



# 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: January 9, 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, Lisa Williamsen

From: Lindsay Granger and Arezo Abedi  
Executive Administrative Assistant

Re: Information and materials for the next Nominating Committee meeting on **Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.**

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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](mailto:boardsupport@nlacrc.org). Thank you!

### Attachments

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



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## VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 9, 2025

9:30 am (*Hybrid*)

Zoom/NLARC San Fernando Valley (Chatsworth) 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 November 7, 2024, Meeting (*1 min*) (page 4)
  - B. Approval of the Agenda (*1 min*) (page 2)
- V. **Action Items**
- VI. **Committee Business**
  - A. System/Industry Issues (*3 min*)
  - B. Service Provider Vendor Training/Mentorship Program Updates next meeting Friday, January 24, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom –Alex Kopilevich (*1 min*)
  - C. Self-Determination Update –Silvia Renteria-Haro (*1 min*)
  - D. Discussion of the applications for VAC members (3 Open Positions) – Alex Kopilevich (*10 min*)
- 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 10)
  - D. **Legislative Report** – Belinda Abatesi (*5 min*) (page 14)
  - E. **Executive Director’s Report** – Angela Pao-Johnson (*5 min*) (page 18)
    - i. Update on Vendor Forum
    - ii. Supporting Consumer Micro Businesses
- VIII. **Open Topics for Discussion** - Alex Kopilevich
  - A. November 13<sup>th</sup> New DDS Directives (*5 min*)

- B. Review Four (4) Vendor Advisory Committee Applicants (10 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: January 16, 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: January 13, 2025 @ 10:00am (via Zoom).**
- C. **Adult Services** (Octavia Watkins)  
For meeting schedule and information  
Contact: Octavia Watkins - excellencecrp@gmail.com  
**Next workgroup meeting: January 13, 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, February 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Hybrid – In-person location Santa Clarita Valley Office
- B. Committee Attendance (page 24)

**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  
NOVEMBER 7, 2024, 9:30 A.M.**

**MEMBERS:**

Alex Kopilevich, Jaklen Keshishyan, Jodie Agnew-Navarro, Octavia Watkins, Masood Babaeian, Paul Borda, Andrea Devers, Cal Enriquez, Ute Escorcica, Ricki Macken Chivers, Vahe Mkrtchian, Jen Pippard, Sharon Weinberg

**STAFF:**

Angela Pao-Johnson, Vini Montague, Arshalous Garlanian, Donna Rentsch, Belinda Abatesi, Geri Sue Cox, Kimberly Visokey, Arezo Abedi

**GUESTS:**

Mark Wolfe – DDS Tech Advisor, Sasha Chernik- Minute Solutions  
Other than panelists, there were 82 other attendees.

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**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. AGENDA**

There were no objections to the meeting agenda.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

**5. CONSENT ITEMS**

**M/S/C** (Masood Babaeian / Sharon Weinberg) to approve the minutes of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on October 3, 2024, as amended.

*ACTION – Kimberley Visokey will amend the minutes of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on October 3, 2024.*

**6. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OFFICER'S REPORT**

Arshalous Garlanian presented the Director Officer's report on behalf of Evelyn McOmie.

**6.1 NLACRC Vendor Portal Updates**

There are a total of 569 vendor IDs in the queue, 252 of which have been successfully onboarded onto the vendor portal. There are 107 IDs pending vendor acceptance, 143 are in the queue pending ID creations and 67 have been submitted with an error. Staff is following up on the invalid applications and will continue to onboard more vendors as applications are received.

## **6.2 POS Approval**

There were 5,518 POS approvals in October of 2024 and increase from 4,433 in September of 2024. Per a question from Alex Kopilevich, Arshalous Garlanian confirmed that vendors can receive email notifications for POSs becoming available if they opt in in the portal.

*ACTION – Per a question from Sharon Weinberg, Arshalous Garlanian will investigate if POSs for approval will be available before or after AAs are generated for residential providers.*

## **6.3 Staffing Updates**

Silvia Renteira-Haro has been promoted to Director of Client Services. Christine Pruse, Director of Consumer Services – Early Start School Age, will be retiring.

## **7. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

Vini Montague presented the Chief Financial Officer's Report.

February 6, 2025, is the deadline for vendors to bill for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. This information is posted on the e-billing website.

DDS has announced that the e-billing service now has the capability for uploading attendance files. The NLACRC team is testing the functionality and piloting it with a small number of service providers before implementing it fully for everyone. Training info and FAQs will be provided once the service is released to all providers.

## **8. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

### **8.1 Rate Reform**

The benchmark rate is changing to account for state minimum wage and mileage. The January, 2025, increase will be 90% of the difference between the rate in 2022 and the new benchmark rate. The remaining 10% will be reserved for the Quality Incentive Payment (QIP). NLACRC is currently working on Phase 2b, which is making updates to rates effective July, 2024, to incorporate the various rate increases to state minimum wage and mileage. NLACRC will send out rate letters to providers and is currently investigating providing the letters through the vendor portal. Vendors who are curious about where they are in the rate update process can reach out to their Contract and Compliance Representative for information.

The department postponed some of the trainings that were scheduled in October of 2024. The next training is on November 14, 2024. The registration information will be available on the department website.

### **8.2 Service Provider Directory**

Step 1 of the Service Provider Directory project was completed in August of 2024, when providers were asked to provide their contact information. Step 2 is data validation; emails have been sent to all providers asking them to validate their information. The deadline to validate and be eligible for the 10% QIP tied to the rate reform is November 20, 2024. Once providers validate their information, regional centers are notified and will be approving or denying and reaching out for additional information. To date, 100 providers have completed the validation. Providers that have not received the validation email can contact the provider directory emails for DDS or NLACRC.

**8.3 Employment Services**

The Employment Specialist is working on the annual survey report due to the department on all Paid Internship Programs (PIPs) and Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) incentives. Providers should submit them shortly so they are reflected in the report.

**8.4 Quality Incentive Program**

NLACRC has received feedback from providers that they have not received information on whether they have been accepted for the incentives. Staff is following up with the department.

**9. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Belinda Abatesi introduced herself as the new Legislative Specialist at the NLACRC and reviewed the Legislative Report in the meeting package.

**10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Angela Pao-Johnson reviewed the Executive Director's Report in the meeting package and addressed some questions from the panelists.

AB 1147 will be coming into effect in stages, the portions NLACRC is currently working on will be enacted on January 1, 2025. The full bill will be enacted by January, 2026, according to the government website.

Multiple accounting positions have been added over the past year, including two new self-determination dedicated accountant, two new account payables specialists to support service provider payments, one position dedicated to understanding operations issues, an accounting assistant to support tracking issues and a senior accounts payables specialist to support authorization processing.

**11. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**11.1 Return to In-Person Meetings**

**M/S/C** (Jacklen Keshishyan / Sharon Weinberg) to return to monthly in-person meetings with no mandatory in-person attendance, rotating the NLACRC offices to host the meetings.

*ACTION – Kimberley Visokey will update the meeting schedule and send out update calendar invites with locations.*

**11.2 New Service Provider Vendor Training and Mentorship Program Updates**

Ricki Macken Chivers provided the new service provider vendor training update.

The following options have been discussed to obtain a perspective from the vendor community to make the onboarding of new vendors easier:

- Training to understand what the POS items are and what they stand for.
- Training to understand the process of obtaining signatures, including the various levels of management through the regional center departments and timelines.
- Training on the language and laws that are used by CSC's to approve or deny service requests.
- A mentorship program, including a resource list of vendor contacts new vendors can inquire with about a specific service code.
- Mandatory new vendor training before they submit their first RFP request on vendor obligations and responsibilities.
- Training to write appropriate goals when submitting assessments.

Members and providers who are interested in attending the next meeting about new vendor training and mentorship programs should contact Alex Kopilevich.

### **11.3 Self-Determination Update**

Silvia Renteria-Haro presented the self-determination update.

As of November 1, 2024, there are 455 participants in self-determination and there were 30 transitions. Disability Voices United will host a virtual training tailored towards service coordinators on November 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

### **11.4 Call for New VAC Members**

There are three open positions on the Vendor Advisory Committee. One person has expressed interest so far. Interested applicants should email Kimberly Visokey at BoardSupport@NLACRC.org.

### **11.5 VAC Members with Expiring Terms**

Vendor Advisory Committee members with expiring terms at the end of the current fiscal year will be receiving a renewal interest application by the end of November of 2024, which they should resubmit if interested in reapplying.

## **12. OPEN TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **12.1 AB 1147**

There is no consensus or clear information on how AB 1147 will impact vendors. Belinda Abatesi reported working closely with the legislative educator and the executive team to gather information.

*ACTION – Belinda Abatesi will inquire with Michelle Hyde, Legislative Educator, about the impact of bill AB 1147 to vendors, and will provide an update at the next VAC meeting.*

### **12.2 NLACRC Board Recognition**

Jodie Agnew-Navarro presented the Board Recognition Policy and procedure in the meeting package. Kimberley Visokey noted that this information and deadlines will be posted on the website.

*ACTION – The Board will add the Recognition Policy, deadlines, and submission requirements to the website.*

### **12.3 Special Contract Language – Improving Relationships with the Community**

Angela Pao-Johnson reported that the NLACRC will be setting up a small focus group of seven to nine vendors across different services and organization sizes to get opinions to help better address all stakeholders' needs. The focus group will help NLACRC better understand what functional implementations to leverage and what areas need improvement. Interested attendees were asked to leave their contact information during the meeting.

*ACTION – Staff will contact interested vendors who left their information in the meeting chat to be part of the vendor focus group.*

**13. COMMITTEE WORK GROUP FINAL REPORTS**

**13.1 Early Start Services**

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that there was no Early Start Services Committee meeting in October of 2024, and the next meeting will be on November 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

**13.2 School Age Services**

Cal Enriquez and Paul Borda reported that the School Age Services Committee had a meeting the week of October 24, 2024. Many new people have been invited to the Committee, expanding their reach within the community. The next meeting is on November 12, 2024.

Silvia Renteira-Haro will meet with the School Age Services Committee to discuss the self-determination process.

**13.3 Adult Services**

Octavia Watkins corrected previously provided information; the next meeting for the Adult Services Committee will be on November 18, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

**14. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**14.1 Administrative Affairs**

Jaklen Keshishyan reported that the last Administrative Affairs Committee meeting was in September of 2024, and the next meeting will be on November 21, 2024.

**14.2 Consumer Services**

Sharon Weinberg reported that the last Consumer Services Committee meeting was in September of 2024, and the next meeting will be in November of 2024.

**14.3 Government and Community Relations**

Jodie Agnew-Navarro reported that the Government and Community Relations Committee is planning the legislative events for 2025, including the February Town Hall, April ARCA grassroots events, spring legislative breakfast, September voting rights event and October candidates' forum.

The Committee is introducing a letter writing campaign to new legislators to help them understand the NLACRC systems and build relationships. Staff is drafting those letters and the drafts and rollout plan will be shared at the next meeting.

The next meeting is on January 15, 2025.

**14.4 Nominating**

Alex Kopilevich reported that the Nominating Committee met on November 6, 2024 and discussed the application and interview process for the outstanding spots on the Board. December 15, 2024, is the last day for applications for the Board and for the Vendor Advisory Committee. The next meeting is on January 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

**14.5 Strategic Planning**

Octavia Watkins reported that the Strategic Planning Committee met on November 4, 2024, and summarized discussion points.

**15. REVIEW OF MEETING ACTION ITEMS**

The following action items were noted during the meeting:



*ACTION – Kimberley Visokey will amend the minutes of the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on October 3, 2024.*

*ACTION – Per a question from Sharon Weinberg, Arshalous Garlanian will investigate if POSs for approval will be available before or after AAs are generated for residential providers.*

*ACTION – Kimberley Visokey will update the meeting schedule and send out update calendar invites with locations.*

*ACTION – Belinda Abatesi will inquire with Michelle Hyde, Legislative Educator, about the impact of bill AB 1147 to vendors, and will provide an update at the next VAC meeting.*

*ACTION – The Board will add the Recognition Policy, deadlines, and submission requirements to the website.*

*ACTION – Staff will contact interested vendors who left their information in the meeting chat to be part of the vendor focus group.*

**16. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next Board meeting agenda will include the updated meeting schedule and a separate Bill AB 1147 update item.

**17. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC INPUT**

**17.1 Caltech Conference**

Jodie Agnew-Navarro noted that the Caltech Conference will be in Burbank in March, 2025, and the call for proposals is open to vendors, individuals with disabilities and NLACRC and other regional center staff.

**18. NEXT MEETING**

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

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 11:15 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.

Submitted by:

*Kimberly Visokey*

Executive Administrative Assistant

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



## ***Vendor Advisory Committee: January 9, 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month 3 pm (January 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>)
  - Zoom:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85054576563?pwd=FLmxmJd5oP2ryUfbAASMtwE0XbsMzX.1>  
Meeting ID: 850 5457 6563  
Passcode: 595837
- Contact [RatesQuestions@nlacrc.org](mailto: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:
  - Completed – both steps (No action needed)
  - Missing Data – Completed Step 1, and received invitation for Step 2
    - DDS is reaching out to providers for follow-up
  - 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
  - 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
  - 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.
- Questions:
  - [ProviderDirectory@dds.ca.gov](mailto:ProviderDirectory@dds.ca.gov)
  - [ProviderDirectory@nlacrc.org](mailto:ProviderDirectory@nlacrc.org)

#### **❖ 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](mailto: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](mailto:invites@microsoft.com)
- Questions: [vendorportal@nlacrc.org](mailto:vendorportal@nlacrc.org)

- ❖ **Vendor Support Forum: Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am**
  - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81074723337?pwd=OaDoCrgSeKHa7uPwQdWJ3hJoUqjmem.1>
  - Meeting ID: 810 7472 3337, Passcode: 326337
  - Submit questions for agenda by Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> [CRomero@nlacrc.org](mailto: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](mailto:dramos@nlacrc.org).
- ❖ Through HCBS Funding NLACRC is offering FREE ASL workshops through the ASL Shop. For more information contact Ted Horton-Billard – [thortonbillard@nlacrc.org](mailto:thortonbillard@nlacrc.org)

### Compliance Corner:

- ❖ **DS 1891** – A new compliance cycle began January 1<sup>st</sup> for DS 1891s.
  - Visit the online portal at to submit your 2024 update.
  - <https://sanctionscreeningnow.com/OIGComplianceVendor/Customer.aspx/Login>
  - Click “Save Changes” button” – even if there are no changes to verify and submit a form with current date.
- ❖ **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](mailto:Contract&Compliance@nlacrc.org).
  - Provide notice of changes (address, entity, name) to [ResourceDevelopment@nlacrc.org](mailto:ResourceDevelopment@nlacrc.org)

### Employment Services:

- ❖ New Addition to the Employment Team – Geraldine Orellana, Workforce Employment Specialist ([gorellana@nlacrc.org](mailto:gorellana@nlacrc.org)). Counterpart to Employment Specialist, Kai Brennan, ([kbrennan@nlacrc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 www.irioc.org/acre#ut](http://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 www.eventbrite.com/e/sharpening-your-saw-tickets-1038208518627?aff=oddtcreator](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:**

- ❖ North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC) has 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 below. For more information please visit [CPP/CRDP -North Los Angeles County](#):
  - Project #: NLACRC-2425-1 - Service Provider for Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home (EBSH) for Children. Start-Up Funds: \$250,000
  - Project #: NLACRC-2425-2 - Service Provider for Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home (EBSH) for Adults (Male). Start-Up Funds: \$250,000
  - Project #: NLACRC-2425-3 - Service Provider for Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home (EBSH) for Adults (Male) w/ (Delayed Egress). Start-Up Funds: \$250,000
  - Project #: NLACRC-2425-4 - Service Provider for Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Special Health Care Needs (ARFPSHN). Start-Up Funds: \$250,000
  - 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
  - Project #: NLACRC-2425-7 - Specialized Residential Facility (SRF) for Adults with Forensic/Criminal Involvement. Start-Up Funds: \$200,000
  - Project #: NLACRC-2425-8 - Housing Development Organization (HDO) Construction of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). Start-up Funds: \$500,000
  - Project #: NLACRC-2425-9 - Development of an EBSH/CCH Training Program for Service Providers. Start-up Funds: \$50,000
  - Project #: NLACRC-2425-10 - Behavioral Day Service with Community Integration Training Component. Start-up Funds: \$200,000
  - Project #: NLACRC-2425-11 - Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services Program. Start-up Funds: \$50,000

- Project #: NLACRC-2425-12 Specialized Residential Facility (SRF) for Adults with Nursing Needs. Start-up Funds: \$200,000

❖ **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](mailto: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 24-12-CCLD](#) - Guardian Training Webinar For Licensees And Providers on October 30, 2024, from 11AM – 12PM.
  - [PIN 24-11-CCLD](#) - Upcoming Administrator Certification Bureau Vendor Webinar on November 13, 2024, at 1PM. [Registration Link](#)
  - [PIN 24-10-CCLD](#) - Care Provider Management Branch Background Check Form Revisions
  
- ❖ **Fall Edition- Emergency Preparedness Bulletin**
  - [Fall Edition – Fall Season Safety](#)

## 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](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](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](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**

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

**US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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

**CALIFORNIA SENATE**

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

**CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY**

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



**North Los Angeles County Regional Center**  
**Director's Report**  
January 2025

**1. NLACRC Spotlight:**

**A. Recruiting and Staffing**

- i. NLACRC has gained a net of 72 employees this fiscal year, 64 of whom are Consumer Service Coordinators (CSCs).
- ii. The annualized turnover rate for the current fiscal year is 7.34%, a significant improvement compared to 17.82% in FY 2023-2024.
- iii. In FY 2023-2024, NLACRC netted 85 employees over the entire year.

**B. Case Management**

- i. Over the past 10 months, NLACRC has reduced vacant cases by 64%.
- ii. In December 2023, there were 5,665 cases without assigned CSCs, equating to 81 full caseloads.
- iii. Currently, vacant cases have been reduced to 2,031, equivalent to 35 full caseloads, marking substantial progress.
- iv. NLACRC's Service Coordination Unit for families with low or no Purchase of Services has connected nearly 50% of their consumers to services.

**C. Engagement**

- i. The holiday gift drive was a success, with 122 consumers receiving gifts through donations from board members, employees, and community partners.
- ii. NLACRC attended the Capitol Tree Lighting on December 13th, bringing over 400 consumer-made ornaments to decorate the tree.
- iii. All 21 regional centers were represented at the event, and NLACRC board member Juan Hernandez joined in meeting Governor Newsom and his family.
- iv. NLACRC Leadership hosted 4 in-person Organization Insight Forums across all 3 of their offices to discuss directionality in the upcoming year and to allow for dialogue across all levels of the workforce. Hundreds of employees were in attendance. Surveys indicate that these forums were well-received, with an average rating of 3.81 for satisfaction in a scale of 1 being unsatisfactory and 5 being exceeding expectations.
- v.

**2. Department Developmental Center (DDS) Updates:**

**A. DDS Appointments**

- i. Pete Cervinka was appointed Director of DDS by Governor Newsom on December 13, 2024.
- ii. JaRita B. Pichon was DDS' Chief Equity Officer, leading the Service Access and Equity Division and will start mid-January 2025.

**B. Individual Program Plan (IPP) template:**

- i. Starting January 1, the new statewide Individual Program Plan (IPP) template will be implemented.
- ii. Training sessions have been conducted throughout the fall, with two community overview/training opportunities held in December.

**C. State Budget Cash Revenues:**

- i. State budget cash revenues are approximately \$5 billion above current-year projections. However, these funds are already allocated to prior commitments and caseload growth.
- ii. A full budget update will be provided on January 10, 2025, with the release of the Governor's Budget proposal.

**D. Bilingual Stipends:**

- i. The implementation of statewide bilingual stipends for service providers is expected no earlier than April 1, 2025, due to the numerous initiatives underway in the coming months.

**E. Lanterman/Early Start Intake Standardization**

- i. DDS is gathering stakeholder input on intake process standardization and plans to develop a workplan by the 1/1/25 deadline.
- ii. Community meetings with partners, starting via an online platform, are being organized for focus groups and public discussions.
- iii. Initial meetings with 11 RC representatives are scheduled in the coming weeks before public-facing sessions.
- iv. The first standardization effort will focus on an initial referral form, with caution to avoid backlogs from inappropriate referrals.

**F. Provider Directory**

- i. Approximately 80% of directory entries have validated their information.

**G. Final Phase of Rate Reform Effective January 1, 2025**

- ii. Starting January 1, 2025, service providers will receive a transitional rate based on 90% of the full rate model, with potential Quality Incentive Payments (QIP) and previously unbundled payments included.
- iii. Regional centers and service providers have until March 31, 2025, to finalize service code alignment, rates, and the Service Acknowledgement Form, after which authorizations will be updated as needed.
- iv. The new rate model will apply to individuals starting services after January 1, 2025, while current recipients will transition by December 31, 2025, with providers held harmless through June 30, 2026.
- v. The deadline for special circumstances exemption requests has been extended to 3/31/25 to align with provider service code determinations.

**H. Definition of At-Risk of Homelessness**

- i. ARCA worked with RCs to recommend a definition for “at-risk of homelessness” under AB 3291, effective 1/1/25.

**I. Core Staffing Formula (CSF) Replacement**

- i. DDS is initiating discussions on alternatives to the CSF to ensure adequate Regional Center operations funding.
- ii. ARCA will collaborate with DDS to identify next steps and develop joint recommendations.

**3. Master Plan Workgroup Updates:**

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

- i. Focused on streamlining and simplifying Self-Determination Program (SDP) practices to support future expansion of enrollment.

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

- i. Developing recommendations for aging adults and caregivers, including specialized caseloads and improved services for individuals with both Down Syndrome and dementia.
- ii. Addressing challenges in managing SDP budgets with less family support and expanding Coordinated Family Supports for aging caregivers.
- iii. Exploring support for individuals on their parenthood journey, end-of-life planning, and intake streamlining.

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

- i. Creating recommendations for competitive pay and workforce retention, including a leadership academy, pooled benefits, and early career outreach.
- ii. Discussing financial incentives for Direct Support Professionals, flexible benefits, and pathways for individuals with developmental disabilities to join the direct support workforce.
- iii. Examining service coordinator roles and responsibilities, including funding for regional center workforces.

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

- i. Exploring methods to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the current intake process.
- ii. Developing ways to measure service outcomes to guide program improvements.

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

- i. Discussing strategies to eliminate disability discrimination across systems (e.g., health plans, behavioral health agencies) to improve service integration.

- ii. Exploring quality-of-life metrics and conducting a gap analysis to identify unmet service needs for individuals with IDD.

#### **4. Center Updates:**

##### **A. Recruitment**

- i. Total # of positions filled: 804 (includes separation on 12/31/2024)
- ii. Total # of positions authorized: 956

##### **B. December New Hires**

- i. 1st cycle (12/2/2024): 3
- ii. 2nd cycle (12/16/2024): 8
- iii. 3rd Cycle (12/30/2024): 7

##### **C. Columbus Organization Update**

- i. Consultants from Columbus Organization elected to leave their appointments a month earlier than the contract's end date.
- ii. NLACRC has contracted with Person-Centered Consulting to assist with finalizing employee workgroup proposals. NLACRC has also been actively recruiting for their own Quality Improvement department, which will continue the work identified in the Special Contract Language.

##### **D. Special Contract Language (SCL)**

- i. DDS provided feedback on NLACRC's Plan of Action and requested more information:
  - a. On how to evaluate the effectiveness of internal communications:
    - 1. NLACRC has been hosting a series of weekly town halls to address our cyber security incident.
      - a) Cyber Security Webinars:
        - 318 employees attended the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting
        - 29 employees attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting
        - 177 employees attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting
      - 2. Since the SCL, NLACRC has also created a monthly internal newsletter and executive leadership hosted their first series of in-person All Team meetings at every location, which will continue to occur quarterly.
        - a) In-Person, All-Team Meetings
          - 258 employees attended (of 802 employees), or 32%
          - Overall satisfaction with the All-Team Meetings was 3.85, from 1 being very unsatisfied to 5 being very satisfied.
    - b. To ensure that NLACRC reviews and revises our Code of Conduct and Non-Retaliation policies:
      - 1. These are currently under-review by legal counsel

- c. Actions taken to retain staff:
  - 1. Historically, these have included longevity payments and annual cost of living adjustments.
  - 2. Since the SCL, NLACRC will be implementing an Employee Recognition program, wellness incentives and a career ladder for case management. Hands-On training initiatives have also been deployed.

**E. Outreach Highlights:**

- i. **Life After High School Fair – Lowman Special Education Center**  
In partnership with SFV Transition Age Unit and LAUSD, this event supported transition-age individuals and their families by sharing resources on post-high school options, including community colleges, vocational programs, and adult day services. DEIB educated attendees on regional center services, multilingual support groups, and diversity efforts.
- ii. **Miracle in Mission – Panorama City**  
Sponsored by Councilmember Imelda Padilla and LAPD, this holiday event featured snow activities, toy giveaways, and a petting zoo. DEIB provided resource information, educated families about applying for services, and networked with Councilmember Padilla and local agencies.
- iii. **Littlerock Christmas Parade – Antelope Valley (AV)**  
DEIB participated in this rural community event with a float and a resource table, connecting with families and sharing regional center information. This presence supported outreach to Littlerock families and those unfamiliar with our services.
- iv. **Tribal TANF Literacy Night – Palmdale**  
This event targeted young children’s families in the AV Tribal community, offering literacy activities and early intervention resources. DEIB presented on regional center services and helped families apply for early start supports.

**F. Consumer Statistics:**

- Total served: 38,195
  - Total served: 38,195
  - Early Start: 5,144
  - Lanterman: 30,279
  - Breakdown of 3 valleys
    - AV: 9,020 (Early Start & Lanterman)
    - SCV: 4,180 (Early Start & Lanterman)
    - SFV: 22,223 (Early Start & Lanterman)
  - Intake all 3 valleys: 1,067 & Early Start Intake: 406
  - All other categories not captured in Early Start, Lanterman, and Intake such as Provisional, Enhanced, Specialized, and other which is total: 1,299

**5. Quality Assurance:**

- A.** The Center’s Quality Assurance team conducted 199 residential visits in December and 141 unannounced in-person visits.
- i. 5 residential providers received corrective action plans

**6. Upcoming Disability Organization Events/Activities:**

- i. State Council on Developmental Disabilities next council meeting—January 21, 2025
- ii. Disability Rights California’s next board meeting – March 27, 2025
- iii. Self Determination Local Advisory Meeting – January 16, 2025

FY 2024-25	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Total
Vendor Advisory Committee	Dark					Dark						Dark	Absences
Alex Kopilevich, Chair		P	P	P	P								0
Jaklen Keshishyan, Alt. Chair		P	P	P	P								0
Jodie Agnew Navarro		P	P	P	P								0
Masood Babaeian		P	P	Ab	P								1
Paul Borda		P	P	P	P								0
Andrea Devers		P	Ab	P	P								1
Cal Enriquez		P	P	P	P								0
Ute Escorcia		P	P	P	P								0
Ricki Macken Chivers		P	P	P	P								0
Vahe Mkrtchian		Ab	P	Ab	P								2
Daniel Ortiz		Ab	P	Ab	Ab								3
Jen Pippard		P	P	P	P								0
Octavia Watkins		P	P	P	P								0
Lisa Williamsen		Ab	Ab	Ab	P								3
Sharon Weinberg		P	P	Ab	P								1

Meeting Time                      2.50            1.75            1.50            1.75

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)