- Emergency Preparedness Bulletin**
 - [Emergency Preparedness Bulletin - Winter Safety 2024 Edition](#)

Community and Legislative Educator Report February 2025

INTRODUCED BILLS

AB 277 (Alanis) Autism: Behavioral Technician Certification – This bill would require the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to establish a certification process for behavioral technicians working with individuals under 18 years of age who have autism. The certification process must include a criminal background check, and individuals convicted of crimes involving minors would be prohibited from obtaining certification. Additionally, developmental centers, facilities, or programs serving minors would be prohibited from employing behavioral technicians who lack this certification.

Status: Introduced on **January 21, 2025**; pending legislative review.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB277

AB 308 (Ramos) The Family Urgent Response System – This bill would authorize a county behavioral health director to develop procedures for the county's mobile response system, which may include procedures for handling an emergency situation involving an individual with autism, a behavioral health issue, or another developmental disability.

Status: Introduced on **January 23, 2025**; pending legislative review.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB308

AB 341 (Arambula) Oral Health for People with Disabilities Technical Assistance Center Program – This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services, no later than July 1, 2027, to contract with a public California dental school or college to administer the Oral Health for People with Disabilities Technical Assistance Center Program. The program aims to improve dental care services for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities by reducing or eliminating the need for sedation and general anesthesia.

Status: Introduced on **January 28, 2025**; pending legislative review

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB341

AB 416 (Krell) Involuntary commitment – This bill would amend the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act to authorize emergency physicians to initiate involuntary holds for individuals who, as a result of a mental health disorder, are deemed a danger to themselves or others, or gravely disabled. Under current law, only peace officers and designated mobile crisis team members have this authority. The bill would also exempt emergency physicians from criminal and civil liability when detaining an individual under these provisions.

Status: Introduced on **February 5, 2025**; pending legislative review.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB416

GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED 2025-26 BUDGET

The Governor's proposed budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year outlines a comprehensive financial plan for California, emphasizing investments in key areas such as education,

healthcare, and environmental initiatives. Below is a concise overview of the budget's main components:

Total Budget and Reserves

- **General Fund Resources:** The budget projects total General Fund resources of \$251.4 billion, comprising the prior year's balance and anticipated revenues and transfers.
- **Expenditures:** Total General Fund expenditures are proposed at \$228.9 billion, with \$144.3 billion allocated to non-Proposition 98 programs and \$84.6 billion dedicated to Proposition 98 (education-related) expenditures.
- **Reserves:** The budget plans for a \$4.5 billion balance in the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties (SFEU), a \$1.5 billion balance in the Public School System Stabilization Account (PSSSA), and \$10.9 billion in the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA).

Revenue Projections

- The Department of Finance anticipates an increase of \$16.5 billion in General Fund revenue over the three-year period from 2023-24 through 2025-26, compared to previous estimates. This growth is primarily attributed to higher personal income tax revenues.

Key Investments

1. Education

- *K-14 Education:* The budget proposes significant investments in K-14 education, adhering to Proposition 98 funding requirements. Specific allocations include funding for the Local Control Funding Formula and community college apportionments.
- *Higher Education:* The University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems are slated to receive base funding increases. However, the budget includes a planned deferral of the 2025-26 multi-year Compact investments to 2027-28, representing a five-percent base increase in the fourth year of the Compact.

2. Healthcare

- *Medi-Cal Program:* The budget reflects General Fund savings due to the recently enacted Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax, with savings of \$7.9 billion in 2024-25, \$4.4 billion in 2025-26, and \$3.3 billion in 2026-27. These savings are intended to support provider rate increases for primary care, maternal care, and non-specialty mental health services.

3. Environmental Initiatives

- *Climate Bond:* Following voter approval of Proposition 4, a \$10 billion general obligation bond, the budget includes a proposed \$2.7 billion allocation in 2025-26 for various climate investments. This includes funding for safe drinking water, drought resilience, wildfire prevention, biodiversity, and clean energy projects.

Fiscal Management

- The budget maintains a balanced approach, utilizing reserves to address potential shortfalls while preserving investments in critical programs. It includes the use of \$7.1 billion in reserve funding in 2025-26 to ensure fiscal stability.

This proposed budget reflects the state's commitment to advancing key priorities such as education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability, while maintaining prudent fiscal management to navigate economic uncertainties. For additional information visit: [Senate Human Services Budget Summary](#)

Additional Resources for the 2025-26 Budget:

- [Legislative Analyst's Office - Overview of the Governor's Budget](#)
- [The 2025-26 Budget: Overview of the Governor's Budget](#)

Federal Funding

The **Republican-controlled Congress** is considering **significant cuts** to health and social services, threatening essential support for Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Speaker Mike Johnson has proposed \$2.3 trillion in Medicaid cuts, with the largest reduction coming from Per-Capita Caps, which would limit the lifetime services and support an individual can receive.

Programs at Risk:

- Regional center services (supported living, employment, transportation, day programs, respite, early intervention, and more).
- In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) for people with disabilities and seniors
- Medi-Cal coverage for low-income children, pregnant mothers, and people with disabilities.
- Long-term care services, including nursing facilities, prescription drugs, and home/community-based care.
- School-based services for children on Medi-Cal, including speech therapy, personal care aides, and school nurses.
- Californians with disabilities and seniors are particularly vulnerable, as they make up nearly half of all Medicaid expenditures in the state. These cuts could drastically reduce access to essential services, putting thousands at risk.

Additional information on federal funding: [Jan.-29-Medicaid-Webinar-for-Advocates.pptx](#)

Use this link to easily send a message to your reps asking them to protect Medicaid for everyone, including the I/DD community. <https://lnkd.in/g3qs9HEY>

Need more info on why Medicaid is important? Check this out: <https://lnkd.in/gggp2zhD>

Need help on how to talk about Medicaid with lawmakers? Check out this toolkit from The Arc: <https://lnkd.in/gmzBKdaW>

The Health Care Sabotage Tracker by Protect Our Care monitors policy changes, funding cuts, and administrative actions that threaten access to affordable health care in the U.S. This resource provides up-to-date information on efforts that may undermine Medicaid, Medicare, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and other critical health programs. Stay informed on how these changes could impact people with disabilities, low-income families, and vulnerable communities. [Health Care Sabotage Tracker — Protect Our Care](#)

DDS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

DDS Stakeholder Events

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/stakeholder-events/> (Use link to register for the event)

Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Workgroup Meeting

The QIP is designed to improve consumer outcomes, service provider performance, and the quality of services. **Currently, no workgroup meetings are scheduled.**

Regional Center Performance Measures Workgroup Meeting

The RCPM program has six focus areas identified by the Workgroup.

[View the materials on the RCPM webpage.](#)

Tentative 2025 RCPM Workgroup Meetings:

- April 22, 2025 – 1:00-3:00 pm
- July 22, 2025 – 1:00-3:00 pm
- October 28, 2025 – 1:00-3:00 pm

DDS Employment Stakeholder Workgroup Meeting

This workgroup, facilitated by the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS), brings together advocates, service providers, regional center representatives, policymakers, and individuals with disabilities to discuss and enhance employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). **Currently, no workgroup meetings are scheduled.**

DDS Workforce Initiatives

DDS Workforce Initiatives are aimed to recruit, train, and retain workers from diverse communities who support individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

[Workforce Initiatives : CA Department of Developmental Services](#)

Rate Reform: Rate Model Implementation

The California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has issued multiple directives since the beginning of this year, outlining the implementation of rate reforms for employment services, effective January 1, 2025. For detailed information on service descriptions, rate models, and billing procedures, please refer to the full directives available here:

- **February 4, 2025:** [D-2024-Rate Reform-013 Rate Reform Implementation for Respite Services Employer of Record and Participant Directed Services](#)
- **February 4, 2025:** [D-2024 Rate Reform-011 REV Rate Reform Implementation for Residential Services](#)
- **January 22, 2025:** <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/D-2024-Rate-Reform-006-REV-Transportation-Services.pdf>
- **January 22, 2025:** <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/P-2024-Rate-Reform-002-REV-Service-Code-Crosswalk.pdf>
- **January 17, 2025:** https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/D-2024-RateReform-007_REV2_RateReformImplementationEmploymentServices.pdf

- **January 3, 2025:** https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/D-2024-RateReform-015_MileageCalculationForTransporationServicesProviders.pdf
- **January 2, 2025:** https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/D-2024-RateReform-016_RateReform_Guidance_Transitional_Rates.pdf

Additional Resources On Rate Reform: [Rate Reform : CA Department of Developmental Services](#)

Master Plan for Developmental Services

The upcoming Master Plan aims to strengthen connections between developmental services and other key sectors, including education, housing, employment, transportation, and healthcare. <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services/>

Master Plan Upcoming Meetings

When: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 - 10:00 am – 3:30 pm ([Registration](#))

In-Person Location: CA Lottery 700 North 10th Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

The meeting will cover key themes from recent public input, provide an overview of the **Working Group Framework** for future use, and include planning discussions led by the working groups.

Early Start Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)

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 February 06 and 07, 2025. **No upcoming meetings as of yet.**

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

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

- February 21st, 2025 - Last day for bills to be introduced
- May 9th, 2025 - Last day for policy committees to report non fiscal bills to the Floor.
- June 6th, 2025 - Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house.
- June 15th, 2025 - Budget bill must be passed by midnight.




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

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 – Tacos & Taxes Event

This event aims to provide free tax preparation services to eligible individuals and families.




-  **Date:** Thursday, March 8, 2025
-  **Time:** All day
-  **Location:** College of the Canyons (Exact location provided upon appointment confirmation) ([Registration](#))

Cal-TASH 42nd Annual Conference: Rolling Out the Red Carpet – This year’s conference

will celebrate equity, opportunity, and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

-  **Date:** Friday, March 28 - Saturday, March 29, 2025
-  **Time:** Burbank, CA
-  **Location:** Los Angeles Marriott, Burbank Airport, 2500 N Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505, USA ([Registration](#))




The Arc of California - DisCo at the Capitol: California Disability Community Advocacy Conference – This two-day event is designed to inspire, educate, and empower attendees to become advocates for Californians with disabilities and their families.

-  **Date:** Tuesday, April 1 – Wednesday, April 2, 2025
-  **Time:** 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM (**April 1st**); 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM (**April 2nd**)
-  **Location:** State Capitol West Steps, Sacramento, CA ([Registration](#))

NLACRC LEGISLATIVE EVENT

This event offers a valuable opportunity to hear directly from local legislators about their work in Sacramento and the policies impacting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families.

Legislative Town Hall

-  **Date:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025
-  **Time:** 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
-  **Location:** Zoom ([Registration](#))



North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Director's Report
February 2025

I. NLACRC Spotlight:

A. Special Incident Report Timelines:

- i. NLACRC's adherence to transmitting Special Incident Reports (SIRs) to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) in two business days is an average of 93% across a rolling 12 months, as compared to an average of 88.9% across all regional centers.
- ii. Vendors and long-term health providers' adherence to transmitting SIRs to NLACRC is an average of 88% across a rolling 12 months, as compared to an 84.8% average across all regional centers.

B. Training:

- i. NLACRC recently surveyed 50 new hires that completed their staff orientation training.
- ii. 62% of the new hires responded to the survey. All respondents agreed, with the majority expressing strong agreement, that the training increased their knowledge and job readiness.

C. Recruiting Infrastructure:

- i. Marlene has joined NLACRC as the new Recruiting Manager, bringing over 14 years of experience in recruiting and talent acquisition.
 1. As Recruiting Manager, she will:
 - (a) Lead recruitment strategies to attract top talent.
 - (b) Oversee the hiring process and improve efficiency.
 - (c) Support workforce planning and development initiatives.
- ii. An additional recruiter has been hired, bringing the total to five (5). Plans are underway for another recruiter to join at the end of this month to further strengthen the team.

D. Career Ladder:

- i. Due to the work of employee-driven workgroups, NLACRC is creating another job tier for case management – Associate Service Coordinators.
 1. Partnering closely with California State University, Northridge (CSUN), we will be hiring undergraduate and graduate students in related fields to work part-time.
 2. Associate Service Coordinators will have access to mentorship from lead trainers and a reduced caseload.

E. Self-Determination Lead Training Specialist:

- i. Also, through the extensive work of employee-driven focus groups, NLACRC is in the process of hiring Consumer Services Consumer Self-Determination Lead Training Specialists.

- ii. The rationale for these positions includes the fact that NLACRC currently manages 504 Self-Determination Program (SDP) cases.
- iii. However, not every Service Coordinator has an SDP case, which limits their fluency in the process.
- iv. Additionally, due to NLACRC's significant recruitment efforts, many Service Coordinators are new, which may impact their ability to provide effective advocacy.
- v. These specialists will not only manage SDP cases directly but also provide training to service coordination units, ensuring they are fully prepared to take on SDP cases once they have demonstrated competency.

II. Legislative Updates:

A. **Governor's Proposed Budget:**

- i. The total budget is expected to increase by 20.2%, reaching \$19 billion, which is an increase of \$3.2 billion. Most of this \$18.6 billion is for regional center programs.
- ii. The state's general fund covers 64% of the budget, while the remaining 36% (\$6.84 billion) comes mainly from Medicaid and other sources.
- iii. Public Records Act
 - 1. \$11.5 million is allocated for Public Records Act implementation including \$1.8 million for 10 headquarters positions and contract resources, and \$9.7 million for regional centers to manage redactions, privacy protections, and legal compliance through CPRA management, legal review, and IT support.

B. **The Office of Management and Budget memo**

- i. This was released on Monday, January 27, 2024 and has since been rescinded.
- ii. Based on our current understanding, Medicaid would not have been affected. However, future proposals may seek to impose work requirements or per capita spending limits on the program.
- iii. Medicaid—known as Medi-Cal in California—remains a critical funding source, accounting for approximately 34.6% (\$6.6 billion) of the projected \$19 billion budget for California's developmental disabilities services system next year, including an estimated \$58 million for Early Start.
- iv. Services provided under the Lanterman Act are entitlement programs, meaning individuals who meet eligibility criteria have a legal right to receive necessary services and support, regardless of budget constraints.
- v. NLACRC will continue to monitor developments and provide updates as more information becomes available.

III. Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Updates:

A. **Southern California Fires:**

- i. DDS has allowed regional centers in impacted areas to apply for Health & Safety Waivers if needed.
- ii. DDS has also offered additional flexibilities for us to focus on the continued provision of services for our individuals served.

B. Rate Reform

i. Transportation:

1. DDS has received feedback on transportation rate models, particularly concerns about the shift to single-vehicle mileage billing from individual mile calculations.
2. A workgroup of about 30 participants met on the 13th and continue discussions.
3. The hold harmless calculations in this directive will clarify potential impacts, though a single rate across vehicle types may lead to mixed outcomes.
4. Further discussion is needed on billing when a vehicle serves multiple Regional Centers.

ii. Supported Employment Program (SEP) and Other Rate Reform Statutory Changes

1. Current rate models support a 1:2 staff-to-client ratio for SEP group services, but state law requires a minimum ratio of 1:3. Legislative changes will be needed to allow for 1:2 groupings.
2. The long-term plan is to move service requirements from state law into regulations, starting with employment services and Adult Residential Facilities for Persons with Special Health Care Needs (ARFPSHN), allowing for greater flexibility and updates.

iii. Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Supported Employment Program (SEP) Rate

1. The DOR has informed providers that it will cover 90% of the benchmark rate, with Regional Centers (RCs) responsible for paying any applicable portion under the Quality Incentive Program (QIP).
2. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is working with the DOR to clarify this policy and establish future SEP standards, including evaluating whether Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) certification remains beneficial.

C. SB 138 Implementation Updates:

i. Intake Standardization

1. The process will be standardized in phases, with input from a Regional Center (RC) workgroup.
2. There's agreement on standardizing certain elements, like forms.
3. Technology solutions may help streamline the process.

ii. Vendorization Standardization

1. The process will be linked to the provider directory, with a development deadline of June 2025 and implementation by January 2026.
2. Discussions are ongoing about standardizing program design, service agreements, and contract review processes.
3. Providers have raised concerns about varying insurance requirements across regional centers, but full standardization may be difficult due to differing subcontractor rules.

iii. Respite Services

1. A new respite and family support tool is expected to be finalized by June 2025.
2. Regional Centers will begin piloting the tool in the coming weeks.

IV. **Master Plan Workgroup Updates:**

A. **Workgroup #1: Person-Centered Service Systems**

- i. Members focused on improving access to decision-makers, empowering service coordinators to make more decisions, clarifying available services, and expanding outreach to referral sources.

B. **Workgroup #2: Timely and Inclusive Services**

- i. Members are exploring ways to support individuals served by regional centers in becoming more involved in community life, including through employment and civic engagement.

C. **Workgroup #3: High-Quality Workforce**

- i. Participants discussed clarifications to the service coordinator role, enhancing support structures, removing administrative barriers, ensuring equitable pay statewide, and considering an independent study on caseload ratios.

D. **Workgroup #4: Consistent and Data-Driven Systems**

- i. Members are developing recommendations for accountability on person-centered outcomes across DDS, regional centers, and service providers while addressing abuse and neglect protections and creating performance-based incentive structures.

E. **Workgroup #5: Adequate Resources for Lifelong Services**

- i. Participants examined how to make community spaces and services, such as housing and employment, more inclusive to increase independence, participation, and membership for those served by regional centers.

V. **Center Updates:**

A. **Recruitment:**

- i. Total # positions filled: 805
 1. Total # positions authorized: 958
- ii. January New Hires
 1. 1st cycle (1/13/2025): 6 (confirmed total)
 2. 2nd cycle (1/27/2025): 11 (unconfirmed total)

B. **Outreach:**

i. **Department of Mental Health (DMH): Day of Giving**

1. NLACRC tabled at the most attended DMH event of the year, providing information to 150 attendees. The focus was to provide resources specifically to Antelope Valley's unhoused and underprivileged community. Families received essential goods and toys.

ii. **17th Annual Family Literacy Festival**

1. Santa Clarita Public Library hosted their annual event. NLACRC has been in attendance for the last 3 years, sharing literature, books, and giveaways to

attendees to raise awareness about our services. To optimize engagement with families, NLACRC also organized activities for children.

iii. Filipino Holiday Party

1. NLACRC joined with Family Focus Resource Center to celebrate the holidays. This group was founded in 1992, and the original founders were recognized by Councilmember John Lee. There was a record number of 76 attendees.

iv. Northeast Valley Health Corporation (NEVHC)'s 27th Annual Holiday Drive

1. This event focuses on providing resources to medically underserved residents in both the Santa Clarita and San Fernando Valleys. NLACRC provided 135 attendees with information regarding eligibility and services.

C. Consumer Statistics:

- i. Total served: 38,302
- ii. Early Start: 5,143
- iii. Lanterman: 30,576
- iv. Breakdown of all three valleys:
 1. AV 9,048 (Early Start & Lanterman)
 2. SCV 4,215 (Early Start & Lanterman)
 3. SFV 22,456 (Early Start & Lanterman)
- v. Intake all 3 valleys: 1,002 & Early Start Intake: 361
- vi. All other categories not captured in Early Start, Lanterman, and Intake, such as Provisional, Enhanced, Specialized, and other which total: 1,220.

D. Quality Assurance:

- i. NLACRC's Quality Assurance team conducted 73 residential visits
 1. 40 Unannounced In-Person Visits
 2. 4 Corrective Action Plans developed with residential providers

VI. Upcoming Disability Organization Events/Activities:

- A. State Council on Developmental Disabilities next council meeting – March 18, 2025
- B. Disability Rights California's next board meeting—March 27, 2025
- C. Self Determination Local Advisory Meeting –February 20, 2025

FY 2024-25 Vendor Advisory Committee	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 Absences
	Dark					Dark						Dark	
Alex Kopilevich, Chair		P	P	P	P		P						0
Jaklen Keshishyan, Alt. Chair		P	P	P	P		P						0
Jodie Agnew Navarro		P	P	P	P		P						0
Masood Babaeian		P	P	Ab	P		P						1
Paul Borda		P	P	P	P		P						0
Andrea Devers		P	Ab	P	P		P						1
Cal Enriquez		P	P	P	P		P						0
Ute Escorcica		P	P	P	P		P						0
Ricki Macken Chivers		P	P	P	P		P						0
Vahe Mkrtchian		Ab	P	Ab	P		P						2
Daniel Ortiz		Ab	P	Ab	Ab		P						3
Jen Pippard		P	P	P	P		Ab						1
Octavia Watkins		P	P	P	P		P						0
Sharon Weinberg		P	P	Ab	P		P						1

Meeting Time 2.50 1.75 1.50 1.75 1.25

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)