



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: January 15, 2025

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

From: Arezo Abedi, Admin and Lindsay Granger, Admin

Re: Information and Materials for the next Government Community Relations Committee meeting on **Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 6:00p.m.**

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

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 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

Thank you!

Enclosures

c: Angela Pao-Johnson, Evelyn McOmie, Vini Montague, Chris Whitlock, Jodie Agnew-Navarro – Vendor Advisory Committee Representative



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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

GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 – *Via Zoom*

6:00 p.m.

~ AGENDA ~

- I. **Call to Order & Introductions** – *Cathy Blin*
 - A. Belinda Abatesi, M.B.A.
- II. **Agenda** (*1 min*)
 - A. Approval of the January 15, 2025 Agenda (*page 2*)
- III. **Public Input** – Agenda Items
- IV. **Consent Items** (*2 min*)
 - A. Approval of Minutes from the October 16, 2024, Meeting (*page 4*)
- V. **Action Items**
 - A. GCRC Critical Calendar (*page 7*)
 - B. Legislative Breakfast (*page 10*)
 1. Create Workgroup *
- VI. **Committee Business**
 - A. Legislative Town Hall Update (*page 11*)
 - B. Board Recognition Update
 - C. ARCA's Grassroots Day and NLACRC's Grassroots Week
- VII. **Report Outs / Discussions**
 - A. Social Media – *John Van De Riet (3 Min)* (*page 12*)
 1. Social Media Analytics Report – Oct., Nov., & Dec. 2024
 - B. Legislative Update – *Belinda Abatesi, M.B.A (5 min)* (*page 13*)
 1. Legislative Letter Writing Campaigns
- VIII. **Board Meeting Agenda Items** – *Cathy Blin (1 min)*
 - A. Chair Summary
- IX. **Announcements / Information / Public Input** (*5 min*)

- A. Upcoming Community Events
 - 1. <http://www.nlacrc.org/news-events/calendar/>
- B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 6:00pm
- C. Committee Attendance (*page 17*)

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

October 16, 2024

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

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

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

Absent: Kelley Coleman,

I. Call to Order & Introductions

- A. Chris Whitlock called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- B. John Van de Riet, NLACRC Public Information Supervisor was introduced.

II. Agenda Overview

III. Public Input

No public input

IV. Consent Items

- A. Approval of Minutes from the August 21, 2024 Meeting

M/S/C (Curtis Wang / Cathy Blin) To approve the meeting minutes as presented.

V. Action Items

There were no Action Items

VI. Committee Business

A. Ideas for Legislative Events

Chris Whitlock presented a number of events that have been held in the past. The team discussed organizing various events, including a legislative breakfast in April, a voting rights presentation in September, and the possibility of a legislative town hall in February. It was agreed that the team would develop a program around these items and bring it back to the committee at the next meeting.

1. Legislative Town Hall (February) - A 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.

B. Board Recognition

Cathy Blin reviewed the Board Recognition Policy and Application. She encouraged the members to consider submission of anyone they know that should be considered for this honor.

C. Strategic Plan

Chris Whitlock discussed how the team has been working with our legislators to keep them informed with some of the action items that we have in the strategic plan. A part of that is working with ARCA housing and working with additional dwelling units. We are also working with Belinda Abatesi, NLACRC's new legislative specialist and with Michelle Heid, to develop a plan and a goal for reaching out to our legislators regarding our strategic plan and making that a primary focus for this upcoming year.

D. Legislative Letter Writing

Chris Whitlock shared with the committee that they have some samples letters to share at the January meeting. There will be different templates for specific communications. We want to have a little bit of an area where individuals could customize the template so that it's a little bit more personal to them, or maybe they have a story or something they'd like to share.

E. ARCA Academy

The ARCA Academy Report was presented by Lety Garcia. She gave a brief overview of the event, including the Agenda and the location. She let the committee know that overall it was it was a very good event with a lot of great workshops. She also noted that NLACRC had about 12 board members.

F. Critical Calendar Review Deferred to next meeting as an action item

VII. Report Outs/ Discussion

A. Social Media

John Van de Riet reviewed the Social Media summary as presented in the packet. This report includes the data for social media platforms and NLACRC's numbers.

B. Legislative Update

There were 3 major updates that Chris Whitlock updated the committee on:

1. **AB 1147 (Addis) Disability Equity and Accountability Act of 2023:**

Status: On September 28, 2024 the bill was approved by Governor Newsome

2. **AB 1906 (Gipson) Persons with disabilities: terminology**
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.
3. **SB 1281 (Menjivar) Advancing Equity and Access in the Self-Determination Program**
Status: On September 29, 2024 the bill was Vetoed by Governor Newsome. In Senate. Consideration of Governor's veto pending.

VIII. Board Meeting Agenda Items

- A. GCRC Legislative Priorities

IX. Announcements / Information / Public Input

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Committee Attendance

Public Input - No public input

X. Adjournment

Cathy Blin adjourned the meeting at 6:29 pm

VII. Review of Meeting Action Items

- Update the Critical Calendar with Legislative Events – Chris Whitlock / Cathy Blin
- Add the critical calendar review to action items for the next meeting agenda. – Board Support
- Add board recognition information to the next VAC meeting agenda. - Jodie Agnew-Navarro

Submitted by:

Kimberly Visokey

Executive Administrative Assistant

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

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

Approved 6/12/2024

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

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

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



North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Jynny Retzinger Community Service Award

Jynny Retzinger was a long-time member of the North Los Angeles County Regional Center Board of Trustees. She was a parent and very active in advocating for her son as well as other consumers. Her contributions numbered many. Jynny's interests in the legislative system led to her founding the first NLACRC Legislative Breakfast. She had an active role in the regional center's grass roots efforts both locally and at the state level. She chaired the Board's Government and Community Relations Committee giving vital guidance and direction on various legislative issues throughout her tenure with the Board. We commemorate Jynny's passion and dedicated volunteer work with individuals with developmental disabilities by this annual award presentation to other community advocates in the area of legislative advocacy.

Purpose

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 on behalf of people with developmental disabilities.

Eligibility

A consumer, parent or community member, other than NLACRC staff or member of the NLACRC Board of Trustees, who either lives in or has provided service in the NLACRC catchment area is eligible for this award. The recipient of this award may be a volunteer or paid professional.

Basis of Selection

The recipient may be selected based on efforts related to the support, advocacy, and value of service provided to people with developmental disabilities consistent with the NLACRC Mission Statement. Consideration may be given to nominees who have demonstrated leadership in the field of developmental disabilities and who have had a positive impact either on a local, state, or national level.



LEGISLATIVE TOWN HALL

February 25th, 2025



6:00pm - 7:30pm



Register here: <https://rebrand.ly/nlacrc townhall2025>

Join NLACRC to hear from your elected representatives as they discuss Sacramento initiatives focused on regional center staffing, reducing caseloads, improving service access, and promoting equity for individuals with developmental disabilities.

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING:



Legislators: Hear directly from constituents about the issues that matter most to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.



Community Members, Family Members & Advocates: Share your stories to shape future policies.



Service Providers: Collaborate with legislators to advocate for better resources and services.

Contact Belinda Abatesi at babatesi@nlacrc.org or 818-922-7091 to submit questions for the legislators or if you have questions about the town hall



SPANISH INTERPRETATION WILL BE AVAILABLE

Facebook

	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024
Total Followers	7,050	7,081	7,084
Public Comments	3	11	2
New Followers	26	34	3
Posts	120	83	69
Total Engagements	550	2,285	894
Page Reach	10,456	27,174	12,436

Instagram

	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024
Total Followers	1,363	1,403	1,421
Public Comments	6	3	9
New Followers	42	40	18
Posts	111	81	61
Total Engagements	259	336	340

X/Twitter

	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024
Total Followers	518	520	528

Community and Legislative Educator Report January 2025

LEGISLATIVE BILLS - CHAPTERED

***CHAPTERED:** Once 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.

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.

Status: **On September 28, 2024** the bill was approved by Governor Newsom, and chaptered as Chapter 904, Statutes of 2024.

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

AB 1906 (Gipson) Persons with disabilities: terminology - This bill has been amended from a simple update to respectful terminology to now require the California Law Revision Commission, with input from stakeholders, to conduct a study and submit recommendations to the Legislature. The study will focus on replacing the terms “dependent adult” and “dependent person” with terminology that respectfully describes these individuals while preserving their legal rights and protections, as specified.

Status: **On September 14, 2024** the bill was chaptered by the Secretary of State – Chapter 233, Statutes of 2024.

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

AB 2423 (Mathis) Developmental Services: rates - This bill requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to update provider rate models every two years, beginning July 1, 2025. Rate updates will be contingent upon state appropriation and the availability of federal funds, using current cost inputs at the time of each review. The bill also mandates that DDS post the updated rate models on its website by January 1 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 Newsom. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 904, Statutes of 2024.

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

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

- January 6th, 2025 - Legislature reconvenes
- January 10th, 2025 - Last day to submit bill requests
- February 21st, 2025 - Last day for bills to be introduced
- May 2nd, 2025 - Last day for policy committees to report fiscal bills to fiscal committees.
- May 9th, 2025 - Last day for policy committees to report non fiscal bills to the Floor.

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

DDS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

DDS Stakeholder Events

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

Regional Center Performance Measures Workgroup Meeting

Since September 2021, DDS has collaborated with the Regional Center Performance Measures (RCPM) Workgroup—comprising representatives from across the developmental disabilities services system—to establish performance measures and incentives aimed at enhancing consumer outcomes and regional center effectiveness.

Tentative 2025 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

Rate Reform: Rate Model Implementation

In the coming weeks, the Department will issue a series of directives detailing updated service descriptions, requirements, and timelines for any transitions within each service category. The Rate Models were developed with consideration of the costs providers face in delivering services according to the state's requirements. This standardization ensures that providers receive consistent rates across Regional Centers for equivalent services in the same area. Service providers with rates above the Rate Model base rate will be held harmless (no rate change) until June 30, 2026, after which their rates will align with the Rate Model base rate. Rates and rate models effective January 1, 2025, incorporate updated cost components as of January 2024, while cost updates from February 2022 were used for previous rate adjustments effective April 1, 2022, and January 1, 2023.

As part of this rate reform, DDS launched **Phase 1 of the Provider Directory** on October 29, 2024. During this phase, select regional center staff and service providers can access the directory to verify and, if necessary, update pre-populated information from DDS sources, with any changes subject to regional center approval.

To encourage participation, the **Quality Incentive Program (QIP)** offers providers up to a 10% quality incentive on their reimbursement rate for completing updates by November 29, 2024. Participation in the directory update process is the only method for providers under rate reform to qualify for the QIP incentive, effective from January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Additional Resources On Rate Reform:

- [North Los Angeles Regional Center Accessible January 2024 Report:](#) Comprehensive report on directory access for North Los Angeles Regional Center.
- [Provider Directory News:](#) Latest updates and announcements about the Provider Directory.

- [DDS Provider Directory Initiative](#): Overview of the directory, access details, and implementation steps.
- [DDS Rate Model Implementation FAQ](#): Frequently asked questions about the Rate Model Implementation and related incentives.

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/>

Master Plan Upcoming Meetings

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

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

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 October 17th and 18th, 2024. More information and minutes from past meetings and workgroups can be found at the link above. Upcoming Meetings:

- January 16th and 17th, 2025

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

2024 GENERAL ELECTION AND CANDIDATES

The following officials were elected during the **November 5th, 2024, General Election**. This election included all seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, odd-numbered

California Senate districts, and all Assembly districts within the NLACRC catchment area.
[Find Your District Representative](#)

US SENATE

US Senate - Full Term and Partial/Unexpired Term
Adam Schiff (D) Incumbent re-elected

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CA Congressional District 23	CA Congressional District 26
Jay Obernolte (R) Incumbent re-elected	Julia Brownley (D) Incumbent re-elected
CA Congressional District 27	CA Congressional District 29
George Whitesides (D) New candidate elected	Luz Rivas (D) (Previously Assemblywoman for the 43rd district)
CA Congressional District 30	CA Congressional District 32
Laura Friedman (D) (Previously Assemblywoman for the 44th District)	Brad Sherman (D) Incumbent re-elected

CALIFORNIA SENATE

CA Senate District 23 (District 21 prior to Redistricting)	CA Senate District 27
Suzette Martinez Valladares (R) New candidate elected	Henry Stern (D) Incumbent re-elected

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY

CA Assembly District 34	CA Assembly District 39
Tom Lackey (R) Incumbent re-elected	Juan Carrillo Ventura (D) Incumbent re-elected
CA Assembly District 40	CA Assembly District 42
Pilar Schiavo (D) Incumbent re-elected	Jacqui Irwin (D) Incumbent re-elected
CA Assembly District 43	CA Assembly District 44
Celeste Rodriguez (D) (San Fernando Mayor) New candidate elected	Nick Schultz (D) New candidate elected
CA Assembly District 46	
Jesse Gabriel (D) Incumbent re-elected	

FY 2024-25	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Total Absences	Total Hours
Government & Community Relations Committee	Dark		Dark		Dark	Dark		Dark	Dark	Dark		Dark		
George Alvarado		Ab		Ab (60%)									2	
Cathy Blin		P		P									0	2.00
Juan Hernandez		P		P									0	2.00
Jennifer Koster		P		P									0	2.00
Laura Monge		P		P									0	2.00
Curtis Wang		P		P									0	2.00
Jodie Agnew-Navarro, VAC Rep		P		P									0	2.00
													0	2.00

Meeting Time

1.50

0.50

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)