



ARCA Annual Report

- an annual report that highlights ARCA's major projects and achievements –

June 26, 2026

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Refine rate reform for developmental services

1. Worked with DDS and regional center and provider representatives to refine changes to transportation funding models.
2. Continued to support regional centers to implement the various directives related to rate reform to ensure appropriate funds flow to service providers.
3. Attended DDS QIP meetings on the program's updated structure and distributed information to the ARCA Board of Directors to support regional centers in their ongoing role with implementation.
4. Collaborated with service provider organizations to conduct outreach events about the importance of completing financial audits and reviews to remain eligible for Quality Incentive Payments (QIP).
5. Wrote and sponsored a bill to reform funding for the dental rate for code D9920, a dental code for behavior management for desensitization for dental procedures to support people with IDD.
6. Completed multiple surveys and conducted meetings to capture regional centers' contract and cash flow extraordinary needs for FY25-26 that were triggered by rate reform payments.
7. Met with regional centers to support them through rate reform issues, especially working with a small group to design ways to enable information sharing for courtesy vendorization and later worked with DDS for statewide solutions for this issue.
8. Met with legislators regarding the gap in current and updated rate models, which are not currently funded.
9. Working with DDS and regional centers to develop automation for addressing courtesy vendorization amongst regional centers to enable them to easily share information.
10. Participated in meetings with representatives of DDS and regional centers regarding the implementation of funding for vacancies in Adult Residential Facilities for Persons with Special Health Care Needs.

Advocate for an equitable and sustainable regional center operations funding methodology

1. Began discussions with DDS on tracking Public Records Act expenses in order to justify the need for adequate funding for implementation going forward.
2. Developed a cost analysis of legislation that would add significant workload to regional center staff if signed into law as written.
3. At their request, met with staff from the Department of Finance to discuss the challenges with the Core Staffing Formula.
4. Worked with the Lanterman Coalition to establish the regional center funding formula as its top priority for Continued discussions with DDS on funding needs and potential strategies.
5. Continued meeting with DDS to develop a new Purchase-of-Service forecasting tool and cash flow methodology to ensure operational needs can be anticipated and met.
6. Advocated for regional center operations funding to support their work associated with implementation of the grievance procedure required under the Federal Access Rule.
7. Met with legislators, the Legislative Analyst's Office, and Department of Finance and urged a strategic approach to addressing the regional center funding methodology rather than a prescriptive single item funding solution.
8. Continued refinement of the proposed Core Staffing Formula with DDS while underscoring the need for this correction as regional centers' business costs continue to escalate.
9. Attended the Policy Insight Conference in Sacramento, met with policy analysts, legislative staffers, and lobbyists on the current state of the budget and strategic alternatives to health and human services reductions.
10. Testified in Spring Budget hearings regarding the need for additional fiscal resources to support effective board support.

Advocate for sustainable state and federal funding for needed services for those served by regional centers

1. Worked with service provider, labor, and department staff to identify potential solutions for the potential rollback of federal overtime protections for those providing homecare services, such as In-Home Supportive Services and Supported Living Services.
2. Attended ANCOR (national provider association) and Fight For Our Health (statewide collaboration) meetings discussing federal issues and policies to help inform statewide policy.
3. Worked with the Lanterman Coalition to submit a letter to the Administration and the Legislature regarding the importance of preserving disability support services despite the enactment of HR 1.
4. Organized regional center participation in the Fight for Our Health media event and legislative visits to advocate for revenue increases to support the developmental services and other health and human services programs.
5. Scheduled and conducted 10 meetings with US Senators and members of the House, including California representatives on House Ways and Means Committee (SSI and Work Requirements) and the House Committee on Commerce (Medicaid) and advocated for the need for federal funding of disability related programs.
6. Identified a contractor to investigate avenues to increase claiming of administrative costs from the regional centers.
7. Facilitated meetings with legislative staff, families, and self-advocates to discuss the potential budget reductions to health and human services programs impacting people with IDD.
8. Completed several letters of support for state bills targeting HR 1 impacts.
9. Coordinated 118 legislative visits for regional centers, self-advocates, families, and providers during Grassroots Day addressing critical issues impacting our community, including in response to HR 1 funding decreases.
10. Provided public comment during Budget hearings regarding regional centers' commitment to increase federal funding to support the proposed funding for developmental services.

Support the development of needed services identified by individuals served and families

1. Provided written support and testimony of Kim Rutledge and Pete Cervinka for their confirmation hearings as directors of DOR and DDS respectively as they will be allies in services development for people with disabilities and families.
2. Participated and advised the Direct Support Professional Collaborative in Los Angeles County on their initiative to support the workforce to improve access to services.
3. Worked with the ARCA Board of Directors to establish a Budget priority related to better coordinating services, including for benefits counseling, to support better employment outcomes.
4. Met with DDS staff to advocate for enactment of AB 1172 and AB 341, which respectively provided additional access to seizure rescue medications and dental services for those with IDD.
5. Participated in Respiratory Care Board meetings regarding the scope of practice for Licensed Vocational Nurses to support advocacy for effectively meeting the respiratory care needs of those served by regional centers.
6. Participated in various conversations with DDS, regional center representatives, and stakeholders regarding service models needed to support people with complex service needs, including how to identify them in a data-driven way.
7. Conducted focus groups with regional center dental coordinators to explore needed services in oral health to address the disparities in dental care for people with IDD, which led to the ARCA sponsored bill, AB 1670.
8. Participated in a meeting at the Uber headquarters with several regional center leaders working on improving transportation services for people with IDD using the ride share service.
9. Represented ARCA on the planning workgroup for the California Workforce Summit in support of the workforce for people with developmental disabilities.
10. Represented ARCA throughout the Spring in conversations regarding Trailer Bill Language, including related to effective remote services and strong quality assurance practices for statewide vendorizations.

Promote more efficient coordination of regional center and generic services

1. Testified in Assembly Higher Education Committee in favor of SB 244 (Grayson) to help students with disabilities receive assessments to access academic accommodations in college.
2. Discussed with DDS challenges with the Managed Care Organization agreements from a regional center workload and data sharing perspective and discussed potential flexibilities.
3. Represented the regional center system on the Health and Human Services Agency's Behavioral Health Task Force, which is planning for resource use for those with psychiatric support needs.
4. Participated in state-level discussions with associations and state departments on coordination of services for multi-agency children and youth, including more consistent funding arrangements.
5. Met with the CA Association of Area Agencies on Aging, CA Foundation for Independent Living Centers, and the California Association of Public Authorities, to discuss workforce challenges, support for seniors with IDD, and AB 2324, ARCA's sponsored Youth Caregiver bill.
6. Participated in meeting of the Future of Medi-Cal Commission Advisory Committee to advise the commission on health-related policy issues impacting people with developmental disabilities.
7. Submitted ARCA's position on the Behavioral Health Services Act 2026-2030 Workforce Education and Training Plan to emphasize support needs of dually-diagnosed individuals.
8. Met with Disability Rights California and Health Consumer Alliance to discuss how legal aid organizations around the state could help people with health insurance related issues and subsequently disseminated information to regional centers about this resource.
9. In collaboration with DDS staff, met with the California Children's Hospital Association to discuss the role each organization plays in supporting multi-agency children both before and during crises.
10. Participated in the California Children's Services Advisory Group meeting to discuss opportunities for partnership to better continuity of services.

Develop meaningful metrics to support measurement and improvement of regional center effectiveness

1. Successfully advocated for DDS to reassess regional centers' performance in competitive integrated employment placements through the Regional Center Performance Measures program.
2. Finalized ARCA's recommendations for initial service coordinator trainings and competencies that will be measured through the Regional Center Performance Measures program.
3. Completed updates to the Master Plan for Developmental Services report to highlight the work of regional centers to advance the recommendations of the Committee.
4. Collaborated with DDS, legislative staff, and El Arc de California to establish processes to report service denials and appeals that are captured in the IPP by various demographic factors.
5. Met with several providers willing to share health and behavioral health and other developmental services outcome data with regional centers, including from smart devices.
6. Participated in Regional Center Intake Workgroup meetings with DDS regarding the standardization of intake, including discussions regarding operationally defining terms to support greater collection of meaningful compliance data.
7. Collaborated with DDS to identify those regional centers in need of increased support and technical assistance. Communicated with regional center boards and EDs to address specific performance areas, as needed.
8. Worked with ARCA's Standards and Practices Committee to advance its work related to agency leadership, strategic thinking, and effective communication.
9. Worked with DDS to incorporate regional center feedback into the new performance measures and highlighted for the Legislature during Budget hearings the importance of clear measures with identified metrics.
10. Participated in the Quality Assurance Action Guide (QAAG) meeting to discuss results of the National Core Indicators Survey, which can be used to evaluate the experience of individuals with IDD.

**Support greater consistency and enhanced performance across all 21 regional centers balanced
with local decision-making**

1. Advocated for reasonable workflows and timelines for regional centers in the Standardized Vendorization process and intake standardizations.
2. Engaged in conversations with DDS on the policy implications of implementation of the standard respite tool, including needed training needs.
3. Worked with DDS to refine requirements related to consistent onboarding of service coordinators with an eye towards staff capacity and training fatigue.
4. Continued work with the DDS LOIS team on data governance and data cleanup as more consistent and accurate data will be essential for implementation of new regional center data systems.
5. In collaboration with regional center staff, coordinated needed work related to the Public Records Act implementation to establish a consistent experience for people across regional centers.
6. Worked with regional centers to consistently update the information they post online in their transparency portals.
7. Represented ARCA in the Little Hoover Commission's follow-up hearing and highlighted the Association's role in enhancing consistency and supporting regional centers.
8. Organized training in coordination with DDS on the Standardized IPP for the Federal Revenues Committee to refine Medicaid Waiver determinations for individuals with the IPP format.
9. Established a new Director of Leadership Development position to increase ARCA's capacity to support regional centers, including with implementation of new expectations.
10. Began compiling regional center policies, procedures, and other related documents to establish a "document library" of best practices, which will complement work on the CFO training manual.

Communicate with diverse communities and advocate alongside them for the services and supports necessary to promote good outcomes, especially for those from underserved communities who have unmet needs

1. Testified in the Senate Health Committee for fluoride treatment in schools which addresses the disproportionate poor oral health outcomes for children with IDD and from diverse communities of color.
2. Through lobbying and expert testimony, helped to secure the adoption of SB 258 the Women's Caucus' bill to remove the spousal rape exemption of people with IDD.
3. Participated in the march and rally for the 35th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Partners included DDS, DOR, CHHSA, DSS, and DRC.
4. Presented at the Supported Life Conference in October which included the sessions: "2025 Legislative Story: The National and State Budget" and "Bill Outcomes and Legislative Advocacy: Organize, Communicate, and Show Up."
5. Participated in the stakeholder group for AB 1906 and provided input and testimony to the California Law Revision Commission on the legal terminology referencing people with disabilities as "dependent adults."
6. Selected to serve on the DDS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Community Feedback Group to help improve services for individuals served and families.
7. Provided testimony for AB 1052 a bill to authorize representation by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities when no representative is available.
8. Provided feedback to DDS on their draft Equity Dashboard to promote understanding for the community on expenditure patterns.
9. Participated in the El Arc de CA Spanish speaking parent coalition and discussed policy proposals related to data collection and succession planning.
10. Sponsored a family advocate to participate in a Capitol rally to explain the impact of proposed safety net reductions in the lives of herself and her family members.

Support the work of regional centers and their community partners to increase community inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities

1. Testified in the Senate Housing Committee on AB 906 (González, Mark) - Planning and zoning: housing elements: affirmatively furthering fair housing.
2. Testified in legislative committees in support of AB 259 (Rubio, Blanca) and SB 470 (Laird) to amend the Brown Act and the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to allow people to attend various meetings via teleconferencing.
3. Met with a reporter doing a story on regional center response to emergency management and referred them to a regional center for follow-up.
4. Participated in the Lanterman Housing Alliance conference to engage with regional centers, housing partners, and community stakeholders on strategies to expand inclusive housing options for individuals with developmental disabilities.
5. Attended the California Policy Center for IDD's Housing Conference to support cross-system dialogue focused on community-based housing solutions and inclusive service models for individuals with developmental disabilities.
6. Participated in professional webinars focused on the impact of family youth caregivers, which led to the creation of the ARCA sponsored bill, AB 2324, that would create a career pathway in high school for Direct Support Professionals, to ultimately increase community inclusion.
7. Worked with the California Respite Association to consider regional center feedback in the crafting of their policy bill.
8. Participated in a meeting with community partner service providers and the California Special Assistant Attorney General to discuss PAGA Impact on the workforce serving people with developmental disabilities.
9. Met with the People First of California leaders about rebuilding their advocacy network.
10. Provided testimony in support of AB 2466 a bill to strengthen workforce development to increase work-based learning to more workforce service centers.

Support regional center board member development and effectiveness

1. In collaboration with the Board Delegates Group, finalized the recommendations related to core competencies and training needs for regional center board members statewide.
2. Coordinated trainings for regional center board members related to the implementation of Public Records Act requirements.
3. Hosted the ARCA Academy event for more than 150 participants and provided attendees with training to support their role as regional center board members.
4. Completed recruitment for ARCA's Director of Leadership Development position, which will offer support for regional center executive leadership and board members.
5. Worked with ARCA's Executive Committee to review and develop positions on the proposed Trailer Bill Language regarding board composition, support, and training.
6. Developed Learning Paths for Board training in alignment with the report produced by the Board Delegates on board member competencies and training.
7. Presented to regional center boards on legislative advocacy, board composition and recruitment, and the proposed Trailer Bill Language, among other topics.
8. Provided support for a regional center board in their executive director recruitment process and presented factors to think about when selecting a search firm.
9. Supported a regional center board to communicate more effectively with the Executive Director and improve alignment and coordination amongst the regional center leadership team.
10. Provided a joint presentation to a regional center board with Director Cervinka regarding the respective roles of DDS and ARCA.

Other Key Accomplishments

1. Supported ARCA's various committees and discipline groups to carry out their work to advance the work of regional centers.
2. Participated in the annual holiday tree lighting event that showcases the work of all 21 regional centers.
3. Worked with DDS to shape the Generative AI directive to alleviate potential cost burdens while protecting individual data and information.
4. In collaboration with the Lanterman Coalition, conducted a gubernatorial candidate interview of Tony Thurmond.
5. Participated in an interview with CalMatters on supporting people whose disability originated after age 18: [CA parents push to expand disability services at regional centers](#).
6. Presented at the California Disability Services Association conference regarding consistency efforts within regional centers and the impact this has on service flexibility.
7. Represented ARCA in a newly formed Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Intervention to discuss potential efficiencies in services for young children.
8. Attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for SG/PRC's new office in Irwindale and discussed with a legislative member the importance of regional center satellite offices for supporting their communities.
9. Completed the regional center executive director's job description initial analysis and disseminated the feedback survey to the executive directors.
10. Presented at and hosted the California Community Living Network's leadership meetings.
11. Facilitated a meeting of the ARCA Client Advisory Committee (CAC) and organized their strategic planning and legislative visits during ARCA's sponsored DisCo at the Capitol event.
12. Worked on the publication of the National Frontline Initiative, an online magazine for the development of Direct Support Professionals. Recruited one article from a VMRC provider and submitted two other articles for the publication.

13. Wrote language for a resolution acknowledging the 60th anniversary of the regional center pilots, identified an author, worked with legislative staff throughout the process, and supported a team of board members, executive directors, and advocates from GGRC and FDLRC during the presentation and celebration of SCR 174.
14. Provided a speech at the DisCo at the Capitol reception event and spoke with the media to promote community services and the threats to these services.
15. Provided feedback on proposed TBL from DDS and reviewed comments from stakeholders. Followed up with DDS to discuss implementation of new proposed timelines at Canyon Springs and Porterville Developmental Center.
16. Participated in the ARCA employment committee meeting. Reviewed and discussed DDS directive on Job Development (svc code 952), as well as other employment related topics.
17. Received updates from DDS and discussed what is working and what is not working with the existing appeals process.
18. Represent ARCA on the Office of Administrative Hearings Advisory Committee.
19. Supported regional centers to implement the final phases of rate reform, including various adjustments to service models and rates.
20. Organized training in coordination with DDS on the Standardized IPP for the Federal Revenues Committee.
21. Worked with regional center discipline groups to review DDS guidance and changes in law impacting regional center services and operations and provided follow-up clarification and technical assistance on implementation questions raised by regional centers.
22. Reviewed updated AB 637 guidance, which support creative resource development, to provide feedback to DDS before the release.
23. Attended various stakeholder meetings and prepared notes for the ARCA Board of Directors.

24. Supporting the LOIS team by monitoring and reporting on project progress, data cleansing efforts, and process improvements.
25. Coordinated communication between building management, staff, and IT during emergency building closure. Coordinated mail services with USPS.
26. Selected a new IT provider to better support ARCA's needs and worked to ensure a smooth transition from the previous provider.
27. Coordinated room blocks and catering for ARCA Discipline Group Meetings and ARCA Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Board Delegates, and Executive Committee Meetings.
28. Supported smooth in person meetings, including the ARCA Client Advisory Committee Meeting and Grassroots Day.