



# North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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

## MEMORANDUM

Date: October 14, 2024

To: **Government Community Relations Committee**  
Cathy Blin, George Alvarado, Kelley Coleman, Lety Garcia, Juan Hernandez, Jennifer Koster, Laura Monge, Curtis Wang, Jodie Agnew-Navarro – VAC Rep.

From: Kimberly Visokey, Executive Administrative Assistant

Re: Information and Materials for the next Government Community Relations Committee meeting on **Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 6:00p.m.**

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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, October 16, 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**

If you have any questions, please email [boardsupport@nlacrc.org](mailto:boardsupport@nlacrc.org)

Thank you!

Enclosures

c: Angela Pao-Johnson, Evelyn McOmic, Vini Montague, Chris Whitlock



# North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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## GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 16, 2024 – *Via Zoom*

6:00 p.m.

~ AGENDA ~

- I. **Call to Order & Introductions** – *Cathy Blin*
  - A. *John Van De Riet*, Public Information Supervisor (2 min)
- II. **Agenda** (1 min) (**Page 2**)
- III. **Public Input** – Agenda Items
- IV. **Consent Items** (2 min)
  - A. Approval of Minutes from the August 21, 2024, Meeting (**Page 4**)
- V. **Action Items**
- VI. **Committee Business**
  - A. Ideas for legislative events (5 min) (**Page 8**)
    1. Legislative Events Planning Team
  - B. Board Recognition – *Cathy Blin* (2 min)
    1. <https://www.nlacrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Board-Recognition-Policy.pdf> (**Page 9**)
    2. <https://www.nlacrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Application-for-Board-Recognition.pdf> (**Page 10**)
  - C. Strategic Plan – *Chris Whitlock* (2 min)
    1. Keeping legislators informed about pending issues.
    2. ARCA Housing
  - D. Legislative Letter Writing – *Chris Whitlock* (2 min)
    1. Social Media Letters
    2. Snail Mail Letters
  - E. ARCA Academy (3 min) (**Page 12**)
  - F. Critical Calendar Review (5 min) (**Page 13**)
- VII. **Report Outs / Discussions**
  - A. Social Media – *John Van De Riet* (3 Min)
    1. Social Media Analytics Report – August and September 2024 (**Page 16**)

B. Legislative Update – *Chris Whitlock (5 min) (Page 17)*

**VIII. Board Meeting Agenda Items – *Cathy Blin (1 min)***

A. Chair Summary

**IX. Announcements / Information / Public Input (5 min)**

A. Upcoming Community Events

1. <https://www.nlacrc.org/news-events/calendar/>

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

C. Committee Attendance

**X. Adjournment**

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

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

August 21, 2024

**Present:** Cathy Blin, Kelley Coleman, Juan Hernandez, Jennifer Koster, Laura Monge, Curtis Wang, Jodie Agnew-Navarro-VAC *Rep.* – **Committee Members**

Cristina Preuss, Evelyn McOmie, Chris Whitlock, John Van De Riet, Kimberly Visokey - **Staff Members**

Ana Quiles - Board President, Mark Wolfe – DDS Technical Advisor, Tresa Oliveri– DDS Technical Advisor, Marianita Mendoza - DDS - **Guests**

**Absent:** George Alvarado

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**I. Call to Order & Introductions**

- A. Chris Whitlock called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
- B. The Committee Members and NLACRC staff introduced themselves.

**II. Agenda Overview**

**III. Public Input**

No public input

**IV. Consent Items**

- A. Approval of Minutes from the May 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting

**M/S/C** (Juan Hernandez / Cathy Blin) To approve the meeting minutes as presented.

**IV. Committee Business**

- A. Volunteer to Serve as Committee Chair

- 1. Cathy Blin and Curtis Wang volunteered to serve as the Committee Chair for the FY24-25 term. After a majority vote, it was announced that Cathy would serve as chair and Curtis as co-chair.

- B. Annual Committee Orientation - Cristina Preuss

- 1. Policies & Procedures

Cristina Preuss discussed the government relations and communication Policies and Procedures, highlighting the role of the Government and Community Relations Committee in advocating for the organization's interests and promoting inclusion in the community.

2. Legislative Platform Guiding Principles  
The committee reviewed their legislative priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, which included increasing community engagement, conducting advocacy trainings, and supporting employment legislation. Cathy Blin suggested reviewing the comprehensive list of priorities at the next meeting.
  3. Board Recognition Policy & Application  
Cristina Preuss outlined the Board Recognition policy, which honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the lives of people with developmental disabilities. She also emphasized the importance of maintaining relationships with disability community organizations, service providers, and elected representatives. 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 individual's contribution should be over a sustained period of time, made within NLACRC's catchment area, and have positively impacted the lives of many consumers and 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
  4. Board Audit Section  
This document was reviewed as presented in the packet
  5. Critical Calendar FY 23-24  
This document was reviewed as presented in the packet
  6. FY 2024-25 Meeting Schedule  
This document was reviewed as presented in the packet
- C. Disability Community Organization, Service Provider and Elected Representative Visit Policy  
During a Trustees term, board members 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.
- D. Service Provider and Elected Representative Visit policy  
NLACRC board members must maintain an active role in building and sustaining relationships within our disability community organizations, elected representative, and service provider communities. The committee discussed ways to improve their engagement with new community partners, particularly those from the disability community. They agreed to set a goal of engaging at least two new partners this year, with the support of existing staff. The possibility of inviting organizations to present at future committee meetings was also considered.

E. NLACRC Board of Trustees Legislative Priorities and Platform

This document was reviewed as presented in the packet. A discussion was had regarding item 6 of the document: *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.* The committee decided this item needs to be updated with clarity on how to accomplish / set goals.

**M/S/C** (Cathy Blin / Curtis Wang) To approve the legislative priorities for fiscal year 2025

Concerns were also raised about the disconnect between the legislative priorities committee and the ARCA, the agency representing all 21 regional centers, due to Lety Garcia, the board that Board's ARCA Representative, not being a member of the committee. Ana Quiles acknowledged the issue, noting it was a recurring problem and proposed that the committee could recommend to the board that Board's ARCA Representative should be included in the Government and Community Relations Committee. The committee agreed, and if Lety Garcia agrees to join the committee, her involvement would then be taken to the board for approval.

**M/S/C** (Cathy Blin / Kelley Coleman) To recommend to the board that Board's ARCA Representative should be included in the Government and Community Relations Committee.

F. Candidates Forum

Chris Whitlock led discussions on the organization's legislative efforts, proposing to move the Candidates Forum to after the elections. A year-round letter writing campaign and social media efforts to maintain relationships with outgoing officials and support new positions was also suggested. They also agreed to recalibrate the critical calendar to align with the current organizational setup, with a follow-up meeting scheduled to further discuss this.

G. Legislative Activities

Chris Whitlock reviewed with the committee the Legislative Events document that was included in the packet, highlighting several upcoming activities, including the Legislative Town Hall in February, the April Legislative Breakfast, and the Voter's Rights training in September.

**V. Report Outs/ Discussion**

A. Social Media

1. Social Media Analytics Report – May, June & July 2024

Chris Whitlock shared the analytics as presented in the packet. presented the social media analytics report, highlighting an increase in followers but a drop in engagement on Instagram.

B. Legislative Update

The team discussed legislative recaps, and the new website's focus on providing information about representatives and legislative bills, and the status of various bills.

**VI. Board Audit Question**

- A. Does NLACRC have a training and information plan that meets the requirements of statute, contracts and Board Policy?

The NLACRC does have such a training program in place. There are annual, mandated trainings that are rolled out to staff that includes but is not limited to HIPAA compliance and national voter registration as designated by the State. When individuals apply and begin the intake process, change address or renew services, NLACRC should be offering voter registration forms and staff is trained accordingly. NLACRC recently developed an eLearning catalog with self-paced training and open enrollment.

**VII. Review of Meeting Action Items**

- A. Ana Quiles to speak with Letty about joining the Government and Community Relations Committee.
- B. Ana Quiles to consult with the attorney regarding adding the ARCA representative to the committee.
- C. Committee to review and update the critical calendar for the committee.
- D. Cathy Blin, Curtis Wang, and Chris Whitlock to meet and develop recommendations for committee activities and letter writing campaign.
- E. Chris Whitlock to prepare a presentation on legislative activities and bills for the next meeting.
- F. Board Support to update the legislative priorities document with the new fiscal year and approval date.
- G. Chris Whitlock to work on developing a one-page "commercial" for committee members to use during legislative visits.
- H. Committee to review and discuss voting procedures at the next meeting.
- I. Cristina Preuss and Board Support to schedule legislative advocacy training for the November committee meeting.

**VIII. Board Meeting Agenda Items**

- A. GCRC Legislative Priorities

**IX. Announcements / Information / Public Input**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Committee Attendance

Public Input - No public input

**X. Adjournment**

Cathy Blin adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm

Submitted by:

*Kimberly Visokey*

Executive Administrative Assistant

# 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.



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.

Step 1: 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.

Step 2: 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.

Step 3: 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.

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.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**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:

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**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

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(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: \_\_\_\_

 *You're Invited!*



**ARCA Academy**

# Board Development and Leadership Event

REGISTER NOW



Learn about mission, strategy, and evaluation, leadership, legal compliance and ethics, finance, operations, and resource development, and public awareness, engagement, and advocacy!

- Friday, September 6 at The Doubletree by Hilton San Bernardino
- Saturday, September 7 at the Inland Regional Center

## Hotel Reservation Details

A block of rooms has been reserved at The Doubletree by Hilton San Bernardino for the ARCA Academy at the contracted rate of \$129/room.

Reservations must be made by Friday, August 23. [Book your room for the ARCA Academy!](#)

Alternatively, you may call 1-800-445-8667 and let the Front Desk Agent know you would like to make a reservation under the "ARCA Academy Dinner" discounted rate, using the Group Code **ARC**.

The hotel requests that individual reservations be guaranteed with a major credit card.

\*Please see additional hotel details linked [here](#).

## Agenda (See full details [here](#).)

### Friday, September 6 at The Doubletree Hilton

**3:30 PM** – Board Delegates Gathering

**5:00 PM** – Welcome

**5:15 PM** – Dinner

**5:45 PM** – Open Plenary Session #1: *"Themes and Trends in Developmental Service Innovations"*

**6:45 PM** – Open Forum

**8:01PM** – Reception – No Host Bar

### Saturday, September 7 at the Inland Regional Center

**8:30 AM** – Breakfast

**9:15 AM** – Welcome

**9:30 AM** – Plenary Session #2: *"Show Me the Data"*

**10:45 AM** – Plenary Session #3: *"Equity in Service Access: What Have We Done So Far and How Will We Know What Will It Look Like When We Get There"*

**12:00 PM** – Lunch

**12:30PM** – Keynote Lunch Speaker

**1:30 PM** – Breakout Sessions

**3:30 PM** – Closing Session



RSVP for the ARCA Academy Board Development and Leadership event [here](#). For questions,<sup>2</sup> please contact Tony Anderson at [tanderson@arcanet.org](mailto:tanderson@arcanet.org)

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

<i>Month</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<b>July</b>	<i>(The committee does not meet in July)</i>
<b>August</b>	<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 &amp; 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><b>Board Audit:</b> Does the center have a training and information plan that meets the requirements of statute, contracts, and board policy?</p>
<b>September</b>	<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>
<b><i>October</i></b>	<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><b>Board Audit:</b> 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><b>Board Audit:</b> Are there sufficient financial and human resources available to carry out the center’s training and information plan?</p>
<b><i>November</i></b>	<i>(The committee does not meet in November)</i>
<b><i>December</i></b>	<i>(The committee is dark in December)</i>
<b><i>January</i></b>	<p>Committee begins planning for ARCA’s Grass Roots Day and NLACRC’s Grass Roots Week.</p> <p>Determine Board Recognition Recipients</p> <p><b>Board Audit:</b> Are the methods identified in the center’s training and information plan in line with the center’s mission, vision, and values statement?</p>
<b><i>February</i></b>	<i>(The committee does not meet in February)</i>
<b><i>March</i></b>	Review of Legislative Bills
<b><i>April</i></b>	<i>(The committee does not meet in April)</i>

<b><i>May</i></b>	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).
<b><i>June</i></b>	<i>(The committee does not meet in June)</i>

## Facebook

	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024
<b>Total Followers</b>	7,016	7,026	7,035
<b>Public Comments</b>	22	7	9
<b>New Followers</b>	9	13	16
<b>Posts</b>	130	134	152
<b>Total Engagements</b>	860	840	1,263
<b>Page Reach</b>	14,774	13,288	20,110

## Instagram

	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024
<b>Total Followers</b>	1,254	1,292	1,321
<b>Public Comments</b>	2	10	2
<b>New Followers</b>	22	38	29
<b>Posts</b>	129	146	140
<b>Total Engagements</b>	283	376	260

## X/Twitter

	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024
<b>Total Followers</b>	582	593	613
<b>Impressions</b>	No Longer Reported	No Longer Reported	No Longer Reported

**Summary:** Overall, all platforms saw a steady increase in followers, with a notable engagement spike on Facebook in September.



## 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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: **On September 29, 2024** the bill was Vetoed by Governor Newsome. In Senate. Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240SB1281](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB1281)

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

This bill 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: **On September 28, 2024** the bill was approved by Governor Newsome. - Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 902, Statutes of 2024. \***CHAPTERED** after a bill has been signed by the Governor, the Secretary of State assigns the bill a Chapter Number, such as Chapter 902, Statutes of 2024, which is subsequently used to refer to the measure rather than the bill number.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB1147](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 3, 2024** the bill passed to the Senate and has been assigned to the Human Services Committee and Judiciary Committee for review. From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.)

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB1876](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 September 14, 2024** the bill was **chaptered\*** by the Secretary of State – Chapter 233, Statutes of 2024. \***CHAPTERED** after a bill has been signed by the Governor, the Secretary of State assigns the bill a Chapter Number, such as Chapter 1234, Statutes of 2019, which is subsequently used to refer to the measure rather than the bill number.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB1906](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 May 16, 2024** – In committee: \*Held under submission. \***Held under submission** - An action taken by a committee when a bill is heard in committee and there is an indication that the author and the committee members want to work on or discuss the bill further, but there is no motion for the bill to progress out of committee. This does not preclude the bill from being set for another hearing.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB2002](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 September 28, 2024** the bill was approved by Governor Newsome. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 904, Statutes of 2024. \***CHAPTERED** after a bill has been signed by the Governor, the Secretary of State assigns the bill a Chapter Number, such as Chapter 904, Statutes of 2024, which is subsequently used to refer to the measure rather than the bill number.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB2423](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.**

Status: **On May 16, 2024** In committee: \*Held under submission. \***Held under submission** - An action taken by a committee when a bill is heard in committee and there is an indication that the author and the committee members want to work on or discuss the bill further, but there is no motion for the bill to progress out of committee. This does not preclude the bill from being set for another hearing.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB1914](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1914)

**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.

Status: **On August 15, 2024** - In committee: \*Held under submission. \***Held under submission** - An action taken by a committee when a bill is heard in committee and there is an indication that the author and the committee members want to work on or discuss the bill further, but there is no motion for the bill to progress out of committee. This does not preclude the bill from being set for another hearing.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB2360](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB2360)

**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.

Status: **On September 27, 2024** – the bill was vetoed by the Governor. In Senate. Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB3063](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB3063)

**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.

Status: **On September 20, 2024** the bill was vetoed by Governor Newsome. In Senate. Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240SB1463](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB1463)

## **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://sd24.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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 – Bills enacted on or before this date take effect on January 1, 2025
- November 5<sup>th</sup>, 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**

- Senior Fair
  - Thu, Oct 10, 2024, 9am – 1pm
  - SCV Senior Center at Bella Vida 27180 Golden Valley Road Santa Clarita, CA 91350
  - <https://a40.asmdc.org/event/20241010-senior-fair>
- Financial Planning Fair
  - Sat, Oct 19, 2024, 10am – 3pm
  - West San Fernando Valley
  - <https://a40.asmdc.org/event/20241019-financial-planning-fair>

## **DDS Stakeholder Events**

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

### **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, conduce, 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.

### **Tentative RCPM Workgroup Meetings:**

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

### **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](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/>

**Upcoming Meetings** - <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services/#upcoming-meeting-dates>

Wednesday, October 9, 2024 (San Diego) - 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Wednesday, November 6, 2024 (Online Only) - 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 (Sacramento) - 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Wednesday January 8, 2025 (Los Angeles) - 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 (Bay Area) - 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 (Sacramento) - 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

**Legislative Update**

With the May Revision released the real negotiations on spending priorities have 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:

- January 16th and 17th, 2025